

Called and Unconquerable

Jeremiah 1

Called and Unconquerable

Introduction

Called and Unconquerable Introduction

- God created you. God has called you.
- He does not promise your calling will be easy.
- He does promise that he will be with you.

Called and Unconquerable Introduction

- Jeremiah was a priest from the town of Anathoth in Benjamin.
- He is sometimes called **The Weeping Prophet** because his own prophecies made him so miserable.

Called and Unconquerable Introduction

- Jeremiah's life illustrates that success has to be measured from God's perspective not our own.
- The prophet's job was to convey a message to God's people.
- This he did despite obstacles, opposition and the obstinacy of the people.

Called and Unconquerable Introduction

- His ministry extended for about 40 years – the last 40 years of the kingdom of Judah.
- From beginning to end the main theme of the book is a continuous call to repentance.
- Unfortunately Judah did not listen.

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- Jeremiah finds a few (very few) supporters during the course of his ministry.
- His own family even opposes him.
- There is no record that he made even one convert.

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- On a positive note, Jeremiah does announce that God is not done with his people.
- He will rebuild them at a later date.

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- The prophet Daniel read the prophecies of Jeremiah – and this prompted him to pray for the nation's restoration.

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Daniel 9:1-2 (ESV) In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— ² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. (See also **Jeremiah 25**)

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- Jeremiah also announces the New Covenant that God will establish with Israel and Judah.
 - See **Jeremiah 31:31-37**

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- **Bible Trivia:** The term “**New Covenant**” appears only in Jeremiah in the Old Testament.
- It appears seven times in the New, the first of those being on the lips of Jesus.

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Luke 22:19-20 (ESV) ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

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Jeremiah's message is, above all, one of renewal, rebuilding and restoration. But this renewal must of necessity be preceded by a radical removal of what already existed.

– Issiaka Coulibaly, Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, FATEAC, Ivory Coast

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- As we read the chapter we will see:
 1. The importance of Jeremiah's ministry to the people of Judah and its place in the Bible.
 2. The relevance of Jeremiah's calling to us.

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The Time of Jeremiah 1:1-3

The Time of Jeremiah 1:1-3

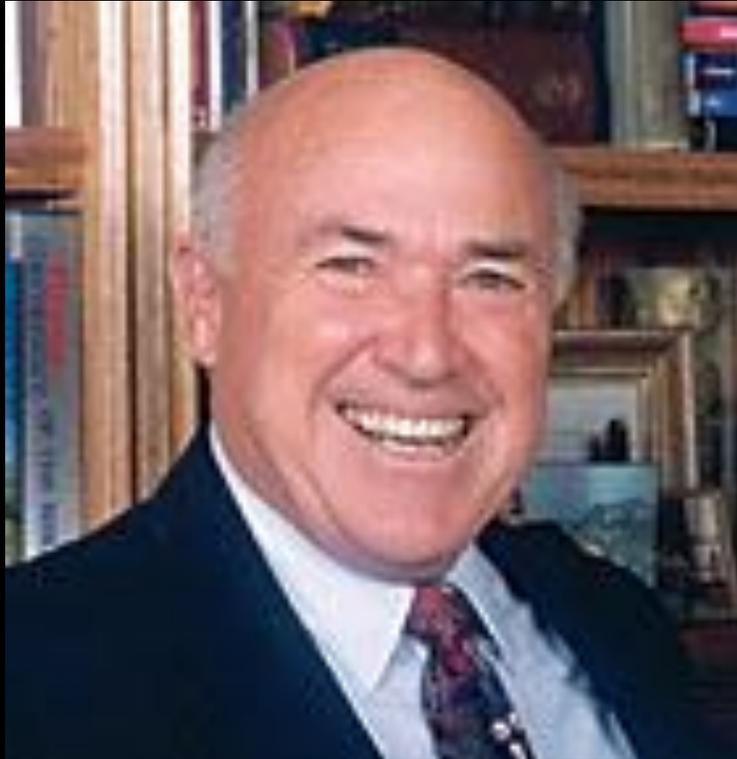
- Jeremiah served under the last five kings of Judah.
- He only mentions three of them here.
- Only the first of these, **Josiah**, was any good.
- Two others not listed reigned for about 3 months each.

