

The Book of Jeremiah

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PREFACE

REFERENCES USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

- **American Standard Version** (ASV or AV) is a version of the Bible that was released in 1901. It soon came to have other names, such as the American Revised Version, the American Standard Revision, the American Standard Revised Bible, and the American Standard Edition. By the time its copyright was renewed in 1929, it had come to be known by its present name, the American Standard Version.
- **Diaglott** is a two-language polyglot translation, of the New Testament by Benjamin Wilson, first published in 1864. It is an interlinear translation with the original Greek text and a word-for-word English translation in the left column, and a full English translation in the right column.
- **King James Version** (KJV) references are used throughout this publication unless otherwise noted.
- **Revised Version** (RV) (or English Revised Version) of the Bible is a late 19th-century British revision of the King James Version of 1611. It was the first and remains the only officially authorized and recognized revision of the King James Bible.
- **Wuest**: Kenneth Samuel Wuest (1893–1962) was a noted New Testament Greek (Κοινή) scholar of the mid-20th century...produced his own English translation of the New Testament (the Wuest Expanded Translation – abbreviated WET) based on Nestle's critical text.

Note: *Definitions of references pulled from WikipediA, The Free Encyclopedia, January 2013.*

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JEREMIAH, THE PROPHET

Jeremiah's name means "*Jah will cast forth.*" He was the son of **Hilkiah**, whose name means "*the portion of Jehovah.*" He was of the priestly line and lived in the land of Benjamin in the village of **Anathoth**, which means "*affliction answers,*" within a few miles of Jerusalem.

He prophesied around 600 B.C. He began his prophetic ministry in 629 B.C., about 60 years later than Isaiah, and prophesied over 40 years under the kings of Judah: Josiah, Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah. The last 2 were Josiah's sons.

After the Babylonian invasion he remained for a while in Judah until he was taken by the fleeing Jews to Egypt where he continued his prophecies. He died there, being stoned to death by his own people according to tradition.

He is called the "weeping prophet," who faithfully proclaimed God's messages in spite of severe persecution. He gave rebukes and warnings against Judah, and prophesied against the Gentile nations. He is a connecting link between the pre-exile and exile prophets, and lived to see his prophecies fulfilled.

His contemporaries were Zephaniah and Habakkuk in his earlier ministry, before the exile; and Daniel and Ezekiel in his later ministry, during the exile.

THE THEMES OF HIS PROPHECY:

1. The Jew's captivity in Babylon.
2. Their restoration after 70 years.
3. Their dispersion among the nations.
4. Their re-gathering to the homeland.
5. The judgment upon the nations.
6. The preservation of the remnant.
7. The Kingdom Age.

DIVISIONS IN THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

There are 2 main divisions in the book of Jeremiah.

Division 1, Prophecies Before and Until the Babylonian Captivity (Moralizing & Sermonizing)	Jer.1-29
Division 2, Various Prophecies, and Messages of Judgment Because Israel Refused to Heed	Jer.30-52

**DIV. 1, PROPHECIES BEFORE AND UNTIL
THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY
(MORALIZING & SERMONIZING) [JER. 1-29]**

JEREMIAH 1

JER.1:1-3 Here we find the title of the book.

JER.1:4-10 Jeremiah's call. He was called from his mother's womb to be a prophet "*over the nations.*" "*The word of the Lord came.*" It must be God's Word not man's ideas that the Prophet utters.

Was he elated because of his great calling? No. He felt his inability, his weakness. He came from a priestly line that failed God and was rejected (see 1Ki.2:26-27). What grace! God used one of their descendants to become a major prophet, a mighty and faithful man of God. He also felt his insufficiency as being too young and unable to speak. What is God's answer? **GOD** is his enabling. "*Whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid...I am with thee.*" The Lord touched him and put His words in his mouth.

Verse 10 verifies his call as prophet to the nations. What is the theme of his message to them? "*To root out, and to pull down...to build, and to plant.*" It is destructive and constructive. Oh, the power of God's Word!

JER.1:11-16 God gave to Jeremiah 2 signs:

1. The **ROD OF AN ALMOND TREE** (translated "der Wachsame" meaning "*watching one*"— German Elberfelder Bible). The rod is a symbol of punishment. God hastened (watched) His Word to perform it.

The word **almond** means "*to be ready,*" "*to hasten,*" "*to watch,*" "*to awake,*" for judgment. The almond is the first flower to bloom and to bring forth fruit. It blooms in January, and brings forth fruit in March. (Clarke's Commentary).

2. The **SEETHING POT** is an emblem of judgment (war) coming from the north [Eze.24:3]. The first fulfillment was through the Babylonian invasion, but "*all the families of the kingdoms of the north*" [Jer.1:15] seems to refer to the end-time. Judgment fell upon Israel because of their wickedness and idolatry.

JER.1:17-19 God strengthened Jeremiah and made **HIM** to be: ☒ "*A defended city, • an iron pillar and Ž brazen walls.*" God made Jeremiah to be this against the kings, princes, priests, and people of Judah who would oppose him. "*They shall fight...but...not prevail*" because God is with Jeremiah. With God we are a majority! Hallelujah!

1st SERMON IS AGAINST UNFAITHFUL JUDAH [JER.2:2-3:5]

Jeremiah was called the weeping prophet. It is joy to do the will of God, but the failure of the people brings sorrow.

JER.2:1-3 “*The Word of the Lord*” came to Jeremiah and said: “*Go and cry*” to Jerusalem. The word **cry** means here to “*speak loudly*.” Jerusalem stands for God’s people. Although in Jeremiah 1, Jeremiah said that he could not speak, God made him to cry. He empowers the weak ones. God remembers Israel’s (and also our) whole-hearted beginnings—the first love and **FIRST-FRUITS**.

JER.2:4 Jeremiah addresses the whole house of **ISRAEL**.

JER.2:7-8 Although God brought Israel into a fruitful country, yet in their apostasy they questioned God’s faithfulness. God says, “*Ye defiled MY land*.” We see God’s faithfulness and man’s failure; and so we find it today. The priests and those that handled The Law did not know God.

JER.2:9 God’s unfailing love is shown again in spite of their failure.

1. God pleads with them [Jer.2:9].
2. God reproaches them (they brought it upon themselves) [Jer.2:17].
3. God accuses them (their own wickedness corrects them) [Jer.2:19].

JER.2:10-11, 13. He refers to the isles of Chittim around the Mediterranean Sea, and to Kedar, an Arabian tribe which have not changed their dead gods. But Israel has forsaken “*the fountain of living waters*” and exchanged it for “*broken cisterns*.” The same condition prevails in Christendom.

JER.2:20 God’s retrospect. He broke Israel’s yoke, and so He does for us. Israel had a wonderful country; all they had to do was to chase out the enemy.

JER.2:21 God planted Israel as a noble vine, but Israel degenerated.

JER.2:22 This is a picture of the self-cleansing of the old creation (though Israel was only a type of the new creation). It is impossible for man to wash away his filthiness in the sight of God. The old creation is filthy, though it may look respectable in the eyes of man. Respectability does not count with God.

JER.2:26 The only ones who are ashamed of their failures are the ones who are found out. In God’s presence, Israel was found out and ashamed.

JER.2:29-32 So to speak, God asks, “Have I been at fault?” (compare Jer.2:5). No, it is not God’s fault, but His people have forgotten Him.

JER.2:36 Israel leaned upon Egypt and Assyria. They depended on the arm of flesh, instead of upon the arm of the Lord.

1st SERMON IS CONCLUDED [JER.3:1-5]

A man would not receive back an unfaithful wife, but God offers forgiveness to Israel, who committed spiritual fornication. The showers of rain, and the latter rain, were withdrawn because of Israel's sinfulness. It also may apply to the failing Church.

2nd SERMON [JER.3:6-6:30]

JER.3:6-11 The 2nd sermon is to unfaithful Judah. It opens with complaint against Judah. God likens His people to a woman—to **BACKSLIDING ISRAEL** and to **TREACHEROUS JUDAH**. He spoke to Judah concerning Israel who were then in captivity. God warned Judah. They set up false worship in Samaria (around 900 B.C.). God never revived them.

First, they went away; then, God put them away. In Jeremiah 3, we read 6 times of “*backsliding Israel*” or “*children*.” “*Backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah*” [Jer.3:11], because Judah professed faithfulness, but was faithless in heart. They had a form of godliness and denied the power of God.

JER.3:12 In the north country, Israel, in Assyrian captivity, was admonished to repent. God's unchangeable love is shown here. What tender never-failing love is expressed!

JER.3:14-15 “*Turn, o backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family and I will bring you to ZION.*” He promised them pastors according to His heart.

Those who are willing to return will be brought to Zion. God promised them kings or prophets (Clarke's Commentary).

JER.3:16 A wonderful picture of the millennium is given. The ark (a shadow) will be gone when Christ is present.

JER.3:17 “*At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it.*” This prophecy was given before the captivity of Judah.

JER.3:18 All 12 tribes will be united.

JER.3:19 When Israel will be in the “*pleasant land*,” they will say, “*My Father*”; then, the nation shall be born in a day.

JER.3:21 The weeping and supplication of Israel will be their national repentance. Jeremiah gives a picture of the end-time, and then the Lord entreats Israel again, through the Prophet, not to put their confidence in hills and mountains (the nations) [Jer.3:23]. Afterward they will confess their failure because they leaned on the arm of flesh.

JEREMIAH 4

The 2nd sermon continues.

JER.4:1-2 I am impressed with these verses. The blessedness of the Lord toward the nations seems to depend on Israel's return to the Lord.

JER.4:3 Israel is urged to show their faith by their works. "*Break up your fallow* (neglected, unseeded) *ground, and sow not among thorns.*" Plow deep and in the good ground, and do not waste the precious seed amongst the thorns. God wants fruit from our lives. He wants reality.

JER.4:4 He wants Israel to circumcise their hearts, and not the flesh only.

JER.4:5 Jeremiah exhorts Judah to repentance. Severe judgment is predicted because of their evil doings.

JER.4:6-7 He saw the great destruction coming from the north—Babylon (lion) at that time, and the nations at the end-time.

JER.4:10 "*Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul.*" This reminds us of the "Peace and safety" slogan when sudden destruction shall come.

JER.4:13 "*He (the enemy) shall come up as clouds, and his chariots shall be as a whirlwind: his horses are swifter than eagles.*" Does this not suggest aerial destruction?

JER.4:14 He admonishes Israel, "*Wash thine heart,*" seek the Lord.

JER.4:19-31 Jeremiah's lamentation for Judah. He is heartsick over these severe judgments; his whole body suffers under that strain.

JER.4:22 Jews are known to be very intelligent, but God calls them "*foolish,*" without understanding, because they trusted in themselves, and the nations, instead of in God.

JER.4:23 Another war is predicted after this. Jeremiah saw it in a vision. This gives a description of Palestine after the war—darkness and devastation (the "*great and notable day of the Lord*" [Act.2:20]). The Lord's presence will judge the earth at "*that great day of God Almighty*" [Rev.16:14].

JER.4:30 No make-up will pacify her former lovers' hatred against her.

JER.4:31 Severest suffering of Zion is described.

JEREMIAH 5

The 2nd sermon continues. Verses 1-18 show God's judgment upon the Jews for their iniquity.

JER.5:1 The Lord is seeking "*a man...that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth.*" For Sodom and Gomorrah, He was willing to save the cities for the sake of

10 righteous, but here He will pardon for **ONE**. God says” “*Run*” (“*roam*,” “*go around*”—Isaac Leaser and Martin Luther), “*seek in the broad places*.” They refer to the public and market places.

JER.5:2 The true people of God are scarce. The people profess, but they do not possess.

JER.5:3 But God (Christ) is the Truth. He looks upon “*the truth*”; therefore I have confidence in Him. God has “*stricken them...but they have refused to receive correction*.” How important to be willing to take correction, though it hurts. What wonderful and practical lessons are in Jeremiah!

JER.5:4-6 Of course the “*poor*” are ignorant, uneducated. They cannot produce a man that knows God’s ways but probably the “*great men*” can. No, they are the worst, they have broken God’s “*yoke*” and “*bonds*.” They climb into heaven by their own achievements; they do not need God at all—not Him nor His ways; therefore, God shall slay them.

