

Jeremiah 1

Jesus

I. A Prophet Called

1 The words of **Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah**, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, 2 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. 3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, **until the carrying away** of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.

- **Author:** Jeremiah. The LORD exalts or LORD throws down? Priestly father Hilkiah

Jesus: Who do men say that I am? Some say Jeremiah
Weeping prophet/Type of Christ /Man of Sorrows

- **Place:** Anathoth. Priestly city of Benjamin in Judah. 3 mls from Jerusalem
- **Date:** 60 yrs. after the Prophet Isaiah approx. 627BC

Jeremiah's Ministry: Lasted 40 yrs. Extended through 5 Kings of Judah

- **Josiah:**
 1. Became King at 8 yrs old.
 2. At 16: Major Spiritual reform after Hilkiah the Priest found the Law. Jeremiah's father?
 3. Reigned during time of Jeremiah. Same age? Both 20-21 on fire
- **Jehoiakim** [2 Kings Jehoahaz/Jehoiachin omitted. Short reigns 3 months each]
- **Zedekiah** [last king] **to the Exile**

4 Then 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 sanctified you**; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Before you existed I knew you
God sets us apart for His special work before conception

Galatians 1:15b ...God ...separated me from my mother's womb and called me...

- God's word on when life begins: Before conception

Jeremiah: Set apart as a Prophet to the Nations

6 Then said I: "**Ah, Lord God!** Behold, I cannot speak, for **I am a youth.**" 7 But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of their faces, For **I am with you to deliver you**," says the Lord.

I Am with you to deliver you...Where I guide I will provide

9 Then the Lord put forth His hand and **touched my mouth**, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put **My words in your mouth**. 10 See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To **build and to plant**."

Anointed: Supernatural God-given Ability for a Specific God-given Purpose
My Powerful Word in your mouth will set you over Nations/Kingdoms

Psalm 138:2 [Para] God has magnified His Word above His Name

My Word will Root Out and Pull Down/Destroy and Throw Down
In the Latter Days My Word will Build and Plant

11 [Root out/Pull down] Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a **branch of an almond tree**." 12 Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for **I am ready to perform My word**." 13 And the word of the Lord came to me the second time, saying, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a **boiling pot**, and it is facing away from the north."

Almond Tree Branch: lit. Watching. Watching for the inevitable change
Boiling pot facing south toward Judah

14 Then the Lord said to me: "Out of the north calamity shall break forth On all the inhabitants of the land. 15 For behold, I am calling All the families of the kingdoms of the north," says the Lord; "They shall come and each one set his throne At the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, Against all its walls all around, And against all the cities of Judah.

Enemies will pour into Judah from the North
Set up thrones at the Gates of Jerusalem

16 I will utter My judgments Against them concerning all their wickedness, Because they have forsaken Me, Burned incense to other gods, And worshiped the works of their own hands.

Judgment for Idolatry
Young Jeremiah: Called to give devastating news to his own people

After Isaiah died God called Jeremiah to what I feel must have been the hardest task any minister has ever been called upon to perform for the Lord. Jeremiah had to oversee the death of the nation. He had to watch it as it was in its final death throes as it went into convulsions and died and was carried away captive to Babylon. His ministry was destined from the beginning for failure, i.e. the people were not going to listen and the people were not going to change. They had set their course and their destiny was determined. [Chuck Smith]

Among all the prophets of the [OT] none was more heroic than Jeremiah. [G.C. Morgan]

17 "Therefore **prepare yourself** and **arise**, And **speak** to them all that I command you.

Prepare/Arise/Act

- **Prepare yourself:** lit Gird up you loins/Be ready to move

1 Kings 18:46 Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah; and **he girded up his loins** and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

1 Peter 1:13 [Angels are amazed at the plan of salvation of men] ...Therefore **gird up the loins** of your mind, **be sober...**

- **Prepare** Yourself
- **Arise:** Get ready to run
- **Act** ...

Young people/All ages: We each have a mission
Act courageously on God's calling/purpose you were born for

17b ...Do not be dismayed before their faces lest I dismay you before them.

IOWs Don't cry or I'll give you something to cry about. Be courageous!

I've known you. I've Sanctified you. I've Anointed you
Go in My Name!/Go w/My Word and I will deliver you!

