

Outline of  
Jeremiah



# Introduction

## Writer

Jeremiah, “the prophet of the broken heart”.

## His life

His book is partly autobiographical since he gave us so much of his personal history.

1. Born a priest in Anathoth, north of Jerusalem (1:1).
2. Chosen to be a prophet before he was born (1:5).
3. Called to the prophetic office while very young (1:6).
4. Commissioned (1:9, 10).
5. Began his ministry during the reign of King Josiah and was a mourner at his funeral (2 Chronicles 35:25).
6. Forbidden to marry because of the terrible times (16:1-4).
7. Never made a convert, and was rejected by his people (11:18- 21; 12:6; 18:18), hated, beaten, put in stocks (20:1-3), imprisoned (37:11-16), and charged with being a traitor.
8. His message broke his own heart (9:1).
9. Wanted to resign but could not (20:9).
10. He saw the destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian captivity, and was permitted to remain in the land by the captain of the Babylonian forces. When the remnant wanted to flee to Egypt, Jeremiah prophesied against it (42:15-43:3), was forced to go with the remnant to Egypt (43:6, 7), and died there. Tradition says that he was stoned by the remnant.

## His personality

God chose this man, who had a mother’s heart, a trembling voice, and tear-filled eyes, to deliver a harsh message of judgment. The message that he gave broke his own heart.

One author has written, “He was not a man mighty as Elijah, eloquent as Isaiah, or seraphic as Ezekiel, but one who was timid and shrinking, conscious of his helplessness, yearning for a sympathy and love he was never to know — such was the chosen organ through which the Word of the Lord came to that corrupt and degenerate age.”

The Lord Jesus Christ, weeping over Jerusalem, was a perfect fulfillment of Jeremiah.

## His message

The message of Jeremiah was the most unwelcome ever delivered to a people. He was called a traitor because he said that they were to yield to Babylon (34; 38:17-23). Isaiah, almost a century before him, had said to resist. Why this change? In Jeremiah’s day there was only one thing left to do — surrender. In the economy of God the nation was through (15:1), and the “times of the Gentiles” had already begun with Babylon, the head of gold (cf. Daniel 2).

Jeremiah predicted the 70-year captivity in Babylon (25:9-12). However, he saw beyond the darkness to the light, and no prophet spoke so glowingly of the future as did he (23:3-8; 30; 31; 33:15-22).

The message of Jeremiah was not only unwelcomed, but it was rejected by the nation (26:8-16).

## Key words

Backsliding — occurs 13 times (used only 4 other times in the Old Testament [Proverbs once, Hosea three times])

Babylon — occurs 164 times (more than in the rest of Scripture combined)

**Source:** Dr. John Vernon McGee (1904 – 1988), THRU THE BIBLE RADIO NETWORK

## JEREMIAH

### 1. THE MOMENT

MANASSEH    BIRTH  
AMON        BOYHOOD  
JOSIAH      }  
JEHOAHAZ   } JEREMIAH  
JEHOIAKIM   } PROPHESED  
JEHOIAKIN   }  
ZEDEKIAH   }

