

COMMENTARY

JEREMIAH

Chapter 1:

Jeremiah prophesied during the reigns of: Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakhim, Jehoiahin and Zedekiah (626 B.C.-586 B.C.).

Jeremiah was called by God to prophesy and assured that God would watch over him. Jeremiah would prophesy of the coming destruction of Judah, by people from the North. This was to be the Israelites punishment for their idolatry. God forewarns that Jeremiah will be fighting against the rulers of the land as he declares God's message.

Chapter 2:

God calls on His people to remember His love and care for them in the past. He rebukes them for having left Him and pursued others gods (to their own undoing).

Chapter 3:

God continues His rebuke of the unfaithful people of Judah.

God reminds them of the punishment that had been inflicted upon the Northern Kingdom of Israel (defeat and dispersion at the hands of the Assyrians). This had been brought on by Israel's wickedness. God states that Israel was more righteous than Judah is now, for Judah had not learned the lesson of faithfulness.

God also speaks of a day when the remnant that has been preserved is joined by people from all nations and together, they become the people of God.

Chapter 4:

God calls again on His people to repent. Destruction is coming surely, and will be complete (the Babylonians came in 606 and 586 B.C.).

Chapter 5:

In all the land there is no one who is righteous, even the religious leaders are not following God! Because of this they will be destroyed (God will preserve a remnant, however). Those left alive, may will be taken away as captives to a foreign land and would be made slaves (fulfilled during the Babylonian invasions--606 and 586 B.C.)

Chapter 6:

God speaks of the coming destruction and re-iterates that the only hope is repentance, but that Judah would have nothing to do with it. Because of Judah's pride, all that they have and enjoy will be taken away.

Chapter 7:

Jeremiah warns the people against the message of the false prophets who were proclaiming that God relally wouldn't punish His people. Jeremiah tells them that the only way that God would allow them to continue to live in the land was if they repented of their sin and began to lead holy lives.

God calls on them to remember the past and how He has punished His people when they have failed to obey. All the while, His people continue to worship their idols. God will therefore, cause the people to be slaughtered and the land to become desolate.

Chapter 8:

The people have been waiting for things to get better (feeling that God surely would not go through with His threats). Jeremiah speaks of the day when the destruction will come, that people will finally realize that God keeps His promises and will punish the disobedient.

Chapter 9:

God expresses His sorrow for the punishment that He will inflict upon the sinful people of Judah. He speaks of how widespread sorrow will be. He warns them not to trust one another, for each of them are so wicked.

Chapter 10:

The people are reminded that the gods of the nations are powerless creations of men, but their God is the ONE, TRUE, ALL-MIGHTY God and He is worthy of their service.

God will allow His people to be taken captive. To this, Jeremiah asks that the nations, that take part in the destruction of Judah, might also be punished.

Chapter 11:

God calls Jeremiah to remind the people of their pledge and covenant with God. A covenant in which they promised to obey Him. They have broken that covenant by serving other gods and they will now be punished by God because of it.

Because Jeremiah declared God's message there were those who did not like him. They began to plot his death, but God revealed the plan and spoke of how these and their descendants would be destroyed.

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Jeremiah 12:

Jeremiah questions as to why the wicked apparently prosper. God responds that His people are now being punished for their wickedness and the day that the wicked are punished will also be forthcoming. Those that repent and come to serve God shall become a part of His chosen people.

Jeremiah 13:

Jeremiah is instructed by God to buy a belt, wear it, then hide it among some rocks. Later when he retrieves it, it is ruined. God tells Jeremiah that in the same way God used to be proud of His people, but they have ruined themselves and are fit to be cast out. God then speaks of how He will allow His people to go off and pursue sin, only to find themselves destroyed because of it.

Jeremiah 14:

God foretells the coming of drought, famine and death by the sword. He tells them that they will be punished for their sin and that it is too late for them to change.

