LESSONS THIS QUARTER

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

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<th>Comments</th>
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| Jer 1:1-3 | • 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→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 |

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| 1:4-5 | • Jeremiah was handpicked by God
  - How many of us can say God picked us from birth, or does He?
  - Others whom Scripture specifically claims were selected from birth
    - Isaiah
    - King David
    - John the Baptist
    - Apostle Paul
    - You and me (He chose us before the foundation of the world)
  - Eph 1:4 |

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| 1:6-9 | • Jeremiah was Drafted in God’s Voluntary Army
  - 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? |

- 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

A Play on Words for Effect (Hebrew)
- “Almond” (עַלְמָן) is derived from “Watch” (עַלְמָן)
  - 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” ............... 1 Corinthians 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