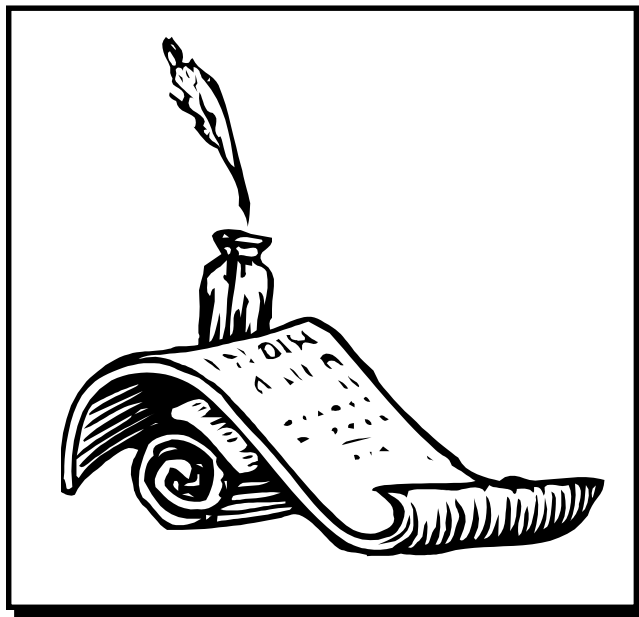


# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah



Prepared By Jeff Smith

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 1 - General Introduction

### Introduction

The Book of Jeremiah is located in the section of your Bible referred to as the “Major Prophets,” known for their larger portions of writings as compared to the “Minor Prophets,” or shorter writings.

Jeremiah lived & prophesied during Judah’s midnight hour. He saw the nation pass from the prosperous conditions during the time of Josiah to a state of utter corruption under the last 4 kings of the Southern Kingdom (Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah). His mission was to testify to a sinful and stubborn people who were both misled and uninterested in returning to the ways of God.

### Historical Background

Isaiah, the prophet who prophesied during the reign of Hezekiah, had helped to erase the outward forms of idolatrous worship a century prior to Jeremiah. However, he was unable to totally reform the hearts of the people (**Isa. 1:10-18; 29:13-14**). After Hezekiah died, his son Manasseh virtually wiped out every trace of good that was accomplished by his father and Isaiah.

God punished Manasseh for his disobedience by giving him into the hands of the Assyrians who exiled him into Babylon. While there, Manasseh repented of his wickedness, and God restored his kingdom to him (**2 Chron. 33:11-13**). Manasseh’s son Amon succeeded his father to the throne, and he returned guilty to Judah because of his ungodliness.

After reigning for two years, Amon’s son Josiah came to rule, and Judah now had a God-fearing monarch. He began to seek God at the age of 16, and removed every shred of idolatry from both Judah and Israel (**2 Chron. 34:1-7**). It was during the 13th year of Josiah’s reign (**Jer. 1:2**) that Jeremiah received his first call from God to prophesy, and he spoke the truths from God all the way through the reign of Zedekiah, Judah’s last king.

### Jeremiah, The Man

Jeremiah, which means “exalted of Jehovah”, was the son of Hilkiyah, a priest of Anathoth, in Benjamin (**Jer. 1:1**). His ministry began in 625 B.C. and lasted almost 60 years, until after the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 586 B.C. He was a contemporary of the prophets Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Nahum in Judah, as well as Ezekiel and Daniel who were in Babylonian exile.

Jeremiah was bold and courageous in his denunciations of the sin he saw so rampant in Judah. Yet, we see a similarity to Moses in that he began to make excuses concerning his speech and age when first called by God to prophesy (**Jer. 1:6-8**). Though timid at the outset, through the power of God and His message, Jeremiah gained the strength to perform his duties.

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 1

### Jeremiah, The Message

The message of this great prophet was never a popular one. The setting for the first 20 years of his preaching was the prosperous times of Josiah's reign, hardly a backdrop conducive to prophesy of coming judgment from God. Like Zephaniah, Jeremiah foretold that God would use Babylon to judge Judah. Very pointedly, Jeremiah stated that Judah was *worse* than her sister Israel, who had been taken captive nearly a century earlier (**Jer. 3:6-11**). Time passed and proved that Judah was not getting better, but only worse. It got to the point that repentance was not even going to save them from the wrath of God. Jeremiah realized this, and counseled that Judah surrender to Babylon to spare some of the violence and cruelty. He was labeled a traitor for this, and therefore suffered persecution and imprisonment.

Succintly put, the message of this book can be stated thus:

◆ **Denunciation**

God had revealed Himself & His will to His people, but they forsook Him and walked in their own ways; Sin must be punished (**6:9-13; 21:7; 25:11**)

◆ **Invitation**

Repentance brings a blessing; the people were called to mend their ways (**7:3; 18:7-10**)

◆ **Consolation**

Glory will follow the doom; Judah will be restored; glimpses of the coming Messiah (**30-33**)

-- Hoyt Houchen  
*What Is In The Book?*  
(Survey on Jeremiah, p. 103)

Jeremiah never saw gratitude for his work he. While all the other prophets were prophesying of peace and prosperity, he spoke of war, captivity, and death (**Jer. 6:13-14**). Yet, he knew that he was doing the Lord's work, and no matter how unpleasant it was, he could not abandon it. There was a "fire in his bones" that he could not keep within (**Jer. 20:7-9**).

