The Prophet is Sent by God to Proclaim Judgment

Jeremiah 1:1-3:5
Lesson 1

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
September 1, 2013
Jeremiah

- The longest book in the Bible – after Psalms
- Nahum, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, Ezekiel, Huldah (non-writing)
- The fall of Jerusalem and Babylonian captivity
- References to Christ (23:5-6; 33:14-17)
- “I appointed you a prophet to the nations” (1:5)
- A New Covenant (Jeremiah 30-33)
- Prophecy and history and personal experience
- Not chronological
- Last chapter = 2 Kings 24:18-25:30
Historical Setting

- Josiah – last righteous king; revival – 31 years
- Jehoahaz (Shallum) – deposed by Egypt in 3 months
- Jehoiakim (Eliakim) – taken to Babylon after 11 years
- Jehoiachin (Jeconiah or Coniah) – 3 months 10 days
- Zedekiah (Matthaniah) – taken to Babylon after 11 years
- Gedaliah – temporary governor – assassinated
Nations

- Assyria and Egypt – Battle of Carchemish 605 B.C.
- Babylon
  - 605 B.C. – Daniel and nobility
  - 597 B.C. – Ezekiel
  - 586 B.C. – Fall of Jerusalem
Jeremiah

- Son of priest from Anathoth – place of exile for family of Eli (Abiathar).
- 4 phases: Josiah; Jehoiakim; Zedekiah; post fall
- Jeremiah’s reaction to his message
- Jeremiah’s reaction to his ministry
Outline of Jeremiah

1. Jeremiah’s call and commission (1)
2. Preaching in the days of Josiah (2-20)
3. Preaching in the days of Jehoiakim and Zedekiah (21-29)
4. Promise of a New Covenant (30-33)
5. Preaching in the days of Jehoiakim and Zedekiah (34-38)
6. The fall of Jerusalem (39)
7. Preaching after fall of Jerusalem (40-45)
8. Preaching to the nations (46-51)
9. The fall of Jerusalem (52)
Preaching in the days of Josiah (2-20)

- The history of the house of Jacob (2:1-3:5)
- A call for revival in the days of Josiah (3:6-6:30)
- The Temple message (7-10)
- The broken Covenant (11)
- Jeremiah laments the prosperity of the wicked (12)
- The ruined loincloth (13:1-15:9)
- Jeremiah’s lament answered with hope (15:10-16:21)
- Judah’s heart condition (17)
- The lesson of the clay and the broken flask (18-20)
Issues in Jeremiah

- What truth binds this book together?
- The centrality of the New Covenant
- Prophet to the nations but predominantly focused on an event in Israel’s history
- Total rejection v. restoration
- Elimination of the Davidic throne (22:30) v. survival of Jehoiachin (23:5-6)
- The Old Covenant v. the New Covenant
- The life of Jeremiah – enemy not prevail . . . death in Egypt
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Lesson #1

1. The call of Jeremiah (1)
2. The first message (2:1-3:5)
The Words of Jeremiah

- dabar Hebrew – word with meaning and power
- Atypical opening for a prophet
- The Word of the LORD came to him
- “Declares the LORD” x 176
The Word of the LORD came to me #1

- Known before conception
- Consecrated before birth
- Appointed as a prophet
- A prophet to the nations
  – God of Israel x 49; LORD of hosts x 71 – together x 3
- Jeremiah protests
- You shall go; You shall speak; I will deliver; fear not
The LORD touched his mouth

- Jeremiah’s words are God’s words for this ministry
- Set over nations and kingdoms
- Pluck, up, break down, destroy, overthrow
- Build and plant
- The LORD is a God of wrath
- The LORD is a God of salvation
The Word of the LORD came to me #2

- Almond branch
- “I am watching over my word to perform it”
- A word of salvation
The Word of the LORD came to me – #3

- A boiling pot – about to spill into Israel
- An overwhelming force from the north (39:3)
- Evil of forsaking the LORD
- A command to Jeremiah to get working
- The LORD will fortify him
- A message of wrath
The First Message (2:1-3:5)

▸ A hopeful beginning (2:1-3)

▸ They went far from Me (2:4-8)
  • Worthlessness
  • Not seek the LORD
  • Defiled the LORD’S heritage
  • Leaders did not seek the LORD – priest, shepherd, prophet

▸ Two evils (2:9-13)
  • Forsake the Fountain of Living Waters
  • Hewed out broken cisterns that can hold no water
The slavery of Israel (2:14-22)

- Brought upon yourself (2:14-18)
- Slavery to evil (2:19-22)
- Self-deception (2:23-28)
- Contending with the LORD (2:29-37)
The unsolvable condition of the nation (3:1-5)

- Deuteronomy 24:1-4 – No option for restoration
- Words cannot cover evil
“... to build and to plant.” (1:10)

- Isaiah 59:2 “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.
- Will He be angry forever (3:5)
- The lesson of the almond branch: He will perform His Word – a Word of salvation.