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

- The Lord has a plan for Jeremiah.
- The Lord has always had a plan for Jeremiah.
- We should consider what that means for us.

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10



God's knowledge and calling of Jeremiah began even before Jeremiah was conceived. In God's foreknowledge, He knew you and called you, too. God has a plan and a purpose for each of our lives.

– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

- Jeremiah responds to the Lord in just the same way many of us might under the circumstances.
- Moses responded much the same way.

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

Like Moses, Jeremiah feels overwhelmed, incapable of fulfilling the job's demands. Like Moses, but more particularly like Isaiah, Jeremiah is called to a difficult task. He must face terrible opposition during terrible times.

– Paul R. House



The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

- The Lord answers Jeremiah's objections.
- Is he an inexperienced speaker?
- Is he still rather young?
- No problem, God is sending him and He will be with him.

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

- When God called Moses, He said,

Exodus 3:10-12 (ESV) ¹⁰ “Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “But I will be with you ...”

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

- You may also be hesitant to do what the Lord asks.
- Just do it. (Add Nike swish if you choose.)
- He will be with you.

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

- God now outlines the content of Jeremiah's message.
 - To pluck up and to break down
 - To destroy and to overthrow
 - To build and to plant

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10



Jeremiah's ministry will have a double nature. Using images from agriculture and construction, the text shows that destruction ... is going to occupy a more important place than construction ... The catastrophic spiritual condition of Judah demands that destruction precede rebuilding.

– Issiaka Coulibaly, Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, FATEAC, Ivory Coast

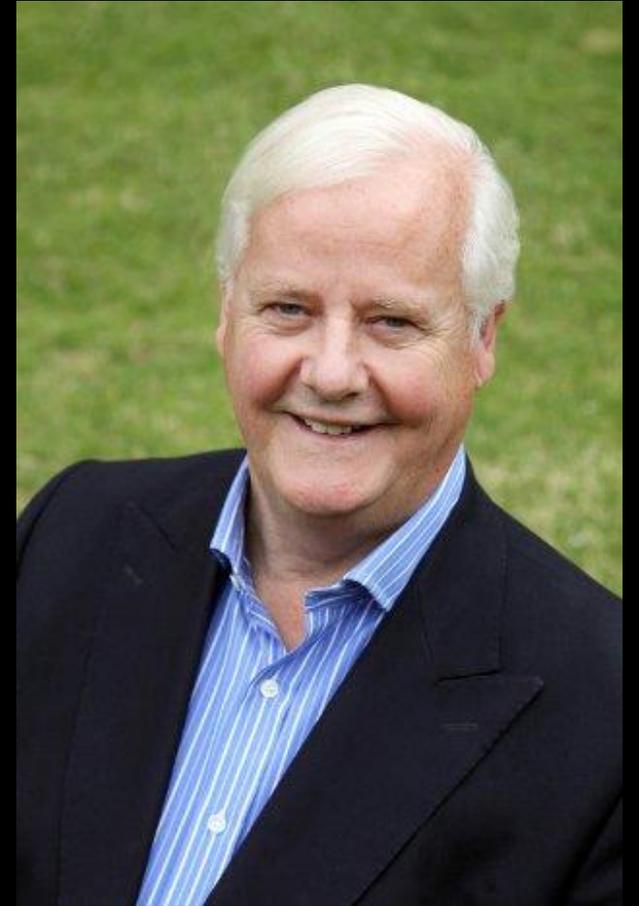
The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

- Jeremiah now has his life laid out for him.
- It will not be easy. It was not what Jeremiah was expecting.
- But what can be better than doing exactly that which God made you for in the first place.

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

Answering the call of our Creator is “the ultimate why” for living, the highest source of purpose in human existence. Apart from such a calling, all hope of discovering purpose ... will end in disappointment.

