



Week 21 Jeremiah

Every Sunday evening at [Bible Explorer](#) we will explore the question

'What does this book from the Bible mean for us today?'

- Born in what is now Anata, a large town sited on the edge of the Jerusalem boundary at the entrance to the Judean desert.
- Appointed a prophet even before he was born.
- Aged around 17 when he began to preach and very nervous.
- Contemporary of Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Ezekiel and Daniel.
- He died alone in Egypt.

A Jeremiah – a person who complains continually or foretells disaster.

The call of Jeremiah 1: 4-19

⁴The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

⁵**'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.'**

⁶'Alas, Sovereign Lord,' I said, 'I do not know how to speak; I am too young.'

⁷**But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am too young." You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.'**

Why does God call Jeremiah?

2:13 'My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me,
the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.'



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The weeping prophet

Jeremiah was so deeply sorrowful for the fallen condition of Judah that he was called the weeping prophet.

4:19 Oh, my anguish, my anguish!
I writhe in pain.
Oh, the agony of my heart!
My heart pounds within me,
I cannot keep silent.

6:15 This is what the Lord says:
'Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.
But you said, "We will not walk in it."
¹⁷ I appointed watchmen over you and
said,
"Listen to the sound of the trumpet!"
But you said, "We will not listen."

5:21 Hear this, you foolish and
senseless people,
who have eyes but do not see,
who have ears but do not hear:

8:21 Since my people are crushed, I am
crushed;
I mourn, and horror grips me.

23:9-10 Concerning the prophets:
My heart is broken within me;
all my bones tremble.
I am like a drunken man,
like a strong man overcome by wine,
because of the Lord
and his holy words.
¹⁰ The land is full of adulterers;
because of the curse the land lies parched
and the pastures in the wilderness are withered.
The prophets follow an evil course
and use their power unjustly.

Visual Imagery

Linen cloth (underpants) 13:1-7

Judah is going the way of ruin

At the potter's house 18: 1-6

God is the potter, we are the clay – to be re-shaped and moulded again if necessary.

Clay jar 19:1-13

God, can destroy what has been built and the plans that have been made if they are not from him.

NB This prophecy was fulfilled in 586 BC during the Babylonian invasion under Nebuchadnezzar; food was so scarce that people, became cannibals, even eating their own children.



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Hope and Consolation

30:1-3 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: “Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you. ³The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave to their ancestors to possess,” says the LORD.’

Jeremiah did not give up but faithfully persisted as the Lord had called him to.

36:1-3 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²‘Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now. ³ Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, they will each turn from their wicked ways; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin.’...

...36:23-24 Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe’s knife and threw them into the brazier, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire. ²⁴ The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes...

...³² So Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Neriah, and as Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them.

For us today

- What do we think God appointed us for, individually, before we were born – are we fulfilling that call and if not how might we need to be re-shaped and moulded?
- We must never give up even when it seems no one is listening and no one cares what we have to say.
- God will use the young to speak words of truth. Jeremiah was 17 when he began his prophetic ministry. We need to listen to our young people – not just when we agree with what is being said but even when we don’t.

*For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Ephesians 2:10