

Intro to Jeremiah and Chapter 1 - 10 Nov 2013

Historical Background

Jeremiah about age 20-60, 627BC-585BC

Assyria waning, Babylon coming, Egypt strong

722 – Assyria takes North

609 – Josiah killed at Meggido by Pharoah Necho who was helping Assyria

605 – Battle of Carchemesh – Babylon thru Israel to Egypt, Daniel taken

597 and 586 – Jerusalem taken

Where will Jeremiah finish at the end of his life?

You will find amazing prophecies in this book:

Jeconiah's curse in chapter 22, resurrection of Hebrew in 31,

Prophecy of 70 years in 25 & 29, the revelation of the New

Covenant in 31 and no less than a predicted Messiah in 23!

What comes to mind when you think of Jeremiah, the man?

Give me some things off the top of your head.

How about that WE are just like him in many ways?

Here's one way we're not like him.

He was known as the weeping prophet – we're not this.

Some think he was weeping b/c he was commanded (Jer 16:2)

not to marry. "Doesn't God know that you can't blame everything on the government?" ha

Others say that would be a good thing not to be married!

He was called thus b/c he had to pronounce judgment on 9 Gentile nations. We don't have to do this (John 3:16-19)

Here's the 3 major ways that WE are just like Jeremiah.

[Get personal with this introduction]

1. 1st Way: Living in a land that God has given great liberty to know Him.
 - a. Jeremiah – Israel has enjoyed a 400 year Kingdom of being God's chosen people.
 - b. So many of America's great Universities were founded as Christian.
 - c. Need we remember that the Founding Fathers fled religious tyranny?
 - d. Have you been to Saudi Arabia lately, Indonesia?
 - e. Encourage people to remember God's faithfulness that He's shown to our country and to them!
2. 2nd Way: Residing with a majority religious people that are turning their backs on their Godly heritage and don't really know God.
 - a. Jeremiah – In his day it's epitomized to these verses (Jer 2:7-8)
 - i. You don't need stats to know that fewer people are being raised in the Church than there used to be.
 - ii. NC church story – “moving in were Baptist, then Methodist, now don't even know if they're Christians!”
 - iii. Every decade some American invents a new religion out of what...sheer boredom, no, out of a wicked and idolatrous heart.
 - b. Jeremiah – (Jer 2:8) – this is the nation that will turn to Egypt to help them against Babylon. Had they only known God, they would have known principles like (Jer 17:5-8).
 - i. Go ask 4 random people who say they're Christians to answer some basic questions and see what you get!

- ii. Do you find yourself struggling to help religious people see the truth of God for their lives?
 - iii. Do you find yourself confused in knowing the truth b/c of 'religious' people around you?
 - iv. Take some advice from Jeremiah as we go thru this book.
 - c. We can even be looked at as a traitor to own people for seeking Godliness.
 - i. Traitor to your employer – You won't go along to get along.
 - ii. Traitor to your country – As ungodly laws continue to come, we'll stand out more and more.
 - iii. Know this: Just as Jeremiah, even if God chooses to punish our nation, **WE** can **still** experience God's **great hand** of blessing in **our** lives if we **individually** and as a small community choose to **honor God** with all we have!
- 3. 3rd Way: Called to strengthen a minority of people that are believers struggling & fighting their way thru life (world, flesh and devil).
 - a. Jeremiah – Jer 29:1-13
 - b. Have you considered that this is your calling also?
 - i. Hebrew 12:12
 - ii. Gal 6:9-10
 - iii. We're living in a day that's far too impersonal (fb, internet, but we don't invite people over anymore)
- 4. Conclusion – Since we're just like Jeremiah in these 3 major ways, we should thank God for recording these stories for us to learn from.

Chapter 1

1. Vs 1

- a. Words: The words & deeds of him, this is his personal story.
- b. Priests: God will be calling him to speak against the very people who trained him!
- c. Anathoth
 - i. 3 miles NE of Jerusalem, suburbs, modern Anata.
 - ii. This was a city given to the priests.

2. Vs 2-3

- a. He ministered from 627BC – 586BC
- b. The son of...: This refers to any direct descendant.

