

JEREMIAH

Author: Jeremiah Date: 627 – 580 B.C.

Jeremiah, known as “the weeping prophet,” faithfully and compassionately proclaimed God’s judgment on Judah for over forty years, all the while enduring opposition, persecution, and imprisonment. He told the people to repent and return to God, or He would punish them severely. The people rejected the warnings. Despised and persecuted by his countrymen, Jeremiah bathes his harsh prophecies in tears of compassion.

Jeremiah the son of a priest, Hilkiyah, and was divinely chosen as a prophet before he was born (1:5). He began his ministry as a young man of probably 17-20. He was a lonely prophet who was not allowed to marry or have children (16:2) because the suffering would be too hard on them. He had a scribe, Baruch, to whom he dictated most of the prophecies.

He confronted kings, false prophets, officials, those at the temple, and those at the city gates with their sins. Jeremiah was a prophet during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah. From 627 – 605 B.C., he prophesied while Judah was threatened by Assyria and Egypt. From 605 – 586 B.C., he proclaimed God’s judgment while Judah was threatened and besieged by Babylon. From 586 B.C. (the year Judah fell to the Babylonians) to about 580 B.C., Jeremiah ministered in Jerusalem and Egypt after Judah’s downfall. He died in Egypt.

Theme: God’s inevitable and inescapable judgment will come upon Judah for her rebellion and disobedience. Restoration and a new covenant are also foretold by Jeremiah.

Key verses: *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (29:11-13, NIV).*

Application: People’s acceptance or rejection of us is not the measure of our success. God’s approval alone should be our standard. Like Jeremiah, we must bring God’s message to others even if it means rejection, and we must do God’s work even if it means suffering.

OUTLINE

- I. The Prophet Jeremiah’s Appointment and Commission (Ch. 1)
- II. Jeremiah’s Public Ministry (Chs. 2-10)
- III. Jeremiah’s Personal Experiences (Chs. 11-19)
- IV. Prophecies against the Civil and Religious Leaders of Judah (Chs. 20-23)
- V. Prophecies Concerning the Destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Captivity (Chs. 24-29)
- VI. Prophecies Concerning the Restoration (Chs. 30-33)
- VII. Historical Section (Chs. 34-45)
- VIII. Prophecies against the Gentile Nations (Chs. 46-51)
- IX. Conclusion: The Fall of Jerusalem (Ch. 52)