JER.5:7-9 God cannot pardon His people. When He “*fed them to the full, they then committed adultery*.”

JER.5:10 Although Israel’s sins are gross and God reproves them severely, yet we see His mercy over and over again. He says: “*I will not make a full end with you*” [Jer.5:18].

JER.5:13 The false prophets are only “*wind*,” but Jeremiah’s words become “*fire*” to devour them. God’s Word is “*a burning* (consuming, as to devour) *fire*” [Jer.20:9]. “*A mighty nation*” will destroy them and their land.

JER.5:19 This describes the contempt of God. They are disobeying God’s orders, and are full of civil and religious corruption.

JEREMIAH 6

The 2nd sermon continues.

The spirit of prophecy sees the Chaldeans on their march (Clarke’s Commentary).

JER.6:1 The children of Benjamin are addressed and told to flee out of Jerusalem, because of coming judgment. Separation is needed (compare this with 2Co.6:14). Jerusalem was portioned out to the tribe of Benjamin, and later possessed by Judah. Both tribes dwelt in it.

JER.6:2-8 Zion is likened to a delicate woman, but judgment will come upon her.

JER.6:9 The remnant of Israel will be gleaned as a vine.

JER.6:10-11 Their **EAR** is uncircumcised; they refuse to hear the warnings. Therefore, God’s fury is full. Even the aged shall be taken. Is this not also a picture of today’s massacres (Hitler’s time especially)?

JER.6:13-14 **ALL** are covetous—the messengers are false. They proclaim false peace. Their times of sufferings were fulfilled in a measure, but they do refer to the end-time.

JER.6:16 God admonished His people to “*ask for the old paths*,” to hear the Word of God.

JER.6:26 Again, Jeremiah calls his people, that he loves so dearly, to mourn.

JER.6:27-30 In other translations the word **tower** is “*trier*,” “*tester*,” “*an assayer*.” But God’s melting was in vain. Out came not refined but reprobate, refuse silver to be thrown on the junk pile. God uses other people to try us, as He used Jeremiah to test His people.

JEREMIAH 7

3rd SERMON, THE TEMPLE SERMON [JER. 7:1-10:25]

JER.7:1-3 It is a message to **RELIGIOUS JUDAH**, a call to repentance. Jeremiah was the advance agent to tell the people of the captivity. He had to preach to backslidden people.

They depended on the temple, and were deceived by lying words (half-hearted worship, forms, show of worship—Clarke’s Commentary).

JER.7:4 “*The temple of the Lord*.” The temple will not help, only amending their ways will help. He talks like James, he emphasizes a practical religion. Don’t say you have faith if you don’t live like it.

JER.7:8 He speaks again of the unprofitableness of lying words. How many people are trusting in lying words! Sometimes teachers from theological seminaries are deceivers.

JER.7:9-10 What a lie! Religious people say, “We are delivered,” when the evil doings of their lives tell otherwise.

JER.7:11 Jesus spoke also of the “*den of thieves* (robbers)” [Mat.21:13, Mar.11:17, Luk.19:46]. Christendom is in that condition today. The hiding of religious sinners in the house of God makes it a “*den of robbers*.” It certainly took the power of God to deliver such a message in the house of God.

JER.7:12-13 “*But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh*.” The Ark falling into the hands of the Philistines may be applied to Catholicism, which also forsook God.

For the iniquity of the priests (Eli and his sons) God let the ark fall into the hands of the Philistines, an example of God’s judgment (Clarke’s Commentary).

God separated His people through the Protestant Reformation. He brought one messenger after another—Huss, Luther, Wesley, etc. [Verse 13]. But there has never been a revival in the Catholic Church.

JER.7:14 As God spoke to Judah concerning their destruction, He is also warning Protestantism today (Sardis). Compare the Laodicean condition of today.

JER.7:15-16 Even as God cast out Ephraim (the 10 tribes), so will He cast out Judah. He will also spue out indifferent Protestantism. There is no need of intercession. God will not hear.

JER.7:18 The idol worship of “*the queen of heaven*” (family idol worship—Clarke’s Commentary), a Canaanitish deity, is a hint of the high place which Mary has been given by the Roman Catholics. The word **Canaan** means “*a trafficker*”; it brings good business.

JER.7:21-23 Obedience is demanded and not sacrifices.

JER.7:29 “*Cut off thine hair*”; now it is the latest style.

Professedly Jerusalem was like a Nazarite (Clarke’s Commentary).
Cutting of the hair was a sign of mourning and distress (Dr. Blayney).

JER.7:30 They polluted the temple as they did in Jesus’ time.

JER.7:31 The Jews followed the practice of the heathen in the Moloch worship—the burning of human sacrifices (compare Act.7:43 and 2Ki.16:3, 2Ki.21:6).

JER.7:32 Through God’s judgment Tophet, the valley of Hinnom, will be changed to “*the valley of slaughter*.” Jeremiah takes us clear down to Armageddon, the last war. The former captivities of the Jews are included.

JER.7:33 “*Carcasses...meat for the fowls*,” reminds us of God’s supper in Revelation 19:17.

JEREMIAH 8

The 3rd sermon about the temple continues.

JER.8:1-2 “*The bones...out of their graves*” will be exhibited to their idols, the sun and the moon, and these will be used as dung.

It was out of utmost contempt—a general custom (Clarke’s Commentary).

JER.8:3 “*Death shall be chosen rather than life*,” by those whom God has “*driven*” in all places. Medical science prolongs life now.

JER.8:4 Nevertheless there is hope! Hallelujah. “*Shall they fall, and not arise?*”

JER.8:5 Yet Jerusalem is “*slidden*” by “*a perpetual backsliding*.”

JER.8:6 Without repentance they asked: “What have I done?”

JER.8:7 The animal creation knows its time, “*But my people know not the judgment of the Lord.*”

JER.8:8 The wise men are upbraided because of their wisdom. “*The pen of the scribes is in vain.*” They know not what is written in the Book of books...The Bible. They reject God’s Word.

JER.8:10 All are given to covetousness, and “*everyone dealeth falsely.*”

JER.8:11 The ministers of church and state proclaim false peace. There are so many peace talks and write-ups today.

JER.8:12 They are shameless and cannot blush any more (they tell dirty stories, are nudists, etc.).

JER.8:13-14 God has to “*consume them,*” and send judgment and starvation. Instead of wine, their drink is “*water of gall.*”

JER.8:15 People will look for peace, but behold there is trouble.

JER.8:17 “*I will send serpents,*” a hint of the Antichrist and false prophet. Those Satan-inspired men will “*not be charmed.*”

JER.8:22 Why is health not recovered? They have gone too far. The wound was too deep. The “*balm in Gilead*” is the best physician. Physical or health education became a disappointment. God sent a **BALM**, but it was not applied—a desperate state.

JEREMIAH 9

The 3rd sermon about the temple continues.

JER.9:1-2 Jeremiah wants to flee into the wilderness. He wept sorely because of God’s people who were false to God.

JER.9:3 “*They bend their tongues*” (compare this with Jam.3). The tongue is likened to “*an arrow*” [Jer.9:8]. What blessing and what curse may the tongue bring.

JER.9:11 God had to visit them with judgment and desolation.

JER.9:12 “*Who is the wise man*” who declared God’s corrections?

JER.9:14 They “*have walked after the imagination* (stubbornness—other translation) *of their own heart.*” They insist that their idea is better than God’s Word.

JER.9:15 What terrific judgments are pronounced—the feeding with “*wormwood*” poison (wormwood comes from a poisonous plant) instead of food, and “*gall.*”

JER.9:16 The Lord said: “*I will scatter them also among the heathen...I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them.*” This is the history of the poor Jews.

JER.9:17-22 A “*call for the mourning women*” (mourning women are paid at funerals); and, an exhortation to receive God’s Word.

JER.9:23-24 Men shall not glory in their wisdom, might, nor riches, but in the Lord. How timely!

JER.9:25-26 God’s judgment will fall upon the circumcised and upon the uncircumcised. They are all alike in God’s sight [Rom.2].

JEREMIAH 10

The 3rd sermon about the temple is concluded.

JER.10:1-6 The house of Israel is addressed. God contrasted the false gods with Himself. Chaldeans and Egyptians were especially addicted to astrology and God warns against them.

JER.10:7 He is the “*King of nations.*” Jeremiah passes over all the captivities to the 2nd Advent of Christ.

JER.10:11 This verse is written in Chaldean.

JER.10:17-18 Jeremiah warns them to flee from the coming calamities.

JER.19 The faithful Prophet loves them so dearly, he laments: “*Woe is me for my hurt....but I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it.*” Sometimes the conditions in Christendom and in the world crush us, but we must bear them.

JER.10:20 “*My tabernacle is spoiled...my children are gone forth of me.*”

JER.10:21 “*The pastors are become brutish.*”

JER.10:22 Judgment is coming from the north to make Judah desolate.

JER.10:23 Jeremiah’s supplication, he speaks to the Lord: “*O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*”

JER.10:24 “*O Lord, correct me, but with judgment (in love); not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.*” Should we not follow his example?

JER.10:25 “*Pour out thy fury upon the heathen.*” Nebuchadnezzar was punished with insanity.

JEREMIAH 11

4th SERMON, MESSAGE OF THE BROKEN COVENANT [JER. 11:1-12:17]

JER.11:1-6 When the children of Israel went out of Egypt they were given the covenant of the land, a land flowing with milk and honey [Deu.27-28]. They

broke their part of the covenant, and as a result they are in trouble today. Jeremiah takes sides with the Lord. It is dangerous not to listen to God's Word, when you know it. Jeremiah was then a street preacher with a 2-fold message of "*Hear*" and "*Do*."

He had to walk the streets of Jerusalem and tell God's message. The last message he delivered was in the gate of the temple. What would we do, if God would command us to do such things? Yielded Christians would obey. At his call, Jeremiah said that he could not speak; but God made him to be His mouthpiece...and so He does today. If He purposes to make us do His will, He performs it.

JER.11:7-10 God reminded them of the given covenant when He said to the fathers, "*Obey my voice*." But they obeyed not. Poor mankind; with a sinful nature which cannot obey. But we (believers) have a new nature...Christ in us. Through Him we want to hear and yield whole-heartedly to God's voice.

JER.11:14 Because of their iniquity, God refused to hear the intercession for them. The saddest condition! Their sinfulness closed God's ear.

JER.11:15 God likens Israel to a woman "*beloved*," which committed fornication with nations and idols.

JER.11:16 The Lord called Israel the "*green olive tree*." In Romans 11, Paul speaks of the olive tree. God is promising evil because of their iniquity. The olive speaks of fruitfulness and light. God's people should be fruitful, and lights in this world.

JER.11:18 God gave the knowledge of their evil deeds to Jeremiah.

JER.11:19 Jeremiah is here a type of the true remnant. He stood as a bright and shining light in the midst of a sinful nation, and so will the remnant. "*Let us destroy the tree with the fruit*" (the Prophet and his prophecies—Clarke's Commentary). "*I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter...and let us cut him off from the land of the living*" seems also to refer to Jesus.

JER.11:20 Not a prayer of grace, but of vengeance. For us, it would be against God's grace to pray for judgment.

JER.11:21 Jeremiah's own townspeople (Anathoth was a city of priests), were so dead to God that they refused to listen to him, and even sought to take his life. Therefore, the Lord promised punishment to them. Also, the childhood friends of Jesus threatened to take His life.

JER.11:22 What is the matter with the world? They turned against God; therefore He is turning against them. "*Men shall die by the sword*." These present so-called peacemakers make this world worse than ever. One cannot mistreat, or lie against, God's people without punishment.

JEREMIAH'S QUESTIONS AND GOD'S ANSWERS

The 4th sermon is concluded.

JER.12:1 Jeremiah was somewhat troubled. He asked God, “*Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper?*” Jeremiah’s puzzle is also the one of many others today.

JER.12:2 Religious people have God in their mouth, but not in their hearts (reins).

