

**PREFACE**

*“Thank God it is always a milestone in our church to bid farewell to our brethren going overseas. It is always providential that at such a critical juncture, God burdened His servant to bid farewell to the book we are currently reading (Jeremiah). It is the last Sabbath for two of our young people, Josiah John Chen and Esther Ng. Though the message is solemnising, it is also the love of God to appeal to our heart, senses and conscience what is this strait-gate, narrow-way Gospel and what is this Gospel that can really save us. Once again, it is the mercies of God to raise up such a prophet like Jeremiah, a man of sorrows, who cursed the day of his birth. He is also a man of contention for the whole world. It is God’s great mercies to raise him up to make sense to the people before the final judgment came, even to show them the way they should accept the punishments of their sins, to accept the law in their lives. Thank God for raising up His servant in these days. Jeremiah’s prophecies are never more so relevant than in our days. Pastor knocked sense into us; he made judgment of the times we are living in. This is the last leg of the cycles in history. We are heading towards the final and ultimate judgment. Thank God for using pastor to show us the message of Jeremiah—the need of the law, more than the comfort of the Gospel. Ironically, as pastor showed to us the prophecies relating to the promises of the Gospel, that Christ Yeshua is Jehovah our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6) and the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration in the Gospel age, how these prophecies were fulfilled, it sealed the point of the need of the law to us in the Gospel age. Through the questions pastor posed concerning why the people rejected Jeremiah’s message and why the judgments were so grievous in Jeremiah’s days (that brought about the destruction of the city of Jerusalem), pastor said he could identify with the prophet Jeremiah. Then the reverse is also true. We can also be identified with the people of those days who rejected Jeremiah. We see the sins of the people, we could identify with the sins of the Jews of those days. They hardened their hearts, rejected his message and revolted against Jeremiah. How much more frightening when we could also identify with the end of the Jews who did not heed Jeremiah’s warning. What was their end? ‘The harvest is past; the summer is ended, and we are not saved’ (Jeremiah 8:20). **Very few of us will be saved; perhaps every one of us may still not be saved! This is a frightening thought.** Still I felt too there is a glimmer of hope. God used Jeremiah’s prayer to teach us how to cry to God. Thank God for pastor bringing us to the 21<sup>st</sup> century screen in Revelation 3 and that when pastor mentioned about the Nepali brethren, Micah Basnet, Eliezer Pandey and Gad Dahal and how they are very pure; they are the ones who bear their yoke in their youth (Lamentations 3). I felt very touched. Tears rolled down my eyes when I heard of the Nepalese brethren and Zephaniah Soh, Joel Chia, Phinehas David Yeoh who were willing to go through the law in the days of their youth. They are very pure. When I look at myself, I am a by-product of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am superficial. There is no cistern in me. I cried to God to be merciful to me. I really want to be a vessel meet for the Master’s use and not one to be cast into the lake of fire. Yet I do not have the character to be faithful. I am encouraged at what God says, ‘Is there anything too hard for Me?’ (Jeremiah 32:27). I pray that He may change me. This is the desire of my heart—that I may take serious heed to the antidotes given to us in Revelation 3—even to come to the shopping mall of Christ Yeshua, to buy of Him gold tried in fire, to be adorned with the raiment of righteousness and to be given that eyesalve to discern rightly. I also prayed that I will really hate Babylon. Thank God for pastor who warned us not to be drunk with the wine of her fornication but to expose her and to be actively engaged in the battle to fight the enemies and defend for our Gospel, to defend the ministry of His servant and his Gospel. I am convicted that it is the Gospel of our pastor that can save us. I myself must subject to the work of the law and to really adorn the spirit of the man who quietly waits for the salvation of the Lord. I pray that I might have grace to go through the law to prepare my heart to receive Christ Yeshua. Thank God for pastor who explained to Michelle (Enoch’s niece who studies in Ireland) the subjective aspect of the Gospel. Pastor has understanding of this truth that is against all the hordes of false prophets. It is a battle against the False Prophet, Satan and Antichrist. I pray God give us a faithful heart to embrace the truth and have the spirit of Jeremiah to bear the grief for Zion. How can Jeremiah bear to see his prophecies come true, even in the destruction of the people of Jerusalem? Yet this is the harsh reality. His spirit is one that lamented and cried. To overcome the*

*spirit of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is to adorn such a spirit of mourning. My sorrow is sporadic. It is the Holy Spirit that produces conviction and godly grief over my own state and also for Christendom so that I may pray for the state of Jerusalem and for the man of God. Thank God for preserving Esther Ng and that she could come back here for three months. Thank God for the refreshment thanksgiving by her parents. Pastor underlined the spirit of anxiety in her parents. Pray she will come through. Her strength and safety is to delight in the Word of God and fellowship of God's people and to consistently stay in connection with the man of God. She has been a blessing in the sisters' fellowship. Thank God she could also go to India. Thank God also for strengthening Josiah John Chen before he goes back to Moscow." Rhoda Soh's Sabbath vespers were rendered in response to presiding pastor's exposition of the book of Jeremiah (Part 2), Skudai, Johor Bahru, Malaysia; 22 August AD 2010*