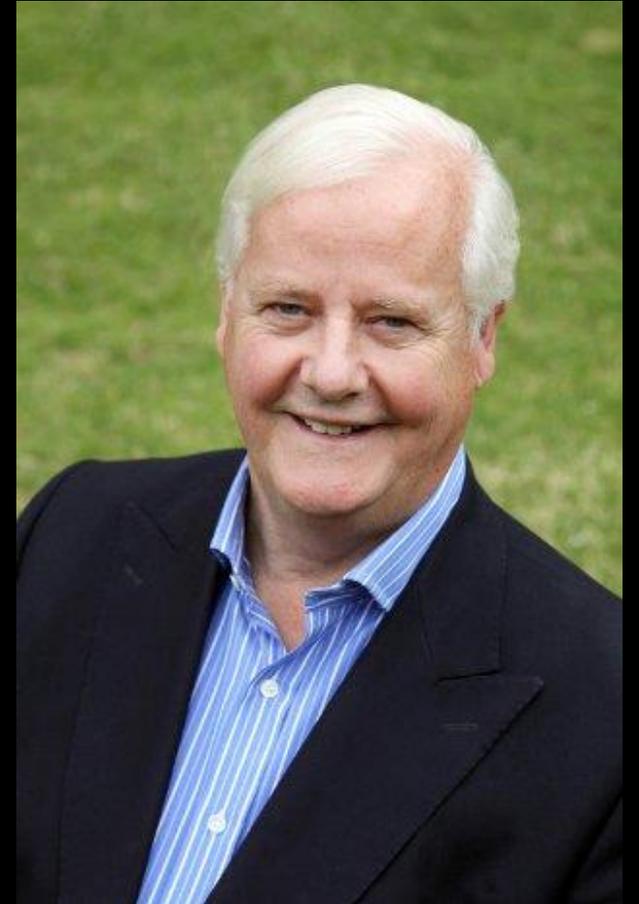
– Os Guinness, author, born in China to missionary parents, great-great grandson of Arthur Guinness, the Dublin brewer



The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

To be sure, calling is not what it is commonly thought to be. It ... often flies directly in the face of our human inclinations. But nothing short of God's call can ground and fulfill the truest human desire for purpose.

– Os Guinness, author, born in China to missionary parents, great-great grandson of Arthur Guinness, the Dublin brewer



The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

- What was true for Jeremiah is also true for us.

The Call of Jeremiah 1:4-10

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- He does not promise your calling will be easy.
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The Almond Branch 1:11-12

The Almond Branch 1:11-12

- God uses a play on words in Hebrew.
- The word for “watching” is related to the Hebrew word for “almond tree.”
- God is reassuring Jeremiah that what he says, he will be faithful to perform.

The Almond Branch 1:11-12

- This will prove to be relevant.
- It paint a strange picture for Jeremiah to announce an impending judgment that never came.
- Think of Jonah who was disappointed that the people of Nineveh actually repented.

The Almond Branch 1:11-12

- Unfortunately for Jeremiah all his prophecies of judgment come true.
- Worse yet, they are spoken against his own people.

The Boiling Pot 1:13-16

The Boiling Pot 1:13-16

- The boiling pot is “facing away from the north,” meaning toward the south – directly toward Judah.
- Judgment was coming. It was certain. Jeremiah’s job would be to announce it.

The Boiling Pot 1:13-16

Despite the seriousness of these issues, what truly matters is that God calls, God will protect, and God will be present. What Moses, Isaiah and others learned Jeremiah will now also discover.