JER.12:3-4 What contrast! “*But thou, O Lord, knowest me: thou hast seen me, and tried mine heart toward thee,*” said Jeremiah. Oh how precious that we can come to the Lord open hearted. Hallelujah! These hypocrites said, “*He (God) shall not see our last end.*”

JER.12:5 “*If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses?*” If the little things are so very bothersome, how can we overcome big things? This is the day when we have to run faster. If you get so weary in the land of peace, what will you do when the judgments are falling? There are many people who are lazy Godward, though they are ambitious and industrious in the natural.

JER.12:6 God tells Jeremiah that his own household was against him. Likewise, Jesus was misunderstood and mistreated by His own.

JER.12:7 Jeremiah said, “*I have forsaken mine house.*” Jesus also left His heritage when He sat on Mt. Olivet and cried over Jerusalem. He did not want to forsake His people, but He was forced to do so. He will do the same with the apostatized Church.

JER.12:9 God’s heritage (Israel) is like a “*speckled bird*”; an odd-looking bird. Everybody picks at them; they cannot be assimilated into the nations. They are distinct. Like a speckled bird, they cannot be hid. **ALL** nations hate them because of jealousy, but God is a covenant-keeping God. He also is our God. We can depend on Him.

Speckled (corrupted themselves with various heathen worship—
Clarke’s Commentary).

JER.12:14 The leaders of Israel have destroyed God’s portion, God’s vineyard (Israel).

JER.12:15 Although the judgment is severe, God will restore Israel again. Praise God!

JER.12:16 The neighbors who yield, will diligently learn through “*my people,*” to swear in the Name of the Lord.

JER.12:17 But the Lord will destroy that nation that rejects Him.

JEREMIAH 13

5TH SERMON, SIGN OF LINEN GIRDLE AND BOTTLES OF WINE [JER. 13:1-27]

JER.13:1-5 God told Jeremiah to get a linen girdle and put it on his loins; Jeremiah obeyed. The second time, God told him to hide this girdle in the Euphrates, and so he did. We do not know whether it was only a vision or actually so. God taught his people by signs. This has a real significance.

JER.13:6-10 After many days, when he recovered the girdle, it was marred—it was good for nothing. This was the state of the Jews.

JER.13:11 God wore Israel like a girdle, *“that they might be unto me for a people...but they would not hear.”* God loved Israel so dearly that He clave to them as closely as a girdle does, *“for a praise, and for a glory.”* May we derive from this a personal lesson, and cleave whole-heartedly to the Lord. God punished Israel and hid the nation in the Euphrates, a symbol of their captivity among the nations, where they were marred.

JER.13:12-14 This filling of the wine bottles speaks of their judgment. The drunkenness may refer to the religious condition as well as to national wars. *“And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together.”* This reminds us of Jesus’ words of the disunity of families [Mat.10:34-36].

JER.13:15-17 God admonishes them lovingly to hear and to give glory to God, otherwise He says, *“My soul shall weep in secret places for your pride.”* How touching is the verse. May we never make the dear Lord weep on account of our pride. Captivity was the result of their disobedience.

JER.13:22 The repeated question of the people is, *“wherefore...?”* God’s pointed answer is *“For the greatness of thine iniquity.”*

JER.13:23 The Ethiopian, who cannot change his skin, is a picture of the old creation that cannot change his ways. Israel needs a new creation life in order to be changed.

JEREMIAH 14

6TH SERMON, MESSAGE OF DEARTH [JER. 14:1-15:21]

This sermon is a dialogue between God and Jeremiah.

JER.14:1-3 There was no rain in Judah. The nobles of Judah have sent their little ones to get water because of the great dearth, but they found no water.

JER.14:4-6 The ground and the creatures were suffering.

JER.14:7 Jeremiah prayed and identified himself with the wicked, as Daniel did.

JER.14:8 God is *“the hope of Israel, the Saviour.”*

JER.14:9 Why should He act as a stranger in the land? My, Jeremiah could pray! What a faith-inspiring prayer! Israel was called by the Name of the Lord. What does it amount to if we are called Christians and do not live up to it?

JER.14:10 God's answer is, "*Thus have they (Israel) loved to wander.*" How important to be steadfast and not to belong to the wandering class.

JER.14:11-12 God told Jeremiah not to pray for this people, because of their wickedness. He will not accept them. Chastisement has to come. We must learn to understand and to know God's will, and pray accordingly.

JER.14:13-15 The false teachers who promise peace, are to blame. They "*prophesy lies*" in God's Name. God did not send them. Even today people are listening to these lying prophets. They wrest the Scriptures to their own destruction. But this does not excuse the people. Professed church members do not read the Bible.

JER.14:16 Instead of peace, famine and the sword will come.

JER.14:17 Jeremiah is a weeping prophet. His "*eyes run down with tears night and day.*"

JER.14:19 There is no healing and no peace. Does it not also apply for today?

JER.14:20 Judgment brings acknowledgement of their wickedness: "*we have sinned.*"

JEREMIAH 15

The 6th sermon is concluded.

JER.15:1-2 Chastisement is certain. Even the prayers of Moses and Samuel, both real intercessors, could not turn God from His purpose. God knows the "*wherefores*" and the "*therefores.*" A 4-fold chastisement is decreed:

1. "*Such as are for DEATH, to death*";
2. "*Such as are for the SWORD, to the sword*";
3. "*Such as are for the FAMINE, to the famine*"; and
4. "*Such as are for the CAPTIVITY, to the captivity.*"

JER.15:3 God appointed 4 kinds of judgments: ☩ Sword, • dogs, ☞ fowls, and • beasts (compare Jer.15:2-3 with Rev.6:8).

JER.15:4 The captivity was the result of the wickedness of Judah's King Manasseh. How far-reaching is a leader's life for good or for bad, for blessing or for a curse.

JER.15:6 "*Thou hast forsaken me...thou art gone backward,*" was said to Jerusalem. How terrible to go backward! Backward means downward.

JER.15:8-9 Therefore, they are overcome with sorrow.

JER.15:10 “*Woe is me,*” cried Jeremiah. He was a man of suffering. Though he could speak of his overcoming conduct, he did not boast, but simply told the truth.

JER.15:11 God comforted him saying: “*It shall be well with thy remnant*” [AV]. The word **remnant** is not mentioned in other translations (Luther says **etliche**, meaning “a few”). Jeremiah was a type of the remnant. So to speak, God said, “Never mind, Jeremiah, it shall be well with thee.” When Nebuchadnezzar took Judah captive, he treated Jeremiah with the greatest respect. He was allowed to choose his own place.

JER.15:15 A prayer of revenge.

JER.15:16 “*Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.*” Eating the Word makes us spiritually fat. It was “*found.*” It looks sometimes as though we find it accidentally. Does the Word make you rejoice? It makes me rejoice. It makes us laugh when we do not feel like it. “*For I am called by thy name*”; when we begin to eat the Word, then we begin to be called by the Name of the Lord.

JER.15:17 Jeremiah sat alone. God separated him unto Himself.

JER.15:18 “*Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable?*” His suffering was so intense that his wound seemed incurable. God’s Word is wonderful, but it has to be worked out in us, and that brings suffering.

JER.15:19 “*If thou return, then will I bring thee again.*” Jeremiah had a little down sitting. He had to separate the error from the truth—“*the precious from the vile.*” If he did this, then, “*thou shalt be as my mouth.*”

JER.15:20-21 Jeremiah was likened to a brazen wall. The people fought against him but they could not prevail because the Lord was with him. Very few prophets saw their prophecies fulfilled in their life-time, but Jeremiah did. This was only a small fulfillment, but it will have a larger one in the end-time.

JEREMIAH 16

THE UNMARRIED PROPHET

JER.16:1-2 In our lesson is much prophecy. Now, Jeremiah is a sign. God pleads with His people, but if they reject and depart from Him, there comes a time when He does not plead any more. God told him, “*Thou shalt not take thee a wife.*” Jeremiah was forbidden to marry in that time of declension. It speaks especially of the end-time, the Great Tribulation, when it will be better to be unmarried. Jesus and Paul agree in that matter also.

JER.16:3-4 Why will it be better to be unmarried? Because mothers and children shall be as “*dung*” in those days of war.

JER.16:5-8 Jeremiah could not go to the house of mourning, neither to the house of feasting. The Jews were mourning very deeply over their departed loved ones. He was not even allowed to offer consolation. In judgment, God wants us to take sides with Him. I am on the Lord's side. I hope we all are.

He says, "*For I have taken away my peace...even lovingkindness and mercies.*" There is coming a time when no one can intercede for mercy. Christ with the breasts girded up (mercy restrained) speaks of this time too. "*The great and the small shall die*" without a burial. The time will be too serious for feasting.

JER.16:10 Israel asked, "*Wherefore hath the Lord pronounced all this great evil against us?*"

JER.16:11 God's answer was, "*Because your fathers have forsaken me.*" So it is with Christendom today. They have many religions, but are departing from God. They think that they have always been good because they have joined some church.

JER.16:12 Israel walked "*after the imagination of his evil heart.*"

JER.16:13 "*Therefore will I cast you out of this land.*" They were taken captive to Babylon. This captivity in Babylon is only a hint of a larger captivity, among the nations, during this age. God and Jeremiah loved the people, but God had to uphold His righteous government and send judgment. That man who shuts the door in the face of Christ, to him God will shut His door in his face. God speaks to them about their captivity, and right away He tells them also of their restoration.

JER.16:15-16 Even as God allowed them to be taken captive, He will also bring them back from all the countries. He will send "*for many fishers*" to fish the struggling Jews from everywhere, and He will send "*for many hunters*" (enemies...compare Hitler, etc.) to search for them where they are hidden away, who run to escape from the terrible time of tribulation.

JER.16:17 Never failing love! "*For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.*" God knows the worst about us, and yet loves us. Therefore, God does not expect anything from us, except that which **HE** works in us.

JER.16:18 The Lord recompensed the sin of Israel **DOUBLE**.

JER.16:19 But the remnant will say to God: "*O Lord, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction.*" The Gentiles will come from the ends of the earth to worship God.

JEREMIAH 17

MAN'S INSINCERITY AND GOD'S SINCERITY, AND THE SABBATH QUESTION

JER.17:1 "*The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond*" ("*pen of iron*"—writing on vitreous substances; **vitreous** means "*glassy, jelly-*

like, like an eyeball"). Judah was a sample people. This shows that all sinful men are written with the point of a diamond in their innermost being. The sin was also engraven upon the horns of the altar. Where the blood of the sin offering should have been applied, there was sin. They were unable to help themselves.

JER.17:4 Their sins have not been cleansed by the blood, therefore they discontinued their inheritance.

JER.17:5-9 We find 2 kinds of trust. God's curse rests upon those that ☩ trust in the arm of flesh, but His blessings are upon those who • trust Him absolutely. The one trusting in man is like an "*heath in a desert*." In another translation the word **heath** reads: *A shrub, a lonely tree*. The one trusting God is not like a tiny, lonely shrub, but as a green, fruitbearing tree by the water. Israel is trusting in the arm of the flesh again, and will make a covenant with the nations. There will be a time of apparent peace and prosperity, but it will be of man and not of God; and, only of short duration. Instead of the Lord, they will see the league of nations as their helper. The human heart "*is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked*."

JER.17:10 The Lord searches the heart, and tries the reins. The description of **reins** is:

1. Kidney. **Reins** is translated by Elberfelder and Miniature Bibles as "*kidney*" also.
2. The lower part of the back, being ribs and hip bone.
3. The inward impulse, the affections, passions (so called because formerly supposed to have their seat in that part of the body—Webster).

JER.17:13-17 But, there will be a believing remnant, whose faith will be in the God of their fathers, whose "*hope*" the Lord is. Is the Lord your hope? "**Ha Tikvah**" ("*The Hope*") is the national hymn of the Israelis.

- **JER.17:13** The sentence of death was pronounced upon the human race. We read, "*They that depart from me shall be written in the earth*." Jesus also wrote upon the ground in connection with the adulteress. "*They have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters*."
- **JER.17:14** Having the sentence of death, and some acknowledging their great need, they are crying out, "*Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved*."
- **JER.17:15** Also notice here that there are always 2 classes of people: The believers and the unbelievers. Jeremiah represents the true remnant at that time and in the future. The unbelieving class asks mockingly: "*Where is the word of the Lord? Let it come now*."
- **JER.17:16** Jeremiah speaks to God that he did not desire his office as a pastor, but God **MADE** him go this way.

