

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 be 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