Jeremiah was also especially adept at using figures of speech and symbolic behavior to drive home his points. Notice the following:

- ✓ He carried a yoke around his neck to show Judah that they should submit to the inevitable Babylonian rule (**27:1-12**)
- ✓ He observed a potter mar a piece of clay, and then reshape it into a perfect vessel, applying this to Judah to submit herself to God to reshape her (**18:1-11**)
- ✓ He purchased a plot of land in his hometown immediately prior to the siege. Knowing the land to be worthless before it was overrun by Babylon, he used this to show his hope for the future (**32:7-15**)

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 1

### **Outline of the Prophecies Of Jeremiah** **(Chapters in parentheses)**

- A) Jeremiah's call and commission (1)
- B) Jeremiah's prophecies during the reign of Josiah (2 - 20)
  - 1) Case against Israel (2:2 - 3:5)
  - 2) God's rejection of impenitent Israel (3:6 - 6:30)
  - 3) The way of salvation (7:1 - 10:25)
  - 4) Covenant disloyalty & the consequences (11:1 - 13:27)
  - 5) Revelation on the occasion of drought (14:1 - 17:27)
  - 6) Jeremiah's message in symbols (18:1 - 20:18)
- C) Jeremiah's prophecy during the reign of Jehoahaz (22:1-12)
- D) Jeremiah's prophecies during the reign of Jehoiakim (22:13-23; 26, 35, 25, 36, 45)
  - 1) Condemnation of Jehoiakim; address to Jerusalem (22:13-23)
  - 2) Warning to Judah's cities; plot to murder Jeremiah (26:1-34)
  - 3) Faithlessness of Israel condemned by example of Rechabites (35:1-19)
  - 4) Announcement of Babylon's domination (25:1-38)
  - 5) Attitudes toward the word of God during reign of Jehoiakim (36:1-32)
  - 6) A special message for Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe (45:1-5)
- E) Jeremiah's prophecy during the reign of Jehoiachin (22:24-30)
- F) Jeremiah's prophecies during the reign of Zedekiah (23-24, 27-29)
  - 1) Promise of the Messiah (23:1-40)
  - 2) Vision of two baskets of figs (24:1-10)
  - 3) Urges submission to Babylon (27:1-22)
  - 4) Controversy with false prophet Hananiah (28:1-17)
  - 5) Letters to the captives in Babylon (29:1-32)
- G) Jeremiah's prophecies up to the siege of Jerusalem (50-51, 30-31) [*Zedekiah is king*]
  - 1) Prophecies against Babylon (50:1 - 51:64)
  - 2) Deliverance of Israel through judgment on other nations (30:1-24)
  - 3) Deliverance for all Israel (31:1-40)

*continued next page*

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 1

- H) Jeremiah's prophecies during the siege of Jerusalem (**21, 34, 37, 32-33, 38-39, 52:1-30**)  
*[Zedekiah is king]*
- 1) During the siege of Jerusalem (**21:1-14**)
  - 2) Prophecies regarding the siege & destruction of Jerusalem (**34:1-22**)
  - 3) Attitudes toward the word of God during reign of Zedekiah (**37:1-21**)
  - 4) Jeremiah's purchase of Hanamel's field (**32:1-44**)
  - 5) More restoration promises (**33:1-26**)
  - 6) Last days of siege & interview with Zedekiah (**38:1-28**)
  - 7) The capture of Jerusalem & sparing of Jeremiah (**39:1-18**)
  - 8) Historical appendix recounting the fall of Jerusalem (**52:1-30**)
- I) Jeremiah's prophecies during & after the governorship of Gedaliah (**40-44**)
- 1) Governorship & assassination of Gedaliah (**40:1 - 41:18**)
  - 2) The word of God concerning the flight to Egypt (**42:1-22**)
  - 3) Jeremiah's prediction of Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of Egypt (**43:1-13**)
  - 4) Message concerning idolatry in Egypt (**44:1-30**)
- J) Jeremiah's prophecies concerning other nations (**46-49**)
- 1) Two prophecies against Egypt (**46:1-28**)
  - 2) Prophecy against Philistia (**47:1-7**)
  - 3) Prophecy against Moab (**48:1-47**)
  - 4) Prophecies against Ammon, Edom, Syria, Arabia, and Elam (**49:1-39**)
- K) Conclusion (**52:31-34**)

— Outline from L.A. Mott, Jr.'s  
*Notebook on Jeremiah*  
(adapted, JBS)

### NOTE

The book of Jeremiah can be difficult to follow because it is not arranged chronologically. Therefore, simply studying the book "chapter by chapter" would only invite confusion. Arranging the outline to match the flow of events as they occurred will hopefully lessen the confusion and make for a more organized study.

## Jeremiah's Call God's Case Against & Rejection Of Israel (Chapters 1-6)

### Introduction

After the reforms of Josiah, the Hebrew religion was possibly at its finest state since the days of David. However, this was not to last due to the hearts of the people and the spiritual depravity of their leaders. Thus, Jeremiah reminded them that God was not as concerned with burnt offerings as He was with obedience to His voice (cf. **7:21-23**). Judah was guilty of “going through the motions,” a plague still found among God’s people to this day. She would come to the temple and stand before God while at the same time she was guilty of murder, adultery, swearing falsely, and idolatry (**7:9-11**).

Jeremiah received God’s call to preach to a rebellious, uninterested people who were bent on living their lives regardless what anyone else said, God included. God told Jeremiah to “gird up your loins” to speak to Judah. Jeremiah even knew ahead of time that his message would not be received, but God said to preach it anyway. Jeremiah would be famous, but not popular. He would be loved by God, but hated by the people.

### **Jeremiah's Call**

- 1) What is unique about the call of God to Jeremiah? (**1:5**)
- 2) What was Jeremiah’s initial reaction to God’s plans for him? (**1:6**) Who else in the Bible reacted this way? How was Jeremiah competent to do the job God had for him? (**1:7-8**)
- 3) What is a prophet? What verse in **Jer. 1** shows this?
- 4) In what way(s) was Jeremiah over the nations and kingdoms? (**1:10**) What kind of “authority” do you think this is?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 2

- 5) What two visions does God show Jeremiah, and what was their purpose?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) What was the message of the visions? **(1:11-16)**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) What final charge does God give Jeremiah? **(1:17)** Can you find a New Testament passage that speaks the same to us today? What would happen if Jeremiah became dismayed at the people's reaction to his preaching? Any lessons for us today?