JER.17:19-27 This was a message concerning the Sabbath. Jeremiah was commanded to preach to the kings at the gate of Jerusalem.

- **JER.17:21-22** “*Bear no burden on the Sabbath day.*” The Sabbath speaks of rest and the ceasing from works. It was a memorial. The breaking of it was in evidence, as the remainder of this 17th chapter shows. Because of Israel’s rebellion, we read of the consequent judgment for the breaking of the Sabbath [Jer.17:23, 27].

JEREMIAH 18

THE POTTER’S HOUSE

JER.18:1-4 The **FIRST VESSEL** God made was **Adam**; he was marred in the Potter’s hand. The vessel in Jeremiah 18 speaks especially of Israel, who are a sample people. God made **ANOTHER VESSEL**, the **new man** (the new creation). God is never at a loss. When He will get through with the other vessel, He will have perfect humans; these vessels will be exhibited in heaven.

JER.18:6 God is questioning, “*Cannot I do with you as this potter?*” Did I not make you, little man? The trouble is the people do not let the Lord do with them as He wants to do. The clay that the potter molds is silent. Just think, **WE ARE IN GOD’S HAND!**

JER.18:7 We are nothing but clay, His property. God has a right “*to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy.*”

JER.18: 7-11 As a nation, Israel had the opportunity of continuing if they had yielded to God; but, they did not heed God’s warnings.

JER.18:12 Instead they said, “*There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices.*”

JER.18:14-15 God asks, “Did you see anyone leaving good cold water for cistern water?” But Israel did forsake God. God’s people forsake heavenly treasures for things that pass away. “*They have burned incense to vanity.*” How many Christians are doing that...chasing wind?

JER.18:16-17 Israel’s land became desolate and they were scattered; God showed them His back. I want to yield to the heavenly Potter to see His precious face. Don’t you? The children of Israel are the marred vessel, yet God will restore them.

JER.18:18 Judah’s leaders devised a “*tongue*” war against Jeremiah to smite him, and they refused to heed God’s Word spoken through him. We read before in this book that their tongue was bent like a bow and sharp as an “*arrow shot out.*” [Jer.9:3].

JER.18:19-23 These verses give Jeremiah’s prayer. God protected him. Let us yield to the Potter’s hand that He can form us into “*a vessel unto honour*” [Rom.9:21].

JEREMIAH 19

THE BREAKING OF THE POTTER'S VESSEL

JER.19:1-2 Because they sacrificed their sons to Baal, the Lord told Jeremiah to buy an earthen bottle (a pitcher) and to go with some of the leaders of Judah, unto the valley of **Hinnom** (*"to make drowsy"* and *"behold them"*), and to proclaim the coming judgment because they sacrificed their sons to Baal. This bottle is a type of the children of Israel being broken. There is not a nation in the world that can claim God, as their God, as Israel can. He is the God of Israel.

JER.19:3-6 Tophet became the place of refuse, because there they sacrificed to false gods as Moloch. **Tophet** means *"spitting."* It was a place of contempt. *"This place shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter."* This *"valley of slaughter"* had a small fulfillment during the former captivities. In the battle of Armageddon it will also be the burial ground of those who refuse to seek God.

JER.19:9 And they will *"eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters."* Josephus describes the severe famine in Jerusalem, in 70 A.D., where formerly spoiled women ate their children.

JER.19:14-15 Then Jeremiah went to the court of the temple and proclaimed the message of judgment there. What God-given courage! *"They have hardened their necks, that they might not hear."* How serious to reject God's Word! Let us heed the smallest whisper of His voice!

JEREMIAH 20

JEREMIAH'S SUFFERINGS

JER.20:1-6 One of the leaders did not like Jeremiah's true sayings, but wanted to hear smooth things. Although Jeremiah was naturally a tender prophet, nevertheless he had to bring a message of judgment. **Pashur** (*"white," "fullness of freedom"*) smote and put him in prison. God changed his name to **Magormissabib** (*"terror all around"*), his true name.

JER.20:7-18 Notice this strong man when he was alone, how discouragingly he prayed to God, even cursed the day of his birth. As long as the Spirit of God spoke through him, he was powerful; but when the power was lifted, he wished he had not spoken that way. Nevertheless he said: *"But the Lord is with me as a mighty terrible one."* God's Word was *"in mine heart as a burning fire"* [Jer.20:9]. He could not contain it though all were against him, even his intimate friends.

If we take a step wholeheartedly with God, we have many to defame us. He spoke with a high pitched sound, and then cursed the day of his birth. How low people can get in their spirit, because of terrible temptations of the enemy. Oh, he was down. He was singing in a minor key. He had his day of humiliation, but he will have eternal victory. The Lord has for us eternal joys and glory in spite of trouble. We have a glorious destiny.

Probably this chapter should end with Verse 13, with victory; the following verses being out of place (Clarke's Commentary).

JEREMIAH 21

ZEDEKIAH'S INQUIRY

According to Clarke's Commentary, and as history verifies, the chapters in the remaining part of this prophecy are not in chronological date order and seem strangely interchanged,

Jeremiah 21 to 24 is a little prophetic portion within Division 1. These men of God received the Word of the Lord, from the Lord. Zedekiah was the 3rd king of Judah in that transition period which lasted 19 years. It was God's order for the Jews to submit to Nebuchadnezzar. The Jews, God's favored people, thought that nothing could happen to them, but it did—even to them in God's will. The end of this dispensation is upon us. God's people will be sorry and weep and pray, if they don't yield to God.

JER.21:1-2 Zedekiah was in trouble and sent to Jeremiah, the Prophet, to inquire of God for him concerning Nebuchadnezzar's invasion.

JER.21:3-7 God's answer. The Jews had weapons of war, and they hoped that God would fight for them. Judah was in a siege, but God fought with Nebuchadnezzar against Jerusalem. The few left, including the king, would be delivered to their enemies.

JER.21:8-14 Life is promised to all who yielded to Nebuchadnezzar. Does prayer change things? Yes, salvation, healing, etc., but not God's purposes. When He determines chastisement, chastisement takes place; for example, God has allowed 2 World Wars in the last days.

JEREMIAH 22

GOD SENDS JEREMIAH TO THE HOUSE OF THE KING

- Jeremiah sent to the house of the Lord [Jer.7:2].
- Jeremiah sent to the house of the potter [Jer.18:2].
- Jeremiah sent to the house of the king of Judah [Jer.22:1].

JER.22:3-5 This message was familiar (compare Jer.21:12). God reminds them so they could see why the troubles came.

JER.22:10-12 God says: "*Weep ye not for the dead,*" but for the war prisoners who will not return. **Shallum** ("*retribution*"), the 4th son of Josiah, was a former king. He reigned 3 months and was dethroned by Egypt (compare 1Ch.3:15 and 2Ch.36:1). He also was called Jehoahaz.

JER.22:18-19 Jehoiakim was also the son of Josiah. His death and disgraceful burial were foretold.

JER.22:24 Coniah (Jehoiachin) reigned before Zedekiah. In God's eyes, Coniah is the last king on David's throne. Zedekiah was Nebuchadnezzar's vassal; he rebelled because the people refused to submit to Babylon. Zedekiah was not God's man. Coniah was the end of the Solomon line. Jesus will be the next King in the Davidic line.

JER.22:29-30 Jeremiah cries, "*O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord.*" God's Word is sure. If God had not another son of David, there would have been no fulfillment of His promise to David concerning a king. Coniah was the end. God has another way. No one can ever get God in a corner. He always has a purpose which neither men nor devils can defeat. God's Word will come to pass. Nothing can stop it. God will fulfill His Word to David. Jesus will be the King. He is the Seed of the woman. Joseph, His foster-father, was in the kingly line.

God set the choice before the people. The Jews refused to go willingly; therefore, they were forced to go to Babylon. In this case, Nebuchadnezzar was a type of Christ, who will take possession. Every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess. The angel set one foot on the land and one on the sea [Rev.10]. This is the Man who died on the cross, and will be rewarded with a throne, with the millions worshipping Him.

JEREMIAH 23-24

DAVID'S RIGHTEOUS BRANCH AND KING, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

JER.23:1-4 Woes to the unfaithful shepherds and the promise of true shepherds.

JER.23:5-6 Here is the prophecy of Him who is of the line of David. In Jeremiah 22, Solomon's line was rejected. Only God could do this. "*Judah shall be saved.*" Who will save? "*THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*"

JER.23:7-8 It is wonderful how God brought Israel out of Egypt. We marvel at the miracles. They were told to remember that. But we read of a greater deliverance when the Lord brings them back to their land. All through the Millennium they will wonder. He will give them a faithful Shepherd-King.

NOTE: Jeremiah 21 to 24, relate to one another although not in chronological order. This should be in the latter part of the book of Jeremiah, if it were to be in chronological order.

JER.23:9-22 Lamentations and warnings against false, self-appointed prophets.

JER.23:23-24 God is everywhere, "*at hand....afar off.*" God sees all secrets and fills heaven and earth.

JER.23:25-28 People have dreams even today, and tell their "stuff" (lies) as if God gave it. The imaginary dreams are "*chaff*" and the words of God are "*wheat.*"

JER.23:29 The **WORD OF GOD** is powerful like **FIRE**, and a **HAMMER** that breaks the stubborn necks.

JER.23:30-40 **2 BASKETS OF FIGS.** There are also many prophets today who lie about God. The false prophets persecuted Jeremiah later on. The priests and elders would kill him, but the princes saved him. Jeremiah foretold the 70 years captivity, and at the end they returned under Persian rule. The Times of the Gentiles began with Nebuchadnezzar. We are in the transition period at the end-time of the Gentiles.

"Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and cast you out of my presence: And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten." [Jer.23:39-40]

There are also many prophets today who lie about God. God's judgment is upon the prophets who speak lies, those who prophecy false dreams, and the priest or the people who speak prophecy not coming from God.

JER.24:1-7 Jeremiah lived to see many of his prophecies fulfilled; but the great fulfillment comes in the last days. At that point will be the consummation of all prophecies. The devil goes to the climax, and God's climactic power is wonderfully displayed against him. After Nebuchadnezzar carried away Jeconiah, God showed to Jeremiah an object lesson—**2 BASKETS OF FIGS.** These baskets of figs speak of 2 classes of people: Æ believers who obeyed God and submitted to Nebuchadnezzar, and • unbelievers who refused to believe. They are not only in Israel, but here today, for Israel was only typical. There are "yes" men" believers, who say "Amen" to all of God's will, and do it. They belong to the good figs.

- The **GOOD FIGS** went into captivity; the **BAD FIGS** remained in the land

JER.24:5 Why did God send the good figs into captivity? *"For their good."* Should that not comfort us? Sometimes the Lord sends limitations and captivities for our good. God's eyes are upon Judah to return them to their homeland, to build and to plant them, to make them wholehearted for God. God's blessings rested upon the obedient. After 70 years, God fulfilled His Word and brought them back to their land. The real fulfillment will be in the end-time, when all Israel will be restored. God will give them a heart to love and to know Him. They will be born again as a nation.

JER.24:8-10 The curse rested upon the God rejecters, upon the **BAD FIGS**, the leaders of Judah, king Zedekiah and his company; and upon all those that remained in Judah and went down to Egypt.

JEREMIAH 25

PROPHECY OF THE 70 YEARS

Jeremiah 25 is very important. This is not only history, but also prophecy.

JER.25:1 This 4th year of Jehoiakim is the 1st year of Nebuchadnezzar, when God gave to him world dominion. It is then the **TIMES OF THE GENTILES** began.

JER.25:3-4 The tender, gentle, weeping Prophet had to warn his people of evil for so many years, “*rising early*,” but they did not hear.

JER.25:10 “*The sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle*” both go together.

