

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 24 – “Jeremiah”
December 30, 2007

The Book of Jeremiah is both prophetic and autobiographical in nature. It could easily be called “The Life and Times of Jeremiah.” It’s a written record of both his words and his exploits, containing sermons that he preached as well as life events he experienced.

The words of this book are the God-inspired words of Jeremiah, but Baruch, his personal secretary, wrote them down. He also very likely compiled all of the material in its final form. Jeremiah 36:1-2, 4, 17-18.

Jeremiah the Man

Jeremiah was a “preacher’s kid” (literally, the son of a priest). He was a small town boy called out of his simple life and surroundings to sound a note of repentance to a rebellious nation.

Jeremiah lived in perilous times. He was the major prophet during the decline and fall of the southern kingdom of Judah. He was called to the prophetic ministry in the 13th year of Josiah's reign (627 B.C.). He prophesied during the reigns of the last 5 kings of Judah, right up until the destruction of Jerusalem and the deportation of the people to Babylon (586 B.C.). His prophecies served as God’s final warnings of the judgment to come.

Following the fall, Jeremiah remained in Jerusalem for a time, but ultimately he made his way to Egypt. He continued preaching there. (Jeremiah 43-44). This is the last we ever hear from him.

Jeremiah is commonly known as “The Weeping Prophet,” not because he was weak (he wasn’t) and not because of his own personal pain (which was significant), but because he was brokenhearted for his people.

Jeremiah faithfully preached God’s truth for over 40 years, yet never saw any positive results from his ministry.

Outline of the Book of Jeremiah
(Topical, not chronological)

1. Jeremiah’s Call. 1:1-9

- Clearly, life begins at conception.
- God always equips those whom He calls.

2. Jeremiah’s Assignment. 1:10, 17-19

His ministry would be 2/3 destructive, 1/3 constructive. His message would be a hard message, one that would not endear him to others, and one that his fellow countrymen would not want to hear.

- Jeremiah's life would be lonely (16:1-2). No wife or children to encourage him.
- Jeremiah's life would be sad (16:9). He would live to witness the collapse of his beloved nation.

3. Jeremiah's Reaction. 20:14-18.

Jeremiah was very transparent, honest, and open. But even in the midst of his anguish and depression, he maintained his faith in God—20:7-13.

4. Jeremiah's Message (and the response it drew).

- Jeremiah's temple sermon (Chapter 7)
- The response to Jeremiah's message (Chapter 26)

He was threatened with death (Chapter 26) accused of being a traitor (Chapters 26 & 37), arrested (Chapter 37), placed in a dungeon prison (Chapter 37), and dropped into a cistern (Chapter 38).

5. Jeremiah's Vindication.

- Jerusalem falls to Babylon, as Jeremiah had foretold. (Chapters 39 & 52)
- Jeremiah did not, however, gloat and say "*I told you so.*" He was heartbroken.

6. Jeremiah's Comfort.

- Chapters 30-33 are regarded as "The Book of Consolation".
- These words of hope and comfort were intended for Judah beyond the fall and beyond the years of exile.

7. Jeremiah's Faith. 32:1-2, 6-9a

- Jeremiah became a real estate investor. The timing of his investment was absolutely horrible financially, but great spiritually.
- Jeremiah's purchase was an investment in the future. It was a tangible demonstration of his faith in God. As an encouragement to others, Jeremiah was willing to put his money where his mouth was.