

“RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”

Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:1-19

“Called to Speak the Truth”

Introduction: The book of Jeremiah provides an intimate look at the last days of the Kingdom of Ancient Israel. One key life principle presented in the book is how spiritual laxity leads to loss, which leads to lament.

I. 41 Years Faithful (Jeremiah 1:1-3)

- A. Jeremiah is from Anathoth, a town in the land of Benjamin, allotted to the Levites. Jeremiah’s ministry covered the reign of 5 kings and 41 years (2 Kings 22-25; 2 Chronicles 34-36). Jeremiah’s ministry began during the reign of Josiah who was the last king to serve the Lord. (2 Chronicles 34:1-2, 35; 2 Chronicles 35:18-19, 25). Jeremiah’s first years in ministry coincided with the last great season of spiritual renewal in the ancient kingdom.
- B. Jehoahaz was taken captive to Egypt by Necho. Jehoiakim was taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. (Daniel 1:1-4; Daniel 9:2). Jehoiachin was taken captive to Babylon. (Ezekiel 1:2). Jehoiachin was released from prison after 37 years (2 Kings 25:25-30) Zedekiah was blinded by Nebuchadnezzar and taken captive to Babylon (2 Kings 25:7; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21)

II. A Consecrated and Ordained Prophet to the Nations (Jeremiah 1:4-10)

- A. Jeremiah received his call to prophetic ministry directly from God. God reveals His foreknowledge of Jeremiah before his physical creation. Jeremiah was sanctified /consecrated by God and ordained/appointed as a prophet to the nations. (Luke 1:13-17; Galatians 1:1).
- B. God and Jeremiah enter a dialogue initiated by God. Jeremiah would speak to some hard hearted and disobedient people. The basis for courage is the assurance that the Lord is with Jeremiah. This did not exempt Jeremiah from experiencing hardship. First, God put words directly into the mouth of Jeremiah. Second, He defined the scope of Jeremiah’s prophetic authority – nations and kingdoms.
- C. Jeremiah’s prophetic authority is described in agricultural and construction terms. The assignment was balanced – corrective discipline, restorative justice.

III. 2 Prophetic Visions (Jeremiah 1:11-16)

- A. The first vision: The branch of an almond tree represents that God is ready to perform His word. God will watch over His word to perform it. The second vision: A pot of boiling water facing away from the north represents the armies that will come from Babylon. These pagan armies were used by God to execute the consequences for covenant unfaithfulness (Exodus 20:1-6; Romans 1:22-23; Matthew 22:37-38).
- B. False prophets and false teachers led people astray. Leaders who were supposed to shepherd the people to follow God led people into false god worship. Idolatry brought the nation to ruin.

IV. Be Courageous, You're in a Fixed Fight (Jeremiah 1:17-19)

- A. Jeremiah is warned that if he is terrified by the people God will terrify Jeremiah before them (Matthew 10:28). God equipped Jeremiah to withstand attacks from the king, princes, priests, and the people. God warned Jeremiah upfront that the people will fight against him but they will not prevail (John 16:33).
- B. In conclusion: God called, consecrated, and appointed Jeremiah to do his work. If God calls you too a work, He will prepare you for the work. He will provide everything you need to fulfill His will.

“This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!” (Lamentations 3:21-24)

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Sunday, September 21, 2025