The corn was generally ground before day by the light of the candle. Where then the noise of the mill is not heard, nor the light of the candle seen, there must be desolation; because these things are heard and seen in every inhabited country. (Clarke's Commentary)

JER.25:11-14 Again, God's Word is against them. The captivity of 70 years is foretold and, later on, the judgment against Babylon which will occur in due time. Seventy is a very significant number. In 2 Chronicles 36:21, the history of this captivity is found. Daniel, a captive, hoped to return after the 70 years, but they were still under Gentile dominion. The reason that they had 70 years was so that the land could keep Sabbath. They were commanded every 7 years not to plow or plant but rest, and let the poor help themselves, because God had given them the land. But they did not obey. From the time of the dedication of the temple to the destruction of the temple were 490 years. One seventh of 490 years is 70 years. God made the land to rest. God lets people go on but will catch up with them and demand His portion from their substance, or else there will be loss to them. Israel saved their 70th year, but lost their land, houses, temple, everything. This world is going to suffer yet a greater loss.

JER.25:15-38 Prophecy of the last great war. Jeremiah “*made all the nations to drink*,” of “*the wine cup of this fury*,” by the Word of God: **Dedan** (Britain), **Elam** (Persia), **Sheshach** (originally a king of Babylon who was deified, a type of the Antichrist) [Verses 17-26].

If they refuse to drink God said, “*Ye shall certainly drink*.” There will not be a neutral country in that day. In World War I only 43 nations were involved, and in World War II neither were all nations involved. But in the last great war **ALL NATIONS** will be drawn into that great conflict. The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in judgment will put an end to all war. Compare Revelation 19.

JER.25:29 Judgment will begin with the house of God. Shall others escape? No.

JER.25:30 Compare with Revelation 10 and Joel 3 when the Lord will judge. Evil spirits and demons will inhabit men and call them to war. God's wrath will be poured out, because they will worship the Antichrist.

JER.25:33 “*The slain of the Lord*” shall be from one end of the earth to the other, and be as dung. They are slain in judgment.

JER.25:34 There will be a howling of the false shepherds.

JER.25:38 God will be like a raging lion. Soon Satan will be cast down with his wicked hosts unto the earth. How terrible it will be.

JEREMIAH 26

ANOTHER MESSAGE IN THE TEMPLE COURT

JER.26:1-15 Jeremiah was commanded to speak severe judgment against Jerusalem, and not diminish one word. As a result, they intended to kill him; but some arose and warned them, referring to other prophets who testified judgment.

JER.26:16-24 Jeremiah was protected by Ahikam, that they should not give him into the hands of the people to put him to death. The national leaders and people saved his life from the religious group.

JEREMIAH 27

YOKES

A message on **YOKES** is brought forth in Jeremiah 27-28.

JER.27:1-11 Jeremiah was told to make yokes and to send them to the kings of surrounding nations and to Judah, symbolizing that they should be captive to Nebuchadnezzar as the first world ruler. God is still on the throne. No king can go beyond God's purposes. God subjected all nations unto Nebuchadnezzar. False prophets arose to speak against Jeremiah's words. Daniel 5 shows how the vessels of the house of the Lord, which they carried away, were defiled at Belshazzar's feast. God judged the king and the nation. Not one word shall fail until all is fulfilled. The nearness of judgment was not realized, neither then nor now.

JER.27:12-27 Jeremiah gave the same message to King Zedekiah, "*Bring your necks under the yoke... and live.*" But they listened to false prophets who promised to bring blessing, but brought a curse. Jeremiah was a true prophet, and suffered for it. If they had surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar, they could have saved their city. The Times of the Gentiles are almost over, and in the latter days the nations should yield to Christ and serve Him. Christ is the coming King, and God is calling on the kings of the nations to put their necks under. They could save themselves if they would confess to God. The old creation is evil; therefore, they cannot make peace and keep it. The Lord won't have to police the world (as they plan on doing), but His will is to change man's heart.

JEREMIAH 28

The message on **YOKES** is concluded with Jeremiah 28. This is after the children of Israel have been carried away in relays to Babylon.

JER.28:1-11 Here is a false prophet, **Hananiah**, whose names means "*the grace of Jehovah.*" This man had a wonderful name, but he did not live in the power of it; instead, he was moved by Satan. The false prophet became bolder, and broke the wooden yokes. At times, Satan makes people bolder than the Spirit of God makes them. What did Jeremiah do? He walked away.

The sign of a true prophet is the fulfillment of his prophesy; his credential—that he is God-sent.

JER.28:12-17 Then came the Word of God to Jeremiah after he was insulted by the false prophet. God's message was that instead of a **WOODEN YOKE**, they would have an **IRON YOKE**. We may learn wonderful lessons. A message of judgment, even of death, was pronounced upon the false prophet; which came to pass because he rebelled against God. This is typical history. **ZEDEKIAH** here is typical of the **ANTICHRIST** who will refuse to give up the rule. **HANANIAH** is typical of the **FALSE PROPHET**. They are hand-in-glove. Hananiah breaking the yoke meant (symbolically) that God would break the Babylonian captivity. The 2 witnesses will be the true prophets, heralding the Lordship of Jesus and His soon coming.

JEREMIAH 29

JEREMIAH'S LETTER TO THE CAPTIVES

JER.29:1-7 A letter was sent from the Lord to the elders and all the people in the captivity. In this letter, God gave instructions to the captives to build, plant, marry, and seek the peace of the city where they lived.

JER.29:10-19 He gave them a promise of restoration after 70 years. If you want to be blessed, hearken to the Word of God. "*But ye would NOT hear*" is the sad truth that caused all the trouble in Israel; and, in Christendom. But there is always a believing remnant. They had plenty of time for victory gardens. Those that went down to Babylon were blessed. They left everything behind, except families. Also, God is sending judgment upon this world. If we yield to the chastisement, troubles become blessings. Chastisement is always sent for good, not necessarily for failures; but for pruning and to bear more fruit. It is good to make a little "victory garden" during the time of chastisement. If we can take things from the Lord, we receive fruit. God wants us to stay where He puts us and bring forth fruit smilingly in spite of suffering.

JER.29:20-23 A prophecy against immoral, lying prophets in Babylon. They were cruelly roasted by Nebuchadnezzar—God's judgment upon them.

JER.29:24-32 God reproves and judges a false letter-writer, a self-styled prophet.

DIV.2, VARIOUS PROPHECIES, AND MESSAGES OF JUDGMENT BECAUSE ISRAEL REFUSED TO HEED [JER.30-52]

Within Division 2, Jeremiah 30-36 are not in chronological order.

JEREMIAH 30

COMFORT AND PROMISES

JER.30:1-3 Jeremiah was told to write the Word of the Lord in a book. Restoration was promised to Israel and Judah. It refers also to the end-time.

JER.30:5-6 A new world will be born. The pangs of birth are seen.

JER.30:7 “*Jacob’s trouble*” is the time of severest sufferings for the Jews, “*but he shall be saved out of it*” (compare Mat.24). The promise to the Philadelphia overcomer is to be kept out of the hour of temptation [Rev.3:10].

JER.30:8 The yoke of the Antichrist will be broken. He will be the worst enemy the Jews ever had, but he will be the last one.

JER.30:9 “*But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.*”

JER.30:10 The promise of restoration—“*rest*”—will give them faith in that day. Apparently, their return from Babylon is prophesied, but this looks to the end of the Roman captivity. The nations will have a full end, but the Jew is immortal. So many tried to diminish them...Pharaoh, Haman, Hitler...but without success.

JER.30:12 “*Thy bruise is incurable.*” Why? They are hopeless and helpless. No healing, no medicine is for them. The league of nations will make promises, but will fail. God has allowed the chastisement to bring to pass a purpose.

JER.30:15 Israel’s sins have increased. To reject Christ, the greater light, will bring greater chastisement.

JER.30:16 Comfort is given that the enemies will be devoured. The Germans’ jealousy of the Jews caused Hitler’s persecution, similarly, the Egyptians who feared the children of Israel made them serve with rigor.

JER.30:17-18 “*I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee.*” God will heal them of their wounds through the wounds of Jesus Christ. They will be restored spiritually and also nationally.

JER.30:19 Out of Israel “*shall proceed thanksgiving.*” All man’s works will be thrown down, but God will build and plant. In Palestine, everything will be destroyed in The Tribulation, but the Lord will plant trees [Isa.41:19]. They will praise God; but not as if He were 10,000 miles away. They will not be afraid

to say it out loud and shout. Children will be playing in the streets, and men of age shall dwell in the streets of Jerusalem [Zec.8:4-5].

JER.30:21 Their nobles and governors shall be of themselves. They will have liberty and freedom, and be under the rule of their own people.

JER.30:22 “*And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.*”

JER.30:23-24 Judgment will come. We see it approaching. It is the beginning of the time of the end. This prophecy refers especially to the “*latter days.*”

JEREMIAH 31

THE NEW COVENANT

JER.31:1 Tribulation and restoration foretold. In the millennium, the Lord will be “*the God of ALL the families of Israel.*”

JER.31:2 The remnant will be saved out of The Tribulation (the woman in the wilderness [Rev.12:6]), and will be blessed. They will find grace in His eyes.

JER.31:3 God loves them with an “*everlasting love.*” God’s grace alone is the basis of blessing “*not of works, lest any man should boast*” [Eph.2:9].

JER.31:4 New born Israel is called a “*virgin*”; not harlot or adulteress anymore.

JER.31:5 There will be fruitfulness in the land of Israel.

JER.31:7 They will sing, shout, publish, praise, and say, “*Save thy people, the remnant of Israel.*”

JER.31:8 God will bring them from the north, and from the coasts of the earth, “*and with them the blind and the lame,*” etc.

JER.31:9 How will they come? “*With weeping, and with supplications,*” led by God, “*by the rivers of waters,*” as by a loving shepherd.

JER.31:10 God scattered Israel because of their disobedience. Nations are instruments in God’s hand. As a shepherd loves his sheep, so the Lord loves His people Israel. Jesus will be their loving King-Shepherd.

JER.31:11 The Lord redeemed Israel from Satan and the nations.

JER.31:12-14 Although they may not sing now, they will sing then. They “*shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.*” Lord, hasten the day! Only the goodness of the Lord can comfort mourning Israel.

JER.31:15-18 Verse 15 is also quoted in connection with Herod’s murder of the children. Israel repented. They will yield to the yoke of the Lord. God will chasten them first before they will yield.

JER.31:19 Conversion follows after chastisement. Notice! Israel “*was turned...repented*” after being instructed; then smote upon the thigh—was ashamed and confounded.

JER.31:20 God speaks against Ephraim as the old creation, but remembers him as the new creation.

JER.31:22 God created a new thing, “*A woman shall encompass a man.*” Weak Israel, weak in herself but strong in God, shall rule the nations.

JER.31:23 No other city ever has been the “*habitation of justice, and mountain of holiness.*” It will have a worldwide renown.

JER.31:24 They will have husbandmen, not commercial men.

JER.31:27-28 In “*those days*” will be a reversal of conditions. Up to this time the **GENTILES** are ruling, but then the tabernacle of David will be built up, and **JEWISH RULE** will begin.

JER.31:29-30 “*In those days*” will be individual responsibility; ancestors cannot be blamed any more for their sins.

JER.31:31 The New Covenant (key covenant) is promised to Israel. In the Mosaic Covenant there were 2 parties; God and Israel, and Israel failed. Here God says, “*I will make a new covenant.*” He is the responsible party. Israel will be born again and will know their God.

JER.31:35-36 The sun’s faithfulness to the earth is a sign of God’s faithfulness to Israel. The sun and moon are signs of God’s care.

JER.31:37 God will fulfill His Word. It is an impossibility for man to measure heaven. Also, is it impossible for Israel to be cast off.

JER.31:38-40 Jerusalem will be built and enlarged. All the promises of God are “*Yea and Amen.*”

JEREMIAH 32

JEREMIAH IN PRISON—BUYS A FIELD

JER.32:2-5 Nebuchadnezzar’s army besieged Jerusalem. Zedekiah was afraid that Jeremiah’s preaching would lower the people’s morale because he prophesied of Judah’s captivity. Zedekiah questioned and rebuked him for it. But Jeremiah kept silent. This is a wonderful way to overcome the devil.

