

Lessons From Characters In Old Testament
Jeremiah 2
Lesson 49

Jeremiah: (The Book Of Jeremiah)

III. Study Of Jeremiah Chapters 1-20: (continued)

- K. In chapter 11 the Lord reminds Judah of the consequences of breaking the covenant which was made when He brought them out of Egypt.
1. Judah is a green olive tree which will be burnt and its branches broken.
 2. The Lord will punish with sword and famine the men of Anathoth who seek Jeremiah's life.
 3. **(v. 14)**
- L. In chapter 12 do we not at times asked the same questions Jeremiah asked:
(v. 1)
1. The wicked take root and grow.
 2. The Lord has forsaken His "*heritage*" **(v. 7)**, which has been spoiled.
 3. His people have sown wheat but shall reap thorns.
 4. After they have been plucked from the land, they will be brought back to their heritage.
 5. They will be "*established*" **(v. 16)** "**IF**" they will learn the right way; "**IF**" they do not obey, "*I will utterly pluck up and destroy*" **(v. 17)**.
 6. The Lord's promise is conditioned upon their obedience or disobedience.
- M. In chapter 13 the Lord tells Jeremiah to place his "*linen sash*"/girdle in the hole of a rock at the Euphrates.
1. After many days, it is ruined.
 2. The Lord tells Jeremiah it is in this manner He will ruin the pride of Judah.
 3. The house of Israel and Judah cleaved unto the Lord as a girdle cleaves unto a man but is now good for nothing.
 4. Judah will destroy each other in drunkenness.
 5. Instead, they do not need to be proud but give glory to the Lord before He changes light to darkness.
 6. "*Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.*" **(v. 23)**
- N. In chapter 14 Jeremiah surveys the famine and admits iniquities on behalf of his people.
1. Again the Lord tells Jeremiah not to pray for his people.
 2. While Jeremiah is prophesying doom and destruction, the false prophets are saying, **(v. 13)**
- O. In chapter 15 the sword, famine, and captivity are promised as punishment for the sins of Manasseh, son of Hezekiah.
1. Widows shall increase as they mourn and languish.
 2. Jeremiah complains about being made to deliver such unwelcome messages and he, too, is reproved.
 3. Jeremiah pleads his sincerity and asks for pardon and God promises to protect him.
- P. Due to the things being threaten, in chapter 16 Jeremiah is forbidden to marry, have a family, or to share in the joys and sorrow of his neighbors which will be forgotten in the calamities that their sins will bring on them.
1. In this chapter, the promise of a future restoration is promised, along with the foretelling of the conversion of the Gentiles.

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- Q. In chapter 17 Judah is hopelessly given to idolatry.
1. The happiness of the man that trusts in the Lord is contrasted with the man that trusts in man and makes the flesh his strength. (v. 5)
 2. God alone knows the deceitful and “*desperately wicked*” (v. 9) ways of the heart of man.
 3. A comparison is made between a bird's hatching the eggs of another bird which will soon forsake her with the vanity of riches not gotten the right way (v. 11).
 4. In verse 14-18, Jeremiah talks of his sincerity and prays that the evil intended him by his enemies may instead turn on their own heads.
 5. Then there is an appeal made to observe the Sabbath.
- R. In chapter 18 the house of Israel is like clay in the hands of a potter.
1. The inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem are invited to repent; their refusal is as unnatural as someone not preferring the snow water of Lebanon and forsaking that for strange waters.
 2. A conspiracy is formed against Jeremiah, who appeals to God to “*deal thus with them in the time of Your anger*”. (v. 23)
- S. In chapter 19 Judah and Jerusalem will be broken as a potter's vessel because they have forsaken the Lord.
1. The land will be made desolate and the people will eat the flesh of their children.
- T. It's in chapter 20 that Pashhur, governor of the temple, strikes Jeremiah and places him in the stocks.
1. When Jeremiah is taken from the stocks, he said to Pashhur, “*The Lord has not called your name Pashhur, but Magor-Missabib.*” (v. 3) and tells him he and everything he has will be carried to Babylon and there he will die and be buried in captivity along with all his friends to whom he has prophesied lies. (v. 6)

(NOTE: “Pashhur” means ‘free’ but “Magor-Missabib” means ‘terror on every side’. Jeremiah first uses the term in Jer. 6:25 and likewise here in verses 3 and 10.)

