

The Message of the Old Testament

A Book-by-Book Study

Jeremiah

Jeremiah's Opening Word

The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, to whom the word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month. (Jeremiah 1:1-3)

Jeremiah's Prophetic Ministry

627 -587 BC (about 100 years after Isaiah)

From about 5 years before the discovery in the temple of the book of the law to the fall of Jerusalem Kings Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah

Time of downward spiral from hope to despair

Jeremiah was a priest

From a small town, Anathoth, in Benjamin

Prophecy Setting:

The Assyrians had toppled the northern kingdom about 100 years prior

In that time the Assyrians had fallen to Babylonians in 612 BC.

Judah regained some strength and reformed its religious life

The new threat was from the emerging powerhouse called Babylon

Jeremiah's Call

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the _____." Jeremiah 1:4-5

► Most of Jeremiah's words were to the people of God in _____, but as with Isaiah the prophetic ministry stretched beyond them to reflect the _____ nature of God's plan and God's message.

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I _____ you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put my _____ in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to _____ up and to break down, to _____ and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Jeremiah 1:6-10

Jeremiah reminds us of Moses who lacked confidence. God promises his presence, his protection, and his _____. The word of God in Jeremiah's mouth is the tool by which he will accomplish demolition and removal of past realities as well as the establishment and development of new ones.

Jeremiah: How We Got Here

The course of biblical history to this point reveals repeated moral _____ by the creatures God made in his own image, even of the ones He chose. The repeated failure calls for God's _____ and reveals that something more is needed if a faithful people is to be found.

Basic Divisions of Jeremiah

Judgment on Judah:

The What and the Why (1-45, 52)

Judgment on the Nations (46-49)

Judgment on Babylon (50-51)

Orientation to the works of the prophets

As mentioned concerning Isaiah, the books by the prophets are not really books as we think of them today. Mark Dever explains:

“As you look at Jeremiah, you will not find an introduction, a body, and a conclusion, per se. Perhaps it is better to regard Jeremiah as a collection of speeches [or sermons] interspersed with several historical episodes in the prophet’s life. These speeches, or prophesies, have been compiled and are chronological only in the roughest sense.”
(Dever, 592)

The Message of Jeremiah

Point #1 -- God’s _____ is coming upon His people. The reason is that they have broken his _____; they have _____ Him.

Jeremiah 1:15-16

1. Why is God gathering nations against Judah?
2. How has Judah forsaken the Lord?

Jeremiah 2:4-8

Jeremiah 2:9-13

God charges that the Jews’ departure from him makes absolutely no sense. It is unprecedented and _____.

- A. What fault did they find in Him?
- B. He brought them into a _____ land to enjoy.
- C. They made a _____ out of it.
- D. All the leaders forsook the Lord.
- E. The people traded God for gods who are not _____.
- F. They left the fountain for broken cisterns which can hold no water.

Jeremiah 2:23-25

The people of Judah _____ the very thing they do.

Jeremiah 2:26-28

The shame of the Jews:

They and their leaders say to a tree, ‘You are my father,’ and to a stone, ‘You gave me birth.’

They have turned their _____ to me, and not their face.

When they face trouble they cry to _____ to save them

But the reply of the Lord is: “where are your gods that you made for yourself? Let them arise. After all you have as many gods there are cities in Judah.”

Mark Dever writes,

“The book of Jeremiah goes on like this for forty-five chapters! God is clear with his people: They have become _____ in their sin. They have no shame. They have become so accustomed to prostituting themselves to other gods that they don’t even know how to _____. And when they claim to be devoted to the Lord, they lie.” (Dever, 596)

Jeremiah 5:7-9

The sins of the people demand justice from God. The appalling nature of what they have done leaves the Lord no choice but to _____ himself on a nation like this.

Jeremiah 32:30-34

This passage speaks of the _____ of Judah’s sin and God’s determined response. They have done nothing but evil from their youth . . . nothing but provoke me to anger and wrath from the day it was built.

In wrath and anger He will _____ it because of all the evil.

Jeremiah 7:8-15

What’s the evil the people are committing here?

They steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods.

Then they go to the _____ to find deliverance from _____.

How is God about to respond?

He will destroy the _____ and cast the people away

Jeremiah 5:30-31

What are the consequences in terms of spiritual leadership when people forsake God?

Preachers speak what is _____.

The people _____ it that way.

People are unprepared for the day of _____.

Point #2 -- God’s judgment is coming upon His _____. Because they are called His people and bear His name, His judgment will be particularly _____.

He will _____ them

Jeremiah 19:1-11a

He will not _____ when they call.

Jeremiah 11:11-14

Point #3 – There is a _____ for Preaching Truth

26:8-15

37:13-20

20:7-10

Point #4 -- _____ will fall on Babylon and the Nations

Jeremiah 46-49 – Nations

50-51 -- Babylon

Jeremiah was not on the side of the Babylonians any more than God. The weighty judgment on God's people does not mean God has forgotten the rest of the world. Specifically Jeremiah speaks to Babylon in this way.

Jeremiah 50:29-31

Jeremiah 51:7-8a

Jeremiah 51:20-23

Jeremiah 51:29

Point #5 -- Jeremiah does, however, preach _____.

Jeremiah 29:10-14

The Hope of Jeremiah is:

Restoration for Israel and Judah
The Lord will turn mourning into joy
He will make a new _____

The New Covenant – Jeremiah 31:31-34

The New Covenant is different from the old one in that

1. The house of Israel _____ it.
2. The law will be written on their _____.
3. A knowledge of God will flow from _____.
4. I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

The Canonical Message of Jeremiah

Genesis to Kings – The people of God are hopelessly bound in sin to sin and be judged. Isaiah and Jeremiah _____ that message. The behavior of the people is utterly and incredibly sinful.

Genesis to Kings begs the question, "Is there any hope?"

Isaiah answers, "Yes, there is hope!" Hope comes in the form a servant/king. Isaiah shows how God will deal with our sin from a judicial perspective. A King will come. A servant will satisfy divine _____. This is a solution of _____.

Jeremiah answers, "Yes, there is hope!" The problem in Jeremiah is presented in terms of a broken covenant and a _____ of ungodliness. Jeremiah shows how God will deal with our sin from an _____ perspective. God will make a new covenant. He will put his law in our _____.

This is a solution of sanctification.

Practical Application

1. Realize I am more accountable to God having received _____ light and privilege.
2. Prepare for the fact that judgment _____ with the people of God.
3. The gospel has been given to us to be preached to the _____.
4. Those who do not like its message will not like the message bearer.
5. Make sure I am attentive to the truth rather than what I would like to hear.
6. Live in accordance with the law written on my heart in the person of the Holy Spirit.
7. Realize that God's severe dealing with His people does not mean that He overlooks justice in terms of the nations.