

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN", Jer. 8:22.

I. The Sickness

1. Of Israel

A. In the time of Jeremiah

B. Subsequently

2. Of the sinful soul, Jer. 17:9

A. Sin is an internal disease; life.

It has its seat in the very citadel of

B. Sin is an hereditary disease;

It is in the race -- "shapen in sin"

C. It is a fatal disease

D. It is a flattering disease;

seldom realized or known.

E. It is often an agonizing disease.

3. Of the whole lost world.

II. The Physician and the Prescription

1. Gilead was the land East of the Jordan R., from the S. end of Galilee to the R. Arnon $\frac{1}{2}$ way along Dead Sea.

The North portion was heavily wooded, and well known for its balm, resin from the terebinth or turpentine tree and the pistachio tree.

2. This balm was used in the preparation of healing ointments, the chief article of export, widely known and eagerly sought.

A. Gen. 37:25, "Ishmaelites from Gilead, camels bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, to carry it down to Egypt."

B. Jer. 46:11, "Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin daughter of Egypt; in vain shalt thou use many medicines; for thou shalt not be cured."

3. Gilead was the land where the physicians mixed the healing balms.

4. The means of recovery was nearby.

5. Jesus Christ is the Great Physician.

A. For the individual soul

B. For a world in turmoil.

III. Why then is the Sickness not Cured???

1. Certainly it was not owing to God, but to themselves.

A. It was not for want of a balm and a physician, but because they would not admit the application nor submit to the methods of cure.

B. The physician and the medicines were both ready, but the patient was wilful and rebellious, and would not be tied to rules, but must be humored.

2. If sinners die of their wounds, their blood is upon their own heads.

The blood of Christ is the balm in Gilead; His Spirit is the physician there, both sufficient, all-sufficient, so that they might have been healed, but would not.

A. Because the patients will not consult the Great Physician. *French Sailors after war*

(1). They leave Christ out of world affairs.

(2). Sinners leave Him out of their lives.

B. Because they will not take His medicine

(1). Deliberate refusal of the gospel.

(2). Preference for sin

(3). Choice of other remedies. *harbor in Sydney Australia - the Heads*

Conclusion: How to be cured from sin:

1. Cease from self reliance; Jer. 10:23,

"I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps."

2. Stop neglecting, and start accepting, the salvation remedy offered by the Great Physician; Heb. 2:3, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

(Note this comparison between the balm of Gilead's trees and the balm of Christ:

In order to obtain its healing resin, they used to cleave or wound the balm tree; and in order to give forth His healing balm for the disease of sin, the Savior's side was pierced.