

Through the Bible Course

April 13, 1947

Jeremiah

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Key Word: Judgment

Key Verse: 20:9

Jeremiah is the longest book in the Bible, i.e. takes more pages to print it. Jeremiah prophesied about 40 years – 626 BC to 586 BC. This was just preceding the Babylonian captivity and a brief period afterward.

Historical Sketch of Jeremiah's Times

1. 627 BC – Josiah begins reforms
 - a. Book of Law found (2 Kings 22:8ff) which began reformations.
2. 608 BC – Josiah killed in battle with Egyptians (Pharaoh Nechoh) at Charchemish. (2 Kings 23:28-30; 2 Chronicles 35:20-27) Judah then declines very rapidly.
3. 606 BC – Judah subdued by Babylon – first captivity. Jehoiakim, his family, the strongest of nation, carried captive.
4. 605 BC – Babylon crushes Egypt at Battle of Charchemish.
5. 597-586 BC – Zedekiah made king by Nebuchadnezzar, but he rebelled against Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar came and destroyed both the temple and city of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25)\
6. Afterward some of those left in Palestine fled to Egypt and took Jeremiah with them. It is important to note Jeremiah's call – 1:1-19
 - a. Especially will put words in thy mouth – vs. 7-9
 - b. He was to be prophet of destruction – vs. 10
 - c. He could not refrain from speaking what God commanded – chapter 20, verse 9

Summary of Book

The people were sinful, i.e., unjust, immoral, hard-hearted, steeped in idolatry, unrepentant. They were divided as to attitude toward Egypt and Babylon. Jeremiah warned them to turn from their sins. He advised yielding to Babylon because God had given all lands into hands of Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 27:6). His messages were unpopular and he was hated by most, but feared by all.

- I. The Prophet's Call and Assurance – chapter 1
- II. Judah Called to Repentance – chapters 2 through 22
 1. Two messages – chapters 2 through 6
 2. Message at temple gage – chapters 7 through 10
 3. Message of the broken covenant – chapters 11 and 12
 4. Symbolic message of linen girdle – chapter 13
 5. Message of the drought – chapters 14 and 15
 6. The sign of the unmarried prophet – chapters 16 and 17

7. The sign of the potter's house – chapters 18 and 19
 8. An account of Jeremiah's persecutions and message to Zedekiah foretelling Babylonian captivity – chapters 20 through 22
- III. The Message of Consolation – chapters 23 through 33
1. The restoration of the remnant – chapters 23 through 29
 - a. Warning against false prophets – chapter 23
 - b. The sign of the figs – chapter 24
 - c. Specific predictions concerning 70 years captivity – chapter 25
 - d. Message in the temple court – chapter 26
 - e. The sign of the yokes – chapters 27 and 28
 - f. Message sent to captives in Babylon – chapter 29
 2. Complete restoration – chapters 30 through 33
 - a. Here emphasis is upon truth Israel shall not be fully destroyed (30:11; 31:3, 8, 35-40; 32:37-44; 33:14-22)
- IV. The Doom of Jerusalem Due to People's Wickedness – chapters 34 through 36
1. Another message to Zedekiah concerning the coming captivity – chapter 34
 2. The obedience of Rechabites an example to Judah – chapter 25
 3. Baruch copies Jeremiah's message and Jehoiakim cuts it up and burns it – chapter 36
- V. The History of Jeremiah and His Times – chapters 37 through 45
1. During times of Zedekiah – chapters 37 through 39
 2. His messages to the remnant left in Palestine – chapters 40 through 42
 3. Message to Jews in Egypt – chapters 43 and 44
 - a. Jeremiah was carried there
 - b. Foretells overthrow of Egypt by Babylon
- VI. Prophecies Against Gentile Nations
1. Against Egypt – chapter 46
 2. Against Philistia – chapter 47
 3. Against Moab – chapter 48
 4. Against Ammon, Edom, Damascus and Elam – chapter 49
 5. Against Babylon – chapters 50 and 51
- VII. A Historical Appendix Showing Overthrow and Captivity of Judah – chapter 52