

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 04 Jun 2023	Jeremiah 01	Prepares
2) 11 Jun	Jeremiah 02-06	Judges
3) 18 Jun	Jeremiah 07-10	Personal
4) 25 Jun	Jeremiah 11-15	Exclusive
5) 02 Jul	Jeremiah 16-18	Shapes
6) 09 Jul	Jeremiah 19-25	Rules
7) 16 Jul	Jeremiah 26-29	Present
8) 23 Jul	Jeremiah 30-33	Redeems
9) 30 Jul	Jeremiah 34-35	Worthy
10) 06 Aug	Jeremiah 36-39	Speaks
11) 13 Aug	Jeremiah 40-45	Trustworthy
12) 20 Aug	Jeremiah 46-52	Just
13) 27 Aug	Lamentations 01-05	Good

**INTRODUCTION**

- God's methods of discipline range from blessings to wipe out!
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Stage – God continues to bless the wayward via economic prosperity (God's goodness leads some to repentance, [Rom 2:4](#))
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – God is hands-off/wait-and-see/ignores (they reap what is sown)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – God sends warnings to repent or perish, and often with cursings and threats of pending catastrophes
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – Then catastrophes (severe weather, earthquakes, floods, drought, war, famine, disease/plagues/pestilence, etc.)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> – 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)
- Judah was in between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> stages of God's discipline
- Jeremiah was hand-picked from birth to carry God's final message of 'Repent or Perish' to the Jewish nation, Judah in particular. The northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians 100 yrs earlier.
- Jeremiah is considered the "Weeping Prophet" for his doomsday prophecies from God that Judah would fall to the Babylonians
- Jeremiah also wrote the book of Lamentations – more gloom and doom for God's people, but God's love wants to prevail

Passage	Comments
Jer 1:1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jeremiah Lived in the Wrong Place at the Worst Time in History – or Did He?</b></li> <li>• Jeremiah lived during the reigns of the last 5 kings of Judah: 40+ years of gloom and doom ~600BC                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kings Josiah → Jehoahaz → Jehoiakim → Jehoiachin → Zedekiah</li> </ul> </li> <li>• King Josiah was a very good king who did his best to turn Judah back to God during a fairly peaceful time while Assyria was busy holding off the Babylonians                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ King Josiah (cf <a href="#">2Kings 23</a>) removed idolatrous priests, he also removed idols from God's Temple, and he destroyed the dwellings of the male cult prostitutes who worked and lived in the Temple</li> <li>♦ Can a President have the fortitude to remove perverseness from our land? How long would it last?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:4-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jeremiah was handpicked by God</b></li> <li>• How many of us can say God picked us from birth?</li> <li>• Others whom Scripture claims were chosen from birth                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Isaiah.....<a href="#">Isaiah 49:1</a></li> <li>♦ King David.....<a href="#">Psalms 139:15</a></li> <li>♦ John the Baptist.....<a href="#">Isaiah 49:5</a></li> <li>♦ Apostle Paul.....<a href="#">Galatians 1:15</a></li> <li>♦ You and me (He chose us before the foundation of the world).....<a href="#">Eph 1:4</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:6-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jeremiah was Drafted in God's Voluntary Army</b></li> <li>• v6. Like Moses, Jeremiah threw up excuses                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "I am inexperienced and too young"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v7-9. God said, in effect, "nonsense, 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 a sissy to a soldier?</li> </ul>

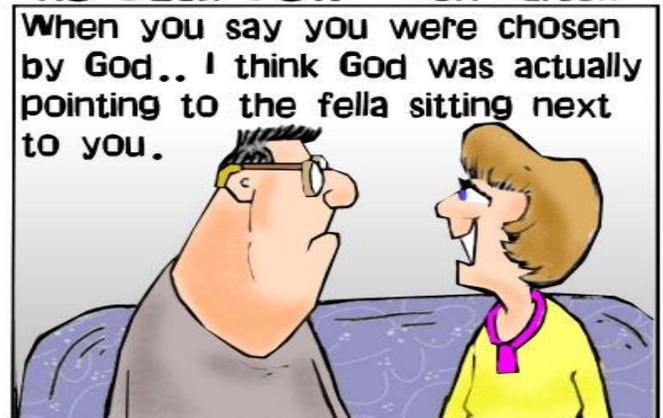
Passage	Comments
1:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To Destroy vs Build and Plant (Conditional)</b></li> <li>• Jeremiah had a dual mission – preach destruction first to entice God's chosen people to repent:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Jeremiah was to "Pluck Up and Break Down"</li> <li>♦ ...and to "Destroy and Overthrow"</li> <li>♦ Then if they repented, Jeremiah was to preach "Build and Plant" for a new and better life</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Play on Words for Effect (Hebrew)</b></li> <li>• "Almond" (שקד שקד shaked shaw-kade) is derived from "Watch" (שקד שקד shaqad shaw-kad)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:13-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Judgment from the North is Coming Soon</b></li> <li>• Why would God be so vague with these visions?</li> <li>• Isn't it better to plainly say 'the Babylonians are coming to destroy Judah &amp; only leave a remnant'?</li> <li>• 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 often force people to believe</li> </ul>
1:16-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"I'll Give You Something to Cry About"</b></li> <li>• God clearly gave Jeremiah orders to preach or be humiliated and intimidated before his foes</li> <li>• Apostle Paul said "woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel" .....<a href="#">1Corinthians 9:16</a></li> <li>• Should we not see the urgency of the Gospel message Today? What are we doing with the Gospel?</li> </ul>

**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?
  - Stack up emergency supplies?
  - Warn our neighbors, friends, family, co-workers?
  - Draw closer to God and to His people?
  - All the above? ("A wise man sees trouble coming and hides/prepares himself", [Proverbs 27:12](#))

**NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 2-6.** Judah 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.

**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.