

**“DISCOVERING THE UNREAD BESTSELLER”**  
**Week 22: Sunday, April 22, 2012**  
**JEREMIAH – “MINISTRY EMPOWERED BY GOD”**

*“Jeremiah was a political and social revolutionary. Few people in the Bible have led lives of such conflict. He was forever being thrown into jail or tried for his life or forced to flee. He was publicly humiliated by false prophets and even thrown into a sewer. Time and time again, Jeremiah calls the people to repent and time and time again, he is ignored, reviled or abused. The reward for his prophecies is beating, exclusion and imprisonment”*

**TITLE AND AUTHORSHIP**

In terms of the Book's title, Jeremiah in Hebrew literally means “\_\_\_\_\_” which gives a certain connotation of laying a solid foundation. Some scholars have suggested that the title may effectively mean - “Yahweh \_\_\_\_\_, appoints or \_\_\_\_\_” which also holds obvious relevance given that we're talking about God “sending” a spokesperson or voice to the people.

Jeremiah 1:1 clearly affirms the prophet as the writer. At the LORD's command - Jeremiah later dictated all of his prophecies to a scribe named \_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremiah 36:4) covering the time from the start of his ministry up until the fourth year of king Jehoiakim.

As an object \_\_\_\_\_ to Judah (to demonstrate that in the future days of judgment, one would be better off being childless, unmarried and all alone) Jeremiah himself was not allowed to \_\_\_\_\_ and have \_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremiah 16:1-2).

All-in-all, a heart-broken prophet with a heart-breaking message; a man who labored away for more than \_\_\_\_\_ years proclaiming a message of “\_\_\_\_\_” to the “\_\_\_\_\_” people of Judah. Despised and persecuted by his countrymen, Jeremiah bathed his prophecies in “\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_” (again affirming his title as a “\_\_\_\_\_ prophet” – Jeremiah 9:1 – and - 13:17). Jeremiah faithfully obeyed the call of God, declaring that “\_\_\_\_\_” to God's will was the “only” way to escape \_\_\_\_\_.

As a contemporary of Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel and Ezekiel, Jeremiah's ministry lasted between 627 BC and 580 BC.

**SNAPSHOT OF THE BOOK**

Jeremiah is an autobiography of one of Judah's greatest prophets during the nation's \_\_\_\_\_ days. Apostasy, \_\_\_\_\_, perverted worship and \_\_\_\_\_ decay set the tone for the prophet's message from heaven. An avalanche of judgment was forthcoming at the hands of the \_\_\_\_\_. Jeremiah announces the duration of the Babylonian captivity as being \_\_\_\_\_ years (a striking contrast to the false prophets of the day who forecasted nothing significant was to happen).

All-in-all, there were three stages to Jeremiah's ministry: (1) Prophesying while Judah was being threatened by both Assyria and Egypt (627-605 B.C.); (2) He proclaimed God's judgment - while Judah was being threatened and besieged by Babylon (605-586 B.C.); - and then - (3) Jeremiah continued his ministry in both Jerusalem and Egypt - after Judah's downfall (586-580 B.C.). The Book's divisions could also be described as - (1) - the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jeremiah (Chapter 1); - (2) - the prophecies given to \_\_\_\_\_ (Chapters 2-45); - (3) - the prophecies given to the \_\_\_\_\_ (nine (9) other nations in Chapters 46-51); - and finally - (4) - the fall of \_\_\_\_\_ (in Chapter 52).

Like most prophets, Jeremiah listed the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ causes of the nation's \_\_\_\_\_ (and yet at the very same time) he proclaimed God's promise of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. In short, God's chosen people would not be obliterated; a remnant would remain and God would establish with them, a new covenant.

**THE PURPOSE OF JEREMIAH IN THE BIBLE**

Jeremiah's harsh and persistent message of impending doom showed that God meant what He said. Stay \_\_\_\_\_ with Him and God would \_\_\_\_\_. Living however with \_\_\_\_\_ ears and \_\_\_\_\_ hearts meant that the prolonged immorality and idolatry would not go unpunished. In the face of such darkness, Jeremiah looked beyond the horizon and pointed to the One who would come and establish a new covenant with His people

**THE COMMON THREAD OF JESUS**

The \_\_\_\_\_ is clearly seen in Jeremiah; particularly in Chapter 23:5-6 –

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,  
when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch,  
a King who will reign wisely  
and do what is just and right in the land.  
In his days Judah will be saved  
and Israel will live in safety.  
This is the name by which he will be called:  
The LORD Our Righteousness”

Jeremiah 31:31-34 goes on to state that He (in reference to Jesus) will bring in the new covenant, thereby fulfilling the promises made with \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-8), \_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 28-30), and \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Samuel 7:1-17).

### **THE PROMISE OF JEREMIAH**

Some have suggested that the Book of Jeremiah is a \_\_\_\_\_ work to the Book of Isaiah. Where Isaiah promised the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, Jeremiah promised the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Such is a reality extending right to today; that God will be absent from our lives under \_\_\_\_\_.

As a “\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_” prophet, Jeremiah not only predicted the impending judgment on Judah but he also personally bore witness to the takeover and destruction of Jerusalem by the \_\_\_\_\_. Interestingly enough, Jeremiah (like Isaiah) also predicted the Fall of Babylon some years later by the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **LESSONS FROM JEREMIAH TO APPLY IN LIFE TODAY**

#### **LIFE LESSON 1**

The \_\_\_\_\_ of God will never lead you,  
where the \_\_\_\_\_ of God cannot keep you  
(Jeremiah 1:7-8)

#### **LIFE LESSON 2**

\_\_\_\_\_ has serious \_\_\_\_\_  
(Jeremiah 2:19)

#### **LIFE LESSON 3**

\_\_\_\_\_ where you are \_\_\_\_\_  
(Jeremiah 29:4-7)

#### **LIFE LESSON 4**

If you want God to reveal His \_\_\_\_\_ for your \_\_\_\_\_,  
you must \_\_\_\_\_ Him out with \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_  
(Jeremiah 29:11-13)