2. Jeremiah says, (v. 9)
3. Then, in a manner very similar to Job, Jeremiah says, (v. 14)
4. But, also like Job, Jeremiah remained faithful to the Lord.

(HISTORICAL NOTE ABOUT ASSYRIA:

Assyria was having troubles of her own at this same time. Ashurbanipal was the last strong king of Assyria. There had been many revolts through the years but Assyria had been able to put them down and hold her supremacy over the world of that day. But the end was in sight. Ashurbanipal died about 633 B.C., while King Josiah was still a child in Judah.

The revolts continued. Assyria was pressed on all sides. Egypt continually fought for independence. To the east, a people called the Medes were growing in strength. Arab tribes from the desert invaded the lands of eastern Palestine and Syria. It was evident that the kings of Assyria could not hold the empire together much longer.

In 625 B.C., shortly after Josiah had began his first reforms, and Zephaniah and Jeremiah had begun their work, a Chaldean prince named Nabopolassar managed to gain independence for Babylon. Some thirteen years later, in 612 B.C., the Babylonians joined with the Medes and attacked the city of Nineveh. The city fell after only three months, never to be built again. Another decisive battle, at Carchemish, marked the final downfall of Assyria.

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IV. Charges Against The Rulers (chapters 21-24):

- A. Chapter 21 is when Zedekiah was king and Jeremiah's message from the Lord was for Zedekiah to submit to Nebuchadnezzar and live rather than fight against them and die.
- B. Chapter 22 "*Shallum*" (who is Jehoahaz) the son of Josiah will die a captive.
 - 1. Coniah (who is Jeconiah) the son of Jehoiakim will be given to them that seek his life and his seed will be forever excluded from the throne.
- C. In chapter 23 Jeremiah gives another prophesy of the coming Messiah, "*I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness*" (v. 5); "*the Lord our Righteousness*". (v. 6)
- D. In chapter 24, after Jeconiah had been taken away captive, the Lord showed Jeremiah two baskets; one of good figs and the other bad figs.
 - 1. The good figs symbolized those the Lord would preserve in captivity and the bad figs represented Zedekiah, his princes, the rest of the people of Jerusalem, and those that dwell in Egypt.

V. Jeremiah Prophecies The Captivity And It's Length (chapter 25):

- A. For twenty-three years - since the thirteenth year of Josiah - Jeremiah had been telling them the word of the Lord as well as other prophets.
- B. They had been warned repeatedly but had not listened.
- C. They had been told to repent and turn from their evil ways and if they did they could stay in the land the Lord had given to them and their forefathers.
- D. They would not listen.
- E. The destruction and captivity of the land of Judah had been predicted many times and also the promise of the return of a remnant had been made many times...
- F. But this is the first time there has been mention of a specific time involved.
- G. Jeremiah says the people of Judah will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

(NOTE: The first invasion of Babylon came in the same year Jeremiah made this statement. Jehoiakim submitted, the first wave of captives were taken, and a few treasures were taken from the temple. If the people had repented, then they could have served Babylon from their own homeland and could have been spared further destruction.)

- H. After these seventy years, the king of Babylon will himself be punished.
- I. All nations are made to drink of a cup of wine of "*the Lord's fury*", become drunk, vomit, fall, and rise no more.

