

Handout Jeremiah Lesson 1

Summary Outline of the Book of Jeremiah

Biblical Period	#8 The Assyrian Exile of Israel and The Babylonian Exile of Judah					
Covenant	The Sinai Covenant [& the Davidic Covenant]					
Focus	Oracles to Judah and Jerusalem				Oracles Against the Nations	Historical Appendix
Scripture	1:1-----2:1-----21:1-----31:1-----46:1-----51:59-----52:34					
Division	Title and Prophetic Commission	Oracles of Condemnation (covenant lawsuit) of Judah and Jerusalem	Oracles in the last years of Jerusalem	Babylonia conquers Jerusalem	Judgment on the Gentile Nations	The years after the Fall
Topic	The years prior to the fall of Jerusalem			The fall of Jerusalem	The final deportation and completion of the Babylonian conquest	
	Jeremiah's call and prophetic mission			Jeremiah's life after the fall of Jerusalem		
Location	Southern Kingdom of Judah: Anathoth and Jerusalem Egypt					
Time	Length of Jeremiah's prophetic ministry: c. 628 BC – c. 587 BC (forty years as the ancients counted)					
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Time line (all dates are BC):

722	642	640	628	622	609	605	598	587/6
Fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel	Amon king of Judah 642-40	Josiah king of Judah Religious reforms	Jeremiah's call / his mission begins	Jeremiah's / mission begins	Battle of Megiddo death of Josiah	Battle of Carchemish* Jehoahaz king 3 mo. Jehoiakim king 609-598	Jehoiachin 3 mo. Zedekiah king 598-87	Fall of Jerusalem Exile of citizens

* After the Battle of Carchemish, Babylonia is the dominant regional power.

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Historical background:

- 732 BC Assyrians conquer the Galilee and exile the Israelites' Galilean tribes into Assyrian lands.
- 722 BC Assyrians conquer the entire Northern Kingdom of Israel. They exile all the people that remain of the ten northern tribes into Assyrian lands to the east and resettle with five Gentile peoples, renaming the region the Assyrian province of Samaria.
- 640 BC possible year of the birth of Jeremiah and beginning of King Josiah's reign.
- 628 BC marks the beginning of King Josiah's religious reforms in Judah and in what was the Northern Kingdom (Assyrian Province of Samaria).
- 628 BC Jeremiah receives his prophetic call in the 13th year of the reign of King Josiah (the ancients counted years without the concept of a zero-place value).
- 628 BC Scythian invasion of the Levant.
- 627 BC death of Assyrian King Ashurbanipal. The empire begins to disintegrate in a series of civil wars involving several claimants to the throne. Babylonians and Medes begin rebellions against domination by the Assyrians.
- The Egyptians and Assyrians join forces in an attempt to defeat the Babylonians.
- 612 BC Babylonians destroy Nineveh, the Assyrian capital.
- 609 BC, King Josiah of Judah, the last righteous Davidic king, is killed fighting the Egyptians at the Battle of Megiddo.
- 609 BC at the Battle of Harran, the Babylonians defeat the armies of the Assyrian-Egyptian alliance.
- 605 BC Assyria and allies defeated at the Battle of Carchemish. The Babylonians are the new regional power. Judea becomes a vassal of the Babylonians who deport the Jerusalem children of royal and influential families to Babylonia as hostages.
- 598 BC second deportation of Judean citizens into Babylon.
- 597 BC third deportation of Judean citizens into Babylon including King Jehoiachin. Zedekiah appointed king by the Babylonians
- 588 BC King Zedekiah rebels against the king of Babylon by withholding tribute.
- Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieges Jerusalem and conquers the city in the summer of 587 BC.

Handout 2: Jeremiah Lesson 1

Major theme: The pronouncement of Yahweh's judgment against the Southern Kingdom of Judah in the form of a covenant lawsuit.

- Sub-themes:
1. Condemnation of Israel/Judah's sins.
 2. Judgment of Judah's conquest and exile.
 3. God's promised preservation of the faithful remnant of His covenant people.
 4. The hope of Judah's covenant renewal and restoration.
 5. God's judgment on the hostile Gentile nations surrounding the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

The sub-themes of sin, destruction, hope, and renewal appear throughout the book (Jer 18:7-11; 31:28; 45:4).

The four kings of Judah who are mentioned in 1:2-3 are all descendants of the great King David and his son King Solomon (see 1 Chr 3:9-16; 2 Chr 34:1-21; Mt 1:10-16):

1. King Amon ruled c. 642-640 BC
2. King Josiah ruled c. 640-609 BC
3. King Jehoiakim/Jechoniah ruled c. 609-598 BC
4. King Zedekiah ruled c. 598-587 BC

The passage does not mention Davidic King Jehoahaz who only ruled for three months in 609 BC before being deposed by the Egyptians in favor of his brother Jehoiakim/Jechoniah, another son of King Josiah. King Jehoiachin, son of Josiah, is also not named. He only reigned for three months in 598 BC before the Babylonians replaced him with his uncle, King Josiah's brother Zedekiah.

