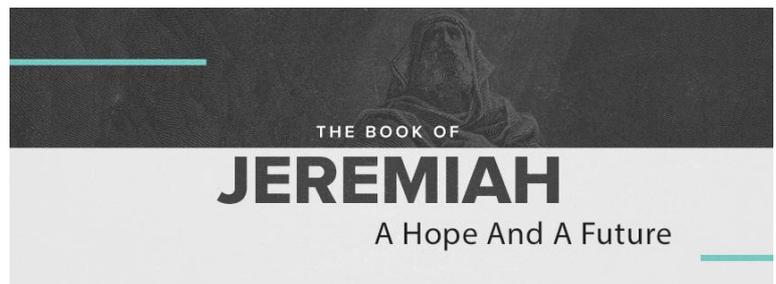


AN INTRODUCTION

Take time to share your best and worst moments since we last met.

How has last year set you up for 2021?

Think of a time when what you heard from God didn't cheer you up or fit with your plans. Why was that, and why do we find it difficult to understand that sometimes when we hear from God it isn't always good news?



FUN FACTS

Jeremiah the book is the longest in the Bible.

Who wrote the book? The son of a priest from the small town of Anathoth in Judah, the prophet Jeremiah dictated prophecies from the Lord to his secretary, Baruch (36:4, 32).

The biblical records of the times in which Jeremiah ministered are 2 Kings 21—25 and 2 Chronicles 33—36. His contemporary prophets were Zephaniah and Habakkuk before the Exile, and Ezekiel and Daniel after it began. He served under Judah's last four kings.

Jeremiah was nearly twenty years old when he began to speak on God's behalf, and he continued in that office for the rest of his adult life, some forty years or more.

Jeremiah's ministry began in 627 BC and ended sometime around 582 BC. For the majority of this time, Jeremiah based his ministry out of Jerusalem [see graphic below].

It is an intensely personal book, with Jeremiah struggling with the nation's lack of response to his ministry and personal feeling about his messages. He wept over the approaching devastation (9:1; 13:17; 14:17) and protested about the derision he was forced to undergo (20:7–10). He also recorded his self-doubt (1:7–8) and his doubts about God's justice (12:1–2).

The book has no chronological progression. Jeremiah compiled his prophecies in stages, but not chronologically. For example, many of Jeremiah's prophecies against the nations were written early in his ministry (cf. 25:1, 13). Yet the content of these prophecies is recorded near the end of the book (cf. 46:1–49:33) (Dyer, C. H., 1985).

Jeremiah prophesied in the final years of Judah before God's people were exiled to Babylon.

The first 45 ch's focus mainly on the judgment coming to Judah because of disbelief & disobedience.

Jeremiah is despised by almost everyone. He deals with death threats, murder plots, and imprisonment. His finished scroll is publicly read, only to be confiscated by the authorities and burned. He's thrown into a dungeon. He's thrown into a pit. He's even beaten by the temple official who—you'd think—would have personal interest in hearing this message from God.

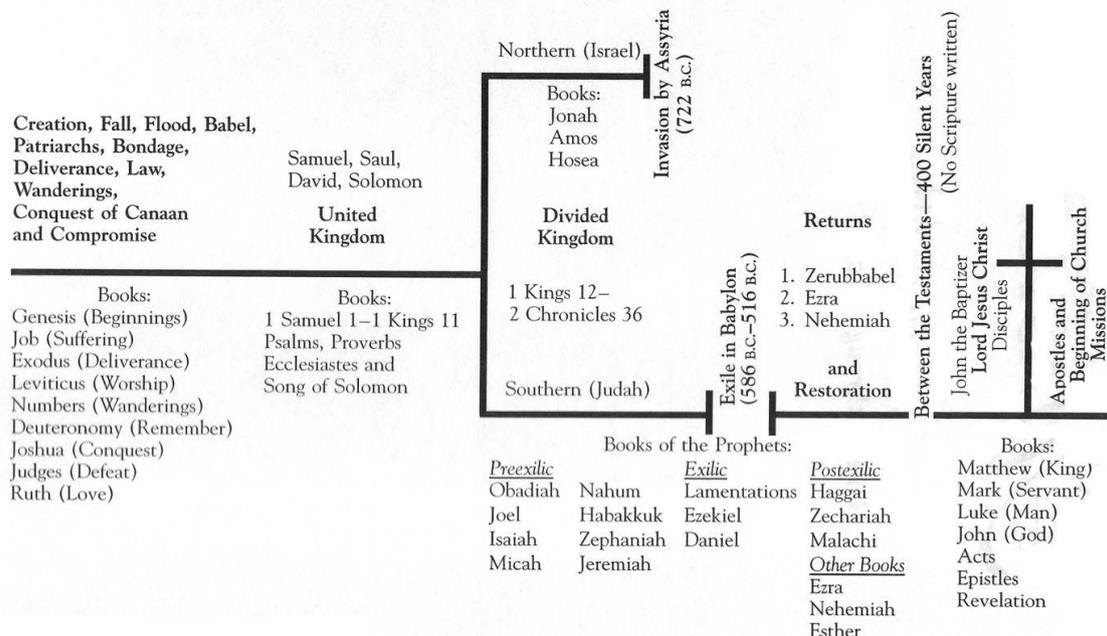
SOME THEMES

1. God's calling and equipping of His prophet (1:4-8; 13-19)
2. God's concern for righteousness and repentance in individuals as well as nations (18:7–10);
3. God's longing for Israel to be tender toward Him, as in the days of first love (2:1–3);
4. Jeremiah's servant tears, as "the weeping prophet" (9:1; 14:17);
5. the close, intimate relationship God had with Israel and that He yearned to keep (13:11);
6. suffering, as in Jeremiah's trials (11:18–23; 20:1–18) and God's sufficiency in trouble (20:11–13);
7. the vital role that God's Word can play in life (15:16);
8. the place of faith in expecting restoration from the God for whom nothing is too difficult (chap. 32, especially vv. 17,27); and
9. prayer for coordination of God's will with God's action in restoring Israel to its land (33:3,6–18).

CONTEXT

⁴⁰ And I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good for them. I will put a desire in their hearts to worship me, and they will never leave me. ⁴¹ I will find joy doing good for them and will faithfully and wholeheartedly replant them in this land. **Jeremiah 32:40–41** (NLT)

SURVEY CHART OF THE BIBLE BOOKS



OUTLINE

JEREMIAH

	Judah's Sin and Judgment	Prophecies against the Nations	A Sobering Ending
	<u>Jeremiah's call</u> <u>Idolatry</u> <u>Corrupt leadership</u> <u>Moral compromise</u>	<u>Exhortations to Judah</u> <u>Promises of restoration (30–33)</u> <u>Fall of Jerusalem and aftermath (39–45)</u>	<u>Jerusalem in ruins</u>
	CHAPTERS 1–45	CHAPTERS 46–51	CHAPTER 52
Theme	Judgment is coming; repent!		
Key Verses	7:23–24; 8:11–12, 21; 9:23–24; 31:1–40		
Christ in Jeremiah	The fountain of living waters (2:13); the righteous Branch, the coming Shepherd, the LORD our righteousness (23:4–6); the New Covenant (31:31); Redeemer (50:34)		

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GRACE IN THE END

As with other prophetic books, Jeremiah is finally a hopeful book, seeing restoration after judgment, and, in the promise of a new covenant, sets the scene for the unquenchable hope that undergirds Christian mission to the ends of the earth and the end of the world (Wright, C. J. H. 2014).

JOURNALING

How has God been speaking to you in recent days? Do you like what you hear, and are you really listening?

Take a few moments to record your personal insights from this lesson.