### 2. THE MAN

PRIEST  
PROPHET  
POET

### 3. THE METHOD

SPEAKING  
ACTING  
WRITING

### 4. THE MESSAGE

LIKE OTHERS  
a. APOSTATE PEOPLE  
b. IMPENDING DISASTER  
c. ULTIMATE RESTORATION  
d. PUNISHED ENEMIES

UNLIKE OTHERS

a. SPIRITUAL  
b. INDIVIDUAL  
c. POLITICAL

### 5. THE MALTREATMENT

### 6. THE MISERY

THE 'WEEPING PROPHET'  
LAMENTATIONS

## JEREMIAH

### OUTLINE

## PROLOGUE (1)

PERSONAL CALL

## A. SINNING NATION (2-45)

### 1. IMMEDIATE RETRIBUTION (2-20)

627-605 BC. MAINLY POETRY

BABYLON DESTROYS ASSYRIA · DEFEATS EGYPT

### 2. ULTIMATE RESTORATION (21-45)

605- 585 BC. MAINLY PROSE

BABYLON DEPORTS JUDAH · DEVASTATES JERUSALEM

## B. SURROUNDING NATIONS (46-51)

## EPILOGUE (52)

NATIONAL CATASTROPHE

# I. Call of prophet during reign of Josiah

## Chapter 1

# II. Prophecies to Judah and Jerusalem prior to Zedekiah's reign

## Chapters 2 – 20

### A. Twofold condemnation of Judah, Chapters 2 – 3:5

1. Rejected Jehovah
2. Reared their own gods

### B. Charge of backsliding during reign of Josiah, Chapters 3:6 – 6:30

### C. Warning delivered in the gate of the Lord's house, Chapters 7 – 10

### D. Israel disobeyed God's covenant made in wilderness, Chapters 11, 12

### E. Parable in action – the linen girdle, Chapter 13

### F. Backsliding nation judged by drought and famine, Chapters 14, 15

### G. Jeremiah forbidden to marry, Chapters 16 – 17:18

### H. Message to king in the gate, Chapter 17:19-27

### I. Sign at the potter's house, Chapters 18, 19

### J. Jeremiah's persecution, Chapter 20



# III. Prophecies during reign of Zedekiah

Chapters 21 – 29

(Leads to destruction of Jerusalem)

- A. Answer to Zedekiah re: **Nebuchadnezzar**, Chapters 21, 22
- B. A bright light in a very dark day, Chapter 23
- C. Parable of two baskets of figs, Chapter 24
- D. God spells out **70-year captivity**, Chapter 25
- E. Message in temple court during reign of **Jehoiakim**, Chapter 26
- F. Parable of the yokes, Chapters 27, 28
- G. Message of hope to first delegation of captives, Chapter 29

# IV. Prophecies re: future of 12 tribes and Judah's near captivity


Chapters 30 – 39

- A. Coming of Great Tribulation, Chapter 30
- B. The "I will" chapter, Chapter 31
- C. Jeremiah imprisoned, buys real estate, Chapter 32
- D. Coming kingdom as promised to **David**, Chapter 33
- E. Zedekiah's captivity foretold, Chapter 34
- F. Rechabites obey God, Chapter 35
- G. Jehoiakim destroys **Word of God with knife and fire**, Chapter 36
- H. Jeremiah imprisoned again, Chapters 37, 38
- I. Judah goes into captivity; Jeremiah released from prison, Chapter 39



## V. Prophecies to remnant left in land after destruction of Jerusalem

Chapters 40 – 42



*Whether it is  
good or bad,  
we will obey  
the voice of  
the Lord  
our God*

*to whom we are sending you, that it  
may be well with us when we obey  
the voice of the Lord our God.*

Jeremiah 42:6

## VI. Prophecies during Jeremiah's last days in Egypt

Chapters 43 – 51

- A. To remnant in Egypt, Chapters 43, 44
- B. To Baruch, Chapter 45
- C. To Egypt, Chapter 46
- D. To Philistia, Chapter 47
- E. To Moab, Chapter 48
- F. To Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar, Hazor and Elam, Chapter 49
- G. To Babylon, Chapters 50, 51

## VII. Fulfillment of prophesied destruction of Jerusalem

Chapter 52

# Quiz on Jeremiah

1. What instrument sounds the alarm of war, in Jeremiah?

2. In Chapter 1, why will they not overcome Jeremiah when they fight against him?

3. In Chapter 17, what is deceitful and desperately wicked?

4. What happened when Jeremiah said he would not make mention of the Lord or speak any more in his name?

5. To what is the God's word compared in Chapter 23?

6. According to Chapter 29, when would God be found?

7. In Chapter 30, what was Jeremiah to do with the words that the Lord spoke to him?

8. According to Chapter 33, what will the Lord do when we call upon him?

9. In Chapter 6, what does the Lord promise for walking in the ancient path and the good way?

10. In Chapter 17, what does the Lord say about those that trust in man, and those that trust in the Lord?

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