

#20 Jeremiah | July 8, 2018

The times of Jeremiah

- While Elijah represents the prophetic warning to all of the Jews (with emphasis on the Northern Kingdom), Jeremiah gives specific warning to the Southern Kingdom, especially related to their impending doom.
- What happened between Elijah and Jeremiah:
  - The Northern Kingdom eventually fell to the Assyrians in 722BC and ceased to exist, with the 10 tribes being “lost” among the nations.
  - The Southern Kingdom lasted through many kings, all of the Davidic dynasty, with both good kings (Josiah) and bad kings (Ahaz).
- Jeremiah’s call was to warn the Southern Kingdom of God’s punishment upon the nation if it did not repent. In carrying out this role, he was a hated man.
- Jeremiah began his ministry during the reign of Josiah (about 626BC) and his ministry concluded after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC.
  - He led the nation in lamenting the loss of Josiah (2 Chron. 35:25).
  - His ministry was chiefly during the reigns of Jehoiakim and Zedekiah, the last two kings of Judah (Jer. 1:1-3).

Three Important Stories

- Jeremiah’s purchase of land in Israel – Jeremiah 32:6-15.
  - God revealed to Jeremiah, while he was in prison, that his cousin would come with an offer for the redemption of family land – vv. 6-8.
  - Jeremiah redeems the land for 17 shekels of silver – v. 9-10.
  - Jeremiah had the title deed stored in an **earthen vessel** for safekeeping – vv. 11-15.
  - In Ephesians 1:13-14 the Holy Spirit is said to have sealed gentile believers as the down payment of the inheritance of the Jewish nation.
- Jeremiah’s prophecy of 70 years – 2 Chronicles 36:21-22, Jeremiah 29:10-13, Daniel 9:2, 24-27.
  - In 2 Kings 25:6-9 Scripture records the destruction of Jerusalem.

- The corresponding passage, 2 Chronicles 36:21-22 also gives this account, with commentary by the priests as to the length of time in which the nation would be in exile. The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles are similar to the books of 1&2 Kings, except that Chronicles was written later, with a priestly commentary.
  - The nation would be in exile for 70 years – one year for each of the neglected Sabbath years.
  - Because a Sabbath year was every seventh year, it had been 490 years of neglecting Sabbath years, meaning that they had not fully observed the Law from the days of the monarchy.
- Jeremiah 29:10-13 gives the prophetic word about the 70 years from Jeremiah’s perspective.
- Daniel 9:2 is the fulfillment of Jeremiah’s prophecy, with a new prophecy of “seventy sevens” given to Daniel by Gabriel in 9:24-27.
- Notice that only by compiling several passages can you get the whole story. Bible study requires a knowledge of the whole to be most effective (which is why most Bible students will never have more than a surface understanding of Scripture).
- Jeremiah’s lamentations for Jerusalem –
  - The book of Lamentations contains Jeremiah’s lament over the destruction of Jerusalem. It is a poetic marvel of five poems, each of the first four being built around the Hebrew alphabet of 22 letters.
    - Chapters 1 & 2 – two poems of 22 verses, each with three stanzas, thus 66 lines.
    - Chapter 3 – one poem of 66 verses and 66 lines.
    - Chapter 4 – one poem of 22 verses, each with two stanzas, thus 44 lines.
    - Chapter 5 – one poem of 22 verses not built around the alphabet, each verse having one stanza, thus 22 lines.
  - The poems reflect great knowledge of Deuteronomy 28, which contained Moses’ prophecy of destruction.

Things You May Not Know

- Rembrandt painted a famous painting of Jeremiah lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem.
- The Jewish people read the entire book of Lamentations, out loud and with weeping, every 9<sup>th</sup> day of Av (July/August – July 21 this year).
- Tradition says that Jeremiah wrote the books of 1 & 2 Kings.