Jeremiah 1:4-19 fall into a chiasmic pattern:

- A-1 Articulation of the divine call (verses 4-10)
 - B-1 Vision of the call (verses 11-12)
 - B-2 Vision of the commissioning (verses 13-14)
- A-2 Articulation of the commissioning (verses 15-19)

Jeremiah compared with Moses:

1. God addressed both Moses and Jeremiah directly.
2. Moses is called as a prophet to the Israelites, but Jeremiah is called as a "prophet to the nations."
3. Both Moses and Jeremiah were members of the tribe of Levi, but Jeremiah was a descendant of Aaron, Moses' brother. Only descendants of Aaron could serve as priests of the covenant. Moses was a Levite but was designated a prophet and covenant mediator not a priest. Jeremiah is both a priest and a prophet.
4. Moses and Jeremiah both expressed hesitancy and unfitness for the mission to which God called them because of an inadequacy of speech.

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In Jeremiah's mission we can see a foreshadowing of the mission of Jesus Christ

- Like Jesus Jeremiah is sent by God to preach repentance and the warning of divine judgment (Jer 1:4-19).
- Like Jesus he is rejected by his own people but God is with him (Jer 1:19).
- Like Jesus he weeps over Jerusalem (Jer 14:17).
- Like Jesus he compares himself to a lamb led to the slaughter (Jer 11:19).
- Like Jesus he promises a New Covenant (Jer 31:31-34).
- The Jerusalem officials arrested, tried, and threatened Jeremiah's life like the Jerusalem officials arrested, tried and threatened Jesus' life (Jer 26:7-11; 37:15-16; 38:4-6).
- God protected Jeremiah from death; Jesus was protected by being resurrected (Jer 26:24; 39:15-18).
- Jeremiah prophesized the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant in the coming of the Davidic Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth (Jer 33:14-16).

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Handout 3: Jeremiah Lesson 1

Jeremiah carries out his ministry in “words” and “acts.” He gives twelve different homilies and performs ten different “works” that are object lessons for the people.

JEREMIAH’S PROPHETIC LESSONS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE	OBJECT LESSON	SIGNIFICANCE
Jeremiah 1:11, 12	the branch of an almond tree	Like the almond tree that announces the spring, Jeremiah will announce that God will carry out His threats of punishment.
Jeremiah 1:13	a boiling pot tilting away from the north	God will punish Judah with an invasion from the North.
Jeremiah 13:1-11	a ruined linen belt	Because the people refuse to listen to God, they had become useless like a ruined linen belt.
Jeremiah 18:1-17	the potter’s clay	God will destroy His sinful people He had created unless they repent before it is too late.
Jeremiah 19:1-12	the broken clay jars	God will smash Judah just as Jeremiah smashed the clay jars.
Jeremiah 24:1-10	two baskets of figs	Good figs represent God's holy remnant. Poor figs are the people left behind.
Jeremiah 27:2-11	the yoke	A nation who refuses to submit to Babylon’s yoke will be destroyed.
Jeremiah 32:6-25	the purchased field	Yahweh commands Jeremiah to purchase a field in the city of Jerusalem just before the fall of the city as a sign that the people will return to their land.
Jeremiah 43:8-13	the large stones	The stones marked the place where the Babylonian king will set his throne when God allows him to conquer Egypt.
Jeremiah 51:59-64	the scroll sunk in the river	God will also judge Babylonia. The empire will “sink” and rise no more.

Handout 4: Jeremiah Lesson 1

Prophets, Kings and Missions (in historical order)

<p>THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH 930 – 587/6 BC Kings and their reigns 1 ruling family: the House of David</p>	<p>HISTORICAL LIST OF THE PROPHETS 930-517/16 BC (prophets in italics are prophets without canonical books)</p>	<p>THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL 930 – 722 BC Kings and their reigns 9 ruling families</p>
Rehoboam 930 – 913	<i>Shemaiah</i> <i>unnamed man from Judah</i> <i>Iddo</i> <i>Ahijah</i>	Jeroboam I 930 – 910
Abijam (Abijah) 913 – 911		Nadab 910 – 909
Asa 911 – 870	<i>Azariah</i>	Baasha 909 – 884
	Obadiah (placement?)	Elah 886 – 885
		Zimri 885
		Omri 885 – 874
Jehoshaphat 870 – 848	Elijah <i>Micaiah</i> *	Ahab 874 – 853
	* *	Ahaziah 853 – 852
Jehoram 848 – 841	Elisha * *	Jehoram (Joram) 852 – 841
Ahaziah 841	* *	Jehu 841 – 814
Queen Athaliah (mother of Ahaziah, dau. of Ahab and not a Davidic heir) 841 – 835	* * * * *	
Jehoash 835 – 796	* *	Jehoahaz 814 – 798
Amaziah 796-781		Jehoash 798 -783
Uzziah (Azariah) 781 – 740	Amos Hosea Jonah * * Isaiah *	Jeroboam II 783 – 743

