

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 JuneJeremiah 1Accept Your Commission
- 2) 12 JuneJeremiah 2-6Get Back on Track
- 3) 19 JuneJeremiah 7-10Live Above Board
- 4) 26 JuneJeremiah 11-15Rise above the Tide
- 5) 03 JulyJeremiah 16-18Never Say it is Hopeless
- 6) 10 JulyJeremiah 19-21Submit to Divine Discipline
- 7) 17 JulyJeremiah 22-25Keep Your Behavior in Line
- 8) 24 JulyJeremiah 26-29Settle Down
- 9) 31 JulyJeremiah 30-33Check Your Direction
- 10) 07 AugJeremiah 34-39Stay True
- 11) 14 AugJeremiah 40-45Follow Orders
- 12) 21 AugJeremiah -52Recognize the Lord's Authority
- 13) 28 AugLamentations 1-5Rely on the Lord's Love

INTRODUCTION

- God's methods of discipline range from ignore to wipe out!
 - 1st – God often times blesses the wayward (God's goodness lead some to repentance, Rom 2:4)
 - 2nd – Then God sends warnings (repent or perish)
 - 3rd – Then cursings (they reap what they sow)
 - 4th – Then catastrophes (severe weather, earthquakes, floods, drought, war, famine, disease, etc.)
 - 5th – Then, finally, wipe out (e.g., Noah's Flood, destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah, removal of the Jews from their Promised Land, and destruction of the Earth by fire)
- Jeremiah was in between the 2nd and 5th stages of God's discipline for the Jewish people
- Jeremiah was hand-picked from birth to carry God's final message of 'Repent or Perish' to the Jewish nation
- Jeremiah is considered the "Weeping Prophet" for his doomsday prophecies from God
- Jeremiah also wrote the book of Lamentations – more gloom and doom for God's people, but God's love prevails

Passage	Comments
1:10	To Destroy vs Build and Plant (Conditional) • Jeremiah had a dual mission – preach destruction first to entice them to repent; then if they repent, preach 'build and plant' for a new and better life
1:11-12	A Play on Words for Effect (Hebrew) - "Almond" (דקק shaqed shaw-kade) is derived from "Watch" (דקק shaqad shaw-kad) • The Almond tree, since it bloomed before all other trees signaled the coming of spring – hence God conveyed to Jeremiah that just as watching for the "Watch" or Almond tree to bloom, be on the lookout for God's word of judgment to occur
1:13-15	Judgment from the North is Coming Soon • Why would God be so vague with these visions? • Isn't it better to plainly say 'the Babylonians are coming to destroy Israel & only leave a remnant'? • If God was as plain as we want Him to be, then those who do not want to see would be forced to see – and God does not force people to believe
1:16-19	"I'll Give You Something to Cry About" • God clearly gave Jeremiah orders to preach or be humiliated or intimidated before his foes • Apostle Paul said "woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel" 1Corinthians 9:16 • Should we not see the urgency of the Gospel message?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Can we tell what stage of discipline our nation or the world is in today? Stage #4 seems awfully foreboding
- What should we be doing about it?
 - ✓ Stacking up emergency supplies?
 - ✓ Warning our neighbors, friends, family, co-workers?
 - ✓ Drawing closer to God and His people?
 - ✓ All of the above? ("A wise men sees trouble coming and hides/prepares himself," Proverbs 27:12)

NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 2-6. Israel is in bad shape. Sin is rampant, the weak are abused, there is no fear of God, and they refuse to repent and fix things – Yet God is willing to forgive and forget their sins if they would only repent

Passage	Comments
Jer 1:1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremiah Lived in the Wrong Place at the Worst Time in History – or Did He? • Jeremiah lived during the reigns of the last 5 kings of Israel – 40+ years of gloom and doom ~600BC -Kings Josiah→Jehoahaz→Jehoiakim→Jehoiachin→Zedekiah • King Josiah was considered a very good king who did his best to turn Israel back to God during a relatively peaceful time while Assyria was busy holding off the soon-to-be-victorious Babylonians
1:4-5	<p>Jeremiah was handpicked by God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many of us can say God picked us from birth, or does He? • Others whom Scripture specifically claims were selected from birth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ IsaiahIsaiah 49:1 ◆ King DavidPsalms 139:15 ◆ John the BaptistIsaiah 49:5 ◆ Apostle PaulGalatians 1:15 ◆ You and me (He chose us before the foundation of the world)Eph 1:4
1:6-9	<p>Jeremiah was Drafted in God's Voluntary Army</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v6. Like Moses, Jeremiah threw up excuses - "I'm inexperienced and too young" • v7-9. And God said, in effect, "non-sense, now get up and go do what I told you to do, for I have prepared you...and don't be a sissy" • What moves us from being a sissy to a soldier?

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Even when reflecting on a beautiful verse like **Jeremiah 1:4**, Sally could find a way to 'zing' her husband Karl.