

**Trusting God in Traumatic Times**  
**Jeremiah 11:18-Jeremiah 12:6**  
Jeremiah: The Christ-Like Prophet, part 4

- Jeremiah was threatened by death as a secret plot was hatched against him by friends and family from his hometown Anathoth. Jeremiah has a personal conversation with God in this amazing passage of Scripture.
- This is the first of eight very personal, emotional confessions of Jeremiah (See note 1).
- God tells Jeremiah “step up your game” and trust me in these traumatic times, and so must we.

**1. Trust God to Defend you; 11:18-12:1-4**

- Expect enemies in the service of God!
  - A. God revealed their evil plot to Jeremiah: v.18-19a: Jeremiah was clueless!
  - B. The plotters speak against Jeremiah, v.19b: Jeremiah will be forgotten soon!
  - C. Jeremiah speaks to God, v.20: You have cross examined my motives and actions, so take revenge against the plotters! (See Note 2)
  - D. The Lord speaks to Jeremiah: I will punish them and protect you! v.21-23.
  - E. Jeremiah’s honest response, 12:1-4: If you are going to punish these con-artists why are they prospering in the meantime? Why not punish them now? (see Note 3)

**2. Trust God to Direct the Circumstances, 12:5**

- Expect Challenges to Increase in the service of God, 12:5.
  - A. Increasing difficulty, v.5a
  - B. Increasing dangers, v.5b
- The shoreline along the Jordan River was a tangled jungle where wolves, leopards, and lions made their home. When it flooded, those animals were driven out of their shoreline dens and resting places to roam to find a resting place.

**3. Trust God to Deliver You, v.5c, 6**

- A. Expect the spiritual battle to be beyond the realm of human ability. God's supernatural power is required!
- B. "How wilt THOU DO...?" What a personal question! Go forward in the power of the risen Christ, and the horses cannot outrun you and the floods & wild beasts of the Jordan will not overwhelm you!
- Note 1: These are the first two of eight such "confessions" and also reveal the personal counsel of the Lord to Jeremiah. (Jer. 11:18-23; 12:1-6; 15:10-12, 15-21; 17:14-18; 18:18-23; 20:7-13; 14-18).
  - Note 2: In nearly each confession Jeremiah prays for God to take revenge against his persecutors: Jer. 11:20; 12:3; 15:15; 17:18; 18:21-22; 20:12.
  - Note 3: Why do the wicked prosper? Passages: Psalm 37; Psalm 49: 16,17; Psalm 73:3; Habakkuk 1:2-4; Malachi 2:17; Malachi 3:14,15.