Jeremiah*

Jeremiah 1:1-3 (1) The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin:
(2) To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.
(3) It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.
Jeremiah must have been somewhat surprised to hear the things God was telling him. God began by telling Jeremiah how long He had been watching him. Prepare to be astonished;
Jeremiah 1:4-9 (4) Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
(5) Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.
(6) Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.
(7) But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.
(8) Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.
(9) Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.
Jeremiah witnessed the moral decay and ultimately, the death of the nation, under the boot of the conquering army of King Nebuchadnezzar. All he could do was stand up and announce the coming judgment and then go home and mourn for his countrymen. Standing alone for what is right is not an easy task. All to often "politically correct" replaces what is

morally right. However, God stands with us when we defend the truth. Jeremiah's ministry was so distressing that he wished for a place out in the wilderness, a lodge where no one could find him, listen; Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men (Jer 9:2). *Another time Jeremiah decided he would not speak anymore. But when Jeremiah kept his mouth shut something happened that caused him to change his mind.* Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay; (Jer 20:9). *Our time-line is so relevant to Jeremiah's, we need to pay close attention. The destruction of Judah by the armies of Babylon came because of a spiritual decline. There were no lack of priests in Jeremiah's time, but when it came to speaking God's truth, he often stood alone. Let us also be cautious as good students, but never willing to compromise inspired writing. Jeremiah, the last of the pre-exilic writing prophets, is often called "the weeping prophet," because of his impassioned pleas to his people and their leaders to repent, repeatedly warning them of severe judgment and exile if they did not. His book is longer than any other of the prophetic books, although Isaiah has more chapters. The ministry of Jeremiah extended about forty or more years, under the reigns of Judah's last five kings—Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah. Josiah was a godly king who had led his people in a great revival, though, as it turned out, was somewhat superficial and short-lived. The reforms of Josiah were forgotten soon after his death, with both kings and the people quickly returning to the pagan ways of the fifty-five year reign of wicked king Manasseh, grandfather of Josiah. Most of Jeremiah's warnings were a consequence of the evil ways of these last four kings, including his great prophecy of the impending seventy year*

captivity in Babylon, let's turn to;
Jeremiah 25:9-13 (9) Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.
(10) Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.
(11) And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.
(12) And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.
(13) And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations.
Ultimately the long-suffering of God came to an end. Finally, when all the warnings had failed, God gave them over to that which they had chosen. Turn with me to;
2*Chronicles* 36:11-16 (11) Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.
(12) And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD.
(13) And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.
(14) Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people,

transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.
(15) And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:
(16) But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.
How long until there is no remedy for our nation? Jeremiah was called to his prophetic ministry in the thirteenth year of Josiah's reign. Josiah was king for eighteen more years for a total of 31 years. Whereas the last four kings only ruled a total of twenty-two or twenty-three years. Actually Jeremiah continued his ministry for an uncertain additional period in Egypt, among the people that fled there, even as most of the Jews were being carried away to Babylon, turn with me to;
Jeremiah 44:1-6 (1) The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt, which dwell at Migdol, and at Tahpanhes, and at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying,
(2) Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they are a desolation, and no man dwelleth therein,
(3) Because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke me to anger, in that they went to burn incense, and to serve other gods, whom they knew not, neither they, ye, nor your fathers.
(4) Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate.
(5) But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense unto other gods.
(6) Wherefore my fury and mine anger was poured forth, and

was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted and desolate, as at this day. *The desolation spoken by Jeremiah cannot be confused with the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet. For one thing the people under Cyrus king of Persia, would return to rebuild the temple. However, after the second temple was destroyed in 70 AD, it has never been rebuilt. The Wailing Wall is the only part of the old Temple area that is still standing, and that is only because it is a retaining wall and is not part of the Temple itself. On the site where the temple once stood, there now stands an abominable Muslim relic, the dome of the rock. Tradition has it that the intense flames of the temple fire melted the gold and silver of the temple so that it ran between the cracks of the rocks. Roman soldiers then totally dismantled the temple stone by stone to extract the gold and silver. This left Jerusalem in a state of dislodged and uprooted stones. So complete was the destruction, the description of Josephus in his "Wars of the Jews, book V", agree with the words Jesus had said;* See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down (Mat 24:2). *No one knows for certain when or where Jeremiah died, although tradition has it that he was slain by the Jewish refugees to whom he still tried to preach to in Egypt. The great nations of the time—Egypt, Assyria and Babylon especially—were fighting for supremacy, and Judah often was involved, situated in their midst. Eventually Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar defeated Assyria, and Egypt, so that Babylon became the world's dominant empire for some fifty years. All of these nations were very wicked themselves, so that, even though God used them to punish Israel and Judah, their time was limited. Among the prophecies of Jeremiah were predictions of ultimate judgment on Egypt, Philistia, Tyre, Moab, Ammon, Edom, Syria, Hazor, Elam, and especially Babylon. Needless to say, Jeremiah was not chosen*