1 Samuel 17:45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But **I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts**, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **46b** ... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for **the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.**"

The Angel of the LORD surrounds those who fear Him alone
If you fear Me alone...You already have all you need

18 For behold, I have made you this day A **fortified city** and an **iron pillar**, And **bronze walls** against the whole land— Against the kings of Judah, Against its princes, Against its priests, And against the people of the land. 19 **They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you," says the Lord, "to deliver you."**

John 16:33b [IOWs you will need to be delivered] ...In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world.**

Matthew 28:20b ...[Go fulfill your calling/purpose] ...and lo, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Fear/Laziness/Insecurity Hinder us

Prevent us from walking in who we *already are* in Christ

Judges 6:11 Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, **"The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!"** 13 Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." 14 Then the Lord turned to him and said, **"Go in this might of yours,** and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. **Have I not sent you?"** 15 So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." 16 And the Lord said to him, **"Surely I will be with you,** and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

Young people and all people: Know who you are in Christ or you won't know who you are at all. Once you know, walk in who you are and fulfill your Calling/Purpose in Christ. [NJC]

I'm making you a Fortified City/Iron Pillar/Bronze Wall as we speak
I Am w/you to deliver you. Where I guide you I will provide for you
Prepare/Arise/Act

Jeremiah 2

Jesus

I. God's Case Against Israel

1 Moreover the **word of the Lord** came to me, saying, 2 "Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown. 3 Israel was holiness to the Lord, The firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; Disaster will come upon them," says the Lord.' "

God cries out to His people through the mouth of Jeremaih
I remember your kindness/love/devotion/faithfulness/vulnerability

Deuteronomy 32:10 "[God] found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the **apple of His eye.**

Zechariah 2:8 He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the **apple of His eye.**

Revelation 2:4 [Jesus to Ephesus] **...you have left your first love**

I delivered/protected you the Apple of My Eye

4 Hear the **word of the Lord**, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel. 5 Thus says the Lord: "What injustice have your fathers found in Me, That they have gone far from Me, Have followed idols, And have become

idolaters? 6 Neither did they say, '**Where is the Lord**, Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, Through a land of deserts and pits, Through a land of drought and the shadow of death, Through a land that no one crossed And where no one dwelt?' 7 I brought you into a bountiful country, To eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, you defiled My land And made My heritage an abomination. 8 The priests did not say, '**Where is the Lord?**' And those who handle the law did not know Me; The rulers also transgressed against Me; The prophets prophesied by Baal, And walked after things that do not profit.

You blame me for the painful consequences of your own unfaithfulness
I've kept My promises...What charges do you have against Me?

9 "Therefore **I will yet bring charges against you,**" says the Lord, "And against your children's children I will bring charges. 10 For pass beyond the coasts of Cyprus [East] and see, Send to Kedar [West] and consider diligently, And see if there has been such a thing. 11 **Has a nation changed its gods,** Which are not gods?

Even Pagan Nations are Faithful to their Pagan Idols

11b ...But My people have changed their Glory For what does not profit.

God shed His grace on thee?
We exchanged His grace/goodness for that which is foul/rancid/putrid/foolish

Romans 1:22 [Truth of Creation suppressed] Professing to be wise, they **became fools**, 23 and **changed the glory** of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who **exchanged the truth** of God **for the lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women **exchanged the natural** use for what is **against nature**.

Seeking to skate Accountability/Be Free to Sin w/out limits
We exchanged the Living God for a god of our imagination. A lie. Failure

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who **call evil good, and good evil**; Who put **darkness for light**, and light for darkness; Who put **bitter for sweet**, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight! 22 Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, 23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man!

- 07/10/26 ICE Deports Illegal Alien Convicted Child Rapist Pardoned by Governor Walz

My people have exchanged my Grace/Goodness for absolutely nothing

12 Be astonished, **O heavens**, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate," says the Lord.

Creation is Astonished/Reeling at man's shocking choice
To Rebel against our Creator?...All that is Good?

13 "For My people have committed **two evils**: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Two Evils

1. **Forsook God**: Fulfillment/Satisfaction in Me
2. **Chose Pain**: Vain emptiness of Idols/Consequences

v13 Rationale for rejecting Jesus does not hold water
We want to be free! Are you?

14 "Is Israel a servant? Is he a homeborn slave? [If not] Why is he plundered?

