

## THE CLAY JAR CURSE

**Jer. 19:10-13** *“Then **you are to break the jar** in the sight of the men who accompany you and say to them, ‘Thus says Yah of hosts, “Just so shall I break this people and this city, even as one breaks a potter’s vessel, which cannot again be repaired; and they will bury in Topheth because there is no other place for burial. “This is how I shall treat this place and its inhabitants,” declares Yahveh, “so as to make this city like Topheth. (13) “And the houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah will be defiled like the place Topheth, because of all the houses on whose rooftops they burned sacrifices to all the heavenly host and poured out libations to other gods.”””*

Here, Yirmeyahu is told to publicly break a clay pot in front of the men. The obvious explanation is there but there is hidden symbolism used that we need to understand to get the full impact of what he is saying. In those days people used clay pots to engrave curses on. They would write the curse (spell) on the pot, then break the pot to put the curse into affect. Jeremiah was showing them something they all understood clearly. He was using their own pagan practice symbolically to get their attention because Yah was proclaiming a curse over the people if they did not repent.

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Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Nov 30/16)