



Run with the Horses – The Pursuit for Manhood.

“So, Jeremiah, if you’re worn out in this footrace with men, what makes you think you can race against horses?”
– Jeremiah 12:5

We long to live life to the fullest. We desire to merge freedom and spontaneity with purpose and meaning. Why then do we, as men, often find our lives boring, adventure-less, and fighting addiction to medicate our pain? Or else so busy, so full of chaos, but still devoid of fulfillment? How do we learn to risk, to trust, to pursue wholeness and excellence—to run with the horses in the midst of life? More is known of the life of Jeremiah than any other prophet, and his life is far more significant than his teaching. This study will be a model of manhood as portrayed by the prophet Jeremiah.

DO YOU WANT TO RUN WITH HORSES? - Psalm 119:32

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

A Man trusts God for more – he wants to Run with Horses!

August 08, 2019

Bible Verses: Jeremiah 12:5; Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 42:9-20; Jeremiah 43:1-7; Jeremiah 44:11-22

Music: We Will Ride (Andy Park)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1zrMG5jvzA>

Resources: *Run with the Horses – The Quest for Life at Its Best* by Eugene H. Peterson

Videos: HORSES IN MOVIES || Mashup

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wEgvCaiXUU>

Meet Jeremiah

- _____ → The nation of Israel was split after the death of Solomon. His son Rehoboam was set to become the next king. One of Solomon’s servants, Jeroboam rebelled. The ten tribes of the north rejected Rehoboam and embraced the leadership of Jeroboam. The two tribes of the south—Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to King Rehoboam. The result of tribal discord and political unrest resulted in the split.
- _____ → Jeremiah ends inconclusively. The last scene of Jeremiah’s life shows him, as he had spent so much of his life, preaching God’s word to a contemptuous people (Jeremiah 44). In Egypt, the place he doesn’t want to be, with people who treat him badly, he continues determinedly faithful, magnificently courageous, heartlessly rejected—a towering life terrifically lived. At 65, Jeremiah was offered a choice at Rama to stay in Jerusalem. He decided to live by faith. He chose to be where God commanded, at the center of God’s action, at the place of God’s promise, in the midst of God’s salvation in defiance of stereotyped conventions and popular opinions and self-aggrandizing flatteries.

Jeremiah – Where can we go – Egypt? – Jer. 42:9-20; 43:1-7; 44:11-22.

- _____ → Jerusalem falls in 586 B.C. When the Jews got tired of living by faith, they went 250 miles southwest to Egypt where everything was clear and precise. In Egypt there were no uncertainties, no loose ends, no ambiguity. Egypt had clear boundaries, set rules, all the gods in picture form. The Jews were looking for the soft life they thought awaited them in Egypt. They took Jeremiah with them.
 - Jews in the desert – They had been slaves, but at least they were secure. They knew what to expect. The pillar of cloud was a flimsy successor to the solid, fixed pyramids.
 - Solomon – When the monarchy, Solomon imported Egyptian certainties into the life of faith by making marriage alliance with the Egyptian Pharaoh’s daughter (I Kings 9:16). The Egyptian alliance was the first of many. Solomon hopelessly entangled himself with the other surrounding kingdoms (I Kings 11:1-8).
 - Egypt was clear geographically. The great Nile River divided Egypt.
 - Egypt was clear architecturally. They pyramids and temples stood in precise lines.
 - Egypt was clear theologically. All gods were made into images.
 - Egypt was clear socially. The king was at the apex, and the slave-serf at the base, with all others ranged in between.

Jeremiah – Prophet to the Nations (Jer. 46-51). “God so loved the world!

- _____ → Jeremiah never left Jerusalem until the end of his life when he was taken against his will to Egypt. He never left Jerusalem, but he was mentally and spiritually a world traveler. See Romans 3:9-20. He composed Messages for 10 different nations:
 - Egypt – “You will slither and hiss like a snake” – promised judgment (Jer. 46:19, 26).
 - Philistia – “you are on your last legs” – “I’ve ordered it to cut down (Jer. 47:7).
 - Moab – “... sit in dog dung.” – you are lamented and mourned (Jer. 48: 16,17, 18; 47).
 - Ammon – “all her towns burned to the ground” – your time will come (Jer. 49:3, 6).
 - Edom – You think you’re so great – you will end up trash” (Jer. 49:15-18).
 - Damascus – “The blood will drain from your face as you flee” (Jer. 49:23-27).
 - Kedar – “Oh, run for your lives – Find a safe place to hide” (Jer. 49:28-30).
 - Hazor – “Jackals will take over ... No one will live there (Jer. 49:33).
 - Elam – “I’ll break you bow, your weapon of choice, across my knee.” (Jer. 49:35-36; 39).
 - Babylon – “Destroy her farms and farmers, ravage her fields, empty her barns (Jer. 50:11-16).

