

Jeremiah

- Author: Jeremiah (1:1)
- Written over the period from the 13th year of Josiah (628 BC, 1:2) until after the destruction of Jerusalem (~ 585 BC, 41:1).
- History (generally prose) and prophecy (generally poetry) interspersed .
- Prophesied that Israel would serve Babylon 70 years (25:11-12, 29:10). Isaiah (39:6 – 7) more than a century earlier had predicted that Israel would serve Babylon, just not how long.
- Seventy years recalled in Daniel 9:2, 2 Chronicles 36:21 – 22, Ezra 1:1.

Jeremiah in the New Testament

- Jeremiah 6:16 (Matthew 11:29) Jesus borrowed a well-known line from Jeremiah. On the surface, Jesus sounds comforting. But the next line in Jeremiah is, “They said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”
- Jeremiah 7:11 (Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46) Jesus borrowed this well-known line from Jeremiah to represent Jeremiah 7 – 9, implying that first-century Judaism was much like that of Jeremiah’s time.
- Jeremiah 9:23 – 24 (1 Corinthians 1:31, 2 Corinthians 10:17) Paul uses Jeremiah’s timeless description of true glory.

Jeremiah in the New Testament

- Jeremiah 31:15 (Matthew 2:18)
 - Jeremiah 40:1 records that the Israelites were collected by the Babylonians at Ramah for deportation.
 - The immediate application (verses 16 – 22) was the return under the Persians.
 - Ancient rabbis did not find this passage Messianic, so it was not a prediction.
 - Matthew revealed that this was set up by God as an illustration (fulfilled) showing that, at the worst of times, Israel can still be rescued.

Jeremiah in the New Testament

- Jeremiah 31:31 – 34 (Hebrews 8:8 – 12) The author of Hebrews used this passage to remind Jewish people that a new covenant implies the end of an old one, based on better promises. Hebrews 10:16 – 17 carries the passage further to imply one perfect sacrifice.

Outline of Jeremiah

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| 1 | Jeremiah called as a youth |
| 2 – 4:2 | Call to repentance, threat of invasion from the north, promise of return |
| 4:3 – 6 | Promise of a return and that all the nations would gather to it; desolation is certain but not complete or permanent |
| 7 – 10 | Calls to repentance and promises of relenting |
| 11 – 12 | The broken covenant |
| 13 | Israel will rot in Babylon |

Outline of Jeremiah

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| 14 – 17 | Description of types of punishment |
| 18 – 21 | God is in charge |
| 22 – 24 | Against the leaders of Israel |
| 25 | Babylon will conquer |
| 26 – 29 | Persecution of Jeremiah |
| 30 – 33 | Consolation: a return is promised |
| 34 – 36 | Examples of obedience and disobedience |
| 37 – 39 | Last days of Jerusalem |
| 40 – 44 | More trouble after the fall; flight to Egypt despite warning |

Outline of Jeremiah

- 45 Comfort for Baruch
- 46 Against Egypt
- 47 Against Philistia
- 48 Against Moab
- 49 Against Ammon, Edom, Syria, Kedar, Hazor, and Elam
- 50 – 51 Against Babylon
- 52 Historical account of the last days of Jerusalem

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 1:1 Jeremiah was from a priestly family who lived in Anathoth of Benjamin. This will be important in chapters 11 and 32.
- 1:5 Jeremiah was chosen to be a prophet before he was born. Note: “to the nations.”
- 1:6 – 10 God promises to protect Jeremiah. His message will both destroy and build.
- 1:11 – 12 The almond was the first to bud, the sign of the coming Spring, symbolizing that God is about to act.
- 1:13 – 19 Boiling pot from the north: invasion route.
- 2:1 – 7 God recalls what He has done for Israel

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 2:13 Forsaken the fountain of living waters and hewn leaky cisterns.
- 2:28 Where are your gods...let them arise.
- 2:35 Because you say, “I have not sinned.”
- 3:1 See Deuteronomy 24:1 – 4.
- 3:6 – 13 Note that God proposes to accept divorced Israel back despite the Law.
- 3:14 – 4:2 Promise of return for a small portion of Israel and Judah.
- 3:16 “The ark of the covenant” They will focus on God, not the physical part (see 7:4).

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 3:17 All the nations shall be gathered to...the name of the Lord.
- 3:18 Judah and Israel to both return (10 tribes not “lost” per Anglo-Israel theory). Note Anna of Asher in Luke 2:28.
- 4:3 Break up your fallow ground; do not sow among the thorns.
- 4:4 Take away the foreskins of your hearts (Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6).