VI. Promise Of Being Restored (chapters 30-33):

VII. Judgment Inflicted (chapters 34-45)

- A. The last years of the kingdom (chapters 34-38)
- B. The example of the Rechabites (chapter 35:1-19)
 - 1. The Lord tells Jeremiah to go and bring the Rechabites to the house of the Lord and give them wine to drink.
 - 2. Jeremiah does so and sets before them wine and commands them to drink.
 - 3. To Jeremiah's surprise, however, they replied, (vs. 6-10)

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4. It was for fear of the Babylonians that had brought them to Jerusalem.
5. The Lord told Jeremiah to tell the men of Judah this story of how they had obeyed their father and yet He had spoken and they had not listened.
6. Jeremiah was also told the house of the Rechabites, (v. 19)

(NOTE: The story of Jonadab, the Rechabite, goes back about 250 years to the day when Jehu was destroying the house of Ahab. As Jehu was going to Samaria, he met Jonadab [or Jehonadab and invited him into his chariot to see his zeal for the Lord. Jonadab assisted Jehu in punishing the worshipers of Baal which had marked them for destruction (**2 Kings 10:15-23**).)

VIII. Jehoiakim Burns the Scroll of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 36:1-32):

- A. In the same year, the fourth year of Jehoiakim, the Lord commanded Jeremiah to take a scroll and write all the words He had spoken against Israel and Judah and against all the nations.
 1. Jeremiah spoke the words and Baruch, the scribe. wrote them on the scroll.
- B. The Lord said, (v. 3)
- C. Jeremiah told Baruch that because he was confined and could not go, Baruch was to go and read the scroll to the people.
- D. Baruch did so and a man named Micaiah heard the reading and told the princes of Judah about it.
- E. They sent word to Baruch to bring the scroll and read it to them.
- F. They were all afraid when they heard the words and said they must tell the king all the words Baruch had read.
- G. They feared for Baruch's life and made certain the words were true and were the words of Jeremiah.
- H. They tell Baruch for him and Jeremiah to hide and let no one know where they were.
- I. The princes went before Jehoiakim but they hid the scroll.
- J. They told the king what they had heard and he sent Jehudi to get the scroll and had him to read it out loud.
- K. It was winter and there was a fire burning.
- L. (v. 23)
- M. Three of the princes tried to get the king not to burn the scroll and the king commanded Baruch and Jeremiah to be arrested but the Lord hid them.
- N. The Lord commands Jeremiah to write another scroll of the same words and Jehoiakim was to be told, (vs. 30-31)

IX. Destruction of Jerusalem (chapter 39):

- A. In the ninth year of Zedekiah, Jerusalem is captured by the Babylonians.
 1. Zedekiah is blinded and his sons killed.
 2. Jeremiah is spared and sent home to dwell among his people.

X. The Wretched Remnant (chapters 40-45):

- A. In chapter 40 Jeremiah puts himself under the jurisdiction of Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam, who has been made the governor of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar.

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1. Johanan makes known to the governor of a conspiracy against him but he is not believed.
- B. In chapter 41 Ishmael (of royal blood) carries out his conspiracy against Gedaliah and his companions and attempts to carry away the captured Jews who were with him to the Ammonites.
 1. Johanan rescues them, however, and proposes fleeing with them into Egypt.
- C. In chapter 42 Johanan and the remnant of the people ask Jeremiah to seek counsel from the Lord as to what they should do.
 1. Ten days later the Lord spoke to Jeremiah and said if they will remain in Judah, they would be safe but they would face destruction in Egypt.
 2. But Jeremiah has to rebuke their hypocrisy in asking advice they have no intention of heeding.
- D. So in chapter 43 the proud men accused Jeremiah of speaking falsely and took the people into Egypt.
 1. Jeremiah places stones at the entrance of the Pharaoh's house and says Nebuchadnezzar will set his throne on them.
 2. Nebuchadnezzar shall array himself with Egypt as a shepherd puts on his garment.
- E. In chapter 44 Jeremiah continues to condemn the Jews in Egypt for continuing in idolatry (burning incense to the queen of heaven) after the judgments already that have come upon them by the Lord for their sin.
 1. Jeremiah rebukes their unwillingness to repent and declares they will be destroyed along with Egypt.
- F. In chapter 45 Baruch (who had read Jeremiah's prophecies in the temple in chapter 36) is in anguish regarding the destruction of Judah but is assured that the Lord will build what he has broken down and also that his life shall be preserved.

