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A Spiritual Lesson In Toon Language (And God Said... Lesson XII)

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(In God I Trust And Write)

Series: Acme Hour

Episode: Blackboard Jumble

Topic: You Stubborn And Stiff-Necked People

I) Opening Prayer

II) Opening Discussion: Today, we are discussing the topic of learning. What is learning? How do you learn something? How long does it generally take you to learn something? We are going to show a cartoon about learning or lack thereof. We will have a discussion and Bible Study.

III) Cartoon Show: **Blackboard Jumble**

IV) Bible Study, Links To Cartoon, Analysis,

And Discussion: What do you notice in this

cartoon? What would your reaction be to the students? Our Bible Study comes from Romans 2: 4-16; Jeremiah 11: 1-17; Isaiah 66;

Ezekiel 24: 1-14; Luke 13: 34-35; Psalms 103

The Bible States In Romans 2: 4-16

⁴Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

⁵But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath

against yourself for the day of God's wrath,
when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

⁶God "will give to each person according to
what he has done."

⁷To those who by persistence in doing good
seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give
eternal life.

⁸But for those who are self-seeking and who
reject the truth and follow evil, there will be
wrath and anger.

⁹There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;

¹⁰but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

¹¹For God does not show favoritism.

¹²All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

¹³For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

¹⁴(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,

¹⁵since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

¹⁶This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

The above passage was addressed to some self-righteous Jewish Christians (Messianic Jews) who were not living the life and criticizing other people for the same kinds of sins. This is called hypocrisy. These people were also being stubborn and stiff-necked (Not taking teaching seriously and doing what they wanted unrepentently). The consequences for this are

dire indeed as the Bible states in these passages in the Old Testament.

The Bible States In Jeremiah 11: 1-17:

¹ This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD :

² "Listen to the terms of this covenant and tell them to the people of Judah and to those who live in Jerusalem.

³ Tell them that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Cursed is the man who does not obey the terms of this covenant-

⁴ the terms I commanded your forefathers when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the iron-smelting furnace.' I said, 'Obey me and do everything I command you, and you will be my people, and I will be your God.

⁵ Then I will fulfill the oath I swore to your forefathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey'-the land you possess today."

I answered, "Amen, LORD."

⁶ The LORD said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the towns of Judah and in the streets of

Jerusalem: 'Listen to the terms of this covenant and follow them.

⁷ From the time I brought your forefathers up from Egypt until today, I warned them again and again, saying, "Obey me."

⁸ But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubbornness of their evil hearts. So I brought on them all the curses of the covenant I had commanded them to follow but that they did not keep.' "

⁹ Then the LORD said to me, "There is a conspiracy among the people of Judah and those who live in Jerusalem.

¹⁰ They have returned to the sins of their forefathers, who refused to listen to my words.

They have followed other gods to serve them.

Both the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken the covenant I made with their forefathers.

¹¹ Therefore this is what the LORD says: 'I will bring on them a disaster they cannot escape.

Although they cry out to me, I will not listen to them.

¹² The towns of Judah and the people of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to whom they burn incense, but they will not help them at all when disaster strikes.

¹³ You have as many gods as you have towns, O Judah; and the altars you have set up to burn incense to that shameful god Baal are as many as the streets of Jerusalem.'

¹⁴ "Do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them, because I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their distress.

¹⁵ "What is my beloved doing in my temple as she works out her evil schemes with many?

Can consecrated meat avert your punishment ?

When you engage in your wickedness, then you rejoice.

¹⁶ The LORD called you a thriving olive tree
with fruit beautiful in form.

But with the roar of a mighty storm

he will set it on fire,

and its branches will be broken.

¹⁷ The LORD Almighty, who planted you, has
decreed disaster for you, because the house of
Israel and the house of Judah have done evil and
provoked me to anger by burning incense to
Baal.

This is tough stuff coming from God to Jeremiah. Jeremiah's people went back to worshiping false gods after God warned them time and time again not to go to worthless idols for help or blessing. The reason God doesn't want idolatry is that the idol can't hear, do anything, see anything, by no means protect. God brings chastisement to people to bring them back to Him so that He can help his people repent and be blessed again.