### **God's Case Against Israel**

- 8) Jeremiah begins his preaching by reminding Judah of what? **(2:2)** Why did he do this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 9) God uses 7 illustrations to show Judah's unfaithfulness to Him in **2:20-26**. Can you find them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 10) How great was Judah's sin? **(2:22)**

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 2

11) What did Judah expect God to do that was forbidden under the Mosaic Law? **(3:1)**

### **God's Rejection of Israel**

12) Why was faithless Israel more righteous than treacherous Judah? **(3:6-11)**

13) The prophecy of **3:14-18** looks beyond the literal return in 536 B.C. to what? What five things are promised?

14) What does genuine repentance involve? **(4:1-2)**

15) How had God “deceived” the people? **(4:10; cp. 2 Thess. 2:10-12)** The false prophets would be astonished when the destruction came **(4:9)**, but Jeremiah knew it 20 years in advance. How did he react? **(4:19-26)**

16) What hope does God give Judah? **(4:27)**



# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 2

- 17) What was Jeremiah told to do in **5:1**? What did this represent? Does this remind you of anyone else in the Scripture?
  
- 18) What did Jeremiah see? (**5:3**)
  
- 19) Jeremiah thought he could turn to whom a get a response? (**5:4-5**)
  
- 20) What is the terrible thing that happened in the land? (**5:30-31**)
  
- 21) Who did Jeremiah have to preach to? (**6:10**) What was Jeremiah's disposition and God's instructions? (**6:11-12**) What happened every time that Jeremiah disturbed someone with his truthful preaching? (**6:13-14**) The people were so hardened that they were unable to do what? (**6:15**)
  
- 22) What was the only hope for these impenitent people? (**6:16**)
  
- 23) How did God use Jeremiah? (**6:27-30**)

## The Way Of Salvation (Chapters 7-10)

### Introduction

In **Jer. 7**, the prophet takes his bold message to the temple. His preaching is penetrating, and cuts deep and straight to the heart of the problem: the sinful ritualism of Israel in her worship while forgetting and disobeying God. God would not have their “worship” even if the people were pleased with it.

This is a lesson that is needed as much today as it was when it came out of the mouth of God’s ancient messenger. Far too many people think that by coming to church, “punching the clock” so to speak, that they have fulfilled their responsibilities as Christians. However, we stand just as guilty as Judah when Jeremiah proclaimed God’s rebuke to them. God never has desired outward displays of piety *only*. Rather, He longs for a people who are committed to Him, and who give Him all that they possess in lifelong service unto Him (**cp. 1 Sam. 15:22; Psa. 51:16-17**).

- 1) How did the people think of the temple during the reign of Josiah? (**7:1-10**) What do you think is the meaning of **v. 4**?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) *Thought question*: make the application to us today. How do you see this same attitude among Christians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What apparently is the real intention of the people in **7:9-10**?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) In what sense was the temple a “robber’s den”? (**7:11a**) In all their activities, what had Judah forgotten? (**7:11b; cp. Heb. 4:12-13**)





# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 3

- 15) What caused Jeremiah to hurt in **10:19**? Do you think it pleased Jeremiah to preach what he did? What about circumstances today?
- 16) What was the only way Judah was going to learn her lesson? (**10:17-25**) What does Jeremiah know about the way of man? (**10:23**)

## Covenant Disloyalty & The Consequences Revelation On The Occasion Of Drought (Chapters 11-17)

### Introduction

Many biblical scholars place the text in **Jer. 11** during the time when Hilkiah found the book of the law in the temple, and Josiah had it read, thus leading him to announce his reforms. This is recorded in **2 Kings 22-23**. If true, this serves as a good backdrop to remind the people of the covenant God made with their forefathers, and how God expected them to keep their word regarding the promise made to God. However, this was not what happened, and now God, through His messenger Jeremiah, is showing them the consequences of covenant breaking.

Lest we think this is far removed from us in history, this lesson is as applicable to us today. Have we not entered into a covenant with God (**Heb. 8:6, 8-13**)? Can we not be guilty of breaking our covenant with God just like Judah broke hers? Though God will not judge us in the same capacity as He did Judah (and Israel before her), we will have to answer in judgment for any disloyalty we show as His people. This lesson should move us closer to the God of our covenant, and not farther away from Him.

### **Covenant Disloyalty & The Consequences**

- 1) What was both the promise and cursing of this covenant? (**11:4-5; cp. Deut. 26:16-19; 27:1-26; 28:1-37**) How did Judah stand in view of this covenant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What do you think is meant by “conspiracy” in **11:9**? How did it apply to Judah? (**cp. 2 Sam. 15:12; 2 Chron. 23:13**)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What was the consequences as described by the Lord for Judah’s faithlessness? (**11:11-13**) What was God’s instructions to Jeremiah? (**11:14**) Because of her sinfulness, what right has Judah forfeited?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 4

- 4) What is revealed to Jeremiah in **11:18-23**? What does this show on Judah's part? Do we see any evidence of this type of activity today in the church? What would become of the men of Anathoth?
  
- 5) What confused Jeremiah in **12:1**? What does the last part of verse **12:2** mean? How did this pose a problem to Jeremiah, especially in view of **11:18-23**?
  
- 6) What was the Lord's answer to Jeremiah? (**12:5-17**)
  
- 7) What do you think is meant in **12:5-6**? What does this say re: God's judgments? (**2 Pet. 3:9**) To what is Judah compared in **12:9**? What do you think is the reference in **12:14**?
  
- 8) What great message does the Lord say in **12:15-17**, and how does it apply to us today?
  
