

COMMENTARY

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 36:

Jeremiah had been barred from the Lord's temple for his prophecies over the past 23 years. God now instructs Jeremiah to gather all the prophecies together into a book. Jeremiah then told Baruch (his secretary) to go and read the book to the people at the temple on a day of fasting.

After reading the book to the people, Baruch was called to read it to some of the leaders. They were afraid of some of the prophecies and told Baruch and Jeremiah to go and hide. They then took the book to King Jehoiakim and had it read. The King would allow part of it to be read and would then cut it off and burn it, until the whole book was destroyed.

God then sent another message to Jeremiah to write the book again and to include that King Jehoiakim would not even be given the honor of being buried and that his descendants would not sit on the throne of Judah.

Jeremiah 37:

King Jehoiakim was replaced by his son, Jehoiachin. The King of Babylon then removed King Jehoiachin from the throne and placed Zedekiah on the throne. King Zedekiah listened to Jeremiah, even though his officials did not.

The Babylonians were scared away from Jerusalem temporarily by the Egyptians. At this point Jeremiah went to leave the city to go and claim his land. Upon attempting to leave the city, he was arrested on the suspicion that he was going over to the Babylonians. He was then imprisoned for some time.

Eventually King Zedekiah called for him and asked for any messages from the Lord. Upon hearing that he would be turned over to the Babylonians, King Zedekiah allowed Jeremiah to be freed from the dungeon. Now, Jeremiah was restricted to the courtyard of the guard.

Jeremiah 38:

Jeremiah continued to pronounce the judgement of God to the people of Judah. He encouraged them to surrender, rather than face complete destruction of their city. Because of this, certain officials went to King Zedekiah and asked permission to do with Jeremiah whatever they wished. Upon receiving permission they placed him in an empty cistern where Jeremiah sank down into the mud.

Ebed-Melech, from Upper Egypt, then went to King Zedekiah and asked permission to have Jeremiah released from the cistern, and was given permission.

Jeremiah then met again with King Zedekiah and warned him of the coming destruction and encouraged him to surrender to the Babylonians.

Jeremiah 39:

King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem. At night, King Zedekiah tried to escape but was caught. He was punished by seeing his sons executed, his eyes then poked out, and finally carried off into slavery in Babylon.

King Nebuchadnezzar gave Jeremiah his freedom. Ebed-Melech (who had seen that Jeremiah was released from the cistern) was also spared because he trusted in God.

Jeremiah 40

As the captives were marching off to Babylon, Jeremiah was found chained among them. The Babylonian commander spotted Jeremiah and had him freed.

Gedaliah was appointed as governor of Judah by the Babylonians. He helped the Jews resettle and plant crops in the land. Rumors of an assassination attempt on his life then began to circulate.

Jeremiah 41:

Gedaliah was assassinated along with others (both Jew and Babylonian) who were with him. The assassin was then pursued but escaped (freeing his prisoners in the process). The remaining Jews and officers then headed towards Egypt for fear that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon would seek vengeance following the assassination of his governor.

Jeremiah 42:

Those fleeing to Egypt stopped on the way to see Jeremiah and asked what the Lord's will for them was. Jeremiah declared that if they remained in Judah they would prosper, but if they fled to Egypt for safety, they would be killed.

Jeremiah 43:

The leaders of those fleeing refused to heed the warning of God and proceeded to go anyway (taking Jeremiah with them). Once there, God then declared through Jeremiah that the Babylonians would come and destroy the Egyptians. Jeremiah hid some stones under the pavement near the Pharaoh's palace and prophesied that the King of Babylon would place his throne over those very stones.

Jeremiah 44:

Jeremiah confronts the Jews in Egypt again. This time, he reminds them of the devastation of Judah and how it was the result of idolatry. He warns them that unless they turn away from their idolatrous practices in Egypt, they will be slain by the sword that they had sought to escape.

The people become upset over Jeremiah's warning and refuse to repent.

Jeremiah 45:

God speaks to Baruch who had been complaining. God informs Baruch to be happy with having his life spared, compared to the suffering that God's people were undergoing because of their sin.

Jeremiah 46:

God prophesies through Jeremiah of the defeat of the Egyptian army in the land of Babylon and of the coming invasion of Egypt by the Babylonians. This defeat being the result of the Egyptians idolatry.