Co-rule with Jotham	* *	Zechariah 743
	* *	Shallum 743
Jotham 740 – 736	Micah * *	Menahem 743 – 738
	* * *	Pekahiah 738 – 737
Ahaz 736 – 716	* * *	Pekah 737 – 732
Hezekiah 716 – 687	* * *	Hoshea 732 – 724
Manasseh 687 – 642	Nahum *	Assyrians conquer Israel = exile
Amon 642 – 640		
Josiah 640 – 609	Jeremiah Zephaniah * *	
Jehoahaz 609	* *	
Jehoiakim 609 – 598	* Daniel * *	
Jehoiachin/Jehoniah 598 – 597	* Habakkuk? * Ezekiel * *	
Zedekiah 598 – 587/6 Deportation and exile	* *	
Babylonian exile 70 years		
Persians conquer Babylon Edict of Cyrus 538 BC Return from exile	Joel ?	
Zeraubbabel 520 BC Israelite Persian appointed governor of Samaria Temple rebuilt c. 517/16 BC	Haggai Zechariah Malachi	
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THE SYMBOLIC IMAGES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

Image Groups	Part I Covenant relationship	Part II Rebellion	Part III Redemptive Judgment	Part IV Restoration Fulfilled
Covenant Marriage [examples in Scripture]	Israel Bride of Yahweh Isaiah 61:10-11; Jeremiah 2:2; Ezekiel 16:4-14	Unfaithful adulteress/harlot Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 3:6-8; 13:22-23, 26; 23:10; Ezekiel 16:15-34; 23:1-12; Hosea 4:10-14	Humiliated, abused & abandoned by lovers Jeremiah 3:1b-2; 4:30-31; Ezekiel 16:23-61; 23:35-49; Amos 4:7-8; Hosea 2:4-15	The Bride restored to her Bridegroom John 3:28-29; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:7-9; 21:2;9; 22:17
Vineyard or Fig tree [examples in Scripture]	Well-tended vineyard/fruitful fig tree Isaiah 5:1-4; Jeremiah 24:4-7; Ezekiel 19:10-11;	Vines grow wild/failure to produce fruit Jeremiah 2:21; Hosea 2:14; Micah 7:1-4; Joel 1:7, 11-12	Weeds overgrow vineyard/ ruin and destruction Isaiah 5:3-6; Jeremiah 8:13; 24:1-10; Ezekiel 19:12-14; Nahum 3:12-15	Vines are replanted/ fruitfulness restored John 15:1-2, 4-6
Animals Examples in Scripture	Domesticated animals obedient to the yoke of the Master Isaiah 40:10-11; 65:25; Ezekiel 34:15-16; Micah 4:13	Resist the yoke; run away and become wild Exodus 32:9; 33:3, 5; 34:9; Deuteronomy 9:6, 13; Isaiah 50:6; 53:6; Jeremiah 5:5d-6; 8:6b-7; 23:1-2; Ezekiel 19:1-9	Ravaged by wild beasts/birds of prey Isaiah 50:7; Jeremiah 8:15-17; 50:6-7; Hosea 8:1-14; 13:6-8	Rescued by their Master Matthew 11:28-30; John 1:29, 36; 10:1-18; Revelation 5:6, 13; 7:9-17; 14:1-10; 19:2-9; 21:9-23; 22:1-3
Drinking Wine Examples in Scripture	Joy of drinking good wine Isaiah 25:6-8; 62:8-9; 65:13; Jeremiah 31:12; 40:12	Becoming drunk Isaiah 5:11-12; 28:1; Jeremiah 8:13; 48:26; 51:7; Joel 1:5	Loss of wine; drinking the “cup of God’s wrath” Psalm 75:9; Isaiah 51:17-23; 63:2-3; Jeremiah 13:12-14; 25:15-31; 49:12; 51:6-7; 48:26; Ezekiel 23:31-34; Joel 4:13; Habakkuk 2:16	Rejoicing in the best “new wine” at the Master’s table Promise: Zechariah 9:15-16; Joel 4:18; Amos 9:13 Fulfilled: Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Revelation 19:7-9

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- ◆ Part I: Yahweh and his people enter into a Covenant relationship. Yahweh will bind this people to Himself in the blessings of security and prosperity in return for obedience to the Covenant of the Torah [first 5 books of Moses].
- ◆ Part II: Israel, the Covenant people ignore the Laws of the Covenant; they rebel by going their own way.
- ◆ Part III: God sends His holy prophet to call His people back to Him. Failing in this mission the prophet calls down a Covenant Lawsuit which results in Covenant curses—punishment meant to bring about repentance and restoration.
- ◆ Part IV: In response to repentance, Yahweh reaches out to restore and to take His people back into the Covenant relationship they had first enjoyed.