



JEREMIAH

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAN AND HIS WRITINGS

OUR GOAL THESE NEXT 3 MONTHS

- Examine the life and times of Jeremiah as layed out in his book
- Understand why this book was written and who it was written to/for
- Study what was happening to the nation of Israel during the life of Jeremiah

THE KINGS AND PROPHETS DURING THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

THE KINGS ARE COLOR CODED TO SHOW GOOD VS EVIL

THE PROPHETS ARE SHOWN IN BLUE DURING THE TIME IN WHICH THEY PROPHESED



OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

- The prophecies of Jeremiah are not recorded in chronological order. There are large and small sections from different periods of his life randomly joined together into a record of Jeremiah's prophecies.
- As spelled out in the outline in your introduction we will be stepping through the book in chunks, covering several chapters in some weeks, which will require you to read ahead since we won't have the time to read the passages during class.

CHRONOLOGY OF JEREMIAH

- The chronology of Jeremiah is at most times confusing and requires one to pay careful attention to context and rely heavily on the associated history given in The Book of Kings and the Chronicle of the Kings.
- This chart helps to arrange most of Jeremiah chronologically.

CHRONOLOGICAL ARRANGEMENT OF JEREMIAH'S PROPHECIES

Date:	Jeremiah:	Criterion for assignment:	Notes:
I. JOSIAH (639-608 B.C.)			
626	1	#1, 1:2 and 25:3, 13th yr of Josiah	Oct. 627-Oct. 626 B.C.
	2-6	#2, 5:16-17a, 6:22-24; #4, 3:6, Josiah	Scythian raids, 628-626
626-621	7-10	#5, 7:18, 31, heaven-goddess: #6	Idolatry, pre-621
621	11:1-8	#2, 11:3, 6, Josiah's reform	Covenant, II Kgs 23:2
620-608	11:9-13:17	#3, 11:10, post-621 disillusionment; #6	Josiah's reform cools, 11:9
	14-20	#5, 14:13, 20:7-8, false assurance	Still peacetime, 14:13
II. JEHOIAKIM (608-598)			
608	22:1-19	#2, 22:10; #4, v. 18; #5, v. 4 hopeful	Josiah dead, Jehoahaz
	26	#4, 26:1, beginning of the reign	exiled, Jehoiakim king
604	36:1-8	#1, 36:1, Baruch writes Jer, 1st ed.	The 21 chapters to date
	25	#1, 25:1, 1st of Nebu.-Apr. 604-3	4th of J.-Oct. 605-4
	46-51 (ex 49:34-9)	#2, 46:2, post-Carchemish, 605; #3:	LXX has at 25:13
	45	#1, 45:1, after B's 1st writing, 4th yr	But before reading it, 36:9
	36:9-22	#1, 36:9, 22, 5th yr, 9th mo.-Dec. 604	2nd ed. adds 9 chs. more
600	35	#2, 35:11, danger; #4, 35:1, J-kim	Syrians, II Kgs 24:2
III. JEHOIACHIN (Dec. 598 - March 597)			
598-597	22:20-30	#4, 22:24, reign of Coniah	C=Jehoiachin
	13:18-27	#2, 13:18, queen mother=22:26	13:20 parallels 22:22
IV. ZEDEKIAH (597-586)			
597	23-24	#2, 24:1; #5, 23:2, same exile as 24	Soon after Jeconiah's
	29-31	#2, 29:2, same; #5-6, 30:3 follows	carrying away, March 97
	49:34-39	#4, 49:34, beginning of the reign	Accession yr, pre-Oct.
593	27-28	#1, 28:1, #4, 27:3, 12 (vs. 27:1), Zed; #5	LXX om 27:1 (MT crpt)
	51:59-64	#1, 51:59, 4th yr of Zedekiah	Supplement, on Babylon
588	34:1-10	#2, 34:7, siege, Jan. 15, 588, on	Dated 39:1, 52:4
	21	#2, 21:4, siege; #3, Jer. still free	34:4-5 before 21:5
	34:11-22	#2, 34:22, Nebuchadrezzar leaves	Reenslavement, 34:10-11
	37	#2, 37:5, N. leaves; #3, 37:15, 21	Jer. 1st imprisoned
587	32-33	#1, 32:1, 18th yr of N. Apr. 587-6	J in prison, 32:2, 33:1
586	38	#3, 38:28, down to Jerusalem's fall	So near end of siege
	39:15-18	#3, 39:16, a response to Ebed-Melech	Result of 38:7-13
	39:1-14	#1, 39:2, city fell July 19, 586	Cf. 52:5-7
V. GEDALIAH and after (July 586 B.C. and on)			
586	40-43:6	#1, 41:1, 7th month, Gedaliah dead	Month began Oct. 7
	43:7—ch. 44	#3, 43:7, cf 42:7, 10 days later	In Egypt
Post-561	52	#2, 52:30, after 582, v. 31, after 561	52 not by Jeremiah, 51:64

