

Jeremiah and Lamentations

“My People Have Forsaken Me”

**Summer Session 2003
Embry Hills church of Christ**

**Teacher:
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Book Of Jeremiah/Lamentations== Summer Session 2003
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Lesson Number/Subject and Chapters Covered/Dates

Lesson 1	Introduction, Background and Jeremiah's Call/Chapter 1	June 1
Lesson 2	God's Indictment and Call to Repentance/Chapters 2-6	June 4
Lesson 3	False Religion and Its Consequences/Chapters 7-10	June 8
Lesson 4	Consequences of Rejecting God's Covenant/Chapters 11-15	June 11
Lesson 5	More Consequences of Rejecting God's Rule/Chapters 16-20	June 15
Lesson 6	Woes to Zedekiah/Chapters 21-24	June 18
Lesson 7	The Fourth Years of Jehoiakim and Zedekiah/Chapters 25-29	June 22
Lesson 8	The Book of Consolation/Chapters 30-33	June 25
Lesson 9	Prophecies During Jehoiakim and Zedekiah's Reign/Chapters 34-39	June 29
Lesson 10	Jeremiah's Ministry after Jerusalem Falls/Chapters 40-44	July 6
Lesson 11	God's Word Against Heathen Nations and Appendix/Chapter 45-52	July 9
Lamentations		
Lesson 12	The People's Lament and God's Judgment/Chapters 1-5	July 13
Lesson 13	Review and Summary	July 16

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A Suggested Outline of the Book of Jeremiah

Outline:

Part I: Jeremiah's call, Chapter 1

Part II: Prophecies Concerning Judah & Jerusalem During the Time of Josiah, Chapters 2-20 (627-608 B.C.)

Part III: Prophecies of Specific Events During the Time of Jehoiakim (608-597) and Zedekiah, (597-586), Chapters 21-39

I: Woe to Zedekiah,	Chs. 21-24
II: In the Fourth Year of Jehoiakim,	Chs. 25-26
III: In the Fourth Year of Zedekiah,	Chs. 27-29
IV: The Book of God's Consolation,	Chs. 30-33
IV: Under the Reign of Zedekiah,	Ch. 34
Under the Reign of Jehoiakim,	Chs. 35-36
VI: Under Zedekiah,	Chs. 37-39

Part IV: Jeremiah's Ministry to Judah After the Fall of Jerusalem, Chs. 40-44

Part V: The Lord's Word Against Foreign Nations, Chs. 45-51

Historical Appendix: The Fall of Jerusalem, Ch. 52

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Book of Jeremiah

Specific Time of Jeremiah's Preaching Arranged By Chapters

Under Josiah (627-608 B.C.)	Under Jehoiakim (608-597 B.C.)	Under Zedekiah (597-586 B.C.)	After Jerusalem's Fall (586 B.C.)
Chs. 1-20	Chs. 25-26 Chs. 35-36 Ch. 45	Chs. 21-24 Chs.27-29 Ch. 14 Chs 37-39 Ch. 52	Chs. 40-44

UNDATED MESSAGES

Chs. 30-33-- God's Book of Consolation
Chs. 46-51—Judgment Upon Heathen Nations

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Lesson One == Introduction and Background Material

Jeremiah's Personal Information

- He was the son of Hilkiah who was a priest, He like Ezekiel and Zechariah he was of a priestly family as well as being a prophet
- His home was Anathoth, a priestly village located in Benjamin two or three miles northeast of Jerusalem
- His name means "Jehovah exalts" or "Jehovah lifts"
- He was the only prophet of the Old Testament who was forbidden to marry
- Jeremiah was the most persecuted of all the prophets; his brethren dealt treacherously with him (12:6); he was confronted by false prophets (14:13); he was cursed (15:10); he was smitten, put in stocks and denounced (20:1ff); he was seized and threatened (26:8,24) ; his teaching was vehemently opposed (28:1ff and 29:1ff); he was imprisoned (32:2,3); he was beaten and imprisoned (37:15); he was thrown into a dungeon (38:6); he was bound in chains (40:1); he was falsely accused (43:2)
- He was a great example of perseverance during a period of great opposition, personal heartbreak and anguish
- He was a contemporary of Ezekiel and Daniel, but there is no indication they conferred or spent any time together
- Jeremiah remained in Judah while Daniel was in the capital of Babylon and Ezekiel was among the exiles in rural Babylon

Features of The Book to Note During Our Study

- The prophet mentions Judah's "backsliding" 13 times, "sinfulness of iniquity" 53 times, "return" to God 47 times, captivity/captive 51 times.
- The book declares its inspiration throughout;
- The book of Deuteronomy is quoted some 66 times, there are 151 clearly marked prophecies beginning with the phrase "The word of the Lord came", he is designated as "Jeremiah the prophet" in the New Testament and is quoted in Hebrews (8:8) and his words are called the declarations of God

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Lesson One == Introduction and Background Material

--The book is a powerful book of prophecy to Judah's end, Judah's return, Babylonian captivity, Babylon's fall, the Messiah, the new covenant with all nations

Practical Lessons from the Book

--The book stresses the omniscience of God, God knows and sees beyond the realm of human knowledge.