God then comforts His people with the message that He will preserve a remnant.

Jeremiah 47:

Jeremiah prophesies the destruction of the Philistines by the Babylonians (this prophecy was fulfilled about the same time as Judah's fall).

Jeremiah 48:

Jeremiah prophesies of the destruction of the Moabites because of their pride and idolatry. Someday, the Lord promised, Moab would be restored. (The land of Moab remains desolate and sparsely inhabited today. The promise of restoration might be yet in the future, or fulfilled by their absorption into the Arab nations).

Jeremiah 49:

God prophesies the fall of the nations of Ammon, Edom, Syria, Hazor and Elam to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

Jeremiah 50:

God prophesies the fall of Babylon to an alliance of nations from the north (Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians). The Jews were to then return home to Judah.

Jeremiah 51:

God continues His message of destruction against Babylon. He then commands the message to be written and then read in Babylon. Following its reading, it was to be dropped into the Euphrates River with a stone tied to it; symbolizing that Babylon would also sink and never rise again.

Jeremiah 52:

This chapter recounts the fall of Judah, King Zedekiah's attempted escape and the looting of the temple by the Babylonians. We also find that Nebuchadnezzar took just 4,600 people into exile in Babylon.

When the Evil-Merodach became King of Babylon, he freed the former King of Judah (Jehoiachin) and provided for him the rest of his life.

STUDY GUIDE

JEREMIAH 36

1. What was Jeremiah to write on a scroll? (vs. 2)
2. Where was the scroll first read? (vs. 8)
3. What happened to the scroll? (vs. 23)

JEREMIAH 37

1. Why did the Babylonians withdraw from Jerusalem? (vs. 5)
2. What was the accusation against Jeremiah? (vs. 13)
3. Where was Jeremiah imprisoned? (vs. 16)
4. Where did King Zedekiah then put him? (vs. 21)

JEREMIAH 38

1. What did Jeremiah recommend to the people? (vs. 2)
2. Where did the leaders place Jeremiah? (vs. 6)
3. Who came to Jeremiah's rescue? (vs. 11)

JEREMIAH 39

1. How did King Zedekiah try to escape? (vs. 4)
2. What happened to Zedekiah? (vs. 6,7)
3. What happened to Jeremiah? (vs. 11-14)

JEREMIAH 40

1. Where was Jeremiah found? (vs. 1)
2. What did the Babylonian commander do for Jeremiah? (vs. 5)
3. Why did the Jews come back to Judah? (vs. 11,12)

JEREMIAH 41

1. Who did Ishmael kill? (vs. 2,3,5,7)
2. Why did Johanan want to take the Jews to Egypt? (vs. 17,18)

JEREMIAH 42

1. What would happen if the Jews stayed in Judah? (vs. 10)
2. What would happen if they fled to Egypt? (vs. 17)

JEREMIAH 43

1. How did they enter Egypt? (vs. 7)
2. What was going to happen at the place Jeremiah buried some stones? (vs. 9,10)

JEREMIAH 44

1. How had the Jews provoked God to anger? (vs. 3)
2. What were the Jews now doing? (vs. 8)
3. What would happen to the remnant in Egypt? (vs. 14)

JEREMIAH 45

1. What had Baruch been saying? (vs. 3)
2. What did God promise Baruch? (vs. 5)

JEREMIAH 46

1. Where was Pharaoh defeated? (vs. 2)
2. Who would come and attack Egypt? (vs 13)
3. What would happen to Jacob? (vs. 27)

JEREMIAH 47

1. Who was going to be destroyed? (vs. 4)

JEREMIAH 48

1. What would happen to Moab? (vs. 15)
2. What would God restore? (vs. 47)

JEREMIAH 49

1. Against what nations did Jeremiah prophesy in this chapter? (vs. 1,7,28,34)

Jeremiah 50

1. Who would attack and destroy Babylon? (vs. 2,3)
2. What had happened to God's people? (vs. 6)

JEREMIAH 51

1. What could not be done for Babylon? (vs. 9)
2. What was to be done with the scroll? (vs. 61-64)

JEREMIAH 52

1. Why did the King of Babylon attack King Zedekiah of Judah? (vs. 3,4)
2. What was burned down? (vs. 13)
3. How many exiles were taken to Babylon? (vs. 30)
4. What happened to Jehoiachin? (vs. 31-34)