Romans 6:16b ... to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, **you are that one's slaves** whom you obey, whether of **sin leading to death**, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

Choose to sin Choose to suffer
To Become Self-Destructive Blind Slaves to Sin

2 Corinthians 4:4 [Blind Judah] ...whose minds the **god of this age has blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

15 [Look at the Northern Kingdom now desolate] The young lions roared at him, and growled; They made his land waste; His cities are burned, without inhabitant. 16 Also the people of Noph and Tahpanhes Have broken the crown of your head. [Egypt had/will kill good King Josiah] 17 Have you not brought this on yourself, In that **you have forsaken the Lord your God When He led you in the way?** 18 And now **why take the road to Egypt**, To drink the waters of Sihor? Or **why take the road to Assyria**, To drink the waters of the River?

The LORD calls to remembrance the Northern Kingdom Israel 100 yrs previous
Plundered/Laid waste by Assyria, now Judah's ally along w/Egypt

19 Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. **Know** therefore and **see** that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the Lord your God, And the fear of Me is not in you," Says the Lord God of hosts.

The fear of Me is not in you/Pride self-righteousness has blinded you
IOWs It won't happen to me...I can play fast/loose w/an Omnipresent God?

20 "For of old I have broken your yoke and burst your bonds; And you said, '**I will not transgress,**' When on every high hill and under every green tree You lay down, playing the harlot. 21 Yet I had planted you a **noble vine**, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the **degenerate plant** of an **alien vine**? 22 For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, Yet **your iniquity is marked before Me**," says the Lord God.

Attempt to wash yourself self-righteousness; i.e. w/Filth
Insincere Repentance is poison...

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the **sorrow of the world produces death.**

Insincere Repentance before an Omniscient/Omnipotent God?

23 "How can you say, '**I am not polluted**, I have not gone after the Baals'? See your way in the valley; Know what you have done: You are a swift dromedary breaking loose in her ways, 24 A wild donkey used to the wilderness, That sniffs at the wind in her desire; In her time of mating, who can turn her away? All those who seek her will not weary themselves; In her month they will find her. 25 Withhold your foot from being unshod, and your throat from thirst. But you said, 'There is no hope. No! For I have loved aliens, and after them I will go.'

The pagans/their gods don't have to seek you out/You lust after them
You excuse yourself by saying there is *no hope in God* yet never cry out to Me vv 6,8

26 "As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, So **is the house of Israel ashamed**; They and their kings and their princes, and their priests and their prophets, 27 **Saying to a tree, 'You are my father,' And to a stone, 'You gave birth to me.'** For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble They will say, '**Arise and save us.**' 28 But **where are your gods** that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, If they can save you in the time of your trouble; For according to the number of your cities Are your gods, O Judah.

The Foolishness of Denying our Creator
Utter Foolishness of then Worshiping the Creation

Psalms 106:20 Thus they **changed their glory** Into the image of an ox that eats grass.

Acts 17:29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

Not just Insane...but Demonic

Leviticus 17:7 They shall no more offer their **sacrifices to demons**, after whom they have played the harlot.

1 Corinthians 10:20 ...the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they **sacrifice to demons** and not to God...

Revelation 9:20 [Idolatry/Demon worship the norm in Tribulation] But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not **worship demons, and idols** of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

- **Today's Idolatry:** Pleasure at any cost; even our souls. Anger/Resent/Bitterness

How far has Judah Transgressed/Digressed from worshiping YHWH?
A different god city for each of their 100-125 cities

29 "Why will you plead with Me? You all have transgressed against Me," says the Lord. 30 "**In vain I have chastened your children**; They received no correction. Your sword has devoured your prophets Like a destroying lion.

Why do you plead for Me to make it all better?
I caused pain but you don't turn to Me? I send prophets/You kill them

31 "O generation, see the word of the Lord! **Have I been a wilderness** to Israel, Or a land of darkness? Why do My people say, '**We are lords**; We will come no more to You'? 32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number. 33 "Why do you **beautify your way to seek love**? Therefore you have also taught The wicked women your ways. 34 Also on your skirts is found The blood of the lives of the poor innocents. I have not found it by secret search, But **plainly on all these things**.

Lives of an Entire Nation bound to Idols
Primping/Bowing to the things of the World at the expense of others

35 Yet you say, 'Because **I am innocent**, Surely His anger shall turn from me.' Behold, I will plead My case against you, Because you say, '**I have not sinned**.' 36 Why do you gad about so much to change your way? Also you shall be ashamed of Egypt as you were ashamed of Assyria. 37 Indeed you will go forth from him With your hands on your head; For the Lord has rejected your trusted allies, And you will not prosper by them.

