



Jeremiah 1

Study written by Holli Worthington

Day 1-

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and help you understand God's word (Ps. 25:5). Ask him to open your eyes to see God as he has revealed himself in his word (Ps. 119:18) and to soften your heart so that you will be satisfied by his love (Ps. 90:14) and treasure him above all else.

Read: Jeremiah 1

Day 2- Jeremiah 1:1-9

1. Where was Jeremiah from and who was his father according to verse 1?
2. How do verses 2,4,7, and 9 help explain what a prophet is?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse:

2 Peter 1:21 "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

-What else do we learn about prophets from this verse?

Scholar's Note: "Prophets were the immediate organs of God for the communication of his mind and will to men (Duet.18:18,19). The foretelling of future events was not a necessary but only an incidental part of the prophetic office. The great task assigned to the prophets whom God raised up among the people was "to correct moral and religious abuses, to proclaim the great moral and religious truths which are connected with the character of God, and which lie at the foundation of his government."¹

3. Who were the main kings named in verses 2-3 that Jeremiah served under?



Jeremiah was born during the reign of Manasseh, one of the most evil and despicable kings that ever reigned in Judah. By the time Jeremiah received God's calling Josiah was reigning as king. Josiah was a king who sought the LORD and after rediscovering the Book of the Law (the Scriptures) that had been long forgotten, Josiah began to purge the country of idolatry. "As reforming king and outspoken prophet, [Josiah and Jeremiah] were to give their country its finest opportunity of renewal and its last hope of surviving as the kingdom of David."² Tragically, the reforms initiated by Josiah did not take root in the hearts of the people and the kings that came after Josiah died did not follow God. "From that point on Judah was committed to self-destruction."³ To understand better the time and context of Jeremiah's forty plus years of ministry read 2 Kings 21-25.

Day 3- Jeremiah 1:4-8

4. God confirmed Jeremiah's calling by telling him of four things that were true before he was even born. What are the four things in verse 5?

Scholar's Note: Consecrate is to set apart, dedicate, or devote to the service and worship of God.⁴



Isn't it incredible that God *knew* you before you were even conceived? And that he *formed* you. He purposefully and precisely shaped and designed you. God is so very personal and intentional. As believers this is what orients us in life, this is our touchstone, our foundation. We are known and chosen and loved through Jesus our Savior.

And not only that, but God sets us apart for a special purpose. Our bodies, personalities, upbringing, and every other circumstance was ordained by God and woven somehow into his appointed purpose for us.

- ❖ How does it impact your heart that the King and Creator is so personal?

- ❖ Ephesians 1:4 echoes this truth in Jeremiah, saying that believers were “*chosen before the foundation of the world*”. How does it reorient your thinking and priorities to understand that you were chosen by God even before you were born and before you knew who God was?

- ❖ *Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us]AMP. God might not have called you to be a prophet, but he does have a calling for you. What good works are there to be done right in the path where God has set you?*

5. Why was Jeremiah’s youth and inexperience at speaking irrelevant according to God in verses 7-8?

6. What does verse 8 imply and promise?



God called Jeremiah to be his spokesman but Jeremiah responded by saying he didn’t know how to speak, and not only that but he was too young! When God called Moses he had a similar excuse. Did they think God was missing some information when he called them? Or maybe God mistakenly asked the wrong person? We too

often focus on ourselves when God calls us to do something instead of focusing on our Great God and remembering that in our weakness he is strong!

- ❖ Is there a way you are using your weaknesses as an excuse not to answer God's call to serve him in a particular way?

- ❖ How do these verses in Jeremiah show you what your main concern should be instead of your weaknesses?

- ❖ *"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8.*
How can you apply this promise of God to your life this week?

Day 4- Jeremiah 1:9-19

7. How did God personally equip and commission Jeremiah in verse 9?

8. What is Jeremiah's job description in verse 10?
4 Negative: 2 Positive:

Scholar's Note: In verse 11—*Almond* in Hebrew(saqed) comes from the same root as the word *watching*.⁵

9. God gave Jeremiah two visions to authenticate his calling. The last sentence in verse 12 explains the meaning of the first vision. Put verse 12 in your own words, clarifying what the first vision of the almond branch means.

10. How does the vision of the boiling pot demonstrate what words of God would be fulfilled?

11. What was the reason given in verse 16 for God's judgment on Judah?



The kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms after the reign of Solomon. The Northern kingdom was known as Israel, and the Southern kingdom was known as Judah. God brought judgment on the Northern kingdom Israel for their exceeding wickedness approximately 100 years before Jeremiah's call. Judgment on the Southern kingdom of Judah had been staved off because of the faithfulness of a few of Judah's kings, but ultimately the evil and wickedness of the other Judean kings, the priests and the people had reached its zenith and their judgment was drawing near. (Sometimes the remaining kingdom of Judah is referred to as Israel because the northern kingdom of Israel no longer existed as a kingdom. However, there was a remnant in the Northern kingdom, who had mingled with the conquering Assyrians known as the Samaritans who Jeremiah also addresses.)

12. What promises does God make to Jeremiah in verses 18-19?

-What do the word pictures God gave Jeremiah in verse 18, invoke in your mind?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

2 Corinthians 1:20a "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him [Jesus]."

Galatians 3:16a, 29 "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring..." And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."

-How do we know from the verses above that Old Testament promises belong to us?

Picture and Ponder: “As we read the Old Testament, we come across lots of promises God made to Israel. The promises to Israel were made to Abraham’s offspring. Paul ultimately identifies Jesus as that offspring. And through our faith, we are united to him, and therefore, all the promises are ours in him... The coming of Jesus, the Messiah, into the world and his atoning work on the cross and his resurrection and his reign in heaven and his authoritative teaching— all of that together alter the way some of the promises and the teachings of the Old Testament are to be inherited and applied.”⁶- John Piper

13. How do these promises in v. 18 go with the warning God gave Jeremiah in verse 17?

Picture and Ponder: “For Jeremiah or for us, [God’s] way in general is not to stop the fight, but stand by the fighter.”- Derek Kidner⁷

Day 5- Reflect

In this first chapter the themes in Jeremiah are revealed—sin, judgment and hope (vs. 9-16). In each of these areas we can know that what God says about them is good, just and true. Reflect on these themes and the following verse and then answer the questions.



“...I am watching over my word to perform it.” Jeremiah 1:12

- How does this reveal who God is, what his character is like?

- In what ways does this truth have meaning and relevance for your life?

- Spend time responding to God in prayer with praise, confession and requests concerning the truths revealed in Jeremiah this week.

¹ Bible Dictionary App. Easton's Bible Dictionary

² Kidner, Derek. Kidner Classic Commentaries- Jeremiah. Intersity Press USA, 1987, p.13

³ Ibid.

⁴ Bible Dictionary App. Easton's Bible Dictionary

⁵ Kidner, Derek. Kidner Classic Commentaries- Jeremiah. Intersity Press USA, 1987, p. 27

⁶ Piper, John. Look at the Book, Are the Old Testament Promises Made to Us? July 12, 2016, Ask Pastor John, Which Old Testament Promises Belong to Me. Episode 970, November 30,2016

⁷ Kidner, Derek. Kidner Classic Commentaries- Jeremiah. Intersity Press USA, 1987, p.28

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