



Jeremiah

The Weeping Prophet

The Major Prophets

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23. Isaiah The Fifth Gospel

24. Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet

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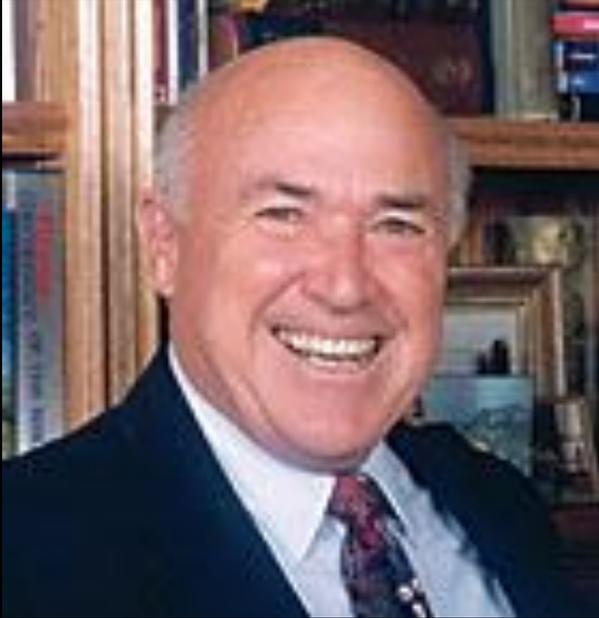
27. Daniel

Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet

Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet

- Jeremiah's ministry extended from the years before to just following the fall of Jerusalem.
- He witnessed Babylon's attacks and saw three separate waves of captives taken into exile.
- He saw the Temple destroyed and the city ruined.

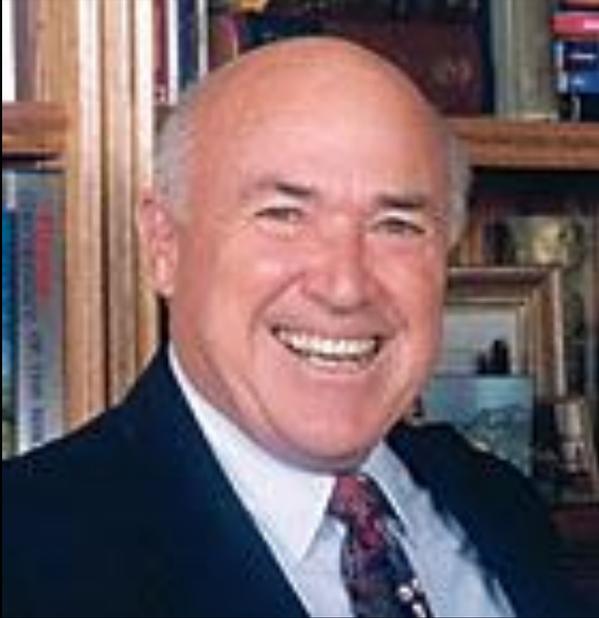
Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet



Jeremiah has often been called “the weeping prophet” because his prophecies were so often accompanied by his mourning and distraught sense of hopelessness. But it isn’t just that he was of a melancholy temperament. This was one of the darkest periods in the history of the nation ...

*– Pastor Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet



... and the bad news he had to deliver was enough to make anyone cry ... The compassion and sensitivity of Jeremiah give us a unique picture into what God must feel when He is rejected, after doing everything He can to save the people He loves.

*– Pastor Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet

- At this time of severe judgment, God called a man with a sensitive heart to communicate tearful messages.
- But despite his many sincere warnings, the people did not turn from their wrongdoing.

Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet

- Instead, their violence, theft and religious hypocrisy just kept getting worse.
- Nonetheless, Jeremiah's compassion comes through clearly throughout this book.

Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet

- As the nation rejected Jeremiah, they were rejecting a compassionate and loving God.
- And as the people hardened in their rebellion, God continued to speak, trying to draw them back to Himself.

Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet

- Blatant, continuous sin inevitably leads to tragedy.
- But the Lord is faithful; His love never fails.
- So the Book of **Jeremiah** also contains wonderful promises of future blessing to the nation of Israel.

Jeremiah Interesting Info

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Two unique orders from God to Jeremiah:

- God told Jeremiah not to pray for the nation. (Chapter 7)
- God told Jeremiah not to get married. (Chapter 16)

Jeremiah Interesting Info

- Jeremiah was probably **the most hated** and persecuted of the Old Testament prophets.
- He seems to also have made **the least impact** during his lifetime.
- It appears that, during his **40 years of ministry**, not one person ever responded to his preaching with repentance.

