

Jeremiah 1

Lesson 49

Jeremiah: (The Book Of Jeremiah)

INTRO:

- A. The book of Jeremiah is more historical in nature than any other of the books written by the prophets.
 - 1. It is filled with historical facts and the Lord's message is completely mixed with the history of the nation.
 - 2. Jeremiah's period of prophesying covers the remaining kings of Judah beginning with Josiah, the same time period of other prophets, and the nation of Judah being taken into Babylonian captivity.

(NOTE: If you'll recall before we began the study of Isaiah, we said we would have to be careful not to lose our perspective in that study. We have been in the middle of a study of the divided kingdom for some time now. Israel has fallen and now Judah is about to fall. It is very important to understand the prophets who fit into this period of history. One cannot truly understand the history itself without understanding the messages the prophets were bringing from God and one cannot understand the prophets without knowing the conditions of the people around the prophets. But, again as in Isaiah, to interrupt the study here for a detailed study of Jeremiah, would make us lose sight of the primary point of your study! So, in our study of Jeremiah we are going to give the over-all picture of Bible history along with its characters.)

I. The Prophet Jeremiah:

- A. Jeremiah was a priest, the son of Hilkiyah.
 - 1. There was a priest named Hilkiyah who played an important role in the story of Josiah, probably as the High Priest of his day.
 - 2. Therefore, though we cannot know for a fact, it seems fairly certain Jeremiah was his son.
 - 3. His home was Anathoth not far from Jerusalem.
- B. Jeremiah was a righteous man who followed the ways of God and was concerned for the welfare of his people.
- C. It can be rightly said that he was a sensitive and very meek man but he was also a man of great courage.
- D. Jeremiah was given what had to be one of the most difficult things anyone ever had to do.
 - 1. When his nation was being beaten down under foot of Babylon, his responsibility was to basically tell the people: "Do not resist the Chaldeans; you cannot win. The Lord says for you to give up and submit to the king of Babylon."
 - 2. He had to preach a message which made him appear to be a traitor to his people.
 - 3. Despite the fact he was telling the truth, that however meant nothing to the wicked nation of Judah and brought very little comfort to Jeremiah.

(NOTE: Let it be understood the names "*Chaldean*" and "*Babylonian*" are interchangeable. Both names refer to the same kingdom, the same people.)

Lessons From Characters In Old Testament

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II. Outline of Jeremiah:

- A. Prophecies regarding Judah and the kingdom of God (chapters 1-45):
 - 1. The prophet's call (chapter 1)
 - 2. Condemnation of Judah and Jerusalem (chapters 2-29)
 - a. Teaching and visions regarding Judah and Jerusalem (chapters 2-20)
 - b. Charges against the rulers (chapters 21-24)
 - c. Sentence described (chapters 25-29)
 - 3. Promise of restoration (chapters 30-33)
 - 4. Judgment inflicted (chapters 34-45)
 - a. Last years of the kingdom (chapters 34-38)
 - b. Destruction of Jerusalem (chapter 39)
 - c. Wretched remnant (chapters 40-45)
- B. Judgment against the nations (chapters 46-51)
 - 1. Egypt (chapter 46)
 - 2. Philistines (chapter 47)
 - 3. Moab (chapter 48)
 - 4. Ammon (49:1-6)
 - 5. Edom (49:7-22)
 - 6. Damascus (49:23-27)
 - 7. Kedar and Razor (49:28-33)
 - 8. Elam (49:34-39)
 - 9. Babylon (chapters 50-51)
- C. Captivity of Judah (chapter 52)

III. Summary of Jeremiah 1-20:

- A. The Prophet's Call (**Chapter 1**):
 - 1. Jeremiah is called to preach in the 13th year of Josiah.
 - 2. Before Jeremiah was born, God said: (**v. 5**)
 - a. Jeremiah said, "*Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.*" (**v. 6**)
 - b. The Lord replied, (**vs. 7-8**)
 - c. The Lord put forth His hand and touched Jeremiah's mouth, and said, (**Vs. 9-10**)
 - 3. The Lord asked Jeremiah: "*What do you see?*" and Jeremiah answered, "*I see a branch of an almond tree.*" (**v. 11**)
 - a. Then the Lord said, "*You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.*" (**v. 12**)
 - 4. A second time the Lord said, "*What do you see?*" and Jeremiah said, "*I see a boiling pot, and it is facing away from the north.*" (**v.13**)
 - a. **Jer. 1:14**
 - 5. Also God told Jeremiah, (**vs. 17-19**)
- B. Israel Forsook God, As A Bride Her Husband (**Chapter 2**):

