

Old Testament Survey - **Jeremiah**

Author: Jeremiah (cf, 1:1 except for Ch. 52 - Baruch)

Yirmeyahu / Yirmeyah - "Yahweh Throws" as in laying a foundation

Septuagint = Hieremias. Latin = Jeremias

Date: 627-580 B.C.

Theme: Warnings - God has delayed judgment & warns His people to repent one last time before final judgement

Outline:

- I. Jeremiah's Call (1)
- II. Judah's Prophecies (2-45)
 - A. Condemnation of Judah (2-25)
 - B. Conflicts of Jeremiah (26-29)
 - C. Coming Restoration (30-33)
 - D. Collapse of Jerusalem (34-45)
- III. Gentile's Prophecies (46-51)
- IV. Jerusalem's final fall (52)

Key People: Jeremiah

Key Chapters & Verses

- 1 Jeremiah's Call before birth.
- 1:4-10** The foreknowledge of God - Knew and called Jeremiah before his birth.
- 17:9** "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"
- 18 The Potter's House
- 20:7 "fire in his bones"
- 23 Wicked Shepherds, the Righteous Branch, & Lying Prophets
- 25** Judah to be judged through 70 years in Babylon, Babylon judged
- 29:10** Promise of restoration in 70 years.
- 30 Promise of Return & restoration from captivity
- 31** Restoration promised, New Covenant;
- 32** Jeremiah imprisoned, buys field & God explains
- 34-44 Collapse of Jerusalem
- 38 Jeremiah in the cistern
- 52** Final fall of Jerusalem

Contemporary with Kings Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, & Zedekiah; and the prophets Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel & Ezekiel

Detailed Outline of Jeremiah

I. Jeremiah's Call (1)

A. Call and Commission (1-10)

Called before formed, consecrated in the womb - 5

B. The Message and Command (11-19)

II. Judah's Prophecies (2-45)

A. Condemnation of Judah (2-25)

1. First Sermon: Judah's Willful Sins (2:1-3:5)

Left God - vs. 5

defiled land, made inheritance an abomination - 7

Changed gods for what is not gods - 10-11

Forsaken God - fountain of living waters to hew broken cisterns - 13

2. Second Sermon: Judah Will Be Judged (3:6-6:30)

a. Judah Faithless (3:6-10)

in the days of Josiah

b. Judah is Called to Return (3:11-4:4)

c. Judah's Destruction from the North (4:5-31)

d. Judah's Sins (5)

e. Jerusalem Impending Destruction (6)

3. Third Sermon: Judah's False Worship (7-10)

a. An External Religion (7:1-8:3)

b. Imminent Judgment (8:4-17)

c. Lament for Judah (8:18-9:8)

d. Judgement Described (9:9-26)

e. Futile Idolatry (10:1-18)

f. Prayer for Correction (10:19-25)

4. Fourth Sermon: Judah's Violation of the Covenant (11-12)

a. The Covenant is Broken (11:1-17)

- b. The Conspiracy against Jeremiah (11:18-23)
 - c. The Complaint of Jeremiah (12:1-4)
 - d. God's Reply (12:5-17)
- 5. Fifth Sermon: Judah's Revived Relationship (13)
 - a. The Sign of the Ruined Waistband (13:1-11)
 - b. The Sign of the Wine Bottles (13:12-27)
- 6. Sixth Sermon: Jeremiah's Prayers (14-15)
 - a. Judah's Drought Described (14:1-6)
 - b. Jeremiah's First Intercession (14:7-12)
 - c. Jeremiah's Second Intercession (14:13-18)
 - d. Jeremiah's Third Intercession (14:19-15:9)
 - e. God Encourages Jeremiah (15:10-21)
- 7. Seventh Sermon: Jeremiah's Unmarried State (16-17)
 - a. Jeremiah is Not to Marry (16:1-9)
 - b. Judah's Idolatry (16:10-13)
 - c. God's Promise of Judah's Restoration (16:14-21)
 - d. Judah's Sins are Listed (17:1-18)

The heart is more deceitful than all else . . . the Lord searches the heart (9-10)

- e. Jeremiah's Call for Sabbath Observance (17:19-27)
- 8. Eighth Sermon: Sign of the Potter's House (18-20)
 - a. Sign of the Potter (18)

