

Jeremiah

I. Introduction

A. AUTHOR: JEREMIAH

1. What we know about him: Jer. 1:1
2. Jeremiah mentioned in the Scriptures
 - a. 2 Chron. 35:25–Jeremiah mourns Josiah
 - b. 2 Chron. 36:12–Jeremiah’s message rejected by Zedekiah
 - c. 2 Chron. 36:21-22; Ezra 1:1; Dan 9:2 – Jeremiah’s prophecy fulfilled
 - d. Matt 2:17 quotes Jer. 31:15
 - e. Matt 16:14 – John the Baptist compared to Jeremiah
 - f. Matt 27:9 quotes Zech 11:12-13 as being by Jeremiah
3. Extra-biblical titles – especially because of Lamentations
 - a. The “weeping prophet”
 - b. The “wrestling prophet”

B. SETTING / TIME FRAME

1. Jeremiah’s ministry (1:2-3): 627/6 BC the 13th year of Josiah until after the captivity (561 BC)
2. Historical setting (*A Biblical Theological Intro. to the OT*, Lee, pp. 277-279)
 - a. 627/6 BC – Ashurbanipal^[Assyrian king] died – Medes join forces with Babylon to fight against Assyria
 - b. 621 BC – Josiah’s reforms began (2 Chron 34:14-33; 2 Ki. 23:25-26)
 - c. 610 BC – Babylon pretty well crushed Assyria and established as the new world superpower
 - d. 609 BC – King Josiah opposed Pharaoh Neco and was killed in battle
 - (1) Judah makes Jehoahaz, Josiah’s son king (3 months)
 - (2) Neco then exercised his authority over Judah – took Jehoahaz prisoner; imposed tribute; appointed Eliakim (Jehoiakim) as king (11 years)
 - e. 605 BC – Egypt defeated by Babylon at Carchemish
 - f. 597 BC – Jehoiachin his son was made king for 3 months
 - g. 597-586 BC – Zedekiah’s (uncle of Jehoiachin) reign and capture
 - h. 587/6 BC – Babylon returned and took more people into captivity (586 BC)
 - i. 587 BC – Gedaliah was set up as governor
3. Note the dates of three-stages of taking Judah into captivity
 - a. 1st Exile 605 BC – Egypt defeated (2 Kings 24:1-2; 2 Chron. 36:6-7; Dan. 1:1)
 - b. 2nd Exile 597 BC – (2 Kings 24:10-16; 2 Chron. 36:9-10)
 - c. 3rd Exile 586 BC – Jerusalem falls (2 Kings 25:1-21; 2 Chron. 36:11-21)

C. PURPOSES OF JEREMIAH

1. **The historical purpose:**
 - a. It explains why Judah was in captivity.
 - b. Gives a graphic picture of the experiences of a servant of God engaged in a difficult ministry
2. **The doctrinal / ethical purpose:**
 - a. Displays God’s dealings with the nations (Prov. 14:34)
 - b. Highlights the difference between a true prophet and a false prophet (Deut 18:15-22)

What is essential to being a true prophet?

 - (1) **Divine call** – only the Lord can form a prophet
 - (2) **Entrance into heavenly council** – ^{NAS} Jer. 23:18 (Isa. 6:1-7; Ezek. 1; Exod. 3-4; Rev. 4-5)
 - (3) **Special endowment fo the Spirit** (2 Pet. 1:21)
 - (4) This is seen in Jeremiah’s call (1:4-10)
 - (5) False prophets battled and exposed (Jer. 23:9-24:10; 26-29)
 - c. Underscores that God means what He says and He says what He means.
 - (1) God’s threats are real! God’s promises are certain!
 - (2) Jeremiah is God’s prosecuting attorney of the Mosaic Covenant (2:9, 29, 35; 25:31)
 - (a) Judah Charged: Jeremiah called the people to repent (3:12, 14, 22; 18:11-12)
 - (b) Judah Sentenced: Jeremiah pronounced certain judgment (11:2-8; 14:11-12; 7:16-20; 15:1)
 - (3) Jeremiah is God’s probate attorney of the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; 32:36-44; 50:5)
 - d. Ethical note: God requires us to keep our covenants! (Jer. 34; 52)
 - e. The impact of the finding of the Law and Josiah’s reforms on Jeremiah (Kidner, pp. 15-17)
 - (1) Catalyst to preach!
 - (2) Resulting in occasions of deep wrestling (11:18-20; 12:1-4; 15:15-18)
 - (3) Highlighted the need for heart change (3:10, 17; 4:4, 14, 18; 16:12; 17:9-10)

3. **The Christological purpose:** Many presentations of Christ:
 - a. the fountain of living waters (2:13; cf. John 4:14)
 - b. the balm of Gilead, the physician (8:22; cf. Luke 5:31-32)
 - c. the good Shepherd (23:4)
 - d. a Branch (23:5; cp. Isa. 11:1; Zech. 3:8; 6:12)
 - e. The LORD our righteousness (23:6; 33:15-16; cp. Isa. 45:24-25; Dan. 9:24; Rom. 3:22 & 5:1; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 3:9)
 - f. Suffering servant
 - (1) Opposed from the very outset of his ministry (Jer. 11:19; cp. Isa. 53:7)
 - (2) Rejection by his own family (11:21-23; 12:6; 15:10; cp. John 1:11; Mark 6:4; Luke 4:16-29)
 - (3) Further parallels (24)
 - (4) How about us? (1 Peter 4:12-13; 2:21; Act 5:41; 1 Peter 4:13; Phil. 4:4)

II. Outline

- A. EXTREMELY CHALLENGING
- B. NOT CHRONOLOGICAL
 1. His call (1:2) – 626 BC
 2. The days of Josiah (3:6) – 608-587 BC
 3. 7:1-2 with 26:1-2 – 608 BC
 4. 21:1-2 – 589-588 BC
 5. 32:1 – 587 BC
 6. 35:1 – 608 BC
 7. 27:3 – 590 BC

I. Prophetic Preparation ch. 1-6

- A. GOD'S CALLS JEREMIAH (1)
- B. GOD INSTRUCTS JEREMIAH (2-6)

II. Prophetic ch. 7-10

III. Prophetic Lamentation ch. 11-20

IV. Prophetic Authentication ch. 21-29

V. Prophetic Consolation ch. 30-33

VI. Prophetic Condemnation ch. 24-51

- A. GOD ENFORCES THE COVENANT CONSEQUENCES (24-45)
- B. GOD JUDGES THE NATIONS (46-51)

VII. Historical Confirmation ch. 52

- A. TERRIBLE JUDGEMENT WILL COME
- B. GRACIOUS PROVISION WILL BE MADE