Jeremiah – Walk with God – Live by Faith!

- _____ → Faith clarities develop from within. They cannot be imposed from without.
- _____ → Faith is not mechanical and institutional. Faith invades the muddle; it not emanate it. Peace develops in the midst of chaos. Harmony is achieved slowly, quietly, unobtrusively—like the effects of salt and light. Such clarities result from a courageous commitment to God, not from controlling or being controlled by others.
- _____ → Faith clarities come from a willingness to go deep into the mysteries of God’s will and love, not by cautiously managing and moralizing in ways that minimize risk and guarantee self-importance.
- _____ → Faith clarities can only be experienced in acts of faith and only recognized with the eyes of faith.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. Do you want to Run with Horses?
2. In order to Run with Horses, what would you need to stop—blame, criticism, playing the victim, addiction, etc. ?
3. What would “Run with Horses” look like in your life?

Bible Verses – The Message

Jeremiah 12:5 - 5 "So, Jeremiah, if you're worn out in this footrace with men, what makes you think you can race against horses? And if you can't keep your wits during times of calm, what's going to happen when troubles break loose like the Jordan in flood?

Psalm 119:32 - 32 I'll run the course you lay out for me if you'll just show me how.

Jeremiah 42:9-20 - 9 He then spoke: "This is the Message from God, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your prayer. ¹⁰ He says, 'If you are ready to stick it out in this land, I will build you up and not drag you down, I will plant you and not pull you up like a weed. I feel deep compassion on account of the doom I have visited on you. ¹¹ You don't have to fear the king of Babylon. Your fears are for nothing. I'm on your side, ready to save and deliver you from anything he might do. ¹² I'll pour mercy on you. What's more, he will show you mercy! He'll let you come back to your very own land.' ¹³ "But do not say, 'We're not staying around this place,' refusing to obey the command of your God ¹⁴ and saying instead, 'No! We're off to Egypt, where things are peaceful - no wars, no attacking armies, plenty of food. We're going to live there.' If ¹⁵ what's left of Judah is headed down that road, then listen to God's Message. This is what God-of-the-Angel-Armies says: 'If you have determined to go to Egypt and make that your home, ¹⁶ then the very wars you fear will catch up with you in Egypt and the starvation you dread will track you down in Egypt. You'll die there! ¹⁷ Every last one of you who is determined to go to Egypt and make it your home will either be killed, starve, or get sick and die. No survivors, not one! No one will escape the doom that I'll bring upon you.' ¹⁸ "This is the Message from God-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel: 'In the same way that I swept the citizens of Jerusalem away with my anger and wrath, I'll do the same thing all over again in Egypt. You'll end up being cursed, reviled, ridiculed, and mocked. And you'll never see your homeland again.' ¹⁹ "God has plainly told you, you leftovers from Judah, 'Don't go to Egypt.' Could anything be plainer? I warn you this day ²⁰ that you are living out a fantasy. You're making a fatal mistake. "Didn't you just now send me to your God, saying, 'Pray for us to our God. Tell us everything that God says and we'll do it all'?"

Jeremiah 43:1-7 - 1 When Jeremiah had finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God—everything the LORD had sent him to tell them—² Azariah son of Hoshaiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'You must not go to Egypt to settle there.' ³ But Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Babylonians, so they may kill us or carry us into exile to Babylon."⁴ So

Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers and all the people disobeyed the LORD's command to stay in the land of Judah.⁵ Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led away all the remnant of Judah who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered. ⁶ They also led away all those whom Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had left with Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan—the men, the women, the children and the king's daughters. And they took Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah along with them. ⁷ So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD and went as far as Tahpanhes.