Jeremiah asks why other prophets are predicting that none of these things will come to pass. God replies that the other prophets are lying. He pronounces judgement upon the false prophets, they will die by those things that they said would not come.

Jeremiah then tries to intercede on behalf of the nation.

Jeremiah 15:

God re-iterates that there will be no leniency, but that His people will be devastated because of their sin.

Jeremiah asks why he must also suffer. God tells him that if he will remain true and proclaim God's message that Jeremiah's enemies will never prevail against him.

Jeremiah 16

God warns Jeremiah not to marry and have children, for all who dwell in the land will go through hardship and die. Jeremiah is not to mourn at the death of others, for it is God's judgement upon them. Jeremiah is not to feast, for there is no reason to feast.

All the punishment will be payment for the sins against God. The people of Judah had been worshipping other gods and were neglecting the Almighty's commandments.

Jeremiah 17:

The sins of Judah had become obvious. Those that trusted in men and their creations would be cursed; whereas the ones who trusted in God would be blessed. The people call upon God to deliver them. He replies that if they will obey Him, then He will again bless.

STUDY GUIDE

JEREMIAH 1

1. What was Jeremiah to do? (vs. 7)
2. Why would God pronounce judgement on His people? (vs. 16)
3. Why would Jeremiah's opponents not be able to overcome him? (vs. 19)

JEREMIAH 2

1. What did Israel used to be? (vs. 3)
2. Where had the Lord brought them? (vs. 7)
3. What 2 sins did the people commit? (vs. 13)

JEREMIAH 3

1. What would defile the land? (vs. 1)
2. How did Judah respond to Israel's punishment? (vs. 8)
3. Who will gather to honor the name of the Lord? (vs. 17)

JEREMIAH 4

1. What did God call for His people to do? (vs. 1,2)
2. What did Jeremiahs look and see? (vs. 23-26)

JEREMIAH 5

1. On what condition, would God forgive the city? (vs. 1)
2. What would God do to them because of their idolatry? (vs. 19)
3. What were the prophets and priests doing? (vs. 31)

JEREMIAH 6

1. Where was the destruction going to come from? (vs. 1)
2. What do they say, when there is no peace? (vs. 14)

JEREMIAH 7

1. What were they to reform? (vs. 3)
2. Where were they to go, to see what God does against wickedness?
(vs. 12)
3. What was Jeremiah not to do? (vs. 16)

JEREMIAH 8

1. What do the people not do? (vs. 6)

JEREMIAH 9

1. What does no one speak? (vs. 5)
2. About what, is man to boast? (vs. 24)

JEREMIAH 10

1. What is mighty in power? (vs. 6)
2. Upon whom, did Jeremiah want God to pour out His wrath? (vs. 25)

JEREMIAH 11

1. What were the terms of the covenant? (vs. 4)
2. What did God do, when the people broke the covenant? (vs. 8)

JEREMIAH 12

1. Who seems to prosper and live at ease? (vs. 1)
2. What will happen to those who do not listen to God? (vs. 17)

JEREMIAH 13

1. What was Jeremiah to buy? (vs. 1)
2. What was Jeremiah to do with this purchase? (vs. 4)
3. What was the significance? (vs. 11)

JEREMIAH 14

1. What had come upon the land? (vs. 1)
2. What was Jeremiah not to pray for? (vs. 11)
3. What were the prophets, prophesying? (vs. 14)
4. What would happen to these prophets? (vs. 15)

JEREMIAH 15

1. Where did the Lord tell His people to go? (vs. 2)
2. What would God do to them? (vs. 6)
3. From whom, would God save and redeem Jeremiah? (vs. 21)

JEREMIAH 16

1. What was Jeremiah not to do? (vs. 2,5,8)
2. What was God going to do because of their idolatry? (vs. 13)

JEREMIAH 17

1. Who is cursed? (vs. 5)
2. Who is blessed? (vs. 7)
3. How does the Lord reward men? (vs. 10)