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1. Although kind and loving when Israel first entered the promised land, she has forsaken the Lord and gone after other gods.
 2. Its own “*backslidings*” will be her downfall.
 - a. From “*a seed of highest quality*”, Israel has become “*the degenerate plant of an alien vine*”.
 - b. She says a tree, “*You are my father*”, and to a stone, “*You gave me birth*”.
 - c. Yet, in all of this Israel sinfully presumes “*I am innocent*” and “*I have not sinned*”.
- C. Israel Is Compared To An Adulterous Wife. (**Chapter 3**).
1. In the days of Josiah, the Lord complains about the high places in Judah, and reminded them about how Israel was punished because of her having “*committed adultery with stones and trees*”. (**v. 9**)
 2. Judah, who would not learn her lesson from Israel in regards to idolatry in all its forms, played the harlot also and turned to the Lord only in hypocrisy.
 3. And now the charge is leveled: (**v. 11**)
 4. Jeremiah appeals for them to acknowledge their transgressions and be restored.
 5. The Lord calls upon Judah to return.
 - a. He would give them shepherds who would lead them right.
 - b. Jerusalem would be called the throne of Jehovah.
 - c. Judah would walk with Israel from the north, and return to the land God gave their fathers for an inheritance.
 6. Judah had dealt treacherously with Him.
 - a. Jeremiah voices his confession for the people but, unfortunately, it was the voice of just one man!
- D. Threat of Overwhelming Punishment If Judah Does Not Repent (**Chapter 4**):
1. The Lord appeals to the men of Judah and Jerusalem to circumcise their hearts.
 2. Mourn and repent – an evil is coming from the north.
 - a. (**v. 7**)
 3. The Lord created the universe and is still the One in control!
- E. (**Chapter 5:1**)
1. Jeremiah found no one who obeyed God.
- (NOTE: Do you remember only ten righteous souls could have saved Sodom and Gomorrah from destruction (**Gen. 18:16-32**)? But the ten could not be found. Now, God is asking for only one - and Jeremiah cannot find that one - whether among the common people or among the great.)
2. Judah’s iniquities are recounted. It will be destroyed by a strange nation whose tongue is unknown. The Lord will not protect it.
 3. (**v. 31**)
- F. The Siege of Jerusalem Is Predicted. (**Chapter 6**)
1. The enemy will “*thoroughly glean*” Judah.
 2. (**v. 15**)

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3. (v. 16)
4. Jerusalem will be made desolate and punished for its transgressions by a nation from the north.
 - a. This nation is cruel and will have no mercy!
 - b. Repent!
- G. Jeremiah Commanded To Speak To The Worshipers At The Temple (7:1-10:25):
 1. Jeremiah told to stand at the temple gates and order those entering to repent.
 2. The Lord states the temple has become “*a den of thieves*” and He will do to the temple what He did to Shiloh.
 - a. The scriptures nor history tell of Shiloh's destruction, but it is obvious from this passage that it met its end by the plan of God.
 - b. If they thought that simply having the temple among them would save them, they needed to take a look at Shiloh where the tabernacle was first located in the land.
 - c. Shiloh was the place where the tabernacle was set up when the Israelites conquered the land under Joshua (Josh. 18:1).
 - d. It remained the center of worship until the days of Eli (1 Sam. 1:3).
 - e. This is when the people of Eli's day were wicked and God allowed the Philistines to defeat the Israelites and capture the ark of the covenant (1 Sam. 4:1-11).
 - f. Though Shiloh was not destroyed at that time (1 Sam. 14:3), it was never again use for the gathering place of the people.
 3. The people perform offerings to “*the queen of heaven*”.
 4. (7:25-26)
 5. The bones of the kings, princes, and priests of Judah shall be brought out of their graves and left like refuse upon the face of the earth.
 6. (8:7)
 7. The land will become barren. Serpents and vipers shall bite.
 8. (8:20-22)
 9. (9:1)
 - a. The people will be scattered among the heathen and given wormwood and gall for their food.
 10. Let not the wise man, the mighty mighty man, nor the rich man glory in what they have.
 - a. Let he who glories glory in the Lord.
 - b. The circumcised will be punished alongside the uncircumcised – Israel is uncircumcised in its heart.
 11. The house of Israel was consulting the heavens, worshipping trees, making graven images.
 - a. False gods did not made the heavens and the earth. The Lord both suffers (“*Woe is me for my hurt!*” - 10:19).
 - b. (10:23)

(TO BE CONTINUED)