--When we are willing to be used in God's service, He can take our weaknesses and turn them into strengths. God sees us as what we can become, not what we are.

--When we forsake our covenant relationship with God we have committed a terrible evil, but we can return with a repentant heart to God.

--External forms of religion, without true devotion, is worthless.

--Genuine repentance requires ceasing from evil and returning in faith to God. Either one without the other is incomplete.

--Sin, in any form, extracts a high price. It ruins internally, externally and (most importantly) eternally.

--God's righteous cause will triumph over evil.

--The only hope for the world in the Messiah and the covenant sealed with His blood.

--Those who proclaim God's truth, without compromise, will suffer in this life.

--Every man will have to stand before the Judge and give an account for his life/actions.

Dates of Jeremiah's Prophetic Work

--His work began in the thirteenth year of Josiah's reign (626 B.C.)

--He continued his prophetic work until Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 B.C.

--His concluding message was in the 37th year of the captivity of Jehoiachin 560 B.C. (2 Kings 24:10ff)

--His work spanned approximately sixty six years (See also The Last Kings of Judah).

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Lesson One == Introduction and Background Material

Insight Into Jeremiah's Character

- He was called the "weeping prophet" because of his sympathy for his people.
- He felt sorrow with God over the people's rejection of God's righteousness.
- He had a broken heart for the people because he knew the hurt they would suffer due to their departure from God.
- He felt grief over the heavy burden which he personally had to bear due to his call to prophecy to God's people.
- Although his life of prophecy was difficult and often discouraging he did not let the obstacles deter him from preaching God's word.
- He did not let his love for his people keep him from declaring the whole counsel of God to a very unreceptive audience.

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Lesson One == Jeremiah's Call to God's Service

Jeremiah's Call to Prophetic Service (verses 1-10)

- Jeremiah was called to his prophetic work by God's providence before he was born, he was predestined for service==not eternal salvation.
- Jeremiah was called from his mother's womb to service—those who are pro-abortion will struggle with this text.
- Calling one to God's service during the formative stages of pregnancy was not without precedent in Scripture (e.g., Samson, John the Baptizer).
- Jeremiah was unsure of his ability to carry out the work God has planned for him due to his young age (somewhere between 18 and 27) and his contention that he did not know how to speak (Moses had Aaron).
- God saw Jeremiah as the man he could become through God's strength and not the timid young man he was.
- God confirms the things Jeremiah was to speak were God's word and not his own.
- Jeremiah was told to preach the whole counsel of God (tearing down and building up).
- The hand of the Lord stretched out and touched Jeremiah's mouth to show God would provide the message for Jeremiah to deliver.

Sign's of God's Assurance to Jeremiah (verses 11-19)

- The vision of the almond tree (the first tree to bloom after winter dormancy) shows that God will bring His word to pass.
- The boiling pot shows that the judgment of God would be poured out on the people "out of the north" this is a specific reference to Babylon's taking of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
- The reasons for the judgment on Judah are briefly stated==God's people had turned to idols and left the true worship of God.
- Jeremiah was told to "gird up his loins" (e.g., get ready for action), be bold and speak the words God will give to him to priests/princes/people
- Jeremiah was told to preach the message and leave the results to God.
- Jeremiah was promised God would protect him and keep him in His care==this does not mean that he would not be subject to various forms of persecution, but God would give him the strength to overcome through Him.

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Lesson Two == God's Indictment and His Call to Repentance
Chapter 2-6

- 1) What questions does the Lord ask of his people and what does he remind them of in the early part of chapter two? Was there any portion of the people who had not gone into sin? What are some of the indictments that God brings against his people in verses 9-19? What is the cause of all these problems?

- 2) What are the seven illustrations that God used in verses 20-28 to show the attitude of His people at this point in their history? What can we see in the history of Judah which would show these illustration to be an accurate representation of their conduct?

- 3) What is Judah's reaction to God's indictment according to the final verses of chapter 2? What does God offer to His people in the early part of chapter 3 and what reasons are given for His offer?

- 4) According to verses 6-11, did the people of Judah learn from the mistakes of their brothers Israel? Who is more "righteous" between the two kingdoms? What does God plead with the people to do in verses 12-19 and what are the seven blessing God will provide to Judah?

- 5) How does the prophet describe the type of repentance required by the people in the early verses of chapter four? What does God promise to bring upon Judah because of her lack of obedience to Him in verses 5-18? How is the punishment described?

- 6) What is Jeremiah's reaction to the news he must deliver to God's people of the coming events? What is the one word of comfort given in the midst of this great and terrible prophetic word? How are the destroyers described in these verses?

