

September 5th 2005: OT Review: Jeremiah

This book of Jeremiah.....is the longest
It covers over 40 years.....dramatic changes in the history of great Nations....
emphasizing how such changes...were used by Almighty God...to discipline & fashion

As a book Jeremiah is full of interesting stuff.....stressing one major message
That God has had enough.....and that He will bring the nation...to destroy them
then.....after 70 years of exile.....He will restore them.....In prep for the coming..

So its an interesting book to read....but not particularly easy....
unless you have a reasonable idea...of the history of the Nation of Judah....at this time

So that's where we will begin this morning.....With a history lesson (notes)

DATE	KING	COMMENTS
930 BC	Rehoboam (Judah) Jeroboam (Israel)	Beginning of the two Kingdoms
722	Ahaz (Judah) Hoshea (Israel)	Became vassal state of Assyria Destroyed by Assyria
715-686	Hezekiah	Independence from Assyria
687-642	Manasseh	Very wicked king Followed Assyrian line Judah a vassal state.
645	During Manasseh's reign	Jeremiah born During this period Assyria's power is on the wane.
642-640	Amon	Assasinated
640-609	Josiah	Crowned when he was 8 A godly king who began his major reforms in 628 627 Jeremiah began to prophesy(18 years old) In 622 Book of the Law was found 609 Josiah went into battle against Egypt and died
609	Jehoahaz (3 months)	Egyptians deport him to Egypt and appoint Jehoiakim as king
609-598	Jehoiakim	Vassal to Egypt
605		Babylonian Empire strikes back and Nebuchadnezzar defeats Egyptian forces at Carchemish
601		Jehoiakim, taking advantage of Egypt's defeat, rebels
598		Babylon moves against Judah and replaces Jehoiakim with Jehoiachim
598-597	Jehoiachim (3 months)	Rebellion followed by surrender of Jerusalem
597-586	Zedekiah	Placed on throne by Nebuchadnezzar. Judah a vassal state.
588		Zedekiah rebels. Nebuchadnezzar returns and completely destroys Jerusalem and takes many into exile.
586	Gedaliah appointed as governor of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar	Gedaliah assasinated and people flee to Egypt taking Jeremiah with them. Legend has it that Jeremiah is stoned to death in Egypt.

SO

You can see.....the book of Jeremiah covers the period from 627.....when Josiah
To 586.....Jerusalem burn't to the ground

Majority in exile
And a group of rebels hiding out in Egypt...

Unlike Isaiah....Jeremiah does not follow a neat time frame...jumps from one period
 Because the book of Jeremiah is not written as a chronological record it is often hard to know
 what time period you are in. The following shows how Jeremiah jumps from one time period to
 another. The reason for this is that often he groups his material under different subjects.

<u>CHAPTERS</u>	<u>KING ON THRONE</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1-6	Josiah	627-609 BC
7-20	Jehoiakim	609-598 BC
21	Zedekiah	597-586
22-23 (22:10-12)	Jehoiachin (Jehoahaz)	598-597 (3 months) 609 (3 months)
24	Zedekiah	
25-26	Jehoiakim	
27-34	Zedekiah	
35-36	Jehoiakim	
37-39	Zedekiah	
40-44	Gedaliah	586
45-49	Jehoiakim	
50-51	Jeremiah's prophecy about Babylon's future destruction	
52	A final chapter, not written by Jeremiah, that tells of the fall of Jerusalem	

The other thing you will find when you read through Jeremiah
Concerns the person Jeremiah was

Quite often through history.....God raises up special people.....Unique
 Apostle Paul was one
 Isaiah was one.....Moses.....**And so was Jeremiah**

He was a priest from a family of.....and then in chap 1.....read of his call
 At the age of 18 God set him apart.....And at first Jeremiah's response was to say...

From that point on...the book is a testimony.....to the faithful service
 of a man truly chosen by God.....to be His instrument thro a most difficult period

His whole life becomes a picture from God...to His people

God tells him not to marry.....as a sign that family life will be an extra burden
When destruction comes
He wears an oxens yoke....to convey the threat of captivity

He has to buy a new linen belt.....and then bury it...to show how the land will be spoilt
He goes into the potters shop.....and from what he sees he proclaims a message
When the enemy is about to overrun.....God sends him to buy.....
He spends a lot of time imprisoned.....and fears for his life
He is thrown into an old well and left there to starve

He is shown as an emotional man.....who cries over the fate of his countrymen
He is known as the weeping prophet

He at times gets upset with the Lord.....and curses the day of his birth....because of the
insults and suffering he constantly endures
He is put in the stocks and publicly humiliated.....spat upon and beaten

Yet he also gives the message of hope.....as he prophesys.....
That after 70 years the exile would end.....and so it did. 29:11

That Babylon would be destroyed....and so she was

And in chapter 23 He talks about the day when God would raise up a King
The Messiah Jesus

There is no doubt that Jeremiah fulfilled a special calling from God
And in that regard.....God does not call many people to be Jeremiah type

(When I think of Jeremiah types.....I think of Brother Yun.....Heavenly Man)

I think John Wilmot.....set apart....one of God's Jeremiah's

But one thing that God does do.....is call people like you and me to support....
And it's that support which is so important

In Jeremiah there are several examples.....

But the one that stands out for me.....concerns a man called Ebed-Melech

In Jer 38 we find Jerusalem under siege

Jeremiah under arrest in the courtyard of the guard.....when his enemies go king

Demand that he should die.....Do what you want....I can't stop you

So they put him in an old well

Its now that Ebed-Melech comes out openly on Jeremiah's behalf →38:7-13...

- **He stood up when needed**.....and God noticed → Later on in 39:15-18.....
That is so encouraging.....God may not call u to be
But He is delighted when you make a stand in support..(*bank training*)

- **He did what he could**

He was in charge of the rescue squad.....

It may not have seemed much.....compared to what Jeremiah was doing.....

But it was what Ebed-Melech could do.....and he did it as a ministry unto God

And surely that's what God wants of us.....To do what we can for Him.....willingly

- **The third thing.....He did it well**

He went and got old clothes and rags.....and when he sent down the ropes....rags too

Without the rags.....the emancipated prophet would have suffered immensely

He served the Lord with extra thought....extra skill.....special concern

He did it well

That's surely what the Lord delights in

Not just that we serve Him.....often by supporting others

But that we serve Him well.....

Only our best is good enough for our Lord.