

JEREMIAH 1

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION, . . .

CONTENTS OF PROPHETS' MESSAGE

	<i>PRE-EXILIC</i>	<i>EXILIC</i>	<i>POST-EXILIC</i>
<i>HISTORY</i>	Sin Idolatry	Destruction	Return to land
<i>PURPOSE</i>	Repentance	Comfort	Reconstruction
<i>MESSAGE</i>	Judgment	Restoration	Messiah's coming and kingdom

AUTHOR

God calls Jeremiah as His spokesman to the nation.

He warns him in advance that they aren't going to pay attention to him.

However, he's to be faithful in proclaiming God's message,
whether the people pay attention or not.

Jeremiah lives with continual tension.

He loves God, but at same time, he loves his country.

Tension exists because the two have parted ways.

He has to choose between following God and defending his own people.

Jeremiah's family belongs to the priestly order.

His home is in Anathoth, about 3 miles from Jerusalem.

From childhood, Jeremiah was familiar with Jerusalem.

He knows what's happening there.

Israel's throne has been occupied by rebellious men, separated from
fellowship with God.

People follow example of their kings.

God calls Jeremiah when he's barely 20.

He's too young to be a prophet.

In spite of difficulty, he serves God for over 40 years.

He's presented as a real human being, not perfect.

We find him struggling inside himself with life's problems.

Descriptions of Jeremiah.

What kind of person can God use to accomplish His purposes?

1:4-6	1:9	9:1	11:21	
15:16	20:1-2	20:7-11	26:8	38:6

Jeremiah decides to serve God.

Prophecies during period of apostasy.

They reject his message. Therefore he suffers persecution.

Tries to walk away and forget ministry several times;
each time he feels obligated to come back.

When Babylon conquers Jerusalem, he has chance to leave with captives.

He decides to stay to help those in Jerusalem.

After assassination of Gedaliah, the governor, those who escape to Egypt take Jeremiah with them.

There he preaches his last message to them.

HISTORICAL SITUATION

International situation

When Jeremiah starts out, a world war is approaching.

There's competition between **3 world powers**.

Assyria has been in control for 300 yr; losing control over other nations.

Babylon is getting stronger all the time.

Egypt wants old power back.

They all want to control the world!

Babylon attacks and conquers Assyria.

Later, Egypt arrives to help Assyria.

Babylonia dominates both; sets up a new empire.

Israel's caught in the middle; they suffer from all sides.

Competing nations cross their territory to make war.

They only slow down to demand submission and taxes.

After conquering the 2 main powers,

Babylonia invades Jerusalem 3 times.

Last time, Jerusalem is destroyed.

National situation

Israel's rebellion is apparent from the beginning.

Northern kingdom is taken captive in 722 B.C.

Instead of learning from their example, Judah follows same path.

Only 2 kings faithfully follow Yahweh after fall of northern kingdom:

Hezekiah and Josiah.

Josiah's on the throne when God calls Jeremiah.

Josiah's sons take over throne after his death;

reveal nature of repentance under their father's leadership.

They go back to their old gods and pagan customs.

Invasions from Babylon should have warned them;

they pay no attention.

586 B.C., God judges them, sending Babylonia to destroy Jerusalem.

In meantime, Jeremiah's worried.

Their national lifestyle is marked by sin and idolatry.

They're going through the motions of empty religious ritual.

They're not in fellowship with God; don't really want to be.

Only king interested in pursuing righteousness just died.

His children are going after pagan deities.

Even religious leaders encourage people to worship pagan gods.

Whole nation is taking part in pagan festivities.

People aren't taking God into account.

Injustice is on the rise.

Rich are getting richer; exploit the poor, widows and orphans.

Nobody cares!

How can this situation exist among God's people?

Hasn't God called them to be *light*, among other nations?

How could God permit these conditions to continue?

How long will He let it go on like this?

These questions trouble Jeremiah every day.

Descriptions Jeremiah uses to depict situation in Israel:

2:11 2:13 2:32 25:4 25:7

Destruction of Israel is not arbitrary judgment.

He's motivated by their sin and idolatry.

Though trusting temple and religious ceremonies,
their heart isn't seeking fellowship with God.

PURPOSE AND THEME

In the light of this situation, what's Jeremiah's message?

Announcement of **judgment** to bring **repentance**

After judgment, consolation and encouragement given, to motivate them to turn back to God.

Book answers question: *Why has this happened to us?*

God never allows His people to continue in persistent sin!

He sends messengers to warn the people.

