

Jeremiah's Call and Arrest: A Study Guide

This guide is designed to review the key themes, events, and figures associated with the call and arrest of the prophet Jeremiah as detailed in the provided sources.

Review Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences, based on the information in the source documents.

1. What was Jeremiah's stated reason for hesitating when God called him to be a prophet?
2. How did the Lord respond to Jeremiah's objection and fear?
3. Describe the twofold, destructive and constructive, purpose of Jeremiah's ministry as commissioned by God.
4. What is the historical context of Jeremiah's ministry, including the start date and the major political event that occurred during his career?
5. Who arrested Jeremiah after he delivered his message in the temple?
6. What specific prophecy led to Jeremiah's arrest and the crowd demanding his death?
7. What was the core of Jeremiah's defense when he was accused by the priests and prophets?
8. According to Pastor Ed's notes, what four divine actions did the Lord take toward Jeremiah prior to his birth?
9. Explain the imagery of "plucking and planting" as it is used in the book of Jeremiah.
10. What symbolic action did the Lord perform to show Jeremiah was empowered to speak His words?

Answer Key

1. Jeremiah's initial objection was that he was too young and inexperienced. He told the Lord, "I cannot speak: for I am a child," indicating he felt he lacked the eloquence and ability in public speaking necessary for the prophetic office.
2. The Lord commanded Jeremiah not to say he was a child and assured him that he would go where God sent him and speak what God commanded. To combat Jeremiah's fear, the Lord promised His presence, stating, "Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee."

3. The purposes of Jeremiah's ministry were both destructive and constructive. His commission was to "root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down," but also "to build, and to plant," representing God's power over nations to bring disaster or allow prosperity.
4. Jeremiah's prophetic ministry began in 627 BC, during the thirteenth year of the reign of King Josiah. His career spanned the reigns of Judah's last five kings and concluded after the major catastrophe of 586 BC, when King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian armies captured and destroyed Jerusalem and its temple.
5. After Jeremiah finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded, he was arrested by "the priests and the prophets and all the people." The priests and false prophets were noted as being at the forefront of the opposition.
6. Jeremiah prophesied "in the name of the Lord, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant." This prediction of the destruction of the temple and the city was viewed as blasphemy and false prophecy, which were crimes punishable by death.
7. Jeremiah's defense was direct and courageous; he did not deny the message but instead stressed its divine origin and authority. He stated plainly, "The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard," placing the contention between his accusers and God.
8. The Lord explained four actions He had taken toward Jeremiah: He "knew" Jeremiah (implying a relationship and approval), He "sanctified" him (set him apart for a definite spiritual purpose), and He "ordained" him as a prophet to the nations. The fourth action from the verse is "I formed thee," indicating God's claim on his life was prior to all other relationships.
9. The imagery of "plucking and planting" describes the Lord's control over the rise and fall of nations. Nations can be "plucked," meaning they face disaster and are uprooted, or they can be "planted," meaning they are allowed to prosper and be renewed, all according to the Lord's plans.
10. As tangible evidence of Jeremiah's empowerment, the Lord "put forth his hand, and touched my mouth." Following this symbolic act, the Lord declared, "Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth," signifying that Jeremiah was inspired and would become a mouthpiece for God.

Essay Questions

Reflect on the source material to formulate comprehensive answers to the following prompts.

1. Analyze the theme of fear versus faith as it is presented in the accounts of Jeremiah's call in chapter 1 and his arrest in chapter 26. How does his response to opposition change or develop?
2. Discuss the role of the religious and political authorities (priests, false prophets, princes) in the narrative of Jeremiah's arrest. What motivated their opposition, and how did their actions highlight the conflict between divine authority and human institutions?
3. Using the provided scriptural text and Pastor Ed's notes, explain the concept of a divine call to ministry. What are its key components, according to Jeremiah's experience, and what assurances does God provide to those He calls?
4. Examine the "destructive" and "constructive" elements of Jeremiah's prophetic message. How did his warnings of destruction also contain a call for repentance and the possibility of renewal?
5. Compare Jeremiah's self-perception ("I am a child") with God's perception of him ("Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee"). How does this contrast inform the understanding of human inadequacy and divine empowerment in the context of ministry?

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Anathoth	The home of Jeremiah, located in the land of Benjamin. Jeremiah was of the priests that were in this town.
Babylon	The empire whose armies, led by King Nebuchadnezzar, captured Jerusalem in 586 BC.
Jeremiah	A priest from Anathoth, called by God to be a prophet in 627 BC. His ministry spanned over two decades, covering the reigns of the last five kings of Judah. He is also known as the "Mournful Prophet."
Jehoiakim	Son of Josiah and a king of Judah during whose reign Jeremiah prophesied.
Josiah	King of Judah and son of Amon. Jeremiah's call came in the thirteenth year of his reign.
Judah	The southern kingdom. Jeremiah's ministry was focused on prophesying to its kings and people before its fall to Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar	The Babylonian king whose armies captured Jerusalem and destroyed the city walls and the temple in 586 BC.
Plucking and Planting	An imagery used in the book of Jeremiah to describe the Lord's sovereign control over the rise and fall of nations. "Plucking" refers to uprooting or bringing disaster, while "planting" refers to renewing or allowing prosperity.
Prophetic Commission	The divine appointment to serve as a prophet. For Jeremiah, this involved God sanctifying and ordaining him before birth, touching his mouth, and putting His words in it to speak to nations and kingdoms.
Shiloh	A city or place that had previously been made desolate. Jeremiah prophesied that the temple ("this house") and Jerusalem would become like Shiloh, which infuriated the people and priests.
Temple Address	A message delivered by Jeremiah in the temple, summarized in Jeremiah chapter 26. The core message was that unless Judah repented, Jerusalem would be destroyed like Shiloh.
Zedekiah	Son of Josiah and the last king of Judah. Jerusalem was captured and taken into captivity during the eleventh year of his reign.