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 4:5 – 5:17 Josiah reigned 31 years (2 Kings 22:1) and was the last “good” king. This destruction was predicted starting in his 13th year (1:1). The Babylonians arrived about four years after Josiah died. Although Josiah enacted many reforms, the population was not truly faithful. Enough in advance to be real.
- 5:18 – 19 Their destruction will not be permanent. Although they will be deported, they will come back.
- 5:31 My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 6:1 A warning to flee rather than depend on walled Jerusalem and the Temple.
- 6:16 Ask for the old paths
- 6:20 Your burnt offerings are not acceptable
- 6:29 The smelter refines in vain, for the wicked are not drawn off.
- 7:4 “The Temple of the Lord”
- 7:5 – 7 If you thoroughly amend your ways...I will cause you to dwell in this place.
- 7:10 “We are delivered to do all these abominations.”

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 7:12 The tabernacle was set up in Shiloh by Joshua (Joshua 18:1). From here the ark was lost to the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:10) and never returned. David brought the ark to Jerusalem. Psalm 78:56 – 72 records that Ephraim was rejected because of this and Judah was chosen instead.
- 7:22 The giving of the Law came 3 months after the Exodus.
- 8:4 A hint of hope in the middle of this prediction of desolation.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 8:14 Water of gall: bitter drink perhaps with some medicinal value
- 8:22 Gilead was known for its salves derived from the sap of certain bushes called balsam.
- 9:15 Wormwood: Bitter root with some medicinal value.
- 9:23 – 24 1 Corinthians 1:31, 2 Corinthians 10:17 Understand and know God.
- 9:26 All the neighboring countries will suffer the same fate.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 10:5 Do not be afraid of gods; they can do no evil, nor any good.
- 10:23 The way of man is not in himself, nor in man who walks to direct his steps.
- 11:21 The men of Anathoth, Jeremiah's home town, sought to kill him.
- 12:1 Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
- 12:14 – 17 Surrounding nations may escape total destruction only by worshipping Jehovah.
- 13:1 – 11 Jeremiah travelled all the way to Iraq to bury a sash. Upon recovery, it was ruined. Symbol: the pride of Judah.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? May you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.
- 14:13 – 15 False prophets gave a message of peace
- 15:1 Moses and Samuel both pleaded for the people and God relented. Not this time.
- 15:15 – 21 God promises to take care of those who turn back to Him, including Jeremiah.
- 16:1 Do not marry. They will all die anyway.
- 16:14 – 15 The Exodus will become second to the Restoration after this destruction.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things" This describes the Israelites in Jeremiah's time. 17:14 – 18 describes Jeremiah.
- 17:19 – 27 If they would just observe the Sabbath, destruction would be averted.
- 18:1 – 10 Paul borrowed this analogy in Romans 9:19 – 24.
- 20:1 – 3 Jeremiah was struck by a Temple official and put in stocks overnight because Jeremiah's message was unpopular.
- 20:9 Jeremiah tried to keep quiet, but could not

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 21:1 – 7 Zechariah was the last king. Nebuchadnezzar besieged the city in Zechariah's ninth year (2 Kings 24:17 – 25:21). Jeremiah confirmed his previous bad news.
- 22:11 – 30 A review of the terrible kings that followed Josiah.
- 23:3 – 4 A remnant shall return and good shepherds will be raised up.
- 23:5 – 6 Widely viewed as Messianic by ancient rabbis, but is not cited in the New Testament.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 23:7 – 8 The promised restoration will be even more significant than the Exodus.
- 23:17 Plenty of prophets were saying, “Peace and safety.”
- 24:1 This refers to the exile of the royal family to Babylon in 597 BC.
- 24:5 – 10 The exiles will prosper and return. Those who remain will not.
- 25:1 This is 606 BC
- 25:3 Jeremiah has been preaching 23 years
- 25:9 Nebuchadnezzar My servant