JER.32:6-15 Jeremiah was instructed by the Lord to buy a field. How wonderful to have the Lord talk to us. When his cousin came to sell the field, he had the proof that it was the Word of the Lord. Everything was done according to The Law. Jeremiah bought the field when it was worthless. This was a great act of faith on his part, to buy a piece of land before the captivity. The deed was sealed and put in a safe place. This is a picture of God who bought the land of Israel, through Christ. It is set aside for the children of

Israel. God will see that His Son will have the title deed for the land. In Revelation, Christ, by opening the 7 seals, is taking what belongs to Him—what He bought with His precious blood a long time ago. The record was placed in a safe place for “*many days*.” This proved that they will return after their captivity of 70 years. This was only a little hint of the larger Roman captivity. God’s faithfulness is sure. You give yourself to God, and He will take hold of you, and will never let you fall.

JER.32:16-25 Jeremiah prayed afterwards. Such a prayer! How he knew God! He justified God. This is the surest way to stand with God.

JER.32:26-27 God answered him. “*Is there anything too hard for me?*”

JER.32:28-35 He as righteous God had to judge Judah, who upon their roofs offered incense unto Baal and slaughtered and offered their children to Molech.

JER.32:37-42 His mercy is seen in spite of Israel’s sinfulness. “*As I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.*”

JER.32:43-44 Men shall buy fields again after their captivity. The Times of the Gentiles will be over then [Luk.21:24]. Even as God allowed them to be scattered, also will He bring them back again. The Jew is a sign to the whole world wherever he is scattered, by his very presence, that God’s Word is true.

JEREMIAH 33

ANOTHER PRISON MESSAGE

Jeremiah 32 and 33 are closely connected. Jeremiah was shut up in prison. In shut-up places, God revealed Himself in a wonderful way to His saints. God gave Jeremiah a wonderful vision—a revelation of the restoration. In Jeremiah 33, God is giving Jeremiah another revelation.

JER.33:3 The great Creator of all came to Jeremiah and said, “*Call unto me, and I will...*”. Jeremiah must have called on Him, because God gave him another revelation. At that time it referred to the Babylonian captivity and restoration, but this is only a picture of the greater captivity and restoration at the end-time. This will take them clear down to the millennium. All the prophets foretold it. This age was shut up to them.

JER.33:6 God promised healing and cure. Jeremiah being “*shut up in the court of the prison*” is a type of the remnant of Israel. They will be in trouble and God will encourage them to call on Him to show them great and mighty things. If you are in trouble, so to speak in a prison, don’t complain and murmur but inquire of God and call on Him to show you great and mighty things. Don’t try to get out of your troubles, but ask God to reveal to you what blessings He has for you in them.

JER.33:9 While Jeremiah was in prison, the city was in trouble, but God said, “*It shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth.*”

JER.33:12 It seems like God repeats Himself, but His repetitions are of importance. He knows why He repeats His utterings. He has a purpose for everything. God will do wonders for the land of Israel.

JER.33:14 “*Behold, the days come*” when God will fulfill His promises. I like this expression. God will do wonders.

JER.33:15 “*The Branch (sprout) of righteousness,*” speaks of the Messiah. The branch is used in a 4-fold way. God will fulfill the Davidic covenant. You cannot have the blessing without the Blessor. People try to bring it in without avail.

JER.33:16 In the beginning of the millennium, the nations will have a counterfeit peace for a short time. When Christ’s righteous rule is established, then the city will be called “*The LORD our righteousness.*”

JER.33:17-22 In Jeremiah 32 we have a picture of restoration, and in Jeremiah 33 we have a further revelation. Not only will Israel (as a nation) be restored, but also the **KINGLY LINE** and the **PRIESTLY LINE**. Even as the covenant with day and night, sun and moon, are unbreakable, so also will God multiply His people (compare Jer.32:35-36).

JER.33:24 The people of Israel were saying that God had forsaken them, and thus they were despising Israel.

JER.33:26 Mormons, British Israel, and others, try to take Israel’s place, but God gives to Israel promise after promise of their restoration. God promised to “*have mercy on them.*” If He promised it, He has the power to do it. It is marvelous to see the wonderful things happening. Today, God’s purposes with Israel are beginning to come to pass.

JEREMIAH 34

LAST MESSAGES TO ZEDEKIAH

JER.34:1-7 There is always a method in God’s proceedings. “*The WORD...FROM THE LORD*” (not from Jeremiah) was sent to Zedekiah, the last king of Judah during the siege of Nebuchadnezzar, concerning Judah’s captivity and Jerusalem’s destruction. God decreed for Judah to be taken to Babylon. He gave another chance of escape to Zedekiah. He was warned. He would not die by the sword, but in peace. But how? As we read in 2 Kings 25:7, His children were slain before his eyes, and then he was blinded and brought bound to Babylon. It does not pay to reject God’s Word.

JER.34:8-22 Zedekiah made a covenant with Jerusalem to proclaim liberty unto the Hebrew servants. But they failed, broke their covenant, and did not keep their promise. Because they refused to give liberty to their brethren, God proclaimed a different kind of liberty to the covenant-breaker: The sword, pestilence, and famine. They imitated Abraham’s covenant and passed between the parted calf. But in the Abrahamic covenant, God was the promising party. God keeps His Word; men cannot keep their promises. The Babylonian captivity followed.

JEREMIAH 35

RECHABITES (RIDERS)

Jeremiah 35 and 36 are connected.

JER.35:1-11 Jeremiah was commanded to go to the house of the **Rechabites** (of **Rechab**, meaning “*to ride upon*”) and to offer them wine to drink. The Rechabites were a nomadic Arabian tribe, descendants of Jethro of Midian. They lived simple, temperate lives, not looking for an earthly city but the heavenly one, like their forefather Abraham did. They obeyed their father's command and refused the wine. The emphasis in Jeremiah 35 is on their **OBEDIENCE** to an earthly father.

JER.35:12-19 Then the Word of Jehovah came to him concerning Judah, to receive instruction and not to disobey God's Word. The Rechabites were an example. Israel's disobedience brought judgment upon them whereas blessings were pronounced upon the Rechabites. There shall not fail a man of them to “*stand before me (the Lord) forever*” [Jer.35:19]. Obedience to an earthly father brought for them the privilege of being in God's presence. May the Lord enable us to have our ear nailed to the doorpost of God's perfect will. One student said that he loves this chapter because it reminds him of Philippians, the book of the **RACERS**. The Rechabites were **RIDERS**, as their name indicates. If we listen and obey God's voice, we will become winners in the race.

JEREMIAH 36

GOD'S WORD BURNED

JER.36:1-19 Now, in Jeremiah 36 we read the very opposite. The word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah and told him to write in a scroll all the words that God spoke to him. It was a summing up of God's Word. Baruch, a writer, wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words. Since Jeremiah was shut up, he sent his secretary (Baruch) to the house of God to read the words to all the people. Some took it to heart and were stirred. The Word of God came in power. They were convicted and afraid. They saw the importance of bringing God's Word to the king. The news went around. They questioned Baruch as to how he wrote the book, and advised him and Jeremiah to hide while the Word should be read to King Jehoiakim. Give the Word of God in the power of the Spirit, and soon someone will desire a Bible study.

JER.36:20-32 Notice the difference between King Jehoiakim and the Rechabites. The Rechabites had respect for their earthly father's word [Jer.35:18], but King Jehoiakim did not have any respect for God. When Jehudi read portion by portion, Jehoiakim cut it out and burned it. He was not afraid. He was the first higher critic. But, in spite of all criticism, God's Word will not fail. We have the same conditions today. Germany started higher criticism.

The King Jehoiakim intended to arrest Jeremiah and Baruch, but God hid them. God told Jeremiah to write another book with the same words. You

cannot get away from the Word of God. The Word is living and quick and powerful, and sharper than any 2-edged sword. The Word is a critic, it can discern as no man can. Because he refused to hear the Word of God, severe judgment of King Jehoiakim was added:

- No one will sit on his throne and
- his dead body will be thrown out.

JEREMIAH 37

JEREMIAH'S WITNESS AND IMPRISONMENT

Jeremiah 37 and 38 are closely connected. The first part of the 2nd Division consisted of prophecies, prayers, messages, and warnings. Jeremiah 37 begins the historical part.

JER.37:1-5 These 3 kings (Zedekiah, Coniah, and Jehoiachim) were in the time of transition. Zedekiah and the people refused to listen to God's Word, even as people do today. There is nothing new under the sun [Ecc.1:9]. Zedekiah sent unto Jeremiah and asked him to pray on their behalf. People may be pious and request prayer; but, nevertheless, they do reject God. Lately, our president prayed, but his prayer was without Christ and without the blood.

Pharaoh's army assisted the Jews, and Nebuchadnezzar's army left from besieging Jerusalem. This encouraged the children of Israel.

JER.37:6-10 Then came the Word of God to Jeremiah with a "*Thus saith the Lord.*" This shows the power of God and the certainty of the fulfillment of His Word. He speaks plainly, not to be deceived; for the Chaldeans shall not depart. Why? Because God says so. Jeremiah was God's mouthpiece. God is ruling in spite of the evil that is manifested. People almost sneer when you speak of God's righteous reign which is coming upon this sin-cursed world.

JER.37:11-21 Jeremiah could not even take a rest. When he tried to go home he was wrongly accused of escaping to the Chaldeans, and was treated roughly and put in a dungeon. Some of God's love-slaves cannot do what they want to do, just like Jeremiah. Zedekiah secretly inquired of Jeremiah concerning the Word of God. King Zedekiah had respect for the Prophet, because he never compromised. Jeremiah told him the truth that he would be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon. Jeremiah asked him for the reason of his imprisonment. Zedekiah commanded that better treatment should be given him. The city was in a siege and the bread was getting scarce, but he received a loaf of bread every day.

JEREMIAH 38

JEREMIAH'S WITNESS AND IMPRISONMENT CONCLUDED

JER.38:1-6 The princes were against the Prophet because they were afraid that he weakened the morale of the people. He sought the glory of God,

therefore he was hated. If you continually put the Lord first, people will pick on you. Weak Zedekiah allowed them to do what they desired. The more God is using you, the more you suffer. They cast Jeremiah into a dungeon, and he sank into the mire.

JER.38:7-28 An Ethiopian rescued him, but Jeremiah told the same old story of judgment. Zedekiah secretly swore to protect him. All he did was done in secret. In Jeremiah 38, we see that he was afraid. If he had listened to God he could have saved himself and the people all the trouble and the burning of the temple and of the city. He rejected his last chance. He was afraid of the mockery. Oh, how many people are afraid to witness the truth. What is mockery? Jeremiah besought Zedekiah to obey, but in vain. To obey God brings blessings, to disobey brings troubles. The princes knew of his private interview with the king, and inquired about it. Jeremiah saw his prophecy fulfilled.

JEREMIAH 39

JERUSALEM CAPTURED

JER.39:1-2 In Jeremiah 38 Nebuchadnezzar's army retreated because Pharaoh's army had come up, and the people thought Jeremiah's prophecy had come to nought. Jeremiah 39 is the climax. Nebuchadnezzar returned in the "*tenth month*" (In Hebrew, Tebeth is the first new moon of January, see Est.2:16) of the 9th year. It was fulfilled as God declared it. The city was captured "*in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the NINTH DAY*" (Tishebeav, German Jewish pronunciation of that date in Hebrew). This is an important date. The Jews fast on that day.

JER.39:3 The names of princes were official titles of Babylon.

JER.39:4-10 This is typical history of the end-time. Zedekiah was captured; what sufferings he did bring upon his children. It is terrible to disobey God knowingly. He was afraid to obey God because he was afraid of men's faces. He was taken blind to Babylon. David said, "*Deliver me from fear of men.*" The poor were left in the land and were given the vineyards and fields. The poor had nothing, and lost nothing; they gained through the captivity.

JER.39:11-14 Jeremiah was forgotten by the people, but God remembered him. God will not forsake those who are true to His Word. A great king took notice of him. Jeremiah could take his choice, to stay in the land or leave [Jer.40:2-5]; not another could do that. He chose to stay with the poor in Jerusalem.

JER.39:15-18 A message of good came to Ebed-melech, because he put his trust in the Lord. He was a Gentile, while Jeremiah was a Jew. In the end-time, God will protect both Jew and Gentile who put their trust in God.