- 9) What illustration is used in **13:1-7**? What did it symbolize? (**13:8-11**) What was Judah's problem that kept her from God? (**13:9**)
  
- 10) What other symbol did Jeremiah use in **13:12-14**? How would he be received in this message? What was its meaning? (**cp. Rev. 14:10**)

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 4

- 11) What does God ask of Judah in **13:15-17**? What does this demonstrate on the part of God?
- 12) What would Judah ask when in captivity? (**13:22**) What will be the answer? (**13:22b, 26**) Why will this be so? (**13:23**)

### Revelation On The Occasion Of Drought

- 13) How was drought connected to the covenant? (**cp. Deut. 28:23f**) How are the conditions in drought-stricken Judah described? (**14:1-6**)
- 14) What does Jeremiah do before God? (**14:7-9**) How does God answer him? (**14:10-11**) What other command did God give Jeremiah?
- 15) How does Jeremiah further try to reason with God? (**14:13**) Yet, who does God say will be punished? (**14:14-16**) What did Jesus say about this matter? (**Mt. 15:14**)
- 16) What does Jeremiah do a third time? (**14:19-22**) What is God's answer? (**15:1-9**)



# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 4

- 17) How was Jeremiah affected by his preaching? **(15:10, 15-18)** How does God reassure Jeremiah? **(15:11-14, 19-21)**
  
- 18) What three things did God tell Jeremiah not to do? **(16:2, 5, 8)** What was to be the significance of these on his preaching?
  
- 19) What would the nations know when the exile was complete? **(16:19-21)**
  
- 20) What was the reason for such “drastic measures” in punishing Judah? **(17:1)** What does this say about the reforms of Josiah?
  
- 21) Where is the only rightful place to put one’s trust and hope? **(17:12-13)**

## Jeremiah's Message In Symbols (Chapters 18-20)

### Introduction

In the discourses that are found in these three chapters, Judah shows herself to be “ripe for judgment” (*L.A. Mott, Jr.*). Jeremiah uses visual aids to portray how God feels about Judah's disobedience and covenant breaking. Also, he indicates what is awaiting Judah because of her transgressions.

Jeremiah himself, saddened at the prospect of his country receiving punishment from God, expressed his sorrow in a previous lesson (**9:1-2**). However, Jeremiah finally sees that God was correct all the time, and ceases to pray on behalf of Judah's sparing (**18:20**). Rather, now he prays for their destruction (**18:21**). Judah's case is hopeless; destruction is imminent.

- 1) What did Jeremiah observe at the potter's house? (**18:1-4**) What was the lesson to be learned from this? What N.T. passage can you think of that uses the potter to illustrate the same truth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What was the interpretation of what Jeremiah saw? (**18:5-11**) What is emphasized in **18:8**, when remembering what God said in **15:6**?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What kind of power does the potter (God) have over the clay (Judah, other nations)? The exercise of this power depends on what?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What was the reaction of the people? (**18:12**) Why would Judah reply “There is no hope” (*NASV*) when God told them to mend their ways? What does this say about Judah?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 5

- 5) How are God's people described in **18:13**? What is the point of **18:14**, and how does it apply to Judah in her present condition?
  
- 6) Contrast the two "paths" in **18:15**. How is God portrayed in **18:17**, and what is the message? Is there a similar thought expressed by **Isa. 59:1-2** & **1 Pet. 3:12**? What had Judah done to God? (**2:27**)
  
- 7) What was the reaction of the people toward Jeremiah personally and his message? (**18:18**) What does Jeremiah finally realize, judging from what he says in **18:21**? What explains the "change" in Jeremiah regarding Judah's judgment since **ch. 14**?
  
- 8) What other symbol was Jeremiah told to use, and what was its message? (**19:1-10**) Contrast the first symbol (**18:1-4**) with this one. How were they different? Any significance? (**19:11**)
  
- 9) What was significant about where Jeremiah was told to go? (**19:2**)
  
- 10) What is prophesied in **19:9**? Did it actually happen? Where is it recorded?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 5

- 11) How had Topheth been “defiled” by Josiah? How would Jerusalem become like Topheth? **(19:12)**
  
- 12) Where does Jeremiah go next? **(19:14-15)** Who was Pashhur **(20:1, 6)**, and what was his reaction to Jeremiah’s preaching? **(20:2)** What did Jeremiah say would happen to Pashhur? **(20:3-4)** Does Jeremiah identify who will be the tool of God’s judgment? **(20:4)**
  
- 13) What does Jeremiah do in **20:7-13**? How is this connected to what has just happened to him? Does this Jeremiah’s reaction surprise you? Why or why not?
  
- 14) How had God “deceived” Jeremiah? **(20:7; cp. to 1:4-19)** Was this true? How might we fall into the same line of thinking as Jeremiah? What about our complaint to God?
  
- 15) How does Jeremiah feel about his “commission”? **(20:8)** What does Jeremiah consider doing? **(20:9a)** What does he know for certain? **(20:9b)**
  
- 16) What is going on around Jeremiah? **(20:10)** How does Jeremiah deal with this? **(20:11-13)**

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 5

- 17) How can we today gain encouragement from Jeremiah? Review the following passages for your answer: **9:2; 15:9-21; 20:7-10.**
  
- 18) To what does Jeremiah return in **20:14-18**? How can this be, especially considering the context of **20:11-13**? Of what is Jeremiah guilty?

## Jeremiah's Prophecies During The Reigns Of Jehoahaz & Jehoiakim (Chapters 22:1-23; 26; 35; 25; 45; 36)

### Introduction

At this point of our study, we leave the “chapter by chapter” flow of the book, since it is not written in chronological order. The first 20 chapters dealt with the times of the reign of Josiah, Judah's last good king. Following his death at Carchemish in the plain of Megiddo at the hand of Pharaoh Neco of Egypt (2 Chron. 35:20-24), Judah suffered under the rule of ungodly men up until her last days.