WHO WAS JEREMIAH?

- Jeremiah means “YHWH will raise”
- He was the son of Hilkiah (1:1)
 - Most likely the High Priest Hilkiah during the reign of Josiah (2 Kings 22:4, 8-14) who found the Book of the Law of the Lord and had it delivered to young King Josiah. This leads us to understand that Hilkiah was righteous , and a Godly example of a parent.
 - This also lets us know that Jeremiah was a Levite.

WHO WAS JEREMIAH?

- His home was Anathoth, a village in Judea about 3 miles NNE of Jerusalem
- It was a Levitical city (Joshua 21:18)



WHO WAS JEREMIAH?

- He prophesied during the reigns of at least 5 kings of Judah, and beyond the beginning of their Babylonian captivity. He saw the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
- We know he prophesied at least 40 years from 627-586 B.C. and maybe even as long as 50 years when you include his journey to Egypt later in his life.
- He was commanded not to marry and not to have children, as an example of the devastation Jerusalem would suffer. (16:2-3)

WHO WAS JEREMIAH?

- He was faithful to God as a prophet, but he suffered GREATLY in the process. Throughout the book of Jeremiah we will look at the trials he endured including being lowered into a pit of mire (38:1-6) and threats against his life (11:18-20)
- Jeremiah lamented greatly over Judah's choice to reject God, knowing what would befall them
- Contemporaries to Jeremiah were the other prophets Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk and towards the end of his life, Daniel and Ezekiel who were most likely younger than Jeremiah.

WHO WAS JEREMIAH?

- Tradition says Jeremiah dies in Egypt. His being carried against his will into Egypt is recorded in the latter part of the book (chapter 43)

JEREMIAH'S CHARACTER

- The “weeping” prophet - named so because of his sympathy towards his people and their choices.
- A perseverent and patient man in spite of a rebellious people who hated him for telling them the truth.
- It was obvious he got discouraged at times.

BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK

- As Jeremiah begins the prophesy, Northern Israel has been in Assyrian captivity for about 100 years (721-627 B.C.)
- Judah has grown more corrupt and their doom has been sealed as a result of the sins of Manassah, Josiah's father (2 Kings 21:10-16, Jeremiah 15:3-4).
- Jeremiah begins to prophesy during the reign of Josiah, Judah's last righteous king during the 13th year of his reign. (1:2). His message is received too little, too late.

THE MESSAGE OF THE BOOK

- Jeremiah is not in chronological order.
- The overall message is to Judah and Jerusalem to prepare for captivity because of their sin — there is NO turning back. Even Moses and Samuel could not change God's mind (15:1)
- The latter part of the book is also a warning to all nations of God's judgement
- As with most of the prophets, we find glimpses of the Messiah through the book.

JEREMIAH CHAPTER 1

- As an exception to the rule for this class, we will read the first chapter in class.
- Introduction (vs 1-3)
- Jeremiah's Call (vs 4-10)
- Vision of the Almond Tree (vs 11-12)
- Vision of the Boiling Pot facing away from the north (vs 13-19)

QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR READING

- During the reigns of which kings did Jeremiah prophesy? (3)
 - Josiah, Jehoiakim, Zedekiah
- When was Jeremiah ordained a prophet? (5)
 - Before he was conceived and born
- What had the Lord set Jeremiah to do over the nations? (10)
 - To pluck up and break down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and plant

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READING

- From where would calamity befall all the land? (14)
 - Out of the north
- What had the Lord made Jeremiah like? (18-19)
 - A fortified city, pillar of iron, walls of bronze - insurmountable obstacles.