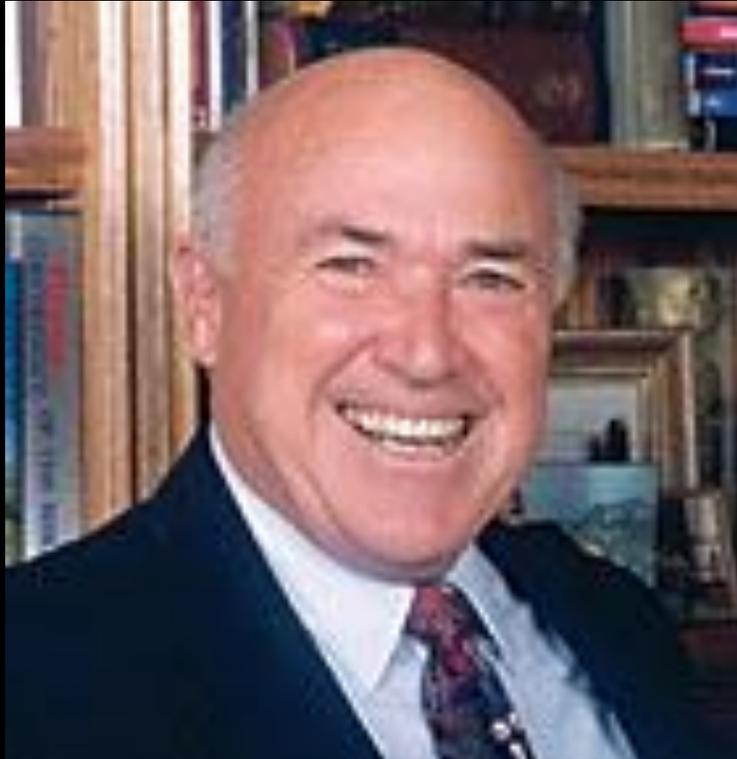
– Paul R. House



The Boiling Pot 1:13-16

- And remember, despite his prophecies of judgment, Jeremiah also prophesies restoration.
- Israel and Judah have been unfaithful, but Jeremiah's message still highlights the faithfulness of God.

The Boiling Pot 1:13-16



It hurts to see all the tragedies that come about because of sin. And yet God is still faithful, and his love will not be derailed by man's failure.

– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)

The Boiling Pot 1:13-16

- Jeremiah was, sadly, an eyewitness to the destruction of Jerusalem.
- He lived to see his prophecies of judgment come true.
- Jeremiah's place in the Bible, however, reminds us that God will not cast off his people – ever.

I Am with You 1:17-19

I Am with You 1:17-19

- Jeremiah is going to face enormous opposition throughout his life.
- God does not hide that, but also reassures him that he will make Jeremiah strong enough to face his adversaries.

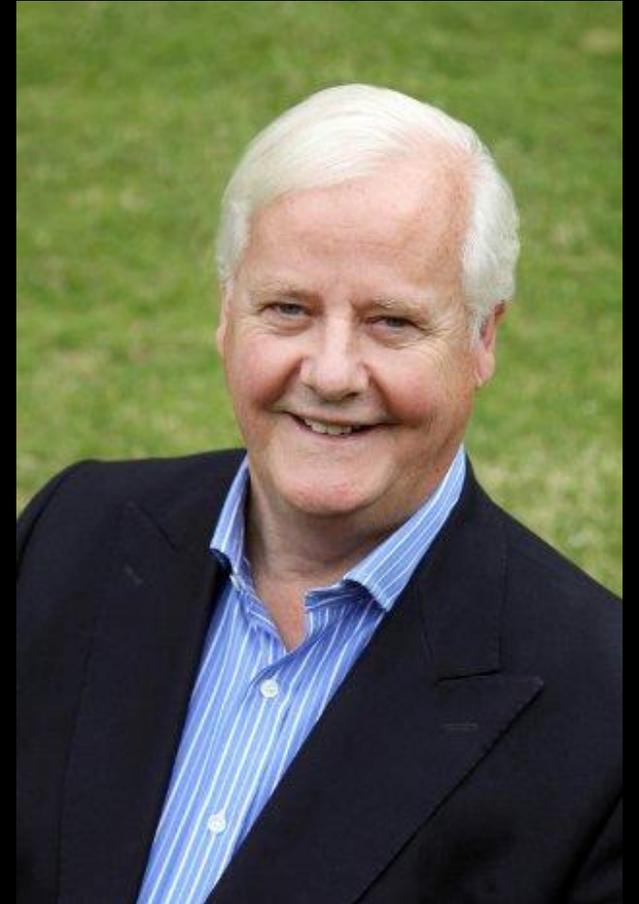
I Am with You 1:17-19

- Jeremiah's calling is going to take everything he has and more – it will take what God has on top of that.
- This is really what it takes from all of us.

I Am with You 1:17-19

Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion and dynamism lived out as a response to his summons and service.