As a result of Josiah's death, his son Jehoahaz was made king, and he returned the wicked practices to Judah that Josiah had tried so hard to eliminate (2 Kings 23:31-32; 2 Chron. 36:1-3). Jehoahaz's reign only lasted three months, and Jeremiah spends very little time on this period.

Pharaoh Neco deposed Jehoahaz to Egypt, and placed his brother Eliakim on the throne and changed his name to Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:34 - 24:6; 2 Chron. 36:4-8). Judah was at this time a vassal state to Egypt, and she paid heavy tribute. Judah's servitude to Egypt would be short lived, as Babylon is emerging as the world power, and it is she that would eventually carry Judah away into captivity.

It is from this point in time to Judah's ultimate end that Jeremiah begins to show how Judah has been brought to ruin by corrupt leaders, kings, and prophets who have taken them away from God. The consequence is judgment, and this cannot be averted. However, underscoring God's rich mercy and grace, His judgment is to have a purging, redemptive effect as He will find a remnant whom He will gather years later under the Messiah.

### **Reign of Jehoahaz**

- 1) What four commands does God have for Jehoahaz in 22:3?
- 2) What would be the result if God was obeyed in this matter? (22:4) What would be the consequences if God was disobeyed? (22:5) What two attributes of God are highlighted? (cp. Rom. 11:22)

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 6

- 3) What is the meaning of **22:6**? Why the references to “Gilead” and “Lebanon”?
  
- 4) What is mentioned in **22:8**? What will be the obvious answer to their question? (**22:9**)
  
- 5) What was God’s message to Jehoahaz? (**22:11-12**)

### **Reign of Jehoiakim**

- 6) For what is Jehoiakim condemned in **22:13-14**? What is the comparison made to his father? (**22:15-16**)
  
- 7) What is prophesied about Jehoiakim in **22:18-19**?
  
- 8) Who are Judah’s “lovers” in **22:20, 22**, and why would God mention them?
  
- 9) What was Jeremiah told to do in **26:2**? What is God’s hope for Judah?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 6

- 10) How did the priests, prophets, and all the people receive Jeremiah's preaching? (**26:8**)  
How does Jeremiah show his courage in this ordeal? What happened in **26:24**?
  
- 11) Who does Jeremiah use as an object lesson in **35:1-19**? Who were they, and where did they come from?
  
- 12) What is Jeremiah told to do in **35:2-5**? What is the Rechabites' reaction? (**35:6-11**)
  
- 13) What is Jeremiah trying to prove by his use of the Rechabites? (**35:12-19**) How did this apply to Judah? Do we see any similarity of this activity today in our religious world?
  
- 14) What is announced in **25:1-38**? What is the reason for this action? How is Nebuchadnezzar described in **25:9**, and how can this be so?
  
- 15) What else will God do in **25:12**? What does this teach about God's rule over the nations? (**cp. Hab. 2:6-19**) [*Remember: Habakkuk was a contemporary of Jeremiah in Judah*]



# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 6

- 16) What figurative language is used in **25:15-29**? What is the meaning, and who will be affected?
  
- 17) Who was Baruch, and what was Jeremiah's special message for him? (**45:1-5**)
  
- 18) What is Jeremiah commanded to do in **36:2-3**? Why can't Jeremiah go and read the scroll? What was the reaction of those who heard Baruch read what Jeremiah had dictated to him? (**36:11-16**)
  
- 19) What was the reaction of the king when he heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken to Baruch? (**36:20-26**) What does this evidence about him? Do we see anything like this happen today?
  
- 20) What good did it do for Jehoiakim to have the scroll burned? (**36:27-32**) What does this teach us about God's word? (**cp. 1 Pet. 1:23-25**)

## Jeremiah's Prophecies During The Reigns of Jehoiachin & Zedekiah (Chapters 22:24-30; 23-24; 27-29)

### Introduction

After the reign of Jehoiakim, his 18-year-old son Jehoiachin assumed the throne and ruled for 3 months and 10 days. He proved no better than his father, practicing evil before the Lord (**2 Kings 24:8-9**). Jeremiah predicted his captivity, and that none of his offspring would ever sit on the throne and prosper in Jerusalem (**Jer. 22:24-30**). Jehoiachin is also known as Coniah (**Jer. 22:24**) as well as Jeconiah, the king listed in the lineage of the Messiah (**1 Chron. 3:17; Mt. 1:12**).

After deporting him to Babylon along with 10,000 others (**2 Kings 24:101-6**), Nebuchadnezzar placed Jehoiachin's uncle Mattaniah on the throne and changed his name to Zedekiah (**2 Kings 24:17-18**). Zedekiah was 21 when he began to rule, and his kingdom lasted 11 years until the final end of the kingdom of Judah. He was only a puppet king.

Jeremiah had faithfully carried out God's charge that Judah would fall to Babylon, and that her kings would be removed from their thrones because of disobedience to God. Yet, Jeremiah was not only concerned with the wicked kings and civil leaders. In this section of our study, we also see the prophet direct his attention to the spiritual leaders (the shepherds, prophets, and priests). They had utterly failed in their task to teach the people of God, leading them toward spiritual bankruptcy.

### **Reign of Jehoiachin**

- 1) What is a signet ring? (**22:24**) What purpose did it serve? What do you think is the meaning of its reference in this passage?
  
- 2) What does Jeremiah predict about Jehoiachin in **22:28-30**? What do we learn from **Mt. 1:12**? How does that play into what Jeremiah stated about Jehoiachin's descendants? (**cp. Jn. 18:36**)

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 7

*[Note: It cannot be stated with absolute certainty that **ch. 23** occurred during the reign of Jehoiachin. It may have been under the rule of another king. Therefore, the connection we make with **ch. 22** is logical rather than chronological.]*

- 3) How does Jeremiah describe the activities of Judah's leaders? (**23:1-2**) What is the Lord going to do about this? (**23:3-4**) What do you think this refers to?
  
