

response of grief and disappointment coupled with repentance and growth...or would there be a response of rebellion and continued sinning? The promises (especially of vss 31-34) were designed to indicate something that would inspire a response of devotion. But that was the contest, the argument of opinions, call it what one will. The present attitude (the time of Jeremiah' could be seen in vss 29-30, vs. 15, etc. But would the grief of the people lead them to God or would it move them beyond Him. That was the challenge.

3. Discussion: The concept of "trust in God" is hypothetical as we approach the chapter. Certainly there was nothing in the recent history of Judah to suggest an honest trust. But if there would be a good response to the prophet, such trust would come. How will it show itself? Obviously in the renewed spiritual life of the nation. But how is that done? This becomes the question and the issue in our discussion.

a. Demonstrating trust in God:

(1) Acceptance of His discipline.
With this there is the confession of sin and the admission of need for His will. Mere weeping over the captivity and the loss it necessarily brought to every household would not be enough. The language of vs. 18 would need a measure of heart assurance put to it. To accept God's discipline is not some strange "bowing to fate" concept...it is the admission that He has the right to correct and His correction will produce what is right for His people.

(2) Establishment of Spiritual Goals.
This seems to be the advice of vss 20-21 although there are a lot of things touched on in this capacity. But if a state of trust exists, then let the individual move himself on patterns and roads of spiritual exercise. When Jeremiah reflected on this and the predictive nature of what God would do, we have a warm-hearted view of him that is somehow Surprising and reassuring(31:26). Of course in