- b. Sign of the Broken Jar (19)
- c. Pashhur Persecutes Jeremiah (20:1-6) ~ 588-586 B.C.
- d. Jeremiah's Complaint to God (20:7-18)
- 9. Ninth Sermon: Messages Against Judah's Kings (21:1-23:8)
 - a. Against Zedekiah (21:1-22:9)
 - b. Against Shallum (22:10-12)
 - c. Against Jehoiakim (22:12-23)
 - d. Against Coniah (Jehoiachin) (22:24-30) ~ 597 B.C.
 - e. The Coming Messianic King (23:1-8)
 - Wicked shepherds - 1-2*
 - Future restoration - 3-4*
 - The righteous branch - 5f*
 - Wicked prophets - 9f*
 - lying prophets - 16f*
- 10. Tenth Sermon: Message Against Judah's False Prophets (23:9-40)
- 11. Eleventh Sermon: The Vision of the Figs (24) *after 597 B.C.*
- 12. Twelfth Sermon: The Seventy-year Captivity (25) *4th year of Jehoiakim ~ 605 B.C.*
25:3 ~ 582 - 605 B.C.
 - Prophecy of destruction of Jerusalem - 8f*
 - Prophecy of 70 years captivity and then release - 11f*
- B. Life of Jeremiah (26-29)
 - 1. Temple Sermon and Arrest (26) ~ 609 B.C.
 - 2. Prophecies of Yoke of Babylon (27)
 - 27:20 ~ 597 B.C.
 - 3. Hananiah's False Prophecy (28) *4th year Zedekiah ~ 593 B.C.*
 - 4. Message to Exiles (29)
 - Live & prosper in Babylon - 4f*
 - 70 years of captivity before return - 10 - plans for welfare - a future & hope - 11*

C. Coming Restoration (30-33)

1. Restoration to the Land (30)

Promise of restoration - 3f

The fierce anger of the Lord will not turn back - 24f

2. Restoration of the Nation (31)

Promised restoration - 1f

Rachel weeping for her children - vs. 15 cf. Matt. 2:18

The New Covenant - 31f

3. Rebuilding of Jerusalem (32)

10th year Zedekiah ~587 B.C.

Purchase of field - 6f

Nothing too difficult for God - vs. 17

Promised restoration - new covenant - 37f

4. Reconfirming the Covenant (33)

D. Collapse of Jerusalem (34-45)

1. Messages before the Fall (34-36)

a. Message to Zedekiah (34:1-7)

~ 588-586 B.C.

b. Message to the People (34:8-22)

c. Message to the Rechabites (35)

~ 609-597 B.C.

d. Message of the Scroll (36)

4th year Jehoiakim ~ 605 B.C.

36:9 - 5th year Jehoiakim ~ 604 B.C.

2. Events before the Fall (37-38)

a. First Interview with Zedekiah (37:1-10))

1st year Zezekiah ~ 597 B.C.

b. Jeremiah Imprisoned in a Dungeon (37:11-16)

c. Second Interview with Zedekiah (37:17-21)

d. Jeremiah Imprisoned in a Cistern (38:1-13)

e. Third Interview with Zedekiah (38:14-28)

3. Events During the Fall (39)

a. Jerusalem Falls (39:1-13))

39:1 - 9th year Zedekiah ~ 588 B.C.

39:2 - 11th year Zedekiah ~ 586 B.C.

b. Jeremiah is Released (39:19-14)

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- c. Ebed-Melech is Rewarded (39:15-18)
- 4. Messages After the Fall (40-44)
 - a. Ministry to the Remnant in Jerusalem (40-42)
 - b. Ministry to the Remnant in Egypt (43-44)
- 5. Message to Baruch (45)) 4th year Jehoiakim ~ 605 B.C.
- III. Prophecies Concerning Gentile Nations (46-51)
 - A. Concerning Egypt (46)) 4th year Jehoiakim ~ 605 B.C.
 - B. Concerning Philistia (47)
 - C. Concerning Moab (48)
 - D. Concerning Ammon (49:1-6)
 - E. Concerning Edom (49:7-22)
 - F. Concerning Damascus (49:23-27)
 - G. Concerning Kedar & Hazor (49:28-33)
 - H. Concerning Elam (49:34-39)) 1st year Zedekiah ~ 597 B.C.
 - I. Concerning Babylon (50-51)
 - 1. Babylon's Defeat (50:1-20)
 - 2. Babylon's Desolation (50:21-46)
 - 3. Babylon's Destiny (51)) 4th year Zedekiah ~ 593 B.C.
- IV. Jerusalem's Final Fall (52)
 - A. Jerusalem is Captured (52:1-11)
 - B. Jerusalem is Destroyed (52:12-23)
 - C. Jerusalem's People are Exiled to Babylon (52:24-30)
 - D. Jehoiachin is Released (52:31-34)) 37th year of captivity ~ 560 B.C.

Old Testament Survey - Lamentations

Author: Jeremiah (Tradition, Septuagint Superscription, 2 Chron. 35:25)

Hebrew - "Ekaḥ" = Ah, how! Greek - Threnoi = Dirges / Laments. Latin Vulgate - "*id est lamentationes Jeremiae prophetae*" = The Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet

The LXX introduces Lam. 1:1, "And it came to pass, after Israel had been carried away captive _ Jeremiah sat weeping [cf. 3:48,49, etc.] _ lamented _ and said _." God had told Jeremiah to have Judah lament (Jer. 7:29), and Jeremiah also wrote laments for Josiah (2 Chr. 35:25). The events of the book were clearly described by an eyewitness of the siege and fall of Jerusalem. Portions of Jeremiah's poetic sections are similar in style to Lamentations.