- 4) Who is referred to in **23:5**? What is he called? (**cp. Isa. 4:2; 11:1; Zech. 3:8; 6:12**) How does Jeremiah reveal the nature of this ruler in contrast with Judah's kings? (**23:5b-6**)
  
- 5) Who does Jeremiah begin to rebuke in **23:9**? How are they described in **23:11**? What will be their end? (**23:12**)
  
- 6) They had become like what before the Lord? (**23:14**) What would the Lord give them? (**23:15**) What was the significance of this?
  
- 7) How did these false prophets speak? (**23:16**) What message were they speaking? (**23:17-18**) What was the Lord's message? (**23:19**) The false prophets' message was compared to what? (**23:28**)
  
- 8) How was the word of the Lord described? (**23:29**)

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 7

### Reign of Zedekiah

- 9) What vision does the Lord show Jeremiah in **24:1-2**? What do you think this meant? (**24:5-8**; **cp. Ezek. 1:1-3**) How did the remaining inhabitants of Jerusalem regard the exiles in Babylon? (**cp. Ezek. 11:15**) Yet, what does God say through this vision?
  
- 10) When Nebuchadnezzar placed Zedekiah on the throne, what did he make him do? (**2 Chron. 36:13**; **cp. Ezek. 17:13**) Yet, why do you think the kings listed in **Jer. 27:3** have sent messengers to Zedekiah?
  
- 11) What was Jeremiah's response to this? (**27:2, 4-6**) How long did Jeremiah say Babylon would reign? (**27:7**) What was the message Jeremiah gave to the kingdoms listed in **27:2**? (**27:8-11**) What was the message for Zedekiah? (**27:12-15**)
  
- 12) Who contradicts Jeremiah in **28:1-4**? What specifically did he prophesy of? How did this contradict what Jeremiah had prophesied of? (**27:16-22**)
  
- 13) How did Hananiah illustrate his prophecy in **28:10-11**? How did Jeremiah respond? (**28:11b**) What does this demonstrate on Jeremiah's part?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 7

- 14) What was God's response to Hananiah in **28:12-17**? What would be his punishment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 15) What does Jeremiah do in **29:1**? Why would he need to do this? (**29:8-9**) What does Jeremiah tell the people to do in Babylon? (**29:5-7**)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 16) What will be the duration of the exile in Babylon? (**29:10**) What will bring it to an end? (**29:11-14**)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 17) Who does Jeremiah talk about in **29:15-20**? What is the message regarding them?

## Jeremiah's Prophecies Leading Up To Jerusalem's Siege (Chapters 50-51; 30-31)

### Introduction

We come now to the verge of Judah's fall to the Babylonians. Chapters **50-51** and **30-31** do not occur during the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, but are related to it. Zedekiah is king during the final days of Judah's kingdom, and God has some final words for Judah before He brings her down. Not surprisingly, His last words are not condemning, but promising; not fatal, but redemptive.

Zedekiah makes an official visit to Babylon during the fourth year of his reign (**51:59-60**). He takes along with him Seraiah, the brother of Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe. Seraiah was to read the scroll given him by Jeremiah, upon which contained the prophecies God had revealed concerning Babylon. After reading the scroll, Seraiah was to cast it into the Euphrates, signifying the Chaldeans' fate (**51:63-64**).

Rays of hope are intermingled with Jeremiah's prophecies of God's judgment. In chapters **30-31**, Jeremiah reveals God's plans for restoring His people. Not only did this have physical implications (the return to Jerusalem under the Persians), but it also foretold of the coming of the kingdom of God. Jeremiah's words in **31:31-34** are used by the **Hebrews** writer, speaking of the new covenant God has with His people today (**Heb. 8:8-12**). This was, of course, accomplished through Jesus Christ.

- 1) What is prophesied in **50:1-3**? What is the connection of this prophecy to the one we saw in **25:12, 15-26**?
  
- 2) Review the last part of *question #10* on *page 27*. How does what is prophesied here differ with the activity surrounding that question? What does this teach us about God's rule?
  
- 3) Who were Bel and Marduk? What happened to them? What did this signify?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 8

- 4) What will happen to Israel when Babylon falls? What do you think is the meaning of **50:4-5**? To what does Zion refer in **50:5**?
  
- 5) Why do you think Israel and Judah are said to be “weeping” in **50:4**? What could this refer to?
  
- 6) How are God’s people described in **50:6**? What has happened to them? What have they forgotten?
  
- 7) What was the attitude of Israel’s enemies? (**50:7**) If it was God’s will that His people be punished, why is He now punishing the nation He used against Judah? (**50:7, 11, 29**)
  
- 8) What are God’s people encouraged to do in **50:8a**? What should be their attitude? (**50:8b**)
  
- 9) Who are the “lions” that have driven God’s people away? (**50:17**) What is God able to do? (**50:19**)
  
- 10) How would the judgment of Babylon be like Sodom & Gomorrah? (**50:40**) What does this suggest?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 8

- 11) Who is God going to use to judge Babylon? **(51:11)**
  
- 12) What two things is the almighty power of God compared to in **51:15-19** & **51:20-23**?
  
- 13) How is Babylon described in **51:25-26**?
  
- 14) What is promised to God's people? **(30:1-3)** When Israel returned, who would be her king? **(30:9)**
  
- 15) What was the cause of Israel's injury? **(30:12-17)** What was the only way she could be cured?
  
- 16) What things are prophesied in **30:18-22**? What does this point to?
  
- 17) To what does God refer in **31:1** that has been missing and has been the cause of Jeremiah's prophecies?



# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 8

- 18) What would the people of Jeremiah's day understand **31:15-17** to mean? What other fulfillment of this prophecy do we know? Where is it found?
  
