

The Summer Is Past?...

by Wayne Goff

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!” — Jeremiah 8:20.

Jeremiah’s plaintiff cry seems like an appropriate statement for this time of year. August starts on Tuesday this year, and school will begin for most in a week or two, so we stop to think that summer is just about over. Back to work, back to school, back to routine, back to what is normal after a summer lay-off. My wife often reminds my children and grandchildren that full-time employees do not have the summer off, so enjoy it while you can! Getting back into the swing of things is not as easy as it first seems. We took a much needed 10-day vacation in June where I *effectively* “turned off” my brain. When I returned home, I found the old “thinker” rested but a little rusty from the time off. It did come back on . . . eventually. So for you school children who need to get that “thinker” back in gear, I suggest you **begin** a few days before school starts. Then you will be “one up” on your classmates.

But back to our text in Jeremiah 8. The entire chapter tells us why the nation of Judah was at its end as a country, and on the brink of a 70-year captivity. Jeremiah wasn’t bemoaning the end of a season, but of an opportunity to do better. When opportunity passes one by, then “*the harvest is past, the summer is ended...*” What caused Judah’s destruction? Here is a list from Jeremiah 8:

- **Worship of sun, moon, host of heaven (8:1-2)**
- **Their love of religious deception over truth (8:4-5, 8-11)**
- **Impenitence (8:5)**
- **Love of self (8:5-6)**
- **Ignorance of God’s impending judgment (8:7)**
- **Absence of Divine wisdom (8:9)**
- **Rejection of God’s Word (8:9)**
- **Covetousness (8:10)**
- **Loss of shame over abominations (immoralities) committed (8:11)**
- **“We have sinned against the LORD” (8:14)**
- **They rejected the balm of spiritual healing (8:22)**

What does this have to do with you and me? Everything! History repeats itself, so when America ceases to be a godly nation that rejects God, His Word, and His moral standard and compass, then it will be our time for the harvest to be past and the summer to be ended.

Let each of us look to himself and repent of any wickedness we might have done (8:6). Let us read and meditate on God’s Word and make a personal application (8:9). There is still time for this country to turn around.

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