

**The Prophets to Judah:
Divided Kingdom Period: *Jeremiah 1:1-Lamentations 5:22***

Jeremiah, "*The Lord Exalts*," is known as the "*Weeping Prophet*." He was the final prophet to the Southern Kingdom and in fact saw Jerusalem taken into captivity. His years of ministry span five decades. **Jer 1:2-3** tells us it was from the 13th year of Josiah until the carrying away into captivity. We see from **Jer 43:1-7** that his ministry lasted into the captivity a year or so.

Assyria was the major world power during most of his years. Assyria however was a nation on the brink of ruin. Babylon and Egypt were struggling to see who would have control of the world. Jeremiah prophesied the Babylonians would be the one.

Jeremiah's writings are not in chronological order and take place over a period of many years. Allow me to offer a quote to illustrate this.

"Jeremiah's message were given during times of stress, upheaval and need. Chapter 1-6 and 11-12 correspond roughly to the time of King Josiah's reform. The next major burst of prophetic activity (chapters. 7-10; 14-20; 22:1-19;26) came when Nebuchadnezzar rose to power. The rest of Jeremiah's prophecies came at the time of the first deportation to Babylon, the second deportation to Babylon, the secret plot to rebel against Babylon, and the final siege and deportation to Babylon." (*The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, p. 1123)

There are as many as thirteen messages of Jeremiah recorded that he gave to the nation of Judah. His theme,

as most of the prophets to the nations of Israel and Judah was, again is judgment and restoration.

This book is so massive in content that we will only touch its surface. Lets look at some things about the book that stand out. Allow me to offer the following outline for our study.

- I- The Call of Jeremiah. 1:4ff**
- II- The Message of Jeremiah.**
- III- Notable Passages in the Book.**
- IV- Teaching in Parables.**
- V- Prophecies of Note.**
- VI- The Lamentations.**

I- The Call of Jeremiah. 1:4ff

Jeremiah was called to be a prophet before he was formed in the womb. He was young when God called him to be a prophet and placed His Word in Jeremiah's mouth. God promised him that his life would be one of trouble and turmoil. **1:17-19.**

II- The Message of Jeremiah.

The message of God through Jeremiah was on of judgment. He is known as the weeping prophet because the message he gave to Judah broke his heart. His message was not received at all. He did not have one single convert in all his preaching. **12:6** shows his family rejected the message. **11:21** shows his own townspeople rejected it. The religious world rejected him. **20:1-3** records that the chief temple priest, Pashhur, had him whipped and put in stocks. **Jeremiah 28** records his ridicule of the false prophet Hananiah. He was also arrested and accused of treason. **37:11-16.**

III- Notable Passages in the Book.

There are many familiar passages in Jeremiah. Look at a few of these.

a- **Jer 18** is the lesson of the Potter house.

b- **Jer 31:31-34** is the new covenant passage.

c- **Jer 36** records King Jehudi cutting up the writing of Jeremiah.

d- **Jer 20:9** tells of the fire in the bones of Jeremiah that would not let him quit.

e- **Jer 13:23** asks if an Ethiopian can change the color of his skin or a leopard his spots..

f- **Jer 30:7** calls the great tribulation "**the time of Jacob's trouble.**"

IV- Teaching in Parables.

There were many everyday things used by God to show Jeremiah and us great truths.

a- **Jer 24:1-3** is a story of two fruit baskets in the temple. **24:4-8** tells us these good fruits were the one taken into captivity and the bad were the evil ones who remained behind.

b- God forbid him to marry so he would not have anyone to mourn after.

c- **Jer 32:7** gives us a great sign of hope. God tells Jeremiah to buy some land. This showed the return of the captivities to the land.

d- **Jer 27-28** is the sign of the yoke around Jeremiah's neck.

V- Prophecies of Note.

Certainly the rise of Babylon to be a great power was a significant prophecy of Jeremiah. He also prophesied the destruction of Babylon. **50:11-16.**

Jeremiah prophesied against the nations around Judah in **Jer 46-51.**

There are two prophecies I wish to make special mention of here however. First, is the prophecies of the fall of Jerusalem. **Jer 1:14-16; 4:5-9; 5:15-17; 6:1-6; 32:2-3; 38:17-18.**

Jeremiah lived to see this come to pass. He was spared by Nebuchanezzar and not taken into captivity. (see **40:1-6; 39:14**) He was however taken into Egypt where it is said his own people stoned him.

The second prophecy is one that will have implications to our chronological study. **Jer 25:8-11** records the prophecy of the time of captivity for Israel to be seventy years. This will be the Scripture that Daniel reads in captivity to help him to know the captivity is almost over.

VI- The Lamentations.

Lets take a very brief look at the book of Lamentations. Tradition says that Jeremiah wrote this book as he sat overlooking the city of Jerusalem and wept for its fate.

The book is comprised of five elegies. In the original language, which was Hebrew, it was in a form of writing known as alphabetical or acrostic writing. Each of the 21 verses of **Lamentations 1** and **2** begins with a different Hebrew letter. (Such as verse one with A verse 2 with B if it were in English) **Lamentations 3** repeats this three times.

Notice the destruction of the homes and fortress wall recorded in **Lam 2:2.** Then **2:6** records the destruction of the temple.

One of the most notable verses in Lamentations is **3:21-24.** Great is thy faithfulness was Jeremiah's cry.