"man of the year" by his contemporaries. Neither are God's people in these latter days held in high regard. The Church of Christ is called a "cult" or worse. Christian's have been held in contempt almost from the beginning of the Christian era. Christian's are despised, dishonored and disgraced at every opportunity as was Jeremiah. But he also prophesied of a new beginning to be ushered in by God's own Son of which all can become a part, if they will put Him on. There are many wonderful Messianic prophecies in Jeremiah, promising ultimate deliverance and restoration of Israel in the future Messianic kingdom. In Jeremiah is the first revelation of the coming "new covenant" which God would make with Israel and Judah which would eventually include all people, nations, tribes and tongues. Please turn with me to;

Jeremiah 31:31-37 (31) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
(32) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:
(33) But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.
(34) And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.
(35) Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:
(36) If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the

LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.
(37) Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.
Now to better appreciate the impact of this prophecy given by Jeremiah, turn with me to;
Acts 2:1-5 (1) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
(2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
(3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
(4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
(5) And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.
The prophecy to make a new covenant with the house of Israel and Judah was fulfilled on this Pentecost and extended to the gentiles, Cornelius being the first gentile in scripture to accept the grace of God by faith in Christ (Acts 10). The epistle to the Hebrews is surely a key book of the New Testament. It is rich in spiritual instruction and insight concerning the prophecies of the old testament. Perhaps no other new testament book can explain the prophecies of Jeremiah as well as the epistle to the Hebrews, turn to;
Hebrews chapter 8 (1) Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;
(2) A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.
(3) For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have

somewhat also to offer.
(4) For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:
(5) Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.
(6) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.
(7) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.
(8) For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:
(9) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.
(10) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:
(11) And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.
(12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.
(13) In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.
Jeremiah wrote his "Lamentations" after he witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian armies. Though he had predicted it, it was a great sorrow to him to see his prophecies actually come to

pass. Even though Lamentations itself makes no mention of the name of its author, there is reason to ascribe it to "the weeping prophet." The short book of Lamentations is included among what many call the Major Prophets because it is actually sort of an appendix to the book of Jeremiah. For this reason I will include Lamentations in the closing portion of this lesson. Three of its five chapters begin with "How?" In context, the essential question is "why?" In chapter one of Lamentations, Jerusalem seems to lament over her terror, loneliness and tears. Turn to;

Lamentations 1:1-2 (1) How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary!

(2) She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.

In Lamentations chapter two, the Lord is the focus.

Lamentations 2:1-2 (1) How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!

(2) The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought them down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.

Jeremiah is the voice of chapter three. He spoke of God's judgment from a very personal perspective.

Lamentations 3:24-26 (24) The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

(25) The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

(26) It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for

the salvation of the LORD.
In Lamentations chapter four, what was once a source of pride now lies desolate. Turn to;
Lamenatations 4:11-12 (11) The LORD hath accomplished his fury; he hath poured out his fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations thereof. (12) The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.
The fifth chapter of Lamentations echoes the cries of the people, but it was now too late. Turn to;
Lamentations 5:22 But thou hast utterly rejected us; thou art very wroth against us.
Something to think about. Heavens borders are walled about and lawful entry is required. Just as God through Jeremiah had repeatedly warned Judah, He now warns all people through His Son Jesus Christ. He personally established the ordinance of baptism for the forgiveness of sin through faith. But what faith? Faith in Christ that is the effect of belief in His word coupled with obedience to the ordinance of Baptism established by Him thru which exoneration occurs. Only those who first believe the testimony of God, by faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and are baptized into Him can lawfully pass thru heavens gates to enter into that great city. Please consider His salvation invitation because hells borders are only secure against those wanting to get out. Prayer is also extended for other reasons , come, in either case, while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ
'Jeremiah' Revised; 01142020
This message presented to; BaronOk-March2013/

WestvilleOk-Oct2018/PineMtAr.-Oct2018/