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 25:12 70 years: Babylon will fall and be a perpetual desolation.
- 25:14 – 26 Many surrounding nations also will be punished.
- 26:1 610 BC
- 26:3 If they repent, God will relent.
- 26:9 Popular reaction was hostile.
- 26:10 – 16 Jeremiah on trial.
- 26:17 – 19 Some believed Jeremiah and cited Micah 3:12 as a precedent
- 26:20 – 24 Urijah also prophesied, but was afraid and fled to Egypt. He was captured and killed.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 27:1 Same period as 26:1 (~ 610 BC)
- 27:2 – 11 Jeremiah sent his message to the surrounding kings to surrender to Babylon and stay in their lands. Those who resist will be exiled or worse.
- 27:12 Zedekiah: 597 – 586 BC. 28:1 – 593 BC
- 27:16 – 22 Some gold vessels of the Temple were taken in 606 BC (Daniel 1:2). Jeremiah predicted that the rest also would be taken.
- 28:1 – 17 Hananiah predicted the end of Babylonian rule in two years. Jeremiah predicts the death of Hananiah within 7 months.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 29:1 – 32 Jeremiah wrote a letter to the exiles shortly after 597 BC. (5) Build houses. (6) Marry and have children. (7) Pray for the city you are in. (10) Return in 70 years. (32) The present High Priest will die and all his descendants.
- 30:1 – 3 Because of the promised return, Jeremiah is told to write down all his prophecies.
- 30:4 – 24 Promise of restoration.
- 31:5 The Northern Kingdom also will return.
- 31:15 Used as an illustration of grief that will turn to restoration after Bethlehem.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 31:22 “The woman shall encompass the man”
The woman (Jewish folk) shall lovingly embrace the man (God) – a new kind of loving relationship rather than the old power relationship.
- 31:29 Same line used in Ezekiel 18:2 – 3.
- 31:31 – 34 Quoted in Hebrews 8:8 – 12, 10:16 – 17.
- 31:40 The fall of Jerusalem should have been a wake-up call to those who rejected Jesus.
- 32:1 587 BC (one year before destruction)
- 32:2 – 5 Some of the predictions made by Jeremiah about King Zedekiah (2 Kings 25)

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 32:6 – 25 In the midst of the siege, a relative offers to sell Jeremiah some family land. God told Jeremiah to buy it to symbolize his confidence in returning.
- 32:26 – 44 Review of destruction and restoration. (40) I *will* make an everlasting covenant.
- 33:1 – 26 Another review and promise. (4) The palace had been pulled down to make anti-siege works. (7) Israel and Judah return. (11) Sacrifice of praise also in Hebrews 13:15. (17) David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne (18) nor Levi a priest.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 34:1 – 5 During the final siege. Babylon will win. Zedekiah will go into exile (not be killed)
- 34:6 – 17 Slaves freed when Babylon surrounded Jerusalem (what good is a slave in a siege) but re-enslaved them when Babylon went away (37:6). Hebrew slaves were to be freed in the 7th year.
- 34:18 – 22 Pass between the calves – like Genesis 15:7 – 21. An ancient custom but not of Moses.
- 35:1 Jehoiakim: 610 – 597 BC.
- 35:11 Nebuchadnezzar arrived around 606 BC