Jeremiah Interesting Info

- Jeremiah's ministry spanned the reigns of **five kings plus the time of a governor** who ruled under Babylon.
- He is the only prophet to give us an **eyewitness account** of the destruction of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah Interesting Info

- “Babylon” appears in Jeremiah **over 160 times**, more than in the rest of the Bible put together.
- Jeremiah uses “**Thus says the LORD**” or similar phrases **157 times** out of 349 total instances in the Old Testament.
- God is called “**the Lord of Hosts (or Armies)**” some **80 times** in Jeremiah.
- “**Backsliding**” is another key word, appearing **13 times**.

Jeremiah The Weeping Prophet

- Jeremiah's Calling **1:4-10**
- Broken Cisterns **2:12-13**
- A Den of Robbers **7:8-11**
- False Peace **8:10b-12**
- Who can we trust? **17:5-10**
- True & False Prophets **23:5-6, 21-22**
- Jeremiah's Letter **29:1-14**
- The New Covenant **31:31-34**
- Call to Me **33:1-3**

Jeremiah's Calling 1:4-10

- **1:5-6** Jeremiah was young when he received his calling.
- God's plans for Jeremiah were in place even before that.
- **1:10** The building and planting that Jeremiah will speak of comes after the nation's downfall.

Broken Cisterns 2:12-13

- These verses explain how God views the people's rejection of himself in exchange for false gods.
- God is like a **fountain** compared to a **cistern** – and besides that their cisterns were broken.

A Den of Robbers 7:8-11

- The people felt safe going to the Temple, even though their behavior outside of it revealed their utter hypocrisy.
- Jesus makes use of the same analogy in the Gospels.
- See **Matthew 21:13**, **Mark 11:17** and **Luke 19:46**)

False Peace 8:10b-12

- These words are almost an exact repetition of 6:13-15.
- False prophets were announcing peace to the people to make them feel good in the midst of their rebellion.
- This added to Jeremiah's unpopularity because he was preaching God's displeasure – a contrasting message.

Who can we trust? 17:5-10

- The people of Judah had forsaken God, though they might not have said so.
- God calls them back to himself pointing out the uselessness of their ways – and our capacity for self-deception.

True and False Prophets 23:5-6, 21-22

- The **righteous Branch**, is of course **Jesus Christ**.
- Here are also some differences between false prophets and the true messengers of God.

Jeremiah's Letter 29:1-14

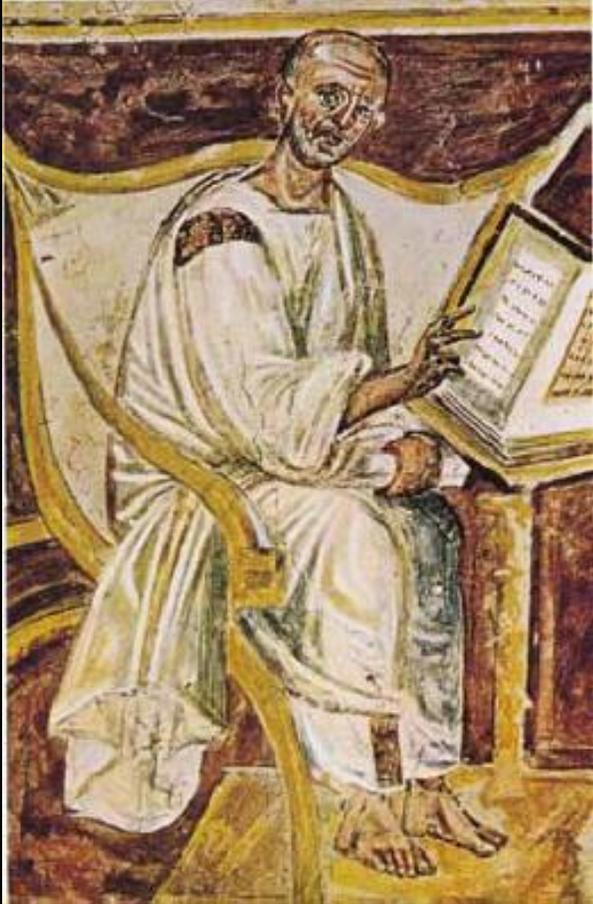
- Jeremiah wrote this to the captives in Babylon.
- **29:7** They are to seek the “welfare” (3x) or *shalom* of Babylon – and pray for Babylon as well!
- **29:10** The exile would not last more than 70 years.
- The prophet Daniel was prompted to pray by reading Jeremiah's words. (See **Daniel 9:2**)
- **29:11-13** Here is a beautiful promise.