They go on in their empty rituals, never looking for Him.

The warning is to give them one more chance to repent.

Doesn't present events in historical order, as they occurred.

Content in **logical order**, by topics God wants them to hear.

RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S PEOPLE IN 21ST CENTURY

Relationship to us as God's people.

How are we similar? How are we different?

National people of God—Israel

Ecclesiastical people of God—the church

The two are not to be confused.

Israel and the church are distinct

God will fulfill His unconditional covenants to Israel—*not* to us.

Both are visibly present as God's people.

Both contain many unregenerate members, as visible entities.

God demands a holy life, as a testimony.

A holy God demands a holy people. "Be ye holy, for I am holy!"

Relationship to pagan nations today

How do these warnings apply to kings, etc., today?

Many see these warnings as warnings to government today.

God judges all people.

Unregenerate people cannot live a holy life.

Need to trust God, then obey Him.

INTRODUCTION 1

Jeremiah identifies himself and tells the basis of his authority.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 1:1-3

Describes personal background—descent from priestly family.

Paints historical backdrop—from Josiah to captivity.

Time of spiritual, moral, and political degeneration.

HIS CALLING 1:4-19 Describes God's call.

Called 4-5 God calls Jeremiah

His message is not that of his own choosing.
 He proclaims the message God commands him to present.
 God prepares Jeremiah before hand. How does God prepare him?.

PREPARATION OF GOD'S SERVANT –10 steps revealed:

1. "I knew you" 5b
2. "I formed you" 5a
3. "I set you apart" 5c
4. "I appointed you" 5d
5. "I send you" 7a
6. "I command you" 7b, 17
7. "I am with you to deliver you" 8
8. "I have put my words in your mouth" 9
9. "I will fulfill my word" 10, 12, 15, 16
10. "I will protect you" 18, 19

A lesson we all must learn:

Our incapacity + God's enablement = Perfect capability

How does Jeremiah respond? Is he all excited? Why?

Resistant 6 Jeremiah resists God's call

What does this response mean?

Is he correct?

He's perhaps 19-20 years old.

He serves for more than 40 years.

Jeremiah really doesn't want the job.

Sees himself as immature, inexperienced, insufficient–true evaluation!

Cp. Isaiah, Moses

He's aware of his own inadequacy and seeks to escape.

What does he need to learn? [Not to depend on Himself]

Read God's evaluation: 7-10 Does God say he's wrong?

Enabled 7-10 God will enable him.

God makes it clear that He knows Jeremiah well.

Where will Jeremiah get what he needs?

Where will his message come from?

His capacity to minister will come from God's presence with him, not from his own skills.

What should WE learn from God's word to Jeremiah?

God never asks ANYONE to serve Him in our own strength!

He wants us to depend on Him!!

Enlightened 11-16 God explains

2 illustrations clarify Jeremiah's mission:

Almond rod 1:11-12 Anyone discover idea presented in vision?

Almond is the 1st tree to "awaken" in the spring (to bud)

It's name means "waker"–the one who awakens.

Verb: "to watch over" (NAS/NIV) or "hasten" (KJV) is from same root.

Vision is play on words to indicate that just as the almond hurries to wake up in the spring, God is going to hasten to bring about His judgment.

God has been patient, but now ...

He will wait no longer.

His judgment is coming soon.

Boiling pot 1:13-16 What does this vision mean?

God will send damaging judgment
which will pour down on His people from the north.

Sent 17-19 God is sending Jeremiah

How will they receive his message? Then why do it?

Isn't his mission committed to failure?

God concludes discussion, issuing final commission.

Jeremiah's to go tell the people whatever God tells them.

He forewarns him that they will refuse to listen

and will try to fight him.

He's to be faithful to deliver God's message.

God will protect him.

Popular idea of missions => we should only enter areas where there's a promise of good results.

How do we view someone who preaches 20 yrs with no converts (or few)?

Our responsibility: to present God's Word the best we can.

GOD's responsibility is to produce fruit!

What promise does God give Jeremiah?

3 illustrations—what do each of these do?

What do they tell us about Jeremiah?

APPLICATION:

What does Jeremiah's call teach us about our lives today?

What should we learn from it?

WE SAY:

"I don't have time"

"I don't know enough"

"I don't have the gift"

"I don't have enough experience"

"I'm too young"

"Send someone else"

GOD SAYS:

"I AM WITH YOU"

"I know you"

"I made you"

"I send you"

"I'm watching over **my word** to perform it!

[God becomes angry—remember Moses?]