There is no hope for the guilty who maintain their innocence

Romans 3:23 ...for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God

1 John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned we **make Him a liar**/His word is not in us.

God Himself uses Judah's own words against them

I am innocent. I have not sinned. IOWs *God is a Liar*

What about America? Is God's Word now invalid? Is Sin no longer sin?

Jeremiah 3

Jesus

I. Israel Is Shameless

1 "They say, 'If a man divorces his wife, And she goes from him And becomes another man's, May he return to her again?' Would not that land be greatly **polluted**? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; Yet return to Me," says the Lord.

Why can't we have Pagan lovers for a while/Come back to God?
Unlike most human marital relationships ...I will take you back

Will they come back? Not till later

Man will generally *do the things* that are *most important to him*. [NJC]

2 "Lift up your eyes to the desolate heights and see: Where have you not lain with men? By the road you have sat for them Like an Arabian in the wilderness; And you have polluted the land With your harlotries and your wickedness. 3 Therefore the **showers have been withheld**, And there has been **no latter rain**.

- Details from Jer 2...

Jeremiah 2:30 In vain I have chastened your children; They received no correction.

3b ...You have had a harlot's forehead; You refuse to be ashamed.

Not blushing in the midst of being caught in the act of sin
Refused to be Ashamed. To heck w/Guilt. Yet when Judgment comes...

4 Will you not from this time cry to Me, '**My Father, You are the guide of my youth?** 5 Will He remain angry forever? Will He keep it to the end?' Behold, you have spoken and done evil things, **As you were able.**"

Verdict: Insincere Repentance

Evidence: Speak/Do evil every single chance you get...

II. A Repentance Call

6 The Lord said also to me in the **days of Josiah** the king: "Have you seen what **backsliding Israel has done**? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot. 7 And I said, after she had done all these things, 'Return to Me.' But she did not return. And her

treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8 Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also. 9 So it came to pass, through her casual harlotry, that she defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees. 10 And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me with her whole heart, but in pretense," says the Lord.

- Jeremiah's 2nd Message

Again using Israel as an Example to Judah to learn from
Treacherous Sister [Judah] now doing the same/Still pretending to be faithful to Me

Days of Josiah? Judah backsliders in heart pretending to be faithful
Inauthentic repentance leads to pathetic overachieving/attention seeking

11 Then the Lord said to me, "**Backsliding Israel** has shown herself more righteous than **treacherous Judah**. 12 Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: '**Return, backsliding Israel**,' says the Lord; 'I will not cause My anger to fall on you. For I am merciful,' says the Lord; '**I will not remain angry forever**. 13 Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the Lord your God, And have scattered your charms To alien deities under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,' says the Lord.

Israel's true return? Acknowledge/Take responsibility for their sin
Invitation 2600 years ago and God is still waiting

Prophet Jeremiah prophesies their future...

14 "Return, O backsliding children," says the Lord; "for **I am married to you**. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and **I will bring you to Zion**. 15 And I will give you **shepherds according to My heart**, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. 16 "Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days," says the Lord, "that they will say no more, 'The ark of the covenant of the Lord.' It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore. 17 "At that time Jerusalem shall be called **The Throne of the Lord**, and all the **nations shall be gathered to it**, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts. 18 "In those days the **house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel**, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers.

Judah/Israel will once again be One Nation...

19 "But I said: 'How can I put you among the **children** And give you a pleasant land, A beautiful heritage of the hosts of nations?' "And I said: 'You shall call Me, "**My Father," And not turn away from Me.**' 20 Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, So have you **dealt treacherously with Me**, O house of Israel," says the Lord.

Call and Response...

21 A voice was heard on the desolate heights, Weeping and supplications of the **children of Israel**. For they have **perverted their way**; They have **forgotten the Lord their God**. 22 "Return, you backsliding children, And I will heal your backslidings." "Indeed **we do come to You**, For You are the Lord our God. 23 Truly, in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, And from the multitude of mountains; Truly, in the Lord our God Is the salvation of Israel. 24 For shame has devoured The labor of our fathers from our youth— Their flocks and their herds, Their sons and their daughters. 25 We lie down in our shame, And our reproach covers us. For we have sinned against the Lord our God, We and our fathers, From our youth even to this day, And have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God."

Zechariah 12:10 [Return begins w/mourning] I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the **Spirit of grace** and supplication; then they will **look on Me** whom they pierced. Yes, they will **mourn for Him** as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, **He is coming with clouds**, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And **all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him**. Even so, Amen.

We come to You as our LORD and our God in Sincere Repentance
We Proclaim: In You alone is Salvation