



House of New Beginnings

ShalomAZ Ministries
In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

God's Call in a Time of Turmoil (Jeremiah 1:1-19)

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Jeremiah 1:1-19

Jeremiah's calling came at a time of national and spiritual crisis in Judah. Despite King Josiah's efforts to lead a revival, the nation had strayed too far into idolatry. Jeremiah, born into a priestly family, received his mission from God in the 13th year of Josiah's reign. His task was to warn Judah of God's impending judgment, a difficult message to deliver during a time when people tended to place their hope in political alliances rather than in God.

In Jeremiah 1:5-19, God reminds Jeremiah that He had a purpose for him before he was even born: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." When Jeremiah expresses fear and inadequacy—"I am only a boy"—God reassures him, saying that Jeremiah's mission does not depend on his strength but on God's power. He promises to give Jeremiah the words to speak and commands him not to fear.

Like Jeremiah, we often feel overwhelmed and underqualified when faced with difficult tasks, but God's call comes with the assurance that He will equip us. Jeremiah's message of judgment was difficult, especially as it provoked opposition from *his own people*—kings, priests, and neighbors alike. Yet, God promised to make Jeremiah like a fortified city, a symbol of strength and resilience against all opposition. The Lord emphasizes that His calling transcends our limitations. He equips us, puts His words in our mouths, and commands us not to fear, even when speaking the truth to those who oppose it.

Jeremiah's task was not just to warn of judgment but to uproot and tear down the false systems that had taken root in Judah before rebuilding and planting anew. His vision of a boiling pot tilting from the north represented the coming disaster, a judgment God would oversee. Despite his difficult message,

Jeremiah's heart, like God's, weeps over the disobedience of his people, mourning the destruction that their rebellion will bring.

Obedying God's call often comes with challenges and opposition. Speaking God's truth often comes with personal cost, as it may challenge those close to us and confront societal norms. Yet, like Jeremiah, we are called to trust in God's strength and deliver His truth, even when it's hard. Our faithfulness is not determined by how well we are received, but by our obedience to God's word.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you relate to Jeremiah's feelings of inadequacy when God calls you to challenging tasks?
2. What does it mean to trust God's strength rather than your own when facing opposition?
3. How can we speak God's truth in love, even when it may not be well received?
4. Jeremiah wept over the disobedience of his people. How can we maintain a compassionate heart while standing firm in truth?
5. What are some "false systems" in today's world that need to be uprooted before true spiritual renewal can happen?

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we thank You for the example of Jeremiah and the reminder that Your calling on our lives is not dependent on our strength, but on Yours. Help us to trust in Your power and speak Your truth boldly, even when it's hard. Give us compassion for those who are far from You, and strengthen us to stand firm in faith, knowing You are with us.

B'Shem Yeshua, In Yeshua's name, we pray. Amen.