

The Word with Your Pastors
Jeremiah: Prophet of Lament & Faithfulness Study Guide
Pastor Dixon
Second of Four Presentations ~ Fall 2021

Overview

Jeremiah is sometimes known as the prophet of wrath, or the weeping prophet. We can also talk about him as the prophet of lamentation and the prophet of enduring hope. Jeremiah was active during an absolutely pivotal moment in the history of Judah as a series of unrighteous kings led the nation on a path to the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple, the dwelling place of the Lord.

As a prophet, Jeremiah saw with the eyes of God and spoke with the voice of God, calling the people to account for their idolatry (frequently spoken of in terms of adultery or infidelity) as well as their disregard for the people most deserving of care in their midst (widows, orphans, and foreigners). Jeremiah calls the people to a moral reform of their inner spirits, to repentance, to turn back to God who will always turn to them, and when the people prove unwilling, the prophet warns them of the doom approaching from the north--the powerful, rising empire of Babylon.

After that doom indeed befalls the land, Jeremiah, in two remarkable passages (chapters 29 and 31), speaks to the constant faithfulness of God. God will continue to bless the people even in their captivity in a foreign land, and God will make a new covenant with them, one printed on their very hearts, one impossible to break.

Questions

- 1) What is the difference between a punishment handed down by God, and a consequence naturally tied to the behaviors of the people of God?
- 2) God and Jeremiah (speaking and feeling on behalf of God) are heartbroken at the fate of the nation. What does it mean to believe in a God who hurts when we hurt?
- 3) The prophet of the Old Testament was a political figure in addition to a religious one. The prophet saw with clarity the shortcomings and corruptions in our relationship to God, but also in how we ordered our life together as a society and a nation. How do we balance our theological and political beliefs today? What does our relationship to God demand of us in our relationships with each other?

Key Verses

[Jeremiah 1:4-6](#) - Jeremiah's Call

[Jeremiah 29:4-23](#) - The Word of the Lord for the People in Exile

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) - The New Covenant

Next Session:

Isaiah: Prophet of Warning, Comfort & Hope with Rev. Dr. Latini