

JEREMIAH

**"A book to be known and loved. –
A prophetic autobiography... the
prophet stands revealed ; timid,
sensitive, sympathetic, loyal,
courageous, plaintive, retiring,
tender, severe, and patient."**

Dr. Graham Scroggie ('Know Your Bible')



THROUGH THE BIBLE

THE BOOK of JEREMIAH

Jer. 36:1-2: "...this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: 'Take a scroll of a book and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah even to this day.'"

Jer. 36:4: "Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the LORD which He had spoken to him."



THROUGH THE BIBLE

BARUCH WAS JEREMIAH'S SCRIBE

THE BOOK of JEREMIAH

IT IS NOT ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY:

- Chapter 1:1–4: **a SHORT INTRODUCTION...**
- Chapters 1–20: **a COLLECTION OF WRITINGS AGAINST JUDAH & JERUSALEM BEFORE the Babylonian Captivity...**
- Chapters 25 & 46–51: **PROPHECIES AGAINST FOREIGN NATIONS**
- Chapter 44: **JEREMIAH'S LAST PROPHECY** (addressing the Jews who fled to EGYPT during the Babylonian invasion)...
- Chapters 26–45: **EVENTS WRITTEN ABOUT JEREMIAH in THIRD PERSON** (probably by Baruch)...
- Chapter 52: **an HISTORICAL APPENDIX**, essentially the same as 2nd Kings Chapters 24 and 25, and the DESTRUCTION of JERUSALEM...

THE BOOK of JEREMIAH

Jer. 1:1-2: "The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah... TO whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign."

VS. 3: "It came also in the days of Jehoiakim... until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah... until the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month."


Jeremiah is CALLED around 626 BC, and CONTINUES until a short time AFTER the destruction of Jerusalem [586 BC].

"Preceded by Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, & Nahum... He was a contemporary with Zephaniah & Habakkuk IN the land... and—for a time—with Ezekiel & Daniel in the east. Jeremiah saw 5 kings on the throne of Judah... and was TO Josiah what Isaiah had been to Hezekiah."

THE BOOK of JEREMIAH

**YOU CANNOT
LEGISLATE
SPIRITUALITY!**

2nd J. 29:1-9
“[He] put... spiritists...”
– “Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the...
L... d...
an... g... os...;
r... hi... l...



THE BOOK of JEREMIAH

Jer. 1:4-5: "...the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'"

**CALLLED
FROM A
YOUNG AGE**

VS. 6: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak... I am only a youth."

**JEREMIAH'S
PROTEST**

VS. 7: "But the LORD said to me, 'Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak." – "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you..."

**GOD'S
RESPONSE**

THE BOOK of JEREMIAH

Jer. 1:4-5: "...the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you.'"

JEREMIAH IS
PROBABLY
BEHIND EVERY
YEARS OLD WHEN
CALLED

The Young Prophet

Jeremiah 1:4-10



THE BOOK of JEREMIAH

Jer. 20:7-8: **"Everyone mocks me." - "...the word of the LORD was made to me a reproach and a derision daily."**

VS. 9: **"I said: 'I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name.'"**

Jer. 15:16: **"Your words were found, and I ate them..."**

Jer. 20:9: **"Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart..." - "[It] was in my heart like a burning fire... Shut up in my bones; I [became] weary of holding it back, and I could not."**

**THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN GOD SPEAKS TO US!**

JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE was UN-POPULAR

Jer. 2:20: "...on every high hill and under every green tree you bowed down like a whore."

Jer. 3:1: "You have played the whore with many lovers."

Jer. 3:3: "...you have the forehead of a whore; you refuse to be ashamed."

**NOT THE STUFF OF T-SHIRTS
& BUMPER-STICKERS!**

JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE was UN-POPULAR

"Jeremiah was... not the greatest [prophet]... That... goes to Isaiah... He was not the most mystical prophet. That honor goes to Ezekiel... Jeremiah was not the most successful prophet. That [was] Jonah, who spoke ONE TIME and [a whole] city repented. But – without a doubt – Jeremiah was the most courageous of prophets." (Jon Courson)

"None was more heroic than Jeremiah."
(G. Campbell Morgan)

"Called in a decadent age and to a stiff-necked people to proclaim unwelcome truth, he had his full share of the consequences that accompany such a task."
(Dr. Graham Scroggie)

JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE was UN-POPULAR

“[Jeremiah’s] enemies... threw him in a dungeon... Family and friends rejected him. Other prophets & priests made fun of him... Placed in stocks, beaten, humiliated, ridiculed.” – He was “branded a traitor.” – “And yet—for 42 years—Jeremiah proclaimed the message God had laid on his heart... And—for 42 years—not a single person responded.” (Jon Courson)

“[Jeremiah’s]... ministry was a tremendous display of faithfulness and courage in the face of great discouragement... with very [little] results.”
(David Guzik)

**BUT
WHY?**

FALSE PROPHETS were RAMPANT!

