

## The Summer Is Ended

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by Wayne Goff

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

God bemoaned the lost condition of the nation of Judah in the days of the prophet Jeremiah (ca. 640 B.C.). Jeremiah 8:18-22 contains the mourning for a nation already seen as going into captivity! It has not yet happened, but in a few short years it will because Judah would not repent. What had Judah done wrong?

Judah's idolatry with its accompanying vices have doomed it (8:19). God hears *“the cry of the daughter of my people from a far country.”* He hears the enemy mocking God: *“Is not the Lord in Zion? Is not her King in her?”* Judah provoked God to anger and now the nation is suffering in captivity and God is mocked by the Gentile nations.

Verse 20 shows that it is too late for salvation now! Judah is doomed! This verse is the cry of the helpless despair of those who had waited too late to be saved.

Repeatedly in the first twenty chapters, Jeremiah grieves the destruction of Judah! “For the hurt of the daughter of my people I am hurt. I am mourning; astonishment has taken hold of me” (8:21 — see also Jer. 4:19; 14:2, 17).

The obvious question is then asked: *“Is there no balm in Gilead, is there no physician there? Why then is there no recovery for the health of the daughter of my people?”* (8:22). The obvious answer is that even though Jehovah is available to heal their spiritual wickedness and idolatry, **the people are not willing!** No doctor can heal a patient who will not come to him or take his prescription. Judah is doomed because of its stubborn willfulness.

### So What?

The application for us today is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ can heal the spiritual maladies of anyone who will recognize their condition, come to Jesus Christ, and obey the Gospel, Matt. 11:28-30. The offer is to anyone of any nation (Matt. 28:18). But like Judah, will you refuse the cure?

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