

## **JEREMIAH**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

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“It was the best of times, it was the worst of time; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us”. Charles Dickens’ “A Tale of Two Cities”

- A. Time: 650 - 586 + or -. B.C.
- B. The Prophet: More inspired biographical information about Jeremiah than any other personality of the Old Testament.
  - A. Son of Hilkiah, of the priest in Anathoth...an hour and a half’s walk northeast of Jerusalem.
  - B. Called to be a prophet at early age (Jer. 1:6).
  - C. Called in the thirteenth year of Josiah, i.e. ca. 627-626 B.C. His ministry continued until the final destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.
  - D. Known as the “weeping” prophet.
  - E. “By nature Jeremiah was gentle, tender and sympathetic, yet he was charge by God to proclaim a stern message of irreversible gloom. Loving his people with a deep affection, he constantly found himself the object of hatred, reproached with treason. Although he was sensitive to the extreme, he was forced to undergo a constant barrage of slander and persecution that would have crushed the spirit of the most callous. Weak and retiring by nature, he was ever thrust into the limelight.” (Archer, OT Intro., pp. 348-349).
- C. He was God’s man from first to last, and therefore a true patriot to the end.
- D. He prophesied under kings Josiah, Jehoahz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah. And for a period of time after the fall of Jerusalem and then was carried into Egypt. His work covered a period of about 50 years.
  - 1. Jeremiah preached judgment upon Judah. The reasons every where mentioned was apostasy from Jehovah, and idolatry practiced in the “high places”.
  - 2. The judgment which is to come in the near future, as a punishment for the sin of the people, is from the outset declared to be the conquest of the country through an enemy from abroad. (“Terror from the north”).

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### **BRIEF OUTLINE**

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- A. The Message:
  - 1. 1:7 “And whatsoever I shall command thee, thou shalt speak.”
  - 2. 1:9 “Then Jehovah put forth his hand, and touched my mouth; and Jehovah said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth:”
- B. The Commission:
  - 1. “See I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down and to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”
  - 2/ Both negative and positive.
- C. The Problem:
  - 1. 2:13 “For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain

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of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”

2. They left God, looking for a more exciting place to drink.

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### **CONCERNING GOD**

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1. Jehovah the “Fountain of living waters” (2:13) – source of life and sustenance.
2. The potter (18:1-12).
3. Creator of the World (5:22; 8:7;
4. Lord of history controlling the nations (2:1ff). Nebuchadrezzar the “servant” of God.
5. Knows the hearts of men; tries and reward (11:20; 16:17; 18:10;
6. “Divine transcendence and divine immanence” (23:23-24).
7. Intimate God: “husband” (2:2), “father” (3:19), “merciful” 3:12),
8. God deals with men in a personal relationship (6:20; 7:1-31; 11:154
9. Obedience to Jehovah’s laws which would issue in social and personal ethics was demanded (2:34; 6:7; 21:11-12).

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### **CONCERNING ISRAEL**

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1. Israel as God’s elect: “first fruits” (2:3) a “choice vine” 2:21) the “beloved” 11:15 ; Jehovah’s “heritage” (12:7-9) “vineyard” (12:10) His flock (13:17).
2. Israel the “bride” (2:2, 3:6) the “son” (3:29,22).
3. Chosen at deliverance from Egypt (2:6 –apostasy began with settlement in Canaan (2:7)
4. Israel restless (2:23-24) goes off in adultery and harlotry.
5. No hope for Israel but to repent.

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### **THE FUTURE HOPE**

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- A. A message which points beyond judgment to a time when Israel’s fortunes would be Restored.
- B. Hope oracles: 32:15; 29:10-14; 31:2-6, 15-22;
- C. The New Covenant (31:31-34) READ
  1. Individuality: “I will put my law in their inward parts and write it on their hearts”
    - a. The total duty of each man is to know God for himself.
    - b. “Christ is my personal savior.”
  2. Universality:
    - a. “They shall all know me”
    - b. Great Commission
  3. Remission of sins:
    - a. “I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more”
    - b. Matthew 26:28....READ
    - c. Acts 2:38 .....READ and close.

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### **BOOK PRESERVED BECAUSE**

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- A. It teaches us that in Religion External circumcision is of no value without inner purity of heart.
    - 1. The external temple will be destroyed, because it has become the hiding place for sinners.
    - 2. Having our name on the “church roll” will be of no value if our heart is not right with God.
  - B. External sacrifices have no value, if those who offer them are lacking in spirituality.
    - 1. Or...external acts of worship are of no value if those who offer them are lacking in spirituality, or sincerity.
    - 2. Hypocrisy is always offensive to God!.
  - C. READ CHAPTER 31:31-34 AGAIN.
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