3. Vs 4

- a. This chapter is all about Jeremiah's call. Jeremiah is brought into God's H.O.R.D.E. on earth.
 - i. Horde – def. – a nomadic group of people. Is that not what we're called to be?
 - ii. Pilgrims, wanderers, strangers in a strange land.
 - iii. Abraham the "Hebrew" – READ Heb 11:8-13
- b. **Let me give you 5 norms of being called of God into his HORDE.**
- c. **The 1st norm is that WE HEAR FROM GOD.**
- d. Now God speaks to us in a unique way.
 - i. "God who in sundry times..." (Hebrews 1:1-3)
 - ii. "This is my beloved Son, _____" (Luk 9:35)
 - iii. We know it's impossible to please God with believing Him.
How do we do that?
 1. "Faith comes by _____ the Word of God" (Roms 10:17)

4. Vs 5

- a. Formed: Same as the word “Potter”. READ Eph 2:10
- b. Knew: An intimate knowledge (Adam Knew Eve – Gen 4:1)
- c. Sanctified: Set apart – This implies at least 2 groups. One will love him and one will hate him. Are you sanctified?
- d. Ordained: Appointed...by God himself. He would need to rely on this assurance later in the hard days of ministry.
- e. We here mention God would not have had Jeremiah aborted

5. Vs 6

- a. **This is the 2nd norm of being called of God into His HORDE: WE OBJECT!!**
- b. Jeremiah – I’m inexperienced, too young, not studied enough
- c. Think of Moses: “I’m a nobody” (Exo 3:11), “They won’t believe me” (Exo 4:1), “I’m not a good speaker” (Exo 4:10)
- d. You & Me: Too young/old, too poor/rich, I’m too shy, I’m too loud, New England is very secular.
- e. When you find yourself objecting to God’s calling, keep pressing into Him and His plan...it’s normal.

6. Vs 7-10

- a. **This is the 3rd norm of being called of God into His HORDE: WE’RE REAFFIRMED BY WHAT GOD’S POWER WILL DO THRU US IN THE FUTURE.**
- b. I think of Paul getting reassurance, even while bond in jail.
 - i. He objected to going to Rome (wanting to go to Jerusalem first), yet God reassuring him of his calling.

- ii. “Be of good cheer Paul, for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.” (Acts 23:11)
- c. **Jeremiah’s objections were overruled b/c it was God’s POWER that would execute His will REGARDLESS of Jeremiah’s shortcomings!!
- d. Jeremiah’s only obligation was to not be afraid but obedient.
- e. Verse 10
 - i. 2 fold ministry: Prophecy judgment and prophecy blessing.
 - ii. There’s a sermon in there, but we’ll leave it for now.

7. The 4th norm of being called of God into His HORDE is to Dive into the great mysteries of God’s plans!

- a. We get the great pleasure of God teaching us new, deeper things of Himself day by day! Wow!
- b. Example from the life of Peter:
 - i. We know of Peter HEARING from Jesus when He called his Apostles.
 - ii. We know of Peter OBJECTING to his call: At the miraculous catch of fish Peter proclaimed, “Depart from me for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” (Luke 5:8)
 - iii. Now look at Matt 16:18-19 for the REAFFIRMING and DIVING in.

8. Now Jeremiah gets to start DIVING INTO God’s mysterious plans in Vs 11-16

- a. Vs 11-12
 - i. Almond was the first tree to bloom, this speaks of it preeminence.

- ii. Word play – hasten and almond is same Hebrew word.
 1. Means watchful, or at the state of ready, ready to be first.
 2. God isn't asleep but His word is ready to come forth in preeminence.

b. Vs 13-16

- i. We'll dive deep into this in chapter 2 about God's people forsaking Him and turning to false gods.
- ii. Reaching a lost or straying people always begins with the fact that 'judgment is coming'.
 1. Without understanding this, grace makes no sense.
 2. By "out of the north", Jeremiah would clearly understand this as referring to Babylon.

9. Vs 17-19

a. This is the 5th and final norm of being called of God into His HORDE and that is to Enjoy the blessings and protection of God in our life as we go about serving and honoring Him.

- i. What joy and peace there is to know that we're walking in a way that honors God!
 1. Whatever we go thru, He's there guiding & protecting.
 2. He will make you accomplish more than you ever could in your own strength!
 3. Enjoy living a God honoring life, remember it's God's work by His power and direction.

a. "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will
 _____do_____ it!" (I Thes 5:24)

10. Which of these five norms are you thinking about today?