Jeremiah
A Prophet unto the Nations

The Fall of Jerusalem

Jeremiah 32-42
Lesson 14

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
December 1, 2013
Historical Setting for Jeremiah

- Five final kings on the throne of David
  - Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah
  - 2 dominant kings – Jehoiakim and Zedekiah
- Jerusalem destroyed and Judah taken to Babylon
- An appointed Governor: Gedaliah
- Survivors escape to Egypt
Jeremiah’s Message

- Coming wrath and coming blessing
  - Pluck up, break down, destroy, overthrow
  - Build and plant

- God’s Word for the nation Israel
  - The almond branch – sure promises of God
  - The boiling pot – pending wrath

- Promise – a great and blessed nation

- Present reality – Jerusalem about to destroyed and the nation taken into exile
Three Audiences

› The rebellious nation
  • Coming wrath
  • A call to repent
  • A promise to restore

› The faithful remnant
  • Affected by the wrath of God
  • A call to trust God – faith challenged by sight
  • A promise to deliver

› The nations
  • Jeremiah, a prophet to the nations – he speaks to all nations
  • The promise of God to Israel is essential for the blessing of all nations
    – Messiah – Son of Abraham and Son of David
    – A New Covenant for Israel – the Everlasting Covenant
The Fall of Jerusalem (39-42)

- Fall of Jerusalem (39)
- Gedaliah appointed governor (40)
- Assassination of the governor (41)
- Warning not to go to Egypt (42)
The fall of Jerusalem (39:1-10)

- Siege began: 10th month, 9th year, 10th day
- Siege ended: 11th year, 4th month, 9th day
- Famine (52:4–6; Lam 1:11; 2:11-12, 19-20; 4:3-10)
- Zedekiah faces Nebuchadnezzar
  - Zedekiah forced to watch execution of his sons and his nobles
  - Zedekiah’s eyes put out
  - Zedekiah’s death (32:5; 34:4-5)
- Jerusalem burned down and walls broken down (52:13)
- People taken into exile in Babylon
- Poor left in the land and given vineyards
Lamentations

- 5 lament songs
- Wrath for wickedness
- Suffering for the righteous (Lam. 3)
- A figure of the suffering of Messiah (Lam. 3:30)
- Hope for the restoration of Jerusalem (Lam. 5:18-22)
Protection of Jeremiah (39:11-14)

- Direct command of Nebuchadnezzar
- Released from prison
- Entrusted to Gedaliah (governor)
Protection of Ebed-melech (39:15-18)

- Flash-back (see 38:7-13)
- Protected in wrath of God through faith
- Prize of war (see 21:9; 38:2; 45:5)
Governor Gedaliah (40:1-12)

- The word that came to Jeremiah
- Protection of Jeremiah again (40:1-6)
- Governor Gedaliah (40:7-12)
- Fragments of army went to Mizpah
  - Future assassin (Ishmael) and the future avenger (Johanan)
- Gedaliah’s policy
  - Submit to Babylon
  - Tend the land
- Jewish refugees return to the land
Assassination (40:13-41:3)

- The plot uncovered (40:13-16)
  - Instigated by Baalis, king of Ammon
  - To be done by Ishmael
  - Johanan discovered the plot
  - Two warnings rejected

- Assassination at Mizpah (41:1-3)
  - Ishmael and 10 men
  - Assassination – 7th month – 3 months after the fall, or 5 years (52:30)
  - At dinner with Gedaliah – a trusted ally (?)
  - Killed Gedaliah, Judeans in Mizpah and Chaldean soldiers
  - May have led to the retaliation noted on 52:30
Murder of pilgrims (41:4-10)

- Pilgrims mourn the destruction of Jerusalem
  - Beards shaved – plus self inflicted wounds
  - Jer. 9:25-26 – uncircumcised in heart
  - Grief over their circumstances, not repentance toward God

- Ishmael’s deception – weeping
  - Murder of 70 – 10 bargained for their lives (v.8)
  - Bodies in Asa’s cistern
  - Captives from Mizpah – probably Jeremiah
  - On to Ammon
Johanan’s rescue mission (41:11-18)

- Johanan’s army
- Hostages escaped from Gibeon
- Ishmael and 8 co-conspirators escaped to Ammon
- Return to Chimham, near Bethlehem
- Plan to go to Egypt
- Fear of Chaldean retaliation for death of Gedaliah
Appeal to Jeremiah (42:1-22)

- Appeal for mercy because we are few
- Request for direction
- A pledge to obey (42:5, 6)
- A bad record (42:21)
- No respect for the LORD – just a desire for relief
- “That it may be well with us . . .” (42:6)
The Word of the LORD (42:7-17)

▪ Remain in the land
▪ Compare with: Jeremiah 21:8-10; 38:2
▪ Build and not pull down; plant and not pluck up
▪ Do not fear the king
▪ Go to Egypt and die: sword, famine pestilence
A Final Warning (42:18-22)

- Appeal to recent unimaginable wrath
  - Lam 4:12 – no one thought Jerusalem would fall
- Eternal wrath – see this place no more
- Despising the Word of the LORD
- Final warning – death in Egypt
Why do we need Jeremiah’s Message?

▷ Jeremiah 13:23 – Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good that are accustomed to do evil.

▷ Jeremiah 17:9 – The heart of man is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

▷ The certainty of the wrath of God – the boiling pot

▷ The certainty of His promise – the almond branch

▷ The hope of Israel and the nations – a new heart