

The Calling of the Prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1

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Pastor Gary Hollinger

I. Who and Where? (v. 1)

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin.

A. Primary earthly Author: Jeremiah, son of Hilkiah (the weeping prophet)

B. Secondary earthly Author: Baruch, son of Neriah

So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the Lord had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll. (Jeremiah 36:4)

C. Ultimate Author: God

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

D. Jeremiah was born three miles NE of Jerusalem

E. He prophesied to Judah

F. Later, he would speak to the surrounding nations

II. When? 626 BC to 586 BC (v. 2-3)

² *The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah,* ³ *and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.*

Contemporaries: Zephaniah, Obadiah, Hulda (2 Kgs. 22/2 Chron. 34), Ezekiel and Daniel.

Note: Jeremiah is not arranged chronologically, but rather topically probably later by Baruch.

III. Why? God formed and called Jeremiah to this prophetic ministry. (v. 4-8)

⁴ *The word of the LORD came to me, saying,*

⁵ *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace... (Galatians 1:15)

⁶ *"Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."*

⁷ *But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.*

Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." (Exodus 4:10-12)

IV. What? God's judgment on Judah for idolatry is impending and they are to repent and surrender rather than fight. (v. 9-16)

⁹ *Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."*

¹¹ *The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?"
"I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied.*

¹² *The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."*

¹³ *The word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?"*

"I see a pot that is boiling," I answered. "It is tilting toward us from the north."

¹⁴ *The LORD said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land.*

¹⁵ *I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the LORD.*

*"Their kings will come and set up their thrones
in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem;
they will come against all her surrounding walls
and against all the towns of Judah.*

¹⁶ *I will pronounce my judgments on my people
because of their wickedness in forsaking me,
in burning incense to other gods
and in worshiping what their hands have made.*

V. Jeremiah's mission was to be difficult and painful but God promised to uphold His prophet. (v. 17-19)

¹⁷ “Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. ¹⁸ Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. ¹⁹ They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)