

Lesson 8 – Jeremiah

Jeremiah was called to preach during the reign of Josiah c. 627 BC, but most of his recorded work occurred during the subsequent four kings. Jeremiah extended God's last offer for salvation, but he was warned they'd reject it. Jeremiah was among the most persecuted people recorded in the Bible. He was opposed by kings, priests, officials, and false prophets. His message– that Jerusalem would fall to Babylon– was deemed traitorous. Ironically, he loved his country more than his enemies. He endured great hardship to try to save it, and he lamented bitterly after it fell. Judah's last king, Zedekiah, often consulted Jeremiah, yet never took his advice. The king was too cowardly to oppose the views of those around him and too sinful to repent. When Jerusalem fell, Jeremiah was imprisoned in the city. As God had promised, he ultimately prevailed while his enemies fell. The Babylonians treated Jeremiah well, permitting him to stay in Judah. He ended up in Mizpah among the new Jewish government. He continued to pass on God's instructions, but he was taken to Egypt after a band of rebels assassinated the governor. Jeremiah 52 records an event c. 550 BC in Babylon, some 35 years after he was taken to Egypt. This may have been appended to his book by another prophet, or perhaps he was still alive. One tradition says that Jeremiah was stoned by Jews in Egypt, but the Bible provides no information on Jeremiah's death.

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1. What metaphor is used for Judah's sinfulness? What example of God's punishment did Judah have? (Jer. 3:6-11)
2. What foolish thing did Judah do when people tried to direct their own steps rather than following God? (Jer. 10)
3. What was Jeremiah's connection to Anathoth? How did the people there react to his message? (Jer. 1:1; 11:21-23)
4. What would happen to the false prophets who prophesied peace, and what would happen to the people who listened to them? (Jer. 14:13-16)
5. What was the lesson of the potter? (Jer. 18:1-11)
6. What did Pashhur the priest do to Jeremiah? What did Jeremiah prophesy against him? (Jer. 20:1-6)

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7. What warning did Jeremiah give the people when Nebuchadnezzar was coming up against Jerusalem? What did he advise the nations to do?
(Jer. 21:8-10; 27:1-11)
8. How long would Judah serve Babylon? (Jer. 25:11)
9. Who would God use to punish Babylon? (Jer. 51:11)
10. What false message did Hananiah preach? What happened to him? (Jer. 28)
11. What did Jeremiah tell the exiles in his letter? (Jer. 29)
12. What was prophesied in Jeremiah 31:31-34? Where is this quoted in the New Testament?
13. Where was Jeremiah imprisoned before the siege? (Jer. 37:21)

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14. What kind of leader was Zedekiah? (Jer. 38:5)

15. What did the officials do to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 38:6? What was promised to the man who rescued Jeremiah? (Jer. 39:15-18)

16. What did the Babylonians do to Jeremiah after the siege? (Jer. 39:11-14)

17. What did Jewish rebels do in Jeremiah 41?

18. What did Jeremiah warn the survivors not to do? Did they listen? (Jer. 42)

19. Where was Jeremiah taken? (Jer. 43)

20. What nations did Jeremiah prophesy against? (Jer. 46-51)