JEREMIAH 40

JEREMIAH WITH GEDALIAH IN MIZPAH

Jeremiah 40 and the 4 following chapters [Jer.41-44] contain a distinct account of what passed in the land of Judah from the capture of Nebuchadnezzar to the retreat of the remnant to Egypt. (Clarke's Commentary)

JER.40:1-12 This is a wonderful “true story” of a faithful man. Oh, how few faithful men there are! God was faithful to Jeremiah when everyone turned against him. God released him when he was forsaken by all men; his bands were loosed. He had the privilege of choosing whether to stay in Palestine or to go to Babylon. He had the opportunity to become a great man in Babylon, but he stayed with his own poor people in Judah. Jeremiah remained to the last, true to God...he dwelt with the people. Let me dwell with God's people, and I am content.

All the land of Palestine was invaded by Nebuchadnezzar. The influential were destroyed or taken captive, but a remnant of the poor were left in the land. God saved that little company. The captain of the Babylonian guard acknowledged God, who brought all this evil on Israel's land because of their sins. We can say the same thing of the conditions of today—God's judgment is upon the people because they have forsaken God. **Gedaliah** (“*Jah has become great*” or “*one that is worthy of exaltation*”) was an honest man. The remnant of the people who escaped when the rumor of captivity went around, returned to him. He advised them and said, “*Fear not to serve the Chaldeans.*” He dwelt at **Mizpah** (“*the watchtower*”), a wonderful place to dwell. He told them to gather food, etc.

JER.40:13-16 One brought word to Gedaliah that a certain Jew, sent by the king of Ammon, intended to slay him but he could not believe it and refused to kill the supposed assassin. His father, Ahikam [Jer.39:14], the son of Shaphan, had previously saved Jeremiah's life from his enemies.

JEREMIAH 41

THE MURDER OF GEDALIAH

JER.41:1-14 Gedaliah was slain deceitfully by **Ishmael** (“*a wild ass*”), who was true to his name. Gedaliah did not ask God when He sent a man to warn him against the enemy who was not worth trusting, although he was of the royal seed. Instead of watching, Gedaliah had fellowship with him. They ate bread together. The result of not being watchful was...

1. Ishmael slew Gedaliah [Jer.40:2].
2. He slew all the Jews that were with him [Jer.40:3].
3. Eighty men brought offerings, and seventy of them were slain [Jer.40:5, 7-8].
4. Ishmael carried others of Mizpah captive to the Ammonites [Jer.40:10].

JER.41:15-18 Johanan fought against Ishmael and rescued the captives, but Ishmael escaped to Ammon. This reminds us of the Antichrist, who will make a covenant with the Jews and then break it. After Johanan delivered them, they dwelt at **Chimham** (“*longing*”) “*to go to enter into Egypt.*” This is a wonderful lesson. When you are sitting on the road close to the world, then you will soon be there. Get rid of the longing. If you trust God, you won’t be afraid. God will take care of you.

JEREMIAH 42

THE FLIGHT TO EGYPT

JER.42:1-18 Johanan, who looked after the people, had good intentions. The people asked Jeremiah to pray for Divine Guidance and promised to obey God’s Word. The Lord let them wait for 10 days without the answer. Don’t get discouraged, God will answer. Jeremiah called all the people together to give them the Word of the Lord, which was **TO ABIDE IN THE LAND WITH GOD’S BLESSINGS UPON THEM**. If they would disobey and go to Egypt, God’s curse would be upon them—the feared sword, famine, pestilence, and death. None would escape.

JER.42:19-22 He repeated, “*Go ye not into Egypt*” (Egypt speaks of the world).

- **PERSONALLY** we may learn not to go to the world for help; it will bring disappointment.
- **DISPENSATIONALLY** it refers to Israel at the end-time, who will go to the nations (Egypt) for help.

JEREMIAH 43

FLIGHT TO EGYPT CONCLUDED

JER.43:1-7 The leaders and all the proud men who refused to hearken to God’s voice went to Egypt. The mind of God did not agree with their desire. If, like they did, you take the wrong course, you will not only hurt yourself but others. If a leader is wholehearted, then are the people mostly wholehearted too. Let us do what we tell others to do.

Also, Jeremiah and his secretary, Baruch, were taken to Egypt. Dear Jeremiah was released by the Chaldeans and enslaved again by his own people. The Hebrew Christians in the Holy Land have the same experience today. They are handicapped by the Jewish people.

JER.43:8-13 The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah again to take stones and to place them before the eyes of the Jews at the entry of the house of Pharaoh, as a sign that Nebuchadnezzar would erect his throne upon them after conquering Egypt.

JEREMIAH 44

A MESSAGE IN EGYPT

This is an account of internal trouble. Nebuchadnezzar could easily take Egypt, as a shepherd changes his garments [Jer.43:12]. (Clarke's Commentary).

JER.44:1-14 The Word of the Lord (of judgment) came unto Jeremiah concerning the remnant of Judah in Egypt who burned incense to idols. Whatever you depend on is your god; nowadays it is money. God's anger was upon them. They were to have more trouble in Egypt. Some people commit evil against their own souls. Everything that was said of them can be said of the people today. There was never a time when people were so defiant of God as now. In spite of all the troubles, they did not humble themselves before God nor walk in His statutes. God's punishment was very severe upon those that went to Egypt. They had reasons for discouragement, but that gives no liberty to disobey God. At first their intentions were good, but that is not sufficient. You will always have trouble, but out of God's will you will have more intense trouble.

JER.44:15-25 The women burned incense to strange gods. They were the worst. All refused to hearken to God's Word, spoken through Jeremiah. They said openly: *"But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven."*

"Queen of heaven" is only used in Jeremiah 7:18 and Jeremiah 44:17-19, 25 (Young's Concordance).

This is a little hint of the Catholic Church in exalting Mary. They credited their sufficiency of food, which they enjoyed in the land of Israel, to their idolatry. (Moloch was the sun god so the Moon could have been queen of heaven.) They said that they had plenty to eat when they were not worshipping the true God. What liars! How people like to eat! Thank the Lord for the day when we will not have to eat any more.

JER.44:26-30 Judgment was upon them. The Lord remembered their evil doings; therefore, their land was barren. The barren condition of Palestine is a witness to all the world that God's Word does not fail. The Lord swore that none of the Jews should stay in Egypt. *"The Lord God liveth"* means don't say that "God lives for ME," when you refuse to yield to Him; for then He is not a **LIVING** God for **YOU**. God said that Egypt would be given into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar.

JEREMIAH 45

INSTRUCTION AND COMFORT TO BARUCH

The miscellaneous prophecies in Jeremiah 45-52 are not given in chronological order.

Jer.45:1-3 The Word of the Lord came unto Baruch when King Jehoiakim cut out the pages of the scroll of prophecy. This prophecy applies to **ALL** times. Baruch must have had a high opinion of Jeremiah and his prophetic office. He thought that people would yield to God and that Jeremiah would have an exalted place; and, that he, as his secretary, would have an exalted place also. He was somewhat seeking his own, therefore he was disappointed. No wonder Baruch said, "*woe is me.*" You feel dreadful, especially if you are a little self-seeking. Jeremiah was wholly given up to God.

Jer.45:4-5 The Word said, "*Seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not.*" There is no time for self-seeking. This is the time when judgment is coming along. Thanks be unto God that it is as well with us as it is. The time is short. May we only seek to please Him and occupy and watch for His coming.

JEREMIAH 46

MESSAGE AGAINST EGYPT, 1ST NATION

Altogether, there were **9 NATIONS** to be judged.

JER.46:1 We have already seen that Jeremiah spoke to the Jews. He also is a prophet to the Gentiles. Egypt is a type of the world. How significant is the meaning of its name "*double straits.*" People think they are free, but in reality they are in the devil's straitjacket.

JER.46:2 Pharaoh with his army victoriously advanced to the Euphrates. Their hour of defeat came through Nebuchadnezzar. The world (Egypt) gives apparent victories, but defeat is sure.

JER.46:3 "*Order ye the buckler and shield, and draw near to battle.*" At that time there were 9 nations around Jerusalem, and they speak of the nations at the end-time.

JER.46:7 This refers to the great army. Ezekiel 38 and 39 give us a wonderful description of the northern confederacy.

JER.46:8-10 Egypt speaks of the whole world. It rises up like a flood on "*the day of the Lord*" (compare Isa.2:10-22; Isa.13:6; Joe.1-2). Jesus preached His first sermon from Isaiah 61:1-2 (see Luk.4:18-19). He did not speak of the "*day of vengeance*" [Jer.46:10, Isa.61:2]. He stopped with "*the acceptable year of the Lord*" (this age of grace). The first part of Isaiah 61:2 speaks of the 1st Coming of Christ, while the second part speaks of His 2nd Coming.

"*The day of vengeance*" is yet to come. Instead of acknowledging their weaknesses, people make wonderful plans of fixing up the world. Man cannot do right. He will be a failure. Who won the first world war? God did. Britain was almost defeated. Who put it into Germany's mind to leave England and turn against Russia? God did it, because of their attitude to the Jews.

JER.46:11 The "*many medicines*" of the world are useless. The various methods of self-improvement, better and cleaner politics, religion—"Go to

church on Sunday,” humanism, medical science, and other ways, are all in vain. The old creation is incurable.

JER.46:13 God foretold how Nebuchadnezzar would smite Egypt, but it also has an end-time fulfillment. There is not a prophet in this book that does not foretell about this war.

JER.46:15 Egypt’s “*valiant men*,” the cultured, great scientists, statesmen, will all fall.

JER.46:20 Egypt is compared to “*a very fair heifer*” and to a “*beautiful, fattened, young cow*.” The world with all its allurements and achievements appears very beautiful, but it will not last—“*destruction cometh*.”

JER.46:23 This shows the immensity of the army of the oppressors. “*They are more than the grasshoppers, and are innumerable*.”

JER.46:27-28 Mercy will be shown to Jacob. Although the nations will be destroyed, Israel will only be punished for correction.

JEREMIAH 47

MESSAGE AGAINST THE PHILISTINES, 2ND NATION

We had Egypt the last time. It was a picture of the world in its independence. They had the Nile—their river. Even so, worldly people do boast in their rivers, their bank accounts, etc. They are self-made men.

Jeremiah 47 speaks of the religious phase of the world—the **Philistine** (“*wallowing*”). This is only a little foretaste of what will fall upon the world. The mighty cities of the Philistines, **Gaza** (“*strong*”), **Ashkelon** (“*fire of infamy*”), will be judged. “*How can it (the sword of the Lord) be quiet, seeing the Lord hath given it a charge against...?*” It is the same at the present. God has His time. The Philistines are the offspring of **Ham** (“*sunburnt*”). The Lord tried to show by this black race, the blackness of heart by rejecting the truth. The Philistines gave their name to the land of Palestine. They came to the land of Canaan by a shortcut out of Egypt. God’s way is the way of the cross—no shortcut.

The Israelites grumbled and murmured, but they never went back to Egypt. The Philistines claimed the things that belong to the new creation. The Catholic church is the strongest sample of the Philistines. There will come judgment of that false church. There will be no more hierarchy and laymen. All men are leveled by sin and by grace, and all men will be leveled by judgment. Nicolaitanism, which is the full expression of Catholicism, will come to nought.

JEREMIAH 48

MESSAGE AGAINST MOAB, 3rd NATION

JER.48:1-6 **Moab** (*“from father,” “what father?”*) was the illegitimate son of **Lot** (*“wrapping”*). Lot was the nephew of Abraham. The Moabites lived on the southeast border of Judah, and were always their enemies. Moab is off the scene today. Moab represents Protestantism; ease-loving people. Mt. Nebo belonged to Moab. So to speak, the Moabites looked over to the Holy Land but never entered there, just like Moses. Some in Christendom never enter into our heavenly Canaan.

Jeremiah 48 is all about weeping, sorrow, and woe. At that time it was that way, but it refers especially to all the weeping of the end-time. All of the nations around Israel represent the nations of the end-time.