Date: about 586 B.C. (Jerusalem fell on July 19, 586 B.C. after being under siege since January 588 B.C. The Temple was burned on August 15, 586 B.C.)

Context: 2 Kings 25:1-21; 2 Chron. 36:17-21

Theme: Lament (Mourning) over the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem. Set in 5 poems

Outline:

In the first 4 chapters, each verse begins in an acrostic pattern, i.e., using the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet in sequence. Chapters 1, 2, and 4 have 22 verses corresponding to 22 letters, while chap. 3 employs each letter for 3 consecutive verses until there are 22 trios, or 66 verses. Chapter 5 is not written alphabetically, although it simulates the pattern in that it has 22 verses. An acrostic order, such as in Ps. 119 (where all 22 Hebrew letters are used in series of 8 verses each), was used to aid memorization. The structure of the book ascends and descends from the great confession in 3:22-24, "Great is His faithfulness," which is the literal center of the book. John F. MacArthur, Jr., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, (Dallas: Word Publishing) 1997.

- I The Ruin of Jerusalem (1)
- II The Wrath of God (2)
- III The Request for Mercy (3)
- IV The Review of the Siege (4)
- V The Request for Restoration (5)

Key People: Jeremiah

Key Chapters & Verses

3:22-23 22 *The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.*
23 *[They] are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness.*

Background: Jeremiah had prophesied for over 40 years of coming judgment against Jerusalem for their sinful rejection of God and has been scorned by the people for preaching about the coming doom (ca. 645-605 b.c.). Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army brought God's judgment on these disbelieving, obstinate people, yet Jeremiah still responded with great sorrow and compassion toward them. Lamentations & the book of Jeremiah are closely related. In

Jeremiah 1-29 he had predicted the coming calamity and in Lamentations he gives more detail on the bitter suffering and heartbreak that was felt over Jerusalem's devastation (cf. Ps. 46:4,5). (So critical was Jerusalem's destruction, that the facts are recorded in 4 separate OT chapters: 2 Kin. 25; Jer. 39:1-11; 52; and 2 Chr. 36:11-21).

All 154 verses have been recognized by the Jews as a part of their sacred canon. Along with Ruth, Esther, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes, Lamentations is included among the OT books of the Megilloth, or "five scrolls," which were read in the synagogue on special occasions. Lamentations is read on the 9th of Ab (July/Aug.) to remember the date of Jerusalem's destruction by Nebuchadnezzar. Interestingly, this same date later marked the destruction of Herod's temple by the Romans in a.d. 70.

John F. MacArthur, Jr., The MacArthur Study Bible, (Dallas: Word Publishing) 1997.

Second Kings, Jeremiah, and Lamentations Compared

(See also 2 Chr. 36:11-21)	2 Kings 25	Jeremiah	Lamentations
1. The siege of Jerusalem	1,2	39:1-3; 52:4,5	2:20-22; 3:5,7
2. The famine in the city	3	37:21; 52:6	1:11,19; 2:11,12;2:19,20; 4:4,5,9,10; 5:9,10
3. The flight of the army and the king	4-7	39:4-7; 52:8-11	1:3,6; 2:2; 4:19,20
4. The burning of the palace, temple, and city	8,9	39:8; 52:13	2:3-5; 4:11; 5:18
5. The breaching of the city walls	10	33:4,5; 52:7	2:7-9
6. The exile of the populace	11,12	28:3,4,14; 39:9,10	1:1,4,5,18; 2:9,14; 3:2,19; 4:22; 5:2
7. The looting of the temple	13-15	51:51	1:10; 2:6,7
8. The execution of the leaders	18-21	39:6	1:15; 2:2,20
9. The vassal status of Judah	22-25	40:9	1:1; 5:8,9
10. The collapse of the expected foreign help	24:7	27:1-11; 37:5-10	4:17; 5:6

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Detailed Outline

I The Ruin of Jerusalem (1)

A. Jerusalem's Ruined Condition (1-11)

B. Jerusalem's Lament (12-22)

II The Wrath of God (2)

A. The Lord's Judgements (1-10)

B. The Lament (11-19)

C. The Terrors of Lord (20-22)

III The Request for Mercy (3)

A. The Servant's Sorrow (1-18)

B. The Servant's Prayer of Reassurance (19-42)

C. The Servant's Prayer for Vindication (43-66)

IV The Review of the Siege (4)

A. Conditions During the Siege (1-10)

B. Cause of the Siege (11-20)

C. Consequences of the Siege (21-22)

V The Request for Restoration (5)

A. Restoration Needed(1-15)

B. Repentance of Sin (16-18)

C. Request for Restoration (19-22)