- Jer. 5:2: **"As the LORD lives,' surely they swear falsely."**
- Jer. 6:13: **"...the prophet even to the priest, everyone deals falsely."**
- Jer. 29:9: **"...they prophesy falsely to you in My name..."**
- Jer. 14:14: **"The prophets prophesy lies... I have not sent them... nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision... a worthless thing..."**
- Jer. 23:25-26: **"the prophets... prophesy lies... saying, 'I have dreamed!' – They are prophets of the deceit of their own heart..."**
- Jer. 23:32: **"I am against those who prophesy false dreams... and cause My people to err by... lies and... recklessness... I did not send them [nor] command them."**

THE BIGGEST INDICTMENT:

Jer. 5:30: **"An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely... the priests rule by their own power..."**

 **"AND MY PEOPLE LOVE TO HAVE IT SO."** 

"[The people] were perfectly satisfied with [the] state of things."
(Adam Clarke)

"God's people were perfectly happy to have false prophets and corrupt leadership. [It] reminds us that popularity among God's people is never to be regarded as a guarantee that one speaks for the LORD or leads in [a] godly manner." (David Guzik)

A DIRE WARNING:

2 Tim. 4:3-4: "...the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

***Looks Like
Church?***

***Sounds Like
Church?***

***Smells Like
Church?***



A DIRE WARNING:

NO SOUND
DOCTRINE!

THE PASTOR'S CALLING:

2 Tim. 4:1-2,5: "I charge you... before God and the Lord Jesus Christ... Preach the WORD! Be ready in season and out of season... be watchful in all things, endure afflictions... Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."



WHO is to BLAME???

“Prophets, priests, & people were united in sin [in Jeremiah’s day]...” (G. Campbell Morgan)

What to do
WHEN THERE IS
NO APPETITE FOR

GOD’S WORD

Bon Appetite

*Develop a Healthy
Appetite for
God’s Word*



*“I’m Not
Hungry!”*



JEREMIAH'S UN-POPULAR MESSAGE

"Your religious leaders are not telling you the truth."



Boo!

Shut-Up!

Go Home!

you STINK jeremiah!

JEREMIAH'S UN-POPULAR MESSAGE

Jer. 18:11: "Speak to the men of Judah and... Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now everyone from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good."'"



JEREMIAH'S UN-POPULAR MESSAGE

Jer. 18:11: **"Speak to the men of Judah and... Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now everyone from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good."'"**

VS. 12: "That is hopeless! - We will walk according to our own plans, and we will—everyone—obey the dictates of his evil heart."



JEREMIAH'S UN-POPULAR MESSAGE

Jer. 18:11: **"Speak to the men of Judah and... Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now everyone from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good."'"**

VS. 12: "That is hopeless! - We will walk according to our own plans, and we will—everyone—obey the dictates of his evil heart."



"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9)



INSERT LAMENTATIONS

JESUS & JEREMIAH:

Matt. 16:13-14: **“Who do [the crowds] say that I... am?”**
“Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others JEREMIAH...” (*‘The Weeping Prophet’*)

*“Through his action and attitude, Jeremiah portrays a lifestyle similar to Jesus... And for this reason, he may be called a type of Christ in the Old Testament. He showed great compassion for his people, and WEPT over them. He suffered at their hands, but PRAYED for them. **Jeremiah is one of the most Christlike personalities in the Old Testament.**”*

INSERT LAMENTATIONS

JESUS & JEREMIAH:

- Mark 11:17: **“Has this house, which is called by my name, become of den of thieves?”** (Jer. 7:11)
- **“who have eyes, and see not, and... ears, and hear not”** (Jer. 5:21)
- Matt. 11:29: **“you will find rest for your souls”** (Jer. 6:16)
- Matt. 10:6: **“lost sheep”** (Jer. 50:6)

INSERT LAMENTATIONS

- **There are 22 Letters in the Hebrew Alphabet**
- **Lamentations Chapters 1, 2, & 4 all have 22 Verses**
- **Each Verse of Each Chapter begins with a different letter of the Hebrew Alphabet** *(this is called an 'Acrostic')*

Lamentations Chapter 3 has 66 Verses
Every 3 Verses begin with a different Hebrew letter

Lamentations Chapter 5 has 22 Verses
"By the time Jeremiah gets here, he is so... emotional that, rather than following any form, [it] becomes an outpouring of his heart."

"[Jeremiah's] use of the [Hebrew] alphabet... symbolize the completeness—'the A to Z'—of [his] grief being expressed." (H.L. Ellison)

INSERT LAMENTATIONS

“Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22–23)

Great Verse!

“...as beat down and defeated [as] the people of Jerusalem... were... There was still a remnant with a promise of restoration.”



“THE SABBATH YEAR”

LEV. 25: “When you come to the land that I am giving you, the land must be given a rest period, a sabbath to God. Six years you may plant your fields... and harvest your crops, but the seventh year is a sabbath... for the land... during which you may not plant your fields, nor prune your vineyards. Do not harvest crops... and do not gather the grapes on your unpruned vines, [because] it is a year of rest for the land.”