JER.48:7-10 They trusted in their own works. **Chemosh** (*“departed”*) was the significant name of one of the cities (Chemosh was their chief god). The curse was pronounced on the deceitful ones. So many church members do the work of the Lord deceitfully; therefore, modernism has crept in. We hardly can believe that The Church has gone down that way. The federation of the churches is responsible for that condition. Character building is on the line of Unity and Christian Science, etc. God’s people are not Moabites, but professors. God loves them and cuts them back, that they may bring forth wonderful fruit from their lives. Cursed were those that kept the sword from the blood; which means: Not using the Word in its truthfulness until it hurts. The Word is as a sword that divides soul and spirit.

JER.48:11 *“Moab hath been at ease from his youth.”* There are some of God’s people who are spiritual Moabites. They partake of this character. God empties us *“from vessel to vessel,”* from darkness to light. We say, “Even if you crush me to death, I go on.” If we are never changed, we have the taste of the old man, also the scent. The old man smells horrible to God, but saints are fragrant. We have this Moabitish character described in the letters to Sardis and Laodicea [Rev.3:1-6, Rev.14:21].

JER.48:12-47 The description of the coming judgment upon Moab.

JEREMIAH 49, MESSAGES AGAINST 5 NATIONS

MESSAGE AGAINST AMMONITES, 4th NATION [JER.49:1-6]

Ammon (*“tribal,” “peoplish”*) and Moab were brothers; they were the illegitimate children of Lot. Both descending nations represent Protestantism. The Ammonites speak of the high critics; of modernism.

JER.49:1-2 Why do the Ammonites possess Israel’s land? Gad belonged to Israel. Because Israel had failed God and their land had been taken captive. We have the same condition in Christendom today. The higher critics cut many precious truths out of God’s Word. Christians fail to hold their possessions. The Philistines represent Roman Catholicism—ritualism. As

far as the Ammonites and Moabites are concerned they are off the scene, but Israel is still here.

JER.49:3 “*Howl* (wail), *O Heshbon*” for sorrow. Some people ask: “Why do you howl so when you pray?” I (Sister Bodie) answer, “Because of you folks that do not pray.” The higher critics cannot endure our howling; we are too noisy, but judgment will make them howl. There will be a turning of captivity for natural Ammon [Jer.49:6], but not for spiritual Ammonites.

MESSAGE AGAINST EDM, 5TH NATION [JER.49:7-22]

Edom (“*hairy one*”), or Esau, speaks of the flesh. The wise, educated scientist, the wisdom of the world (of the old creation) can never be blessed. The sea also represents the wicked. There is no resurrection of the flesh. The flesh will not be manifested in the new heaven and on the new earth.

JER.49:11 There is hope for Edom’s orphans and widows. If the old man (father and husband) is dead, then those helpless ones trust in God.

JER.49:13 Isaiah 63:1-4 describes also the desolation of **Bozrah** (“*a fold*”), the fulfillment of Jeremiah 49:13 (compare Rev.19, it speaks of the 2nd Coming of Christ). In Luke 4:18 only His 1st Coming is seen, but in Isaiah 61: 1-2 both His 1st and 2nd appearances are in view.

JER.49:16-18 God brings down the high and proud (Esau). They are compared to Sodom and Gomorrah.

JER.49:19 “*The swelling of Jordan*” speaks of judgment.

JER.49:21 Most terrific judgment is described in this verse. Obadiah tells us of Edom. Why is God so terrible against Edom? Because Edom refused to let the children of Israel cross their land when they left Egypt. God punishes the nations that are against Israel.

MESSAGE AGAINST DAMASCUS, 6TH NATION [JER.49:23-27]

Damascus (“*sackcloth weaver*”), a Syrian city, speaks of pride. It was “*the city of praise*.”

MESSAGE AGAINST KEDAR, 7TH NATION [JER.49:28-33]

Kedar (“*darkness*”) was an Arabian nation, very wealthy, that dwelt “*without care*.” Their name “*darkness*” reminds us of the spiritual darkness of people that say: “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we are dead.”

MESSAGE AGAINST ELAM, 8TH NATION [JER.49:34-39]

Elam (“*their heaps*,” “*suckling them*,” “*eternal*”) and Persia are closely united. In the latter days, the Persians will be restored [Jer.49:39]. The Persian kings, Cyrus and others, have been kind to the Jews. God remembers not only those that are hateful against them, but also those that are kind to Israel.

MESSAGE AGAINST BABYLON, 9TH NATION

All these nations represent the judgment of the nations at the end-time. Nebuchadnezzar took all these 9 nations. This was the beginning of the Times of the Gentiles, when God gave him world dominion.

Jeremiah 50 and 51 describe the downfall of **Babylon** (“*confusion*”).

JER.50:2 Bel and Merodach were Babylonian gods.

JER.50:3 The primary fulfillment was through the northern nation of Medo-Persia. When Jeremiah gave this prophecy, Babylon was the greatest city in the world, with hanging gardens. It had a great wall, 350 feet high and 87 feet wide; 6 chariots could ride upon it abreast.

JER.50:4 In those days the children of Israel shall seek the Lord.

JER.50:6 Israel has been as sheep going astray. But their iniquity was laid on their Messiah [Isa.53]. All devour God's chosen people and put the blame upon Israel, because of their sinfulness.

JER.50:7 God is against all who hurt His people, and will judge them.

JER.50:8 Before Israel's captivity, 70 years previously, Jeremiah admonished them to yield to Nebuchadnezzar. But here, because of impending destruction, he warns them to flee out of Babylon.

JER.50:9 This seems to refer to the antitypical Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18, where great nations come to destroy her. There are 2 phases of the end-time Babylon:

1. the political phase and
2. the religious phase.

JER.50:14 The Lord's wrath is upon her. The aggressors are admonished to “*Shoot at her, spare no arrows.*”

JER.50:15 As if she were already fallen, the “*shout*” is proclaimed. God's vengeance is upon her. Though Assyria and Babylonia were tools in God's hands for Israel's chastisement, yet God's judgment will be meted out on them for mistreating Israel. He will bring Israel back to their land.

JER.50:20 At that time, Israel's iniquity will be changed. The **PRESERVED** remnant will be a new creation.

JER.50:25 Notice this verse. It is God's judgment upon the nations. “*The Lord hath opened His armory...weapons of His indignation: for this is the work of the Lord God of hosts.*”

JER.50:29-32 Babylon's pride is mentioned at least 3 times.

JER.50:33 This shows that Israel and Judah were oppressed together...

JER.50:35-39 The “*sword*” (war) is upon their leaders, liars, horses and chariots (hierarchy, lying priests, great pomp and power.). How true of religious Babel. Truly it is “*the land of graven images, and they are made upon their idols.*” She is the mother of fallen, false religion, and of idolatry in Christendom. Babel was the beginning of confusion [Gen.11]. The “*wild beasts*”—kings and nations [Rev.17]—will dwell in her.

JER.50:40 The judgment is from God, and will be as severe as that of Sodom and Gomorrah. Literal Babylon has never been rebuilt.

JER.50:42-43, 46 “*O daughter of Babylon,*” refers to the end-time. The “*king of Babylon,*” spoke primarily of Belshazzar, and speaks also in the end-time of the Antichrist. In Daniel 5 we see this prophecy fulfilled.

JEREMIAH 51

MESSAGE AGAINST BABYLON CONCLUDED

It seems that Jeremiah 50 refers more to literal Babylon that shall never be rebuilt, and Jeremiah 51 refers more (according to a close study) to mystical Babylon (compare Rev.18:4 with Jer.51:6). Jeremiah and John correspond concerning religious Babylon. For instance:

Jeremiah 51:7 compares with Revelation 18:6 (the “*golden cup*”).

Jeremiah 51:8 compares with Revelation 18:2.

Jeremiah 51:13 compares with Revelation 17:15.

Etc.

Babylon is an organized system. As the tower of Babel was spoiled, also will God spoil mystical Babylon in the end-time. Religious and political Babylon are merging—both will come together as one—the woman riding the beast [Rev.17]. Both are in revolt against God. The nations will be glad for this religious merger; they will receive her with open arms. God’s retributive judgment will fall upon religious Babylon through political Babylon, the 10 horns—10 nations will destroy her. Political Babylon will continue for a short time. Political Babylon will be destroyed by Jesus Christ at His return.

Antichrist will have his own religion. He will be setting up himself as God.

JER.51:19-20 Israel will be the Lord’s “*rod,*” His “*battle axe,*” and He will break the nations in pieces with them.

JER.51:37 “*Babylon shall become heaps...without an inhabitant.*”

JER.51:41 Sheshach, originally a deified Babylonian king, refers to the Antichrist.

JER.51:59-64 Jeremiah commanded **Seraiah** (“*a quiet prince*”) to take these words of judgment against Babylon which were written in a book, and to read all these words in Babylon where he would be taken captive. Then he should

speak to the Lord concerning it, and bind a stone to it and cast it into the midst of Euphrates, even as a sign of Babylon's sinking forever.

God gave Jeremiah a vision, an inner sight of eternal things, which made him go on and never turn back. Jeremiah had a hard life; he had to preach to people who did not want to hear it. He may have thought they would listen, but he found they refused to hear. Then, he had to prophesy judgment which did come to pass. Jeremiah prophesied also of their restoration.

JEREMIAH 52

A RETROSPECT

JER.52:1-2 King Zedekiah reigned under Nebuchadnezzar over Judah. His mother was the daughter of another Jeremiah (the Prophet Jeremiah was not married). Zedekiah was wicked, and was only 32 years old when he was taken captive.

Coniah was the last king in God's will and reckoning.

JER.52:3-11 Through the anger of the Lord, Israel was cast out of their own land (compare 2Kg.24). In the 9th year, the 10th month, and the 10th day of Zedekiah's reign came Nebuchadnezzar to besiege Jerusalem. He rebelled. The city was besieged until the 2nd year when the city was taken and the defenders fled by night (compare Jer.39:1-2). Zedekiah's advisors, who had stirred him to rebel, forsook him. Zedekiah fled also.

In Riblah, in the land of Hamath were his sons slain before him, his eyes put out, and he was carried as a prisoner to Babylon where he died (compare Eze.12:13).

Ezekiel was taken captive in the 2nd relay.

JER.52:12-27 In the 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar, the temple, the king's house, and the houses of Jerusalem were all burned. The great people of Judah were taken captive and some were slain. The gold, silver, and brass of the temple were taken to Babylon. Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, defiled the captured vessels of the temple [Dan.5].

JER.52:28-30 This describes 3 deportations of the people of Judah (altogether 4,600 people) that were taken away: They were taken...

1. in the 7th year [Jer.52:28],
2. in the 18th year [Jer.52:29], and
3. in the 23rd year [Jer.52:30] of Nebuchadnezzar.

Three Jewish kings reigned during that time.

The restoration of Israel will also be in stages.

JER.52:31-34 Nebuchadnezzar's son, Evil-merodach, king of Babylon, favored Jehoiachin who reigned 3 months in Israel.

The present captivity of the Jews began in 70 A.D. (Roman captivity), because they rejected God's Son. They are being restored in relays.

"We are living in the end of Gentile Times. One war restored partially the land of Palestine to the Jews through the allies. After the end of the 2nd war they will receive more. We are anxiously watching the outcome of this present condition. The 3rd war will finish God's purpose." (Sister Bodie's words in 1940.)

Note that in 1948 Israel became a nation in their homeland as a result of World War II. Blessed be God's holy Name! The Messiah will appear soon! Hallelujah!

After the silence of ages,
After the waiting of years,
He cometh, the answer to sages,
The vision foretold by the seers.
Quickly as lightning that flashes,
Brighter than sun in its beams,
He cometh the Mighty Jehovah,
But not as the dreamer of dreams.

Regal in splendor, He cometh,
Scepter of iron to sway;
All glorious the King in His triumph
Upon His inaugural day—
Comes for the help of His people,
Conqueror, faithful and true,
And calls for the parted blue heavens,
"Behold, I will make all things new."

Then shall the world feel the power
Of the great King in array;
For long has it waited Messiah,
Its ransom from sin soon to pay.
Earth shall be filled with His knowledge
As waters cover the sea;
And then for one glorious millennium,
All men shall be happy and free.

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