– Os Guinness, author, great-great grandson of Arthur Guinness, the Dublin brewer



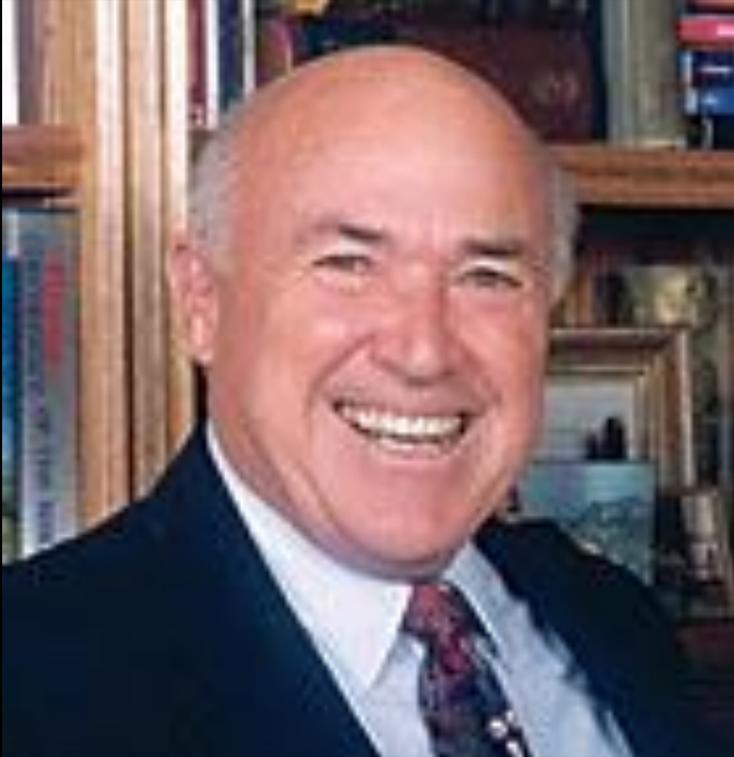
Called and Unconquerable

Conclusions

Called and Unconquerable Conclusions

- God's calling of Jeremiah reminds us that God has plans that are bigger and better – and earlier – than we even know.

Called and Unconquerable Conclusions



We are not here by happenstance. We have been created by God for a special purpose, for a special mission. The exciting thing about committing your life to the Lord is that God will bring about circumstances so that He might fulfill his plan in and through your life.

– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)

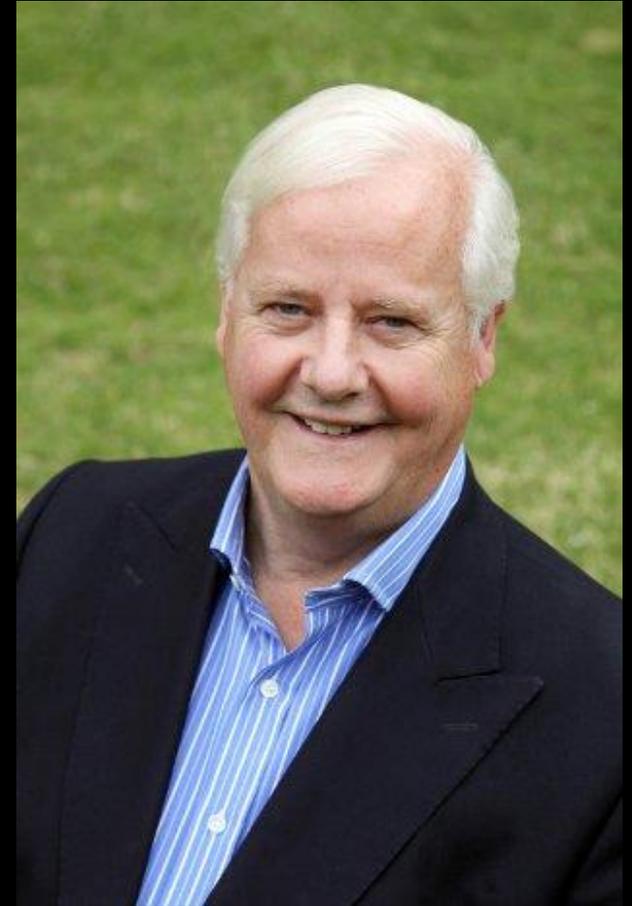
Called and Unconquerable Conclusions

- Just like Jeremiah, you may have a calling that scares you.
- But consider, if you are fulfilling the plans of your Creator, then he will certainly equip you for the task.
- You too will be **called and unconquerable**.

Called and Unconquerable Conclusions

Answer the call of your Creator. Become an entrepreneur of life and see all of life as an enterprise transformed by his call. Count the costs, consider the risks and set out each day on a venture to multiply your gifts and opportunities and bring glory to God and add value to our world. Answering the call is the road to purpose and fulfillment in your life.

– Os Guinness, author



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