XI. Judgment Against The Nations (chapters 46-51):

- A. Egypt (chapter 46)
- B. Philistines (chapter 47)
- C. Moab (chapter 48)
- D. Chapter 49:
 1. Ammon (49:1-6)
 2. Edom (49:7-22)
 3. Damascus (49:23-27)
 4. Kedar and Razer (49:28-33)
 5. Elam (49:34-39)
- E. Babylon (chapters 50-51)
 1. In chapter 50 Babylon will fall at the hands of a nation from the north, and Israel restored.
 2. Chapter 51 tell that Babylon will be destroyed by the Medes.
 - a. Babylon will be brought as a lamb to the slaughter; it will become a dwelling place for dragons.

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- b. Jeremiah instructs Seraiah (the chief priest) to read this prophecy in Babylon, then bind a stone to the prophecy and throw it in the Euphrates to demonstrate that Babylon shall sink.

XII. The Defeat of Zedekiah By The Babylonians (chapter 52):

- A. An account of the defeat of Zedekiah by the Babylonians.
- B. His sons are killed, Zedekiah is blinded, and Jerusalem is looted.
- C. The way Jehoiachin is treated in his captivity improves.

XIII. Lessons from Jeremiah:

- A. **Disobeying Or Making Light Of God's Word Is Dangerous! (8:8-9)**
 - 1. Refusing to accept, believe, and obey God's word led to an entire nation being destroyed, the cities demolished, and the survivors taken into exile.
- B. **God Shapes History According To His Purposes!**
 - 1. God's arranged Babylon's rise to power and used them as the instrument to punish Judah, and yet Babylon is not exempt from being accountable for their own actions.
- C. **God's Warnings About Judgement Are Also An Expression Of Grace!**
 - 1. In all that Jeremiah and the prophets had to say about doom and destruction, they also spoke God's words of grace and mercy. **(3:14-15)**
 - 2. God is merciful and full of grace.
 - 3. God longs for people to repent and turn to him. **(2 Peter 3:9)**
- D. **Social Sins (i.e caring for the poor) Are On Equal Par With Moral Sins! (5:23-28)**
- E. **Fake Repentance Never Works! (3:10)**
- F. **God's Promise Of Judgement Is Not Just Empty Words!**
 - 1. **God promises: (21:10)**
 - 2. **God acts: (39:1,7-8)**
- G. **God Is Serious When He Commands! (7:22-24)**
- H. **Wrath Is Often Slow In Coming Rather Than A Sudden Flood!**
 - 1. Jeremiah's work extended for almost 40 years and there were prophets before him and after him who warned God's people about their sin and called them to repentance.
 - 2. During the later years of Jeremiah, 13 years separated Nebuchadnezzar's first invasion of Judah and his final defeat and destruction of Jerusalem.
 - 3. This gradual unfolding of wrath and periods of 'relief' was sometimes interpreted as evidence that Jeremiah was wrong.
 - 4. It was not God who was lying but Judah's leaders and prophets, **(5:2)**
- I. **God's People Must Not Twist Or Ignore God's Word!**
 - 1. The strongest warnings and judgments are directed toward Judah's teachers and priests, those who claim to speak for God and yet deny Him with their words and actions.
 - 2. Today, we cannot afford to trivialize, ignore, and remove words of Scripture, simply because they are unpopular or difficult. **(8:11-13)**
- J. **Grace And Forgiveness Are Greater And More Wonderful Than We Can Ever Imagine! (31:1-11)**

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K. **Jesus Is The Promised Redeemer In Jeremiah! (Hebrews 8:6-13)**

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NAHUM

(Book of Nahum)

JEHOAHAZ (Shallum)

(2 Kings 23:30-34; 2 Chronicles 36:1-4)