- 19) What did the people mean by the proverb in **31:29**? How did God view this? What can we learn from this today? (**cp. Rom. 3:23**)
  
- 20) What does **31:31-34** refer to, and where is it recorded in the New Testament? How does this section of Jeremiah refer to us today?

## Jeremiah's Prophecies During Jerusalem's Siege (Chapters 21; 34; 37; 32-33; 38-39; 52:1-30)

### Introduction

All the preaching Jeremiah has done up to this point has been with a judgment to come in mind. Now, he preaches while the punishment God has promised is taking place. In the 9th year of Zedekiah's reign, on the 10th day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar came and began the final siege against Jerusalem (**2 Kings 25:1-2**). After the Babylonian king had taken the cities of Judah and laid siege to Jerusalem, Zedekiah sees his plan of rebellion and hope of assistance from other nations is fruitless. Out of despair, Zedekiah turns to Jeremiah as his last hope. The prophet who was mocked, treated as a traitor, beaten and imprisoned because he spoke the truth, now is treated as an elder statesman whose advice and intercession is earnestly sought by his fellow Jews. However, they are not coming to him as penitent believers, but as scared, soon-to-be-captured vessels of wrath.

Jeremiah prophesies that God would make their weapons useless against the Babylonians, and that God Himself would war against Judah with pestilence. The prophet also reveals the destiny of Zedekiah and the people. The future is not bright for God's people as they begin to reap the consequences of their sinful conduct before the God who has seen all they've done. Jeremiah lays before them the choice between the way of life (submission to Babylon) and the way of death (continued resistance to God's judgment tool). The one who surrenders will live on; the one who stays in the city will die (**21:8-10**).

- 1) What does Zedekiah do in **21:1**? What do you think he is hoping for from God? (**21:2**)
  
- 2) What is the Lord's answer to Zedekiah? (**21:4-7**) What does God lay before them as a final warning? (**21:8-10**) How is the royal family further exhorted by Jeremiah in **21:11-12**? What was the prevailing attitude by Jerusalem's inhabitants, and what does Jeremiah decree against them? (**21:13-14**)
  
- 3) What was the prophecy to Zedekiah in **34:1-5**? What had happened in Judah that was contrary to the will of God? (**34:8-10**) What was the reason that God gave in the law for this activity not to happen? (**Deut. 15:12-18**)

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 9

- 4) Was the siege lifted? How? **(37:5)** What happened after the lifting of the siege? **(34:11)**
  
- 5) What does God say about Judah “breaking this covenant” in **34:12-22**? What was He going to do?
  
- 6) What was the attitude toward the word of the Lord in **37:1-2**? What had the lifting of the siege apparently done in Judah, judging from **37:6-10**? What was the Lord’s response?
  
- 7) What happened to Jeremiah in **37:11-16**? What is he accused of? What eventually happened to him? What does this say sometimes happens to faithful servants of the Lord?
  
- 8) What does Zedekiah do in **37:17**? What does Jeremiah say in **37:19**? What do you think Jeremiah seeks to prove by asking this question? What is Jeremiah’s request of the king? **(37:20-21)**
  
- 9) After the renewal of the siege, what was Jeremiah instructed to do in **32:6-14**? What did this signify? **(32:15)** Do you think that even Jeremiah’s faith would be helped by this transaction? How?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 9

- 10) What does Jeremiah pray for in **32:16-25**? Is there something he does not understand? What is the Lord's response to his prayer? (**32:26-44**)
  
- 11) What does God say He will do in **33:1-9**? What will again happen in Judah after God fulfills His promise? (**33:10-11**) What is promised in **33:14-18**? How does God assure His promise will be fulfilled? (**33:19-26**)
  
- 12) Based on Jeremiah's continual message of surrender to the Babylonians (**38:1-3**), what happened to him in **38:4-6**? What happened to him next?
  
- 13) Who sends for Jeremiah in **38:14-16**, and what does he want? How does Jeremiah respond to him? (**38:15**) What else does Jeremiah say to him? (**38:17-23**)
  
- 14) What begins to happen in **39:1-3**? How did Zedekiah react? (**39:4**) Was his plan successful? What happened to him? (**39:5-7; 2 Kings 25:4-7**)
  
- 15) What happened to Jeremiah? (**39:11-14**) Who else is given comfort in this perilous situation? (**39:15-18**)
  
- 16) What purpose does **52:1-30** serve?

## Jeremiah's Prophecies During And After Gedaliah's Governorship (Chapters 40-44)

### Introduction

Following the conquest and destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar's forces, the Babylonian king placed Gedaliah in the position of governor, or a ruler over the land. This appointed leader made what is an apparent appeal to the people who were left in Judah to not be afraid of Nebuchadnezzar, but to submit and to carry on with their normal lives. The remnant left was encouraged to busy themselves with planting and reaping and other activities indicative of a peaceful life. The wrong thing to do was to show further resistance to Nebuchadnezzar, God's appointed judgment tool. But, remaining true to their stubborn and rebellious form, they would not heed sound advice again. So much was their disapproval of Gedaliah that he was assassinated. They would have their way or else!

The people were intent on fleeing to Egypt, one of the "lovers" Jeremiah condemned back in **30:14**. Jeremiah clearly tells them not to do this, but they are not inclined to listen. How this is still ever true today. The people who wear the name of God's Son today stand just as guilty of the same crime. When we brazenly go forth into areas where we know for certain God has placed restrictions, we should expect no less a chastisement from Him than He gave Judah for not obeying what He said through Jeremiah.

This section also shows that the people of Judah did not learn their lesson, for they returned to their idolatrous practices when they got to Egypt (**44:1-10**). When we fail to learn from our past mistakes, we descend to the level of brute beasts, only driven about by animalistic behavior bent on satisfying our appetites, and void of any moral principles.

