

## **Class 1: Jeremiah 1**

### **Called to be a Prophet**

**April 5, 2017**

**Background on Jeremiah:** The Encyclopedia Judaica says the following about Jeremiah: *“Greater detail is known about Jeremiah's life than for that of any other prophet. However no biography of him can be written as there are so few facts available”*. The book of Jeremiah is actually the story of two men: Jeremiah and the scribe Baruch. In chapter 36 we see Baruch's commission to draft this book.

Jeremiah was the son of a priest named Hilkiah (probably not the High Priest Hilkiah, as Jeremiah's father was priest of Anathoth). Jeremiah began prophesying in the 13<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah.

Jeremiah is called the weeping prophet. He prepared the lamentation of the king Josiah, and some interpret this as also being the preparation of the book of Lamentations. Again, a Messianic foreshadow here is that he was a “man of sorrows, acquainted with grief”. Consider the parallel with Christ in the main three prophets at this time; as Daniel, Jesus was royalty removed from His abode; as Ezekiel, Jesus was the “Son of Man”, and as Jeremiah, Jesus was the “Man of Sorrows”. Please see the attached chart for an analysis of the three prophets present at the end of Jerusalem.

**The Prophets:** It is important to understand the concept of “the Prophets” in Scripture. While a prophet is strictly speaking, anyone who speaks (inspired) for God, the “Prophets” I particular refers to the position that existed along with the High Priest and King during the kingdom period of Israel. Typically during the kingdoms there was at least one prophet to the king (of either kingdom). See the attached chart of the prophets.

**Jeremiah's Calling:** Chapter one begins with Jeremiah's calling as a prophet. He is called a “youth”, placing him (most likely) between 14 and 20 years old. He would prophesy from (around) 628BC until 581BC, or 47 years. Jeremiah 1 tells us that God determined him to be a prophet before he was born (which might in part account for his messianic identification in Matthew 16).

Disaster from the North: Jeremiah's first message is the main one for this book. Jerusalem (in effect, all that is left of the kingdom of Judah) has forsaken God, and now is the time of God's wrath. It is important to understand that Josiah will forestall this destruction in his lifetime (2 Chron. 34:23-27). There are a few other prophets who will also bring this message to Jerusalem: Huldah the prophetess, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk (Ezekiel is not in Jerusalem).

### **Making Applications:**

1. Jeremiah is one of the most important prophets of the Old Covenant, as seen by being mentioned and quoted in the New Testament on numerous occasions. His covenant message of chapter 31 is particularly important to us.
2. Jeremiah's message is very important today; God still brings down unrighteous nations by other nations. It is also important to understand that there are two important foreshadows: Jerusalem to the Universal church (Galatians 4:24-26), and the congregation(s) of Israel to the local church congregation (1 Cor. 10:11). Just as Israel fell, so can the local church fall (Rev. 2-3).
3. Jeremiah's youth reminds us that we are called at various times in our lives to God's service, and that the limitations of age (youth or age) are nothing before God.

## Chronology of the Prophets of the Old Testament Periods

### I Samuel 9:9

Year BC	King of United Israel	Prophets of United Israel
1060-1020	<b>Saul</b>	<b>Samuel</b>
1020-980	<b>David</b>	<b>Samuel, Nathan, Gad, Heman, Asaph, Jeduthun</b>
980-931	<b>Solomon</b>	<b>Nathan, Ahijah</b>

Year BC	King of Judah	Prophets of Judah
931–914	Rehoboam	<b>Iddo, Shemaiah</b>
914–911	Abijah	<b>Iddo</b>
911–870	Asa	<b>Azariah, Hanani</b>
870–845	Jehoshaphat	<b>Elisha, Micaiah</b>
851–843	Jehoram	<b>Obadiah (?)</b> , <b>Elijah (PS?)</b>
843–842	Ahaziah	
842–835	Athaliah	
842–802	Jehoash	<b>Joel, Zechariah</b> (2 Chron. 24)
805–776	Amaziah	<b>Unknown</b> (2 Chron. 25:15)
788–736	Uzziah	<b>Isaiah</b>
758–742	Jotham	<b>Isaiah, Micah, Oded</b>
742–726	Ahaz	
726–697	Hezekiah	
697–642	Manasseh	<b>Nahum</b>
642–640	Amon	
640–609	Josiah	<b>Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Huldah</b> (prophetess)
609	Jehoahaz	<b>Jeremiah</b>
609–598	Jehoiakim	<b>Jeremiah, Habakkuk</b>
598–597	Jehoiachin	<b>Jeremiah, Daniel</b>
597–586	Zedekiah	<b>Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel</b>
Captivity		
586-539		<b>Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel</b>
Return to Judah		
539-520	*Zerubbabel	<b>Haggai, Zechariah</b>
445-432	*Nehemiah	<b>Malachi</b>

Year BC	King of Israel	Prophets of Israel
<u>922–901</u>	Jeroboam I	<b>Ahijah, “Man of God”, Iddo,</b>
<u>901–900</u>	Nadab	
<u>900–877</u>	Baasha	<b>Jehu</b>
<u>877–876</u>	Elah	<b>Jehu</b>
<u>876</u>	Zimri	
<u>876–869</u>	Omri	
<u>869–850</u>	Ahab	<b>Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah</b>
<u>850–849</u>	Ahaziah	<b>Elisha</b>
<u>849–842</u>	Joram	
<u>842–815</u>	Jehu	
<u>815–801</u>	Jehoahaz	
<u>801–786</u>	Jehoash	
<u>786–746</u>	Jeroboam II	<b>Jonah, Amos</b>
<u>746</u>	Zachariah	<b>Hosea</b>
<u>745</u>	Shallum	
<u>745–738</u>	Menahem	
<u>738–737</u>	Pekahiah	
<u>737–732</u>	Pekah	
<u>732–722</u>	Hoshea	

\* Governor, not king

## Summary of the Prophets of the Old Testament

Name	Date	Theme	Audience
Isaiah	788-697BC	Two parts: 1-33 God's judgment, 34-66 – Messiah	Judah
Jeremiah	628-581BC	God's anger with Judah, God's purpose in a new covenant	Judah
Ezekiel	597-570BC	God's retribution against Judah and then the nations, God's new temple	Judah (in exile)
Daniel	590-538BC	God's messianic plan	Judah (in exile)
Hosea	746-732BC	Israel's adultery, God's forgiveness (Gomer)	Israel and Judah
Joel	842-802BC	Lament over plagues, the coming of the last days	Israel or Judah
Amos	786-746BC	Judgment coming to Israel	Israel and Judah
Obadiah	851-843BC	God's anger against Edom for exploiting Israel	Edom
Jonah	786-746BC	God's judgment on Nineveh and their reaction	Assyria
Micah	758-697BC	Anger against Judah, coming Messiah	Judah
Nahum	697-642BC	Pt 1 – Majesty of God; Pt 2 – the Fall of Nineveh	Assyria
Habakkuk	609-598BC	Habakkuk questioning God "why". The just live by faith	Babylon
Zephaniah	640-609BC	God's wrath against all men	Judah
Haggai	539-520BC	Zerubbabel - Build the Temple	Judah
Zechariah	539-520BC	Restoration period and the Messiah	Judah
Malachi	445-432BC	Problems in religion, coming of Elijah	Judah

