Jer. 19:14-20:6, The Pashur Episode
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Overview

1. Structure of 18-20
   An alternation of three levels.
   a) Object lessons of pottery: 18:1-10; 19:1-13
   b) The people reject the Lord and his Messenger: 18:11-18;
      19:14-20:6.
   c) Jeremiah's laments: 18:19-23; 20:7-18.

2. This section is the response of the people, corresponding to
   18:11-18. There, they spoke with Jeremiah, only threatening
   him. Here, their response is acted out, as he is imprisoned.

3. An interchange of three elements:
   a) 19:14-15, Jeremiah preaches in the temple court
   b) 20:1-3a, Pashur imprisons and releases him.
   c) 20:3b-6, Jeremiah condemns Pashur

A. **19:14-15, Jeremiah preaches in the temple court**

1. By coming to the temple court, he will have a much larger
   audience than the elders he took with him to the Valley for
   the Pot-Breaking.

2. He announces that the judgment is coming, because they have
   "hardened their necks." Of the two pottery examples he has
   given them, they correspond to the hard and intransigent one
   that must be broken, rather than the pliable one that can be
   formed.

3. Note the reason for their hardening of their necks: "that
   [in order that] they might not hear my words." People
   explicitly reject the revelation of God, and "will not have
   this man to rule over them."

B. **20:1-3a, Pashur imprisons and releases him**

1. As "chief governor" or "chief overseer," Pashur was sort of
   a sargeant at arms to keep order in the temple; cf. 29:26.
   He found Jer's words obnoxious and took steps to silence
   him, by beating him and putting him in the stocks
   overnight--cf. the treatment of the apostles in Acts 4!

2. Stocks in the gate of Benjamin, where he would be exposed to
   public ridicule. Pashur is trying to humiliate Jer. and
   discredit his message with the people.

3. Note the emphasis on official titles.
   a) Pashur is operating as an official temple functionary, not
      on his own initiative.

      b) Jer. for the first time is called "Jer. the prophet". (In 1:5, God says, "I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. See Keil's extended footnote, I.312-313, on the usage of the title.)

      c) Thus this is more than a personal squabble. It is a conflict of God's ordained messenger with the official temple hierarchy.

  4. *Application:* We need to remember that we serve the Lord God, as his representatives. "You are not your own; you are bought with a price," 1 Cor. 6:19,20. We are to deal with others as God's representatives, and understand what we receive from them as their reaction to the Lord who sent us.

C. 20:3b-6, Jeremiah condemns Pashur
Jer changes Pashur's name, and then interprets it.

  1. The new name.
     Jer. uses this title six times; it occurs one other time, in Ps. 31:14, from time of David (probably under persecution from Saul). Interpret it as picked up from Ps. 31 (rather than as an intricate pun on "Pashur," as does Holladay).

      a) Accept Davidic priority of Ps. 31

      b) Jer is borrowing from Ps. 31, and 20:10, a quote from Ps. 31:14, is thus the root occurrence. (Recognize that Jer. is arranged topically, not chronologically.)

      c) 20:3, Pashur, who has been the first evidence of this terror to Jer., will also be a symbol of greater terror to this friends, the terror of the Babylonian invasion

      d) 6:25 describes this broader terror; cf. Lam. 2:22

      e) 46:5 & 49:29, other nations will feel this terror at the hand of the Lord.

  2. Explanation of the name.
     Four paragraphs. In each of the first three, God says, "I give ...," and describes successive tragedies that Pashur, as a symbol of terror, will observe. The last brings it down on his own head.
     a) 4a, He will witness the slaughter of his associates.
     b) 4b, The nation will be taken captive and slaughtered.
     c) 5, The wealth of the nation will become spoil.
     d) 6, Pashur himself will go into exile and die there.

Application
If we are tempted to be discouraged over the suffering and persecution that God permits to us, we should remember that it prepares us for a glorious eternity, but promises the ungodly only an eternity of suffering.

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man
perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our
light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us
a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we
look not at the things which are seen, but at the things
which are not seen: for the things which are seen are
temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2
Cor. 4:16-18.

