

Jeremiah 1

Jeremiah lived in the days of Judah's downfall. After the division of Israel into northern and southern kingdoms (Israel and Judah) as judgement for king Solomon's idolatry, the northern kingdom (Israel) was destroyed by Assyria in 722BC. Now, Judah faces a similar threat from Babylon, a great superpower to the north. Jeremiah is now called to prophesy within this political instability and threat of war.

These first 25 chapters are from when Babylon began to rise to prominence (626 BC) until Jerusalem is taken and Judah is taken into exile to Babylon (587 BC). They are arranged thematically, and deal with Judah's sin and God's judgement.

When did God choose Jeremiah?

How did God provide for Jeremiah in the face of his fear of speaking?

What is at the heart of Jeremiah's message from the Lord?

How did God provide for Jeremiah in the face of opposition he would face?

How does God choose and provide for us, here and now?

Spend some time thanking God for his creating and choosing us in Jesus, and for the way he uses us in all our weaknesses to serve his purposes.

Jeremiah 2

The next few chapters spell out Israel's sin and calls her to repent.

What images does the chapter give representing Israel's past devotion?

What was Israel's major sin?

What images does the chapter give to represent Israel's sin?

How does this passage provide a warning for you?

Spend some time confessing your own idolatry to God. Praise him for his mercy expressed in Jesus.

Jeremiah 3-4:4

How do the images in this chapter make you feel? What does this say about the seriousness of sin?

What does God call on Judah to do?

What promises does God begin to give?

What comfort and warning does this passage give you?

Spend some time thanking God for his faithfulness in light of our unfaithfulness. Ask him to help you live a life of repentance.

Jeremiah 4:5-31

What is the coming 'disaster from the north'?

Who is responsible for this coming disaster?

What imagery does this chapter use for expressing God's judgement?

What hints are there that God is reluctant in judging his people in this way?

What comfort does this passage give you?

Spend some time praising God for his holiness and sovereignty over the whole world. Thank God for his mercy to us in Jesus.

Jeremiah 5

What details of Judah's sin does Jeremiah give?

What imagery does Jeremiah use to talk about this sin?

How is this sin reflected in your own life?

Spend some time confessing your sin to God. Praise him that his judgement has fallen on Jesus and not on us.

Jeremiah 6

What details of Judah's sin does Jeremiah give?

What imagery does Jeremiah use to talk about this sin?

How is this present in your own life?

What imagery does this chapter use for expressing God's judgement?

How does this passage help you to respond to our sin and God's judgement?

Spend some time confessing your sin to God. Praise him for his holiness, justice, and mercy.

Jeremiah 7

In this chapter, the people in Judah in Jeremiah's day were trusting in their sacrifices and temple worship to make them right with God.

How does God feel about this?

How are they living?

What does he want them to do?

In what ways do you trust in Christian activities or structures, while living a disobedient life?

Thank God that even though we are hypocrites, he forgives us. Pray that you will trust and obey God.

Jeremiah 8

What is God calling the people to do?
What do they do instead?

In what parts of your life do you refuse to repent and turn over to God?

What imagery of God's judgement strikes you the most?

Is your response to God's judgement more like the people's or Jeremiah's?

Ask God that you would continue to repent in light of his coming judgement. Praise God for freedom from his judgement because of his mercy.

Jeremiah 9

How does God feel about Judah's rebellion? Is he *only* angry?

How does God feel about Judah's judgement? Is he *only* just?

What does this passage say about truth and deception?

Use vv. 23-24 as the basis of your own prayers.

Jeremiah 10

Jeremiah compared God to other influences for the people. How does God compare to the other nations?

Other gods?

Other kings?

The leaders of Judah?

Use vv. 1-17 as a basis to praise God.

Jeremiah 11

This new prophesy probably came from around the time when the scroll of the law was rediscovered in the temple, at the time of King Josiah's reign. This resulted in a religious reformation, with many of the people recommitting to their covenant God, and others refusing to do so.

What does God say will happen if they disobey his covenant?

What will happen if they keep his covenant?

What are people actually doing?

Thank God that we have a new covenant, where Jesus is the one who fulfills it perfectly. Ask God to help you live in line with your relationship with Jesus.

Jeremiah 12

Do you identify with Jeremiah's complaint?

How does Jeremiah's complaint help us to see the justice of God's judgement?

