



GOD'S  
SOVEREIGNTY

YESTERDAY • TODAY • FOREVER

The image features a golden, hazy background resembling a sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, there are two silhouettes of warriors on a dark, uneven horizon line. On the right, a large, muscular warrior stands with a tall, spiky feathered headdress, holding a long spear in his right hand and a shield in his left. On the left, a much smaller, thinner silhouette of a warrior stands in a similar pose, holding a staff or short spear. The text 'SPIRITUAL WARFARE' is overlaid in the upper left quadrant in a serif font, with 'SPIRITUAL' on the top line and 'WARFARE' on the bottom line, separated by a thin horizontal line.

SPIRITUAL  
WARFARE

Jeremiah – Reluctant Warrior for the LORD

# Jeremiah

**God's Reluctant Prophet**

**650-570 BC**

A time  
not unlike  
ours

- A time of great wickedness
  - Worship of Baal idols, Jeremiah 2, 3, 5, and 9
  - Human sacrifice, Jeremiah 19

A time  
not unlike  
ours

- Beginning in the 13<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah's reign (about 5 years before Josiah's leading Judah to repentance)
- Josiah's reforms quickly faded
  - Jehoahaz (3 months)
  - Jehoakim
  - Jehoiachin (3 months)
  - Zedekiah
- Witnessed the Babylonian conquest

## Jeremiah's Disreputable Lineage

- Jeremiah knew where he was from
- As a priest, Jeremiah is aware of the importance of lineage
- Late in his career, Jeremiah purchased a field (at God's direction) from his cousin, Jeremiah 32:6-15



Anata, an Arab town on the eastern slope of the central mountain range. View to the north. The town of Anata derives its name from the biblical site of Anathoth, the home of the prophet Jeremiah. Photo by Ferrell Jenkins



# Jeremiah's Disreputable Lineage

- Anathoth is a city about 3 miles northeast of Jerusalem
  - A city of refuge given to the priests, Joshua 21:18
  - Abiathar had been loyal to David, as co-high priest, during Absalom's rebellion, even protecting the ark, II Samuel 15:24-29
  - Aided David, reporting the counsel of Ahithophel to the rebels, II Samuel 15:35-36; 17:15-22
  - Finally, Abiathar was exiled here by Solomon after lending support to Adonijah's pretension to the throne and subsequent rebellion, I Kings 2:26-27



# Jeremiah's Disreputable Lineage

- The men of Anathoth attempt to silence Jeremiah through threats and intimidation, Jeremiah 11:21-23

Jehovah's  
Call:  
Jeremiah's  
Response

“Now 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  
have appointed you as a prophet to the  
nations.’”

Jeremiah 1:3-4

“Then I said, “Oh, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not  
know how to speak, Because I am a youth.”

Jeremiah 1:5

# Jehovah's Call: Jeremiah's Response

“But Jehovah said unto me, Say not, I am a child; for to whomsoever I shall send thee thou shalt go, and whatsoever I shall command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid because of them; for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith Jehovah. Then Jehovah put forth his hand, and touched my mouth; and Jehovah said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth: 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.

Jeremiah 1:7-10

# Jehovah's Call: Jeremiah's Response

- Jeremiah is **not a child -- he is reluctant**
  - Girls become women at 12 years + 1 day old
  - Boys become men at 13 years + 1 day old
  - Jeremiah was probably around 20 years old when Jehovah calls him
- Jehovah always **empowers** those whom He calls
  - "...I have put my words in thy mouth..."
  - "...whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost."
- And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Mark 13:11

II Timothy 2:2

# Jehovah's Call: Jeremiah's Depression

- Jehovah's words of judgment grieved Jeremiah to the heart, Jeremiah 15:17
- Jeremiah often voiced his despair:
  - Jeremiah 9:1
  - Jeremiah 15:10
  - Jeremiah 17:14-18
  - Jeremiah 18:23

# Jehovah's Call: Jeremiah's Depression

- God rebukes him for his complaints, Jeremiah 15:19
- God demands of Jeremiah repentance, trust, and obedience
- Jeremiah is not like the perfect sufferer -- Jesus

Though I,  
too, am often  
reluctant,  
this is my  
hope

- In the final analysis, Jeremiah obeyed God in speaking
- Obedience is carefully considered – not rashly promised
  - Luke 14:28-33
  - Matthew 21:28-31