Ps. 1

Analysis
19:14-20:6 interchange p: The Pashur Episode

A. sequence p: Jeremiah preaches in the temple court
   1. comment p
      a) text: 19:14 WA/Y.FBO) YIR:M:YFHW. M"/HA/T.OPET
      b) comment:):A$ER $:LFX/OW Y:HWFH $FM L:/HIN.FB")
   2. WA/Y.A(:AMOD B.A/X:ACAR B."YT-Y:HWFH
   3. quote p
      a) quote f: WA/Y.O)MER)EL-K.FL-HF/(FM S
      b) quote: quote p
         1) quote f: 19:15 K.OH-)FMAR Y:HWFH C:BF)OWT):ELOH"Y
            YI&:RF)"L
         2) quote: reason p
            a> text: comment p
               1> text: HIN/:NIY {M"BIY} [M"BIY)])EL-HF/(IYR
                  HA/Z.O)T W:/(AL-K.FL-(FREY/HF)"T K.FL-HF/RF(FH
               2> comment:):A$ER D.IB.AR:T.IY (FLEY/HF
            b> reason: purpose p
               1> text: K.IY HIQ:$W.)ET-(FR:P./FM
               2> purpose: L:/BIL:T.IY $:MOW(A)ET-D.:BFRFY

B. sequence p: Pashur imprisons and releases him.
   1. awareness quote p
      a) double comment p: The two comments highlight the conflict
         between the prophet and the priest.
         1) text: 20:1 WA/Y.I$:MA(P.A$:XW.R B.EN-)IM."R HA/K.OH"N
            ...)ET-YIR:M:YFHW.
         2) comment: ... W:/HW.)-PFQIYD NFGIYD B.:/B"YT Y:HWFH
         3) comment: ... NIB.F))ET-HA/D.:BFRIYM HF/)"L.EH
   2. 2 WA/Y.AK.EH PA$:XW.R)"T YIR:M:YFHW. HA/N.FBIY)
   3. WA/Y.IT."N)OT/OW (AL-HA/M.AH:P.EKET):A$ER B.:/$A(AR
      B.IN:YFMIN HF/(EL:YOWN):A$ER B.:/B"YT Y:HWFH
   4. temporal p
      a) time: 3 WA/Y:HIY MI/M.FX:FRFT
      b) text: WA/Y.OC") PA$:XW.R)ET-YIR:M:YFHW. MIN-HA/M.AH:P.FKET

C. quote p: Jeremiah condemns Pashur
   1. quote f: WA/Y.O)MER)"LFY/W YIR:M:YFHW.
   2. quote: ampl p
      a) text: LO) PA$:XW.R QFRF) Y:HWFH $:M/EKF K.IY)IM-MFGOWR
         MI/S.FBIYB P

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b) ampl: quote p Punning amplification of "Terror/Exile from
   every side"
   1) quote f: 4  K.IY KOH )FMAR Y:HWFH
   2) quote: Note subject alternation: I/you-they...you
      a> You: Terror
         1> HIN/:NIY NOTEN/:KF L:/MFGOWR L/:KF
            W./L:/KFL-)OH:ABEY/KF
         2> W:/NFP:LW. B.:/XEREB )OY:B"Y/HEM
         3> W:/("YNEY/KF RO)OWT
      b> Judah: Terror and Exile
         1> W:/)ET-K.FL-Y:HW.DFH )ET."N B.:/YAD MELEK:-B.FBEL
         2> W:/HIG:L/FM B.FBELFH
         3> W:/HIK./FM B.E/XFREB
      c> Judah: Spoiling
         1> 5  W:/NFTAT.IY )ET-K.FL-XOSEN HF/(IYR HA/Z.O)T
            W:/)ET-K.FL-Y:GIY(/FH. W:/)ET-K.FL-Y:QFR/FH.
         2> W:/)"T K.FL-)OWC:ROWT MAL:K"Y Y:HW.DFH )ET."N
            B.:/YAD )OY:B"Y/HEM
         3> W./B:ZFZW./M
         4> W./L:QFXW./M
         5> WE/H:EBIY)W./M B.FBEL/FH
      d> You: Exile
         1> 6  W:/)AT.FH PA$:XW.R W:/KOL YO$:B"Y B"YT/EKF
            T."L:KW. B.A/$.EBIY
         2> W./BFBEL T.FBOW)
         3> W:/$FM T.FMW.T
         4> W:/$FM T.IQ.FB"R )AT.FH W:/KFL-)OH:ABEY/KF
            ):A$ER-NIB.")TF L/FHEM B.A/$.FQER S
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