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 35:1 – 19 Rechabites used as an illustration of how the Israelites should have obeyed Moses. Rechabites will survive.
- 36:1 606 BC
- 36:2 Instructions to compile all his prophecies
- 36:4 Baruch commissioned as Jeremiah's scribe.
- 36:5 – 8 Baruch reads Jeremiah's words to the people during Yom Kippur (the fast) because Jeremiah is under arrest.
- 36:10 And again the following year.
- 36:11 – 19 Scribes and princes are impressed; tell Jeremiah and Baruch to hide.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 36:20 – 26 Jehoiakim wants to hear it, so Jehudi read it. Jehoiakim cut off sections as it was read and burned them the pieces in his fire.
- 36:27 – 32 New scroll produced with more words. Jehoiakim will not have a descendant on the throne (Zedekiah was his uncle).
- 37:1 Zedekiah: 597 – 586 BC
- 37:11 – 21 During the break caused by Egypt, Jeremiah went to see his new land (32:9) but was accused of treason and confined. The king wanted news from God, so released Jeremiah and kept him fed.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 38:1 – 13 During the last siege, Jeremiah as cast in a muddy dungeon without food. The king rescued him.
- 38:14 – 28 Zedekiah has a private conversation with Jeremiah. He is told that if he surrenders, both he and Jerusalem will be spared. But, the king is too afraid of the politicians.
- 39:1 – 10 The end of the siege. All royals killed except Zedekiah. Some poor people remain.
- 39:11 – 18 Nebuchadnezzar orders that Jeremiah be treated well. Ebed-Melech spared.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 40:1 – 5 Jeremiah had been taken to the exile departure point, Ramah (31:15), but was released with rations and a gift. He lodged with the new governor, Gedeliah.
- 40:6 – 12 Refugees from nearby countries returned.
- 40:13 – 41:10 The king of Ammon sent his son to assassinate Gedeliah. He succeeded and also killed many of the remnant.
- 41:11 – 18 Johanan raised a small army to defeat Ishmael and reclaim the survivors. They gathered near Bethlehem.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 42:1 – 6 The remnant swear to Jeremiah that whatever the Lord says, they will do.
- 42:7 – 22 God said, "Stay and prosper; go to Egypt and die."
- 43:1 – 7 The remnant decided Jeremiah was a spy, so they went to Egypt.
- 44:1 - 30 To the Jews already refugees in Egypt: learn from what happened to Jerusalem. Because they did not, they will suffer the same fate as the remnant. But a few will escape and return. Pharaoh will fall.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 45:1 605 BC
45:2 – 5 Baruch was whining about the hardship, which had only just begun. God promised that he would survive although the troubles would get worse.
46:2 – 26 About Egypt: Defeat of Egypt by Babylon in 605 BC at Carchemish. Egypt hoped to take pieces of the collapsing Assyrian empire. They had defeated Israel (killing Josiah) in 610 BC. Jeremiah predicts not only the defeat at Carchemish but also that Babylon would ravage Egypt itself.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 46:27 – 28 A promise of return to Israel but destruction of their captors.
47:1 – 7 Against Philistia: (2) From the north – by Pharaoh's retreating army, to deprive Nebuchadnezzar of a base and to gather some spoils. (4) Captor – Cappadocia in Turkey – Philistines were descendants of Turks who tried to take Egypt but were repulsed. (5) Cut yourself – Pagan prophets often cut themselves while prophesying.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 48:1 – 47 Destruction of Moab: (7) Chemosh is Moab's god. (11) Moab has not gone into captivity before. The Assyrians were defeated by God before that could happen. (13) Moab will be ashamed of its god as Israel became ashamed of the golden calves. (27) Moab previously thought of captive Israel with derision and themselves with pride. (31) God mourned for Moab. (47) Promise of return.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 49:1 – 6 Against Ammon: (1) Milcom, Ammon's god. (1) Ammon moved into areas vacated by Israel due to Assyria. (2) Israel will get its territory back. (3) Captivity. (6) Return.
49:7 – 22 Against Edom: (10) Complete destruction, not just defeat and tribute. (11) But orphans and widows who trust in God will be preserved. (18) Compared to Sodom and Gomorrah – no remnant.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 49:23 – 27 Against Damascus: (24) The Syrian capital had been formidable but was now feeble, perhaps in the aftermath of the battles between Assyrian and Babylon, then Egypt and Babylon. (25) Damascus called "the city of My joy."
49:28 – 33 Against Kedar: A loose nation of nomads in the Arabian desert. (28) Nebuchadnezzar will destroy them; others just left them alone so they profited by gathering spoils. (31) Babylon wiped them out to eliminate competition for booty and for trade.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 49:34 – 39 Against Elam: East of Babylon, on today's Iran-Iraq border. (39) But Elam will come back, which they did as part of the Medo-Persian empire.
50:1 – 51:64 Against Babylon
50:2 Do not conceal it, despite the other prophecies that Babylon would take Judah captive and destroy the Temple.
50:4 – 5 When Babylon falls, Israel will seek God and return to their land.
50:9 Babylon will fall to an "assembly of nations," which is what happened.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 50:11 Reason: because you were glad at the destruction of God's heritage.
- 50:13 Babylon will not be inhabited.
- 50:31 Reason: haughtiness.
- 50:39 Inhabited no more, forever.
- 51:7 Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand.
- 51:8 Babylon has suddenly fallen.
- 51:11 The Medes will be part of the conquerors
- 51:59 – 64 Jeremiah sent the prophecy against Babylon with Zedekiah in 594 BC to Babylon to be published and sunk.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 52:1 History of Zedekiah, 597 – 586 BC
- 52:4 The final siege began in 588 and took 20 months (52:12).
- 52:6 Severe famine after 19 months.
- 52:7 – 11 The army tried to escape with the royal family but were captured. All were killed in Zedekiah's sight, then he was blinded and bound in bronze fetters. He lived out his days in Babylon.
- 52:12 – 16 The city was burned and the walls torn down. Some of the poor were left as vinedressers.

Notable Passages from Jeremiah

- 52:17 – 23 Description of some of the Temple booty.
- 52:24 – 27 Mopping up the remaining dignitaries. The High Priest was killed (29:32).
- 52:28 – 30 The total number of captives in 597, 586, and 583 was small: 4600, which means millions died. Plus 18,000 in 606 BC (2 Kings 24:13 – 17)
- 52:31 – 34 In 560 BC, after 27 years in prison, Nebuchadnezzar's successor promoted Jehoiachin from prisoner to captive king so he ate at the king's table with other captured kings.