The New Covenant 31:31-34

- The next mention of the new covenant in the Bible is at the last supper in **Luke 22:19-20**.

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.”

The New Covenant 31:31-34



What say we to this? One nowhere, or hardly anywhere, except in this passage of the prophet, finds in the Old Testament Scriptures any mention so made of the New Testament as to indicate it by its very name. It is no doubt often referred to and foretold as about to be given, but not so plainly as to have its very name mentioned.

– Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430)

The New Covenant 31:31-34

- The Old Testament, according to Augustine, is telling us that it is looking forward to completion.
- It is awaiting the coming of Jesus Christ to make it complete.

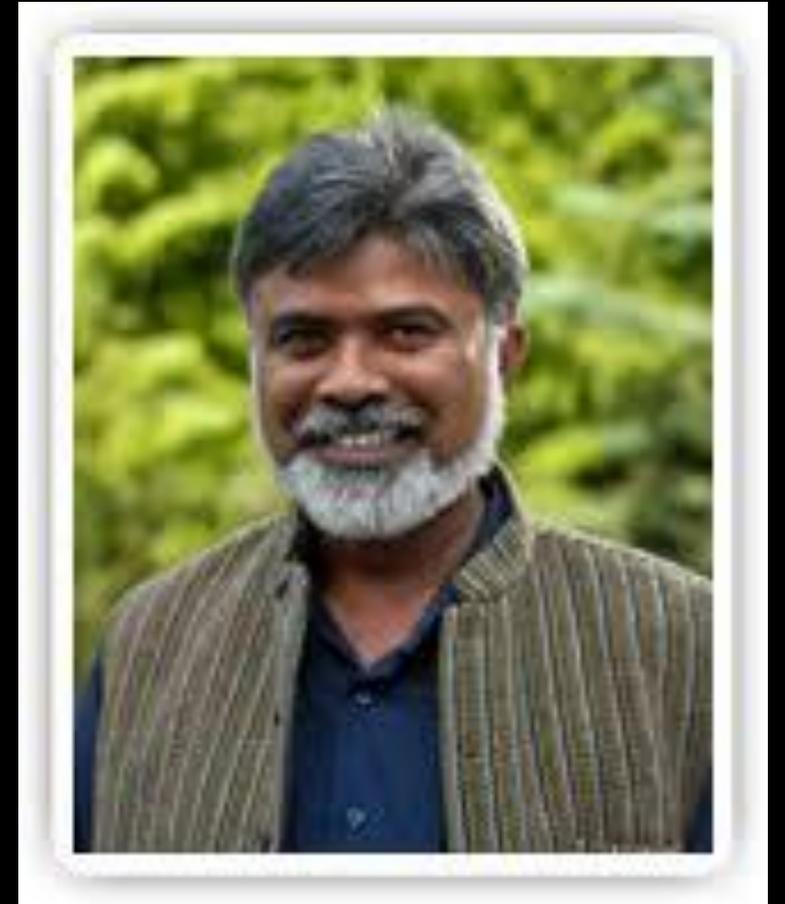
Call to Me 33:1-3

- While Jeremiah is mainly – and fairly accurately – known as a prophet of judgment, he says so much more.
- Through him the Lord repeatedly reminds his people that he is not finished with them yet.

Call to Me 33:1-3

God continues to guide his people when they call to him. As our intimacy with God grows deeper, he gives us insight into the future and sometimes even reveals what will happen in the immediate future. However, the ultimate unsearchable truth about God's revelation of himself is now complete in and through the coming of Jesus.

– Paul Swarup, Cathedral Church of the Redemption, New Delhi, India



Jeremiah Conclusions

Jeremiah Conclusions

- Jeremiah was not a “successful” prophet in his own lifetime.
- His message seemed too negative and judgmental to people who only wanted to hear comforting messages of peace.
- His words were true, but no one took him seriously.

Jeremiah Conclusions

- Jeremiah remains one of the most influential prophets the world has ever seen.
- He prophesied of Judah's return and Jerusalem's restoration.
- He prophesied of **the New Covenant** under which we enjoy peace with God through Jesus Christ – **the righteous Branch**.

Jeremiah Conclusions

- Let's end by rereading Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV)
- We'll put the text up on the screen.

Jeremiah Conclusions

- Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV)

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: ...

Jeremiah Conclusions

- Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV)

I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."