

Adult6 Bible Study Notes for 2005

March 6, 2005

Jeremiah was NOT a Bullfrog

FOCAL VERSES: Jeremiah 1: 4 – 15a; 17 - 19

Observation 'Satellite-Level'

Jeremiah Chapters: 1 -52

The nation of Judah is nearing its physical and kingdom destruction, and the deportation of its inhabitants to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar in the 605 – 586 B. C. timeframe.

They have continually been disobeying God and The Law of Moses.

God has decided to punish them and uses Jeremiah as His spokesman to tell the Israelites of their fate if they choose not to turn from their evil and wicked ways.

The Prophet Jeremiah

The son of Hilkiah (who found the Book of the Law)

Was of a priestly background

Was a contemporary of Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, and Ezekiel.

He was divinely called by God Himself.

God turned Jeremiah's purpose from that of a priest to a prophet.

He was God's spokesman under Josiah. ("he walked in the ways of the Lord and did not turn aside, neither to the right or to the left.")

Known as the 'weeping prophet.'

Was called by God 'while in the womb of his mother.'

Felt inadequate to be God's spokesman.

Was ignored, beaten, put in stocks, forced to flee from king Jehoiakim, publicly humiliated by the false prophet Hananiah, and thrown into a cistern.

Wrote the book of Lamentations following the destruction of Jerusalem

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The Book of Jeremiah

Review map pg. 10 in Adult Learner Guide. Locate current mid-east nations.

Considered a Major Prophet; Covers the period from 627 – 580 B. C.

God's prophecies to Jeremiah were dictated to his secretary, Baruch

Is about the call of Jeremiah, (2) his ministry, (3) his perspective of the fall of Jerusalem in retrospect.

A record of one of Judah's greatest prophets during its darkest days.

Because of what he saw and what God had prophesied and the persecution he endured, Jeremiah often desired to resign but he persevered to Judah's bitter end.

This book, then, is the written record—from a prophet's perspective—of the downfall of God's beloved nation, and how God used Jeremiah to warn the people of their eventual tragedy and destiny, unless they repent of their ways.

Interpretation

Verses - 4 - 5

The 'word of the Lord came to me.' A revelatory experience to Jeremiah directly from God.

V5: "I chose you...I set you apart...I appointed you..." Clearly, God is the initiator as He calls Jeremiah to action.

V5: "...to the nations." Not just Judah. Later, Jeremiah 46 – 51 contain prophecies against Egypt, Philistia, Moab, and other nations.

Verses 6 - 10

V6: Moses also was reluctant to be a spokesman for God.

V7: God expects our obedience.

V9: God commissioned Jeremiah with a touch on his mouth. God's sign that He would equip Jeremiah during his ministry.

V10: Her God tells Jeremiah of his responsibilities.

Uproot and tear down destroy and demolish build and plant

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While speaking doom Jeremiah would also tell a message of hope and restoration

Verses 11 – 15a

God confirmed or reinforced Jeremiah's call with two visions:

1. a branch of an almond tree signifying that God would see that His will—judgment—would be carried out
 - a. a verbal play on words to make His point—almond tree (shaqed) vs. God's watching (shoqed) God will make sure His will is accomplished. God sometimes uses "visual symbols" to serve as His "visible words."
2. 'the uprooting and tearing down'...a boiling pot which faces open down to the south from the north.
 - a. Signifies 'painful destruction' as a result of the nation of Babylon coming to attack from the north—not going through the desert.
 - b. Babylon was geographically NE of Jerusalem. But would go north rather than go through the desert to get to Jerusalem.

Verses 17 – 19

God confirms His assurance to Jeremiah through a challenge to trust Him.

God also lets Jeremiah know that He will not forsake him. Deuteronomy 31:6

Application:

1. **We should recognize that God has a purpose for each of us.**
2. **We should acknowledge that God will equip us to carry out His purpose**
3. **We find assurance in what we are doing as we faithfully carry out the assignment God has given each of us.**