

Welcome to

Journey through the Bible



Book by book Bible study

Jeremiah, the “weeping prophet”

- ☆ A priest but also a reluctant prophet
- ☆ God’s final voice to Judah before the exile
- ☆ Treated as a traitor for announcing Judah’s 70 year exile to Babylon as God’s discipline
- ☆ Noted for his “suffering sympathy, patient perseverance, and consistent faithfulness”
- ☆ Communicated with signs and object lessons
- ☆ Prophesied 40 years, from 627 to 586 B.C.

The prophet with a “broken heart” There are 14 laments in the book!

“Oh, my anguish, my anguish!
I writhe in pain.
Oh, the agony of my heart!
My heart pounds within me,
I cannot keep silent.” (4:19)

“Oh that my head were a spring of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears!
I would weep day and night
for the slain of my people.” (9:1)

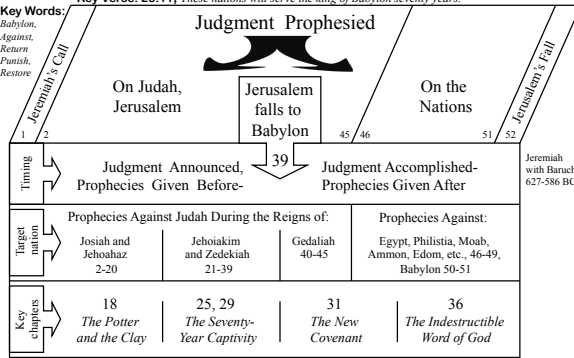
Distinctive passages in Jeremiah

- Decline and fall of Judah (2-29)
- The potter and the clay (18)
- Prediction of 70 year captivity (25, 29)
- Personal suffering, pain (16-17, 26-45)
- The New Covenant (31)
- Indestructibility of God’s Word (36)
- Future destruction of Babylon (50-51)

Jeremiah: 70-Year Captivity To Babylon Is Coming!

Key Verse: 25:11, These nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Key Words:
Babylon,
Against,
Return,
Punish,
Restore



God's mandate for Jeremiah:

"Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. (1:17-19)

God's word was "a fire in his bones"

I am ridiculed all day long; (20:7-9)
everyone mocks me.
Whenever I speak, I cry out
proclaiming violence and destruction.
So the word of the LORD has brought me
insult and reproach all day long.
But if I say, "I will not mention his word
or speak anymore in his name,"
His word is in my heart like a fire,
a fire shut up in my bones.
I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.

Jeremiah exposed the sins of Judah:

Has a nation ever changed its gods?
(Yet they are not gods at all.)
But my people have exchanged their glorious God
for worthless idols.
Be appalled at this, you heavens,
and shudder with great horror," ...
"My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me, the spring of living
water, and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.
(2:11-13).

Judah had a “fire escape faith”

They say to wood, ‘You are my father,’
and to stone, ‘You gave me birth.’
They have turned their backs to me
and not their faces;
yet when they are in trouble, they say,
‘Come and save us!’
Where then are the gods you made for yourselves?
Let them come if they can save you
when you are in trouble!
For you, Judah, have as many gods
as you have towns. (2:27-28)

Judah’s “walk” betrayed their “talk”

Does a young woman forget her jewelry,
a bride her wedding ornaments?
Yet my people have forgotten me,
days without number. (2:32)

Have you not called to Me:
‘My Father, my friend from my youth’ ...
This is how you talk,
but you do all the evil you can. (3:4-5)

Disaster is coming from the north!

Announce in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem
Cry aloud and say: ‘Sound the trumpet ...
“Flee for safety without delay!
for I am bringing disaster from the north,
even terrible destruction.” ... (4:5-6)

Sin always has consequences!

“Your own conduct and actions
have brought this upon you.
This is your punishment. How bitter it is!
How it pierces to the heart!” (4:18)

A nation lost for lack of Godly leaders!

“Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem,
look around and consider,
search through her squares.
If you can find but one person
who deals honestly and seeks the truth
I will forgive this city.” ...
they do not know the way of the LORD
I will go to the leaders and speak to them;
surely they know the way of the LORD, ...
but with one accord they too have broken
off the yoke and torn off the bonds (5:1-5)

The high cost of complacency!

“The house of Israel and the house of Judah have been utterly unfaithful to me,” declares the LORD. ...

They have lied about the LORD;

They said, “He will do nothing!

No harm will come to us;

we will never see sword or famine.

The prophets are but wind

and the word is not in them;” (5:11-13)

Money rich but morally poor!

“Their houses are full of deceit; they have become rich and powerful and have grown fat and sleek. Their evil deeds have no limit;

... Should I not avenge myself of a nation such as this?” A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: Prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way.

But what will you do in the end? (5:27-31)

America, how do we compare?

God’s indictment of the people!

“Will you steal and murder, commit adultery, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before Me in this house, which bears My Name, and say, ‘We are safe— safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears My Name, become a den of robbers to you?.

(7:9-11)

Quoted by Christ in Matthew 21:13!

They crossed “the river of no return!”

“I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer. Therefore, what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears My Name, the temple you trust in, the place I gave to you and your fathers. I will thrust you from my presence, just as I did all your brothers, the people of Ephraim.” (7:13-15)

God’s answer: 70 year exile in Babylon

It was too late to pray!

“So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you.” ...

Again and again I sent you My servants the prophets but they did not listen to Me or pay attention. ... This is the nation that has not obeyed the LORD its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips.

(7:16-28)

A nation that sacrificed its children!

“They have built the high places ... to burn their sons and daughters in the fire—something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind...

I will bring an end to the sounds of joy and gladness and to the voices of bride and bridegroom in the streets of Jerusalem, for the land will become desolate. (7:31-34)

What about abortion in America?

Lost for lack of godly leaders!

From the least to the greatest,
all are greedy for gain;
Prophets and priests alike,
all practice deceit.
They dress the wound of My people
as though it were not serious.
Peace, peace, they say,
when there is no peace
(8:10-11)

Jeremiah’s tears for a lost nation!

“The harvest is past, summer has ended and we are not saved. ...
Is there no balm in Gilead?,
Is there no physician there?” ...
“Oh that my head were a spring of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears!
I would weep day and night
for the slain of my people.” (8:20-9:1)

The cause for tears of grief!

Why has the land been ruined and laid waste like a desert that no one can cross?

The LORD said, "It is because they have forsaken My law, ... Instead, they have followed the stubbornness of their heart. ... Therefore this is what the LORD says: I will scatter them among the nations that neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will pursue them with the sword until I have destroyed them. (9:12-16)

God's call for genuine religion

This is what the LORD says:

"Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," (9:23-24)

Something to think about

- ★ How has God blessed America?
- ★ How does life in the U.S. today compare with the material, moral, and spiritual conditions in Israel in Jeremiah's day?
- ★ How can/should we pray for our nation?
- ★ Does our walk reflect our profession?

See you next week!
Jeremiah
Countdown to Captivity!