The Bible States In Isaiah 66:

- ¹ This is what the LORD says:
"Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.
Where is the house you will build for me?
Where will my resting place be?"
- ² Has not my hand made all these things,
and so they came into being?"
declares the LORD.
"This is the one I esteem:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit,
and trembles at my word.
- ³ But whoever sacrifices a bull
is like one who kills a man,
and whoever offers a lamb,
like one who breaks a dog's neck;
whoever makes a grain offering
is like one who presents pig's blood,
and whoever burns memorial incense,
like one who worships an idol.
They have chosen their own ways,

and their souls delight in their
abominations;

⁴ so I also will choose harsh treatment for them
and will bring upon them what they dread.
For when I called, no one answered,
when I spoke, no one listened.
They did evil in my sight
and chose what displeases me."

⁵ Hear the word of the LORD,
you who tremble at his word:
"Your brothers who hate you,
and exclude you because of my name, have
said,
'Let the LORD be glorified,
that we may see your joy!'
Yet they will be put to shame.

⁶ Hear that uproar from the city,
hear that noise from the temple!
It is the sound of the LORD
repaying his enemies all they deserve.

⁷ "Before she goes into labor,
she gives birth;
before the pains come upon her,
she delivers a son.

⁸ Who has ever heard of such a thing?
Who has ever seen such things?
Can a country be born in a day
or a nation be brought forth in a moment?
Yet no sooner is Zion in labor
than she gives birth to her children.

⁹ Do I bring to the moment of birth
and not give delivery?" says the LORD.
"Do I close up the womb
when I bring to delivery?" says your God.

¹⁰ "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice greatly with her,
all you who mourn over her.

¹¹ For you will nurse and be satisfied
at her comforting breasts;

you will drink deeply
and delight in her overflowing abundance."

- ¹² For this is what the LORD says:
"I will extend peace to her like a river,
and the wealth of nations like a flooding
stream;
you will nurse and be carried on her arm
and dandled on her knees.
- ¹³ As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you;
and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."
- ¹⁴ When you see this, your heart will rejoice
and you will flourish like grass;
the hand of the LORD will be made known
to his servants,
but his fury will be shown to his foes.
- ¹⁵ See, the LORD is coming with fire,
and his chariots are like a whirlwind;
he will bring down his anger with fury,
and his rebuke with flames of fire.

¹⁶ For with fire and with his sword
the LORD will execute judgment upon all
men,
and many will be those slain by the LORD.

¹⁷ "Those who consecrate and purify
themselves to go into the gardens, following the
one in the midst of those who eat the flesh of
pigs and rats and other abominable things—they
will meet their end together," declares the
LORD.

¹⁸ "And I, because of their actions and their
imaginings, am about to come and gather all
nations and tongues, and they will come and see
my glory.

¹⁹ "I will set a sign among them, and I will send
some of those who survive to the nations—to
Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as
archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant
islands that have not heard of my fame or seen
my glory. They will proclaim my glory among
the nations.

²⁰ And they will bring all your brothers, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD -on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels," says the LORD. "They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels.

²¹ And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites," says the LORD.

²² "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure.

²³ From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the LORD.

²⁴ "And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be

quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."

This is really tough stuff from God to Isaiah.

This looks to me like perhaps a Messianic passage. This means that it is talking about Jesus second coming and the final judgment of all humankind. God unites all the true believers (Those who declare and worship God The Father, Son And Holy Spirit and declare Jesus as their true Lord) from all nations, tribes, and tongues in one place and they all worship Him in absolute joy and unity. The rest of

humankind get nothing but Hell itself. They are forever like unclean and tarnished cooking pots that have to be thrown away never to be used or wanted to be seen again.

The Bible States In Ezekiel 24: 1-14:

¹ In the ninth year, in the tenth month on the tenth day, the word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, record this date, this very date, because the king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day. ³ Tell this rebellious house a parable and say to them: 'This is what

the Sovereign LORD says:

" 'Put on the cooking pot; put it on
and pour water into it.

⁴ Put into it the pieces of meat,
all the choice pieces—the leg and the
shoulder.

Fill it with the best of these bones;

⁵ take the pick of the flock.

Pile wood beneath it for the bones;

bring it to a boil

and cook the bones in it.

⁶ " 'For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

" 'Woe to the city of bloodshed,

to the pot now encrusted,

whose deposit will not go away!

Empty it piece by piece

without casting lots for them.

