

The Broken Jar

19:1 to 20:18

605 BC during the eleven-year reign of Jehoiakim

At the command of **the Lord**, **Jeremiah** made a second trip to **the potter's house**, this time as a customer and not a spectator, and **he** took with **him** some of **the Jewish elders**. Knowing **their** evil plots against **him**, it's evidence of **his** faith that **he** was willing to walk with **them** and then, do so daring a thing as, declare in **their** very presence that disaster was coming to **the Land** because of their sins. Obviously **his** prayer to **the Lord** had brought **him** peace and courage.

In this place I will ruin the plans of Y'hudah and Yerushalayim (19:7). To demonstrate this, **Jeremiah** broke a clay jar and said: **ADONAI-Tzva'ot** says that this is how I will break this people and this City, just as one smashes a potter's vessel beyond the possibility of repair (19:11a). The nation was beyond discipline (2:23), beyond prayer (7:16), and now, beyond repair! **They** had so hardened **themselves** against **the LORD** that all hope was gone.

What before had been threats now became a reality. **Pash'chur**, son of **Immer**, the chief overseer and security officer for the Temple, didn't like what **Yirmeyahu** was saying. Therefore, **he** had **Jeremiah** arrested, beaten, and put into the stocks until the next day. The stocks were located at a prominent place in the Temple area, in order to add shame to pain. Spending all night with your body bent and twisted wouldn't be at all comfortable, and when you add the pain of the beating, you can imagine how **Jeremiah** felt.¹⁸²