“THE SABBATH YEAR”

LEV. 25: “When you come to the land that I am giving you, the land will be given a rest period, a sabbath to God. For six years you will sow your fields... and harvest your crops. But the seventh year will be a sabbath... for the land... during which you will not sow, nor prune your vineyards. Do not reap the grapes on your vineyards or harvest the olives in your olive groves. This will be a year of rest for the land.”

**BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY
= 70 SABBATH YEARS**

... I will scatter you among the nations...
... and your cities in ruins. Then, as long as
... and you are in your enemies' land, the land will...
... enjoy its sabbatical years... that you would not give it
... when you lived there.”

JEREMIAH'S UN-POPULAR MESSAGE

**"I'm trying to encourage
you guys..."**



Boo!

Shut-Up!

Go Home!

**you
STINK
jeremiah!**



JEREMIAH'S UN-POPULAR MESSAGE

Jer. 29:8: "Do not let your prophets and... diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD."

"The false prophets among the Jews in Babylon likely told the Jews that they would soon be allowed back to Judah and... should plan accordingly."

NOPE!

JEREMIAH'S UN-POPULAR MESSAGE

Jer. 29:4-7: "Thus says the LORD... to all... whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters... take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands... that you may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace, you will have peace."

JEREMIAH'S UN-POPULAR MESSAGE

Jer. 29:4-7: **"Thus says the LORD... to all... whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters... take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands... that you may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace, you will have peace."**



ISN'T BABYLON THE ENEMY?

CONSIDER THESE PASSAGES:

Romans 13:1-7: "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. [Because] there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves..." – "He is God's minister to you for good... Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake."

CONSIDER THESE PASSAGES:

1st Peter 2:13-15: “submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors... [Because] this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men...”

1st Timothy 2:1-3: “I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men... [for] all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet & peaceable life in all godliness & reverence. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior...”

“[Our] Savior suffered under Pontius Pilate, one of the worst Roman governors Judea ever had; and Paul under Nero, the worst Roman Emperor. And neither our Lord nor His Apostle denied or reviled the ‘authority!’” (William Newell)

THESE ARE VERY SIMILAR:

Jer. 29:7: "...seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive [Babylon], and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace."

1 Timothy 2:1-2: "[Pray for] all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life..."

THESE ARE VERY SIMILAR:

Jer. 29:7: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

**GOD HAS A PLAN!
AND HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING!**

THE WORDS of OUR SAVIOR:

"Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you... pray for those who spitefully use you & persecute you... To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back... For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps... who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously... love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil."

A PROMISE of RESTORATION:

Jer. 29:10: "After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place."

LET'S TALK ABOUT:

NEAR-FAR FULFILLMENT

A BRANCH of RIGHTEOUSNESS:

Jer. 23:5-6: "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Isaiah 11:1&10: "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots." – He "shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious."

MESSIANIC REFERENCES!

THE NEW COVENANT:

Jer. 31:31-34: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make A NEW COVENANT with the house of Israel and... the house of Judah—not according to the covenant I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt... But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel...

I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

THE NEW COVENANT:

“Jeremiah... [gives] the clearest glimpse of the new covenant God intends to make with His people... God [will] put His law within them, writing it on [their] hearts [instead] of tablets of stone. Rather than fostering our relationship with God through a fixed location like a temple, God promised... that His people would know Him directly, a knowledge that comes through the Person of... Jesus Christ.” (Charles Swindoll)



ASTUNNING PREDICTION:

Deuteronomy 30:1-6

"It shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you... [if you] return to the LORD your God and obey His voice... with all your heart and with all your soul, the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you."

"And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live."

ASTUNNING PREDICTION:

Deuteronomy 30:1-6

“And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”

“Moses says... that when Israel finds themselves sitting in exile, at any point they can turn back to their God. And—in response—God will, in Moses’ words, *“circumcise [their] hearts, so that [they might] love him with [their] heart and soul and live.”* This vivid metaphor says something is fundamentally wrong with Israel’s heart; it is stubborn and hard—the same thing wrong with all humanity. Going all the way back to humanity’s rebellion in the garden, Israel has seized autonomy to define good and evil for themselves... they’ve ruined themselves and God’s world, but that’s not the end of the story...

ASTUNNING PREDICTION:

Deuteronomy 30:1-6

“And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”

Moses says that he knows that one day God is going to do something to transform the hearts of his people, so that they can actually listen to and love God from the heart and discover true life. This is the promise of the new heart, which is picked-up later by Biblical prophets (in reference to the New Covenant [Jer. 31 and Ezek. 36]).”

THE NEW COVENANT:

EZEKIEL 11 & 36:

"I will... put a new spirit within them," I will "take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them... they shall be My people, and I will be their God."

"These promises are later... spoken of specifically as a 'covenant.'" (David Guzik)