

“If I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned. but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me, I will not bless it as I said I would.”

Jeremiah 18:7-8, 10 NLT

[lectio] // JEREMIAH 18:1-12

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

Yeah, basically God tells Jeremiah, “I’ll do whatever I want to do, with nations and individuals. But sadly, that is not the hard part of Jeremiah or of God’s story with humans. #thisisus - “But the people replied, “Don’t waste your breath. We will continue to live as we want to, stubbornly following our own evil desires.” Yep, this is ALL of us, not just the evil types, but the holy, righteous types as well. Was it a test, an experiment? Could God make humans, knowing that they would fail and reject him, only to win them, redeem them and love them through his son, Jesus? That’s exactly what he did and is doing. Are we THE only story? I don’t know? Are we the only challenge? I don’t know. I do know that the book of Job holds the answer. Job wasn’t on trial, God’s own plan, his idea was on trial. Would, could, should humans love their creator if He didn’t MAKE them love him or BRIBE them to love him? Even with the knowledge of GOOD and EVIL will it even work? God is ALWAYS just, true and right - where does that leave us, where does that leave you?

[oratio]

Dad,

I am completely giddy about how it all ends, the final chapter, the finality of THE story of all stories. The saga in which all other sagas and stories find their meaning, their protagonists, their antagonists, their dramatic moment, their suspense, and finally their happily ever after. Not only am I excited to see the ending, I am even more excited to be IN your story. Of course it is MY life and MY decisions, because I was not forced or programmed to follow you or to take part in this epic adventure. But, I do however play a part, a role, a purpose along the way. And this is why I want to nail my part! I love what you have done for me and in me and I am definitely all in for whatever part (big or small) you want me to fulfill in your grand love story of Creator and created, God and human, LOVE and beloved.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root