

Jeremiah 1

Jeremiah 1.1-3

V1– The name Jeremiah means "The Lord shoots (or hurls)"

- Some have thought this name was given to him by the Lord to give Jeremiah the power to hurl the Word of God at the people
- Who was the father of Jeremiah?** Hilkiyah (from the tribe of Levi)
- What was the name of the village where Jeremiah was born?** Anathoth
- What area was Anathoth in?** The tribe of Benjamin
- How could someone from the tribe of Levi be born in the tribe of Benjamin?** The Levites were scattered throughout the twelve tribes of Israel (actually 13 tribes, with the half-tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh)

V2– **When did Jeremiah begin to serve as a priest and prophet?** During the 13th year of the reign of Josiah

- The opening words of verse two are powerful: *...to whom the word of the Lord came...*

V3– **When else did the Word of God come to Jeremiah?** From the reign of Jehoiakim until five months after the fall of Jerusalem

- So Jeremiah preached from the reign of Josiah all the way through until after the fall of Jerusalem (as we see at the end of this book)
- He was certainly a major prophet of the Old Testament

Jeremiah 1.4-10 – the “calling of Jeremiah”

V4– **Does God call preachers of gospel today?** Not in a miraculous way, but through his providence

- All good preachers know that this is what they are to be doing
- There is still a fire in the bones today, just as there was in the days of Jeremiah

V5– **When did God set Jeremiah aside as a prophet?** When he was still in his mother’s womb

- Can you think of others in the Bible who were chosen while still in the womb?** Job (*Luke 1.41*), John the Baptist (*Luke 1.41*)
- What does this tell us about the value of life in the womb?** God loves it and considers it human-Notice that Jeremiah was going to be a prophet to the nations
- Later in the book he has messages to many surrounding countries, so he did not just spend all of his time with the Southern Kingdom of Israel
- Why was God interested in all the other nations, in addition to the Southern Kingdom of Israel?** They were his people also (under Patriarchal Dispensation)
- When were all the other nations of the world brought together with the nation of Israel into one family of God?** Day of Pentecost (*Acts 2*)

V6– **What was Jeremiah’s reaction at being called as a prophet of God?** He felt unqualified

- Why did he feel unqualified?** He thought he was a poor speaker
- Why didn’t he know how to speak?** He was still so young

-Can you think of another person in the Bible who was young and felt inferior? Timothy – Read 1 Timothy 4.12

V 7 – What was God’s answer to Jeremiah's excuse? Don’t feel inferior just because you are young
– I am sending you out

V 8 – What promise did God make to Jeremiah? That God would watch over him and deliver him
-How did God fulfill that promise? Jeremiah survived the assassination attempt, being put in the cistern, and the attack on Jerusalem

V 9 – What did God do here? He officially made Jeremiah a prophet – Jeremiah would speak by inspiration of the Holy Spirit

V 10 – God would speak through Jeremiah to the nations

-What t things would the words of Jeremiah do? Tear down some nations and build up others

Jeremiah 1.11-12

V 11 – Here we have a play on words (a “pun”)

-The Hebrew words for almond tree and wake up (or watch) are almost identical (only one vowel point difference)

-According to *Beacon Bible Commentary*, IV, 233, the almond tree was one of the first trees in the spring to come to life

-Message from God: I am awake, I know what is going on in the world, nothing escapes my notice – “I’ve got the whole world in my hands”

Jeremiah 1.13-19

V 13 – What did Jeremiah see next? A boiling pot from the north

V 14 – Where would the enemies of Jerusalem come from? From the north

-The Assyrians and the Babylonians came from the north

V 15 – What would be the nature of the army from the north? It would be made up of many nations

-The Babylonian army was in fact made up of mercenaries from many nations

-What was going to happen to the Southern Kingdom of Israel? It would be surrounded by this multi-national army (like NATO today)

V 16 – What would God then do? Pronounce his judgment on the Southern Kingdom of Israel

-Because of what? Their idolatry

V 17 – Based on what was coming, what was Jeremiah to do about it? Speak to the people

-If it was going to come to pass anyway, why did God still want Jeremiah to speak to the people and warn them? Because some would respond to the preaching (Ebed-melech)

-Besides, the mind of God could be changed by repentance

-**Any examples of God changing his mind about destruction?** Death of Hezekiah, Abraham begging God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah

V18 – **What was God going to do for Jeremiah?** Strengthen him for the task

V19 – **What would be the outcome for Jeremiah?** He would survive

-What a commission

-We see why Jeremiah wept so much – he knew that the destruction of his country was at hand

-It was coming in just a few years

-Imagine if we could see the fall of America and the death of almost all of the people here – we would weep over what was coming.

-This paragraph is very powerful and moving – it must have been a great burden for Jeremiah to carry as a young person

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