⁷ " 'For the blood she shed is in her midst:

She poured it on the bare rock;

she did not pour it on the ground,

where the dust would cover it.

⁸ To stir up wrath and take revenge

I put her blood on the bare rock,
so that it would not be covered.

⁹ " 'Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD
says:

" 'Woe to the city of bloodshed!

I, too, will pile the wood high.

¹⁰ So heap on the wood

and kindle the fire.

Cook the meat well,

mixing in the spices;
and let the bones be charred.

¹¹ Then set the empty pot on the coals
till it becomes hot and its copper glows
so its impurities may be melted
and its deposit burned away.

¹² It has frustrated all efforts;
its heavy deposit has not been removed,
not even by fire.

¹³ " 'Now your impurity is lewdness. Because I
tried to cleanse you but you would not be

cleansed from your impurity, you will not be clean again until my wrath against you has subsided.

¹⁴ " 'I the LORD have spoken. The time has come for me to act. I will not hold back; I will not have pity, nor will I relent. You will be judged according to your conduct and your actions, declares the Sovereign LORD.' "

This scripture goes with my last thoughts. Until the Lord's anger subsides, there isn't much blessing and redemption. For those in this boat,

it is a long and brutal experience. In this passage, God called on Ezekiel to tell the people that they were going to be taken over in lieu of their sins by Babylon. Israel back then kept sinning without repentance even after God warned them over and over again. In our case, calamity comes without remedy to all humankind as well eventually when we sin without repentance.

When God's wrath happens, it happens swiftly and terribly without relent. Until repentance happens, there is nothing but trouble. For a lot of people, as the scriptures show in this lesson

allude to, it is way too late to repent. They are dead in the grave without God and without hope and His wrath never subsides for people in Hell forever. There is good news for us on this side of eternity. God is longsuffering and wrath is slow in coming, giving His people a chance to humble themselves, repent, and accept God's forgiveness made possible by Jesus Christ our Savior. To explain my point about longsuffering, we have a couple of other scripture passages to look at. First though, let's look at some things from the cartoon short that

we saw a little while ago. Let's recap. What or who do you think the students represent? What or who do you think the teacher represents?

What would God's reaction be to these students?

These are my thoughts: The students in this cartoon represent an unbelieving, perverse, stubborn and stiff-necked people. The teacher represents a godly prophet trying to help this generation. What is the teacher's reaction at the end of the cartoon? That's right, he went crazy

at the end like the last teacher that dared to help out. Was the teacher's reaction godly? What would your reaction be like? I believe the teacher should have prayed about how to help these students so he wouldn't have gone crazy. Going crazy because of a situation like this is very human. No matter how godly a person is, there is a chance for this to happen if one isn't careful to guard the heart. This requires His mercy and grace which is fully accessible to us through Jesus Christ. God's reaction is quite different from this teacher and needs to be

sincerely imitated by us using a very large portion of God's grace and mercy on the godly to attain it.

The Bible States In Luke 13: 34-35:

³⁴"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

³⁵Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say,

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'

In this passage of scripture, Jesus is very saddened that Israel doesn't listen to Him. I would also say that Jesus is saddened with most of humankind and is waiting for repentance to come and for His creation to come back to Him. Jesus, however is longsuffering and very patient.

The Bible States in Psalms 103:

¹ Praise the LORD, O my soul;

all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

² Praise the LORD, O my soul,

and forget not all his benefits-

³ who forgives all your sins

and heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the pit

and crowns you with love and compassion,

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things

so that your youth is renewed like the

eagle's.

⁶ The LORD works righteousness

and justice for all the oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,

his deeds to the people of Israel:

⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

⁹ He will not always accuse,

nor will he harbor his anger forever;

¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve

or repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the
earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions
from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who
fear him;

¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass,
he flourishes like a flower of the field;

¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.

¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear
him,

and his righteousness with their children's
children-

¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.

¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in
heaven,

and his kingdom rules over all.

²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.

²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.

²² Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

What have we learned? How do we take this and use it for our lives?

God is waiting for us to humble ourselves so we don't get what we deserve. God doesn't stay angry with those who genuinely repent of their sins and come to Him. Jesus our Lord wants you to come and enjoy His kingdom and the benefits of His salvation and peace. How will you humble yourself to the Lord for now and beyond?

V) Closing Prayer