Jeremiah 44:11-22 - 11 "Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I am determined to bring disaster on you and to destroy all Judah. ¹² I will take away the remnant of Judah who were determined to go to Egypt to settle there. They will all perish in Egypt; they will fall by the sword or die from famine. From the least to the greatest, they will die by sword or famine. They will become a curse and an object of horror, a curse and an object of reproach. ¹³ I will punish those who live in Egypt with the sword, famine and plague, as I punished Jerusalem. ¹⁴ None of the remnant of Judah who have gone to live in Egypt will escape or survive to return to the land of Judah, to which they long to return and live; none will return except a few fugitives." ¹⁵ Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, along with all the women who were present—a large assembly—and all the people living in Lower and Upper Egypt, said to Jeremiah, ¹⁶ "We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD! ¹⁷ We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her just as we and our ancestors, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. At that time we had plenty of food and were well off and suffered no harm. ¹⁸ But ever since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have had nothing and have been perishing by sword and famine." ¹⁹ The women added, "When we burned incense to the Queen of Heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did not our husbands know that we were making cakes impressed with her image and pouring out drink offerings to her?"²⁰ Then Jeremiah said to all the people, both men and women, who were answering him, ²¹ "Did not the LORD remember and call to mind the incense burned in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem by you and your ancestors, your kings and your officials and the people of the land? ²² When the LORD could no longer endure your wicked actions and the detestable things you did, your land became a curse and a desolate waste without inhabitants, as it is today.

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RUN WITH HORSES



Run with the Horses – The Pursuit for Manhood

*“So, Jeremiah, if you’re worn out in this footrace with men, what makes you think you can race against horses?”
– Jeremiah 12:5 (The Message)*

We long to live life to the fullest. We desire to merge freedom and spontaneity with purpose and meaning. Why then do we, as men, often find our lives boring, adventure-less, and fighting addiction to medicate our pain? Or else so busy, so full of chaos, but still devoid of fulfillment? How do we learn to risk, to trust, to pursue wholeness and excellence—to run with the horses in the midst of life? More is known of the life of Jeremiah than any other prophet, and his life is far more significant than his teaching. This study will be a model of manhood as portrayed by the prophet Jeremiah.

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Meet Jeremiah

1. **North & South Kingdoms** → The nation of Israel was split after the death of Solomon. His son Rehoboam was set to become the next king. One of Solomon's servants, Jeroboam rebelled. The ten tribes of the north rejected Rehoboam and embraced the leadership of Jeroboam. The two tribes of the south—Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to King Rehoboam. The result of tribal discord and political unrest resulted in the split.
2. **Faithful & Courageous** → Jeremiah ends inconclusively. The last scene of Jeremiah's life shows him, as he had spent so much of his life, preaching God's word to a contemptuous people (Jeremiah 44). In Egypt, the place he doesn't want to be, with people who treat him badly, he continues determinedly faithful, magnificently courageous, heartlessly rejected—a towering life terrifically lived. At 65, Jeremiah was offered a choice at Rama to stay in Jerusalem. He decided to live by faith. He chose to be where God commanded, at the center of God's action, at the place of God's promise, in the midst of God's salvation in defiance of stereotyped conventions and popular opinions and self-aggrandizing flatteries.

Jeremiah – Where can we go – Egypt?

Jer. 42:9-20; 43:1-7; 44:11-22

1. **Search for Clarity** → Jerusalem falls in 586 B.C. When the Jews got tired of living by faith, they went 250 miles southwest to Egypt where everything was clear and precise. In Egypt there were no uncertainties, no loose ends, no ambiguity. Egypt had clear boundaries, set rules, all the gods in picture form. The Jews were looking for the soft life they thought awaited them in Egypt. They took Jeremiah with them.
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Jeremiah – Prophet to the Nations

Jer. 46-51 - "God so loved the world!"

1. **Judgment** → Jeremiah never left Jerusalem until the end of his life when he was taken against his will to Egypt. He never left Jerusalem, but he was mentally and spiritually a world traveler. See Romans 3:9-20. He composed Messages for 10 different nations:

1. **Egypt** – “You will slither and hiss like a snake” – promised judgment (Jer. 46:19, 26).
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7. **Kedar** – “Oh, run for your lives – Find a safe place to hide” (Jer. 49:28-30).
8. **Hazor** – “Jackals will take over ... No one will live there (Jer. 49:33).
9. **Elam** – “I’ll break you bow, your weapon of choice, across my knee.” (Jer. 49:35-36; 39).
10. **Babylon** – “Destroy her farms and farmers, ravage her fields, empty her barns (Jer. 50:11-16).

Jeremiah – Walk with God – Live by Faith!

1. **Trust God** → Faith clarities develop from within. They cannot be imposed from without.
2. **Organic & Personal Relationship** → Faith is not mechanical and institutional. Faith invades the muddle; it not emanate it. Peace develops in the midst of chaos. Harmony is achieved slowly, quietly, unobtrusively—like the effects of salt and light. Such clarities result from a courageous commitment to God, not from controlling or being controlled by others.
3. **Life of Adventure** → Faith clarities come from a willingness to go deep into the mysteries of God's will and love, not by cautiously managing and moralizing in ways that minimize risk and guarantee self-importance.
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ACTION: Journal This!

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