- 1) Who visits with Jeremiah in **40:1-6**? What does he know, and what does he tell God's prophet? What does Jeremiah decide to do?
  
- 2) Is there any significance to the fact that Nebuzaradan could see something that God's people could not? Why do you think this was so?
  
- 3) Who was now in charge in Judah? What was his message for those left in the land?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 10

- 4) What is Gedaliah warned about in **40:13-16**? What was his reaction to this news? How do you view what took place in **41:1-3**? How does this fit in the “bigger picture” of God’s use of Babylon?
  
- 5) Who is described in **41:5**? Why do you think they appeared as they did? What befell them?
  
- 6) Given how Ishmael and his men have acted toward Gedaliah, his men, and the ones mentioned in **41:6**, how would you describe him? What can we learn about such characters?
  
- 7) What happens in **41:10**? What happens next in **41:11-17**? What is the problem with these two courses of action?
  
- 8) What does Johanan and his men do in **42:1-3**? On the surface, how does this appeal look? What was Jeremiah’s response? (**42:4**) Did they have a problem with what Jeremiah said? (**42:5-6**)
  
- 9) What was the message from the Lord? (**42:9-22**) What does God want His people to do? What had Gedaliah told them to do? (**cp. 40:9 to 42:11**) How does all this fit into what the Lord has already told them about what would happen to them?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 10

- 10) What is God concerned about? (**42:13-14**) What will be the result if that happens? (**42:16**) Is there any way one could have misunderstood God's instructions? (**42:19**)
  
- 11) How would you describe such an attitude found in those Jeremiah is talking to? Do we see this present today in the Lord's kingdom? Comment.
  
- 12) How did Johanan and his party receive Jeremiah's words? (**43:2**) What did they do? (**43:4-7**) Where was Jeremiah? Again, what is Judah guilty of?
  
- 13) What did God tell Jeremiah to do in **43:9**? What did this mean? What else did Jeremiah say would happen? (**43:11-13**) Is there a basic lesson for us to learn? (**cp. Isa. 55:8-9**)
  
- 14) What does Jeremiah have to remind the people of Judah of in **44:1-10**? Why do you think the people continued to act this way?
  
- 15) What was the response of the people to Jeremiah's message? (**44:15-19**) What does Jeremiah repeat in **44:24-28**?
  
- 16) How would God's punishment be confirmed? (**44:29-30**) What character of the Jews do we see in **chs. 43-44** that has been present from the beginning of our study of this book?

## Jeremiah's Prophecies Concerning Other Nations And Conclusion (Chapters 46-49)

### Introduction

The prophecies of Jeremiah concerning other nations are connected to our study from chapter 25, where Jeremiah made the prediction in the first year of Babylon's domination that all the nations, ending with Babylon herself, would drink the cup of God's wrath as their punishment before Him. Now, in **chs. 46-49**, we see that prediction carried out.

In his speeches against these nations, we catch a glimpse of Jeremiah's view of the political situation, as well as how each stands morally and ethically before the God who judges all nations. Lest we fail to see the message and its application to us today, our nation stands no less before God than the ones mentioned in these chapters. We, too, will suffer the consequences of living immorally. Thus, we hear the admonition of the Son of God in **Mt. 5:13-16** to use our influence for the good of the only kingdom that will never be destroyed.

- 1) Who is prophesied against first? (**46:2**) What does Jeremiah dramatically portray about Egypt in **46:3-4**? What does he then prophesy in **46:5-6**?
  
- 2) Given what happened in **ch. 43**, do you think there is any significance to Egypt being prophesied about first?
  
- 3) What were Egypt's aspirations? (**46:7**) Despite how her might is described, who would be victorious? (**46:10-12**)
  
- 4) What do we learn Nebuchadnezzar would do to Egypt? (**46:13-26**) What promise did God give the Jews in **46:27-28**?



# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 11

- 5) Who is prophesied against next? (**47:1**) What is the power of the enemy of the Philistines likened to in **47:2**? How was the state of despair in Philistia described? (**47:3b**)
  
- 6) What alliance did God destroy in **47:4**? What do you think the reference to “baldness” in **47:5** means?
  
- 7) Who is prophesied next in **48:1**? Where did they come from? (**cf. Gen. 19:37**) What judgment did Moab receive and for what reason? (**48:7-9**)
  
- 8) What is the point of **48:10**? What lesson should we learn from this?
  
- 9) Describe Moab’s past and her future based upon **48:11-13**. Given that the land of Moab was famous for its vineyards, what is the symbolic message of **48:11-12**?
  
- 10) How is Moab’s glory turned to shame in **48:14-25**?
  
- 11) What is spoken of in **48:29-30**? How is it described? What hope is mentioned for Moab in **48:47**? How do you think this was realized?

# The Prophecies Of Jeremiah

## Lesson 11

- 12) List the nations that are prophesied against in chapter **49** in order.
- 49:1-6** \_\_\_\_\_ **49:23-27** \_\_\_\_\_
- 49:7-22** \_\_\_\_\_ **49:28-33** \_\_\_\_\_
- 49:34-39** \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) What two reasons did God give for punishing Ammon? (**49:1, 4**; *see also* **Judg. 11:13** and **Amos 1:13**)
- 14) Who was Edom? (*cf.* **Gen. 36:1, 8**) What had been her attitude toward Israel over the years? (**Num. 20:14-21**; **Amos 1:11**)
- 15) Explain the figure in **49:9-10** that shows the severity of God's judgment upon Edom.
- 16) What is the reason God will punish Edom? (**49:16**) How is her desolation described in **49:17-18**?
- 17) What will happen to Damascus? (**49:23-27**) Who are Kedar & Hazor, and what will be their fate? (**49:28-33**)
- 18) What was the prophecy against Elam? (**49:34-39**)
- 19) Write down the one thing you have learned the most about our study in Jeremiah's prophecies.