What glimpses of God's graciousness can you see in this chapter?

Praise God for his justice and his compassion. Ask God to help us see with his eyes: justly hating evil, while graciously forgiving.

Jeremiah 13

In vv. 1-12, what is Judah supposed to be, with respect to God?

What will Judah be instead?

What imagery does Jeremiah use to describe judgement?

How does all of this imagery make you feel?

Praise God that even though we are sinners, he is making us to be his glory by transforming us to be like Christ, by his Spirit.

Jeremiah 14

What is new about the judgement proclaimed in this chapter? How is it different from previous chapters?

What are other prophets saying that is different to Jeremiah?

How seriously does God take people who teach false things?

When are you tempted to teach or listen to untruths about God?

Use the final verses as a confession and commitment prayer to God. Ask God to help you stay true to his word to us in the Bible.

Jeremiah 15

Manasseh king of Hezekiah king of Judah built pagan altars in the temple.

Will God show compassion anymore?

Will Jeremiah be able to continue asking God for compassion?

How is Jeremiah coping with opposition to his message?

When do you struggle to cope staying faithful as a Christian?

Praise God that we don't face his wrath, because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Ask God to help you stay faithful in the face of opposition.

Jeremiah 16

What new images of judgement does Jeremiah give?

What does this teach us about sin?

What new images of graciousness does Jeremiah give?

Given the seriousness sin and judgement, does God's grace surprise you?

Thank God for his incredible grace in the face of our recurring sin and his holiness.

Jeremiah 17

How does Jeremiah describe the person who trusts in himself?

How does Jeremiah describe the person who trusts in God?

How does this match with your experience?

Why does Jeremiah go on about the Sabbath?

Ask God to help you trust and obey him in the face of temptations and of persecution.

Jeremiah 18

What does the imagery of the potter and the clay tell us about God and his people, and God and his creation?

What does this mean for the people who plot against Jeremiah?

What does it mean for the evil which seeks to destroy God's creation and us?

Thank God for his sovereign control over the whole world, including evil. Ask him to help you in the face of evil and uphold justice.

Jeremiah 19

What actions does Jeremiah use to symbolise God's actions against Judah?

In what ways are these prophecies shocking?

Why is Judah facing judgement?

Ask God to help you not to be stubborn and instead to hear his words. Thank God that he took the scoffing of passers-by for us when Jesus died on the cross.

Jeremiah 20

In what ways does Jeremiah express his anguish over the persecution he faces?

How do you identify with Jeremiah's experiences and feelings?

In what ways is Jeremiah's experiences different from yours?

In what ways is Jeremiah like Jesus?

Thank God that Jesus suffered for our sake, to bring us to God. Ask God to help us when we suffer.

Jeremiah 21

Zedekiah was the king of Judah in 597-587 BC. What is happening now on the political scene?

What wonders had God done in the past with a mighty arm, for his people?

What will God do now?

What warning does this give to people who keep refusing to accept God's grace?

Praise God for his sovereignty over the whole world. Praise God for not punishing us as our deeds deserve, because of Jesus.

Jeremiah 22

How should the king of Judah live and behave?

What warnings does this passage give against greed and a lack of concern for the poor and innocent?

What does this passage say about how God feels about leaders who are ungodly, even if they are humanly successful?

Why does Jeremiah prophecy to the land? Why do you think Judah being taken to another land is so awful for God's people?

Ask God to help you be generous and loving. Thank God that we have a promised new creation that we are looking forward to.

Jeremiah 23

What have the leaders of Judah done wrong?

What do false prophets say?

What does this say about the importance of good leaders? What should a good leader do?

What hope for restoration and good leaders does this chapter give?

Praise God for Jesus, our ultimate shepherd. Ask God to keep raising up honest, bible-teaching leaders in our church.

Jeremiah 24

What's happening now on the political scene?

How is God's message in this chapter different from what has come before?

How is it the same?

*Thank God that he is compassionate and just.
Ask him to continue to show compassion on you and on people around you.*

Jeremiah 25

How does this chapter summarise what has gone before?

How would you summarise Jeremiah's message so far?

What hope does Jeremiah give?

What reversal can you see in this chapter? What does this tell us about God's justice and sovereignty?

How does this reversal make you feel?

*Praise God for his judgement of evil. Thank him that he does not let evil go unpunished.
Ask him to help you resist everyday idolatry, immorality, and false teaching.*