- 7) What is Jeremiah challenged to find in the first few verses of chapter 5? Does this search remind you of any other OT character who made a similarly unsuccessful search? How extensive was Jeremiah's search? What symbols are used to show their destruction in verse 6?
- 8) What sins of the people are enumerated in verses 7-21? What do these sins tell us about the overall spiritual condition of Judah at this time? Who has suffered the most from the sins of the leaders according to verses 25-29?
- 9) Who is most responsible for leading the people astray according to the last few verses of chapter 5? What is the reaction of the people to the message from these people?
- 10) What can Judah expect to occur according to the first nine verses of chapter 6 and why will these things come to pass? Is this message received by the people according to verses 10-16? Why or why not (see verses 14) ?
- 11) What does Jeremiah say about the current state of the worship in Judah according to verse 20? Why would this statement be made? What events are described in verses 21-26?
- 12) What role is Jeremiah called to play among the people according to verse 27? What does he find in this role according to the rest of the chapter? What does this tell us about the people of Judah?

Application Questions:

- 1) What can we learn about the nature of acceptable repentance from studying these verses? Where does it have to begin?
- 2) Does verse 15 of chapter 6 appropriately describe the culture in which we live? What actions can take each day to help keep us from adopting the views of the world?

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Lesson Three== False Religion and Its Consequences
Chapter 7-10

- 1) Where was Jeremiah told to stand and deliver his message to the people? What was reason for delivering this message at this place? What does God say to the people of Judah?

- 2) What place/events does Jeremiah use as an object lesson for the people who put their trust in the temple? What happened in that place and what is the lesson for Judah?

- 3) Take note of the “if...then” statements in the early part of chapter 7. What do these statements tell Judah (and us) about God’s expectations of his people?

- 4) What do verses 16-20 tell us about the pervasiveness of idolatry among the people of Judah at this time? What is God’s reaction to the sinful state of the people and what consequences are coming according to the last few verses of the chapter?

- 5) How will the conquerors show their disdain for the people of the land according to the first few verses of chapter 8? How will those who survive the onslaught feel about their lives?

- 6) What does Jeremiah compare the people of Judah to among the animal kingdom? Is the comparison favorable? What accusations are brought against the religious/civic leaders of Judah? What lying words do they tell the people (giving false hope)?

- 7) What figures of speech does Jeremiah use to show the severity of the coming events in verses 13-17? How does Jeremiah react to his duty to deliver this message of punishment?

- 8) What does Jeremiah wish he could do according to the first few verses of chapter 9 and where does he want to go? Why do you think he says these things? How does he describe the people of Judah in verses 3-9 and what is God's conclusion in this matter?

- 9) What will be the destiny of the land/people and what are the reasons given for this terrible outcome? Who told them many years earlier these things would happen if they did not follow God (Lev 26 and Duet 28)?

- 10) Who is called to take up a mournful song for the fate of Judah? What are the kinds of things that the mourners will speak to the people according to verses 17-22? Why will these things happen to Judah?

- 11) What is the proper reason for boasting according to the last few verses of the chapter? What will temper/limit this boasting? Who will be subject to God's punishment according to verses 25-26? Who does this include?

- 12) Jeremiah shows the folly of turning to idols from the living God. How are the idols described as compared to the true and living God in verses 1-16 of chapter 10?

- 13) What does Jeremiah tell the people to get ready to do verses 17-18 and who will be the instrument of God's judgment on Judah according to verse 22? What does Jeremiah tell us about man's ability to determine the way he should go?

Application Questions:

- 1) Judah had placed their confidence in the wrong things and we can see the results. How can we avoid making the same mistakes today?

- 2) We are often very critical (and rightly so) of Judah's turning to idols. What are some idols that may tempt us today?

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Lesson Four== Consequences of Rejecting God's Word
Chapter 11-15

- 1) Jeremiah told the people to “hear” the word of the covenant in the early verses of chapter 11. Based on your knowledge of other scriptures on “hearing the word” what does Jeremiah really asking them to do? What does Jeremiah remind them about their relationship to God in these verses?

- 2) Did the people of Judah learn anything from the mistakes of their fathers? What path did they choose? What pattern of behavior do we see in verses 9-17 of the chapter and what were the people constantly pursuing?

- 3) What did God reveal to Jeremiah in the last six verses of the chapter? Where (and from whom) would the trouble begin for Jeremiah? Who else suffered in this way in the OT and in the NT?

- 4) What great philosophical question(s) does Jeremiah raise in the first six verses of chapter 12? How does God answer these questions? What other OT character received a similar answer to his questions?

- 5) What do we learn about God's control of the flow of historical events for verses 7-17 of chapter 2? What comfort can the people of Jeremiah's day and we today take for reading passages such as this?

- 6) Jeremiah uses two illustrations in the first 14 verses of the chapter. Briefly describe what Jeremiah was told to do and what lesson the people were supposed to learn.

- 7) List some of the commands given to the people in verses 15-27 of this chapter. How do the people react and what are the results?

- 8) What prophetic word came to Jeremiah at the beginning of chapter 14? How is the extent of the devastation from this event described? How does Jeremiah react to the word he must deliver? What can we learn from his example?

- 9) Jeremiah once again asked God to turn away his anger from the people. What reason does he give in verse 13 and how does God answer him? What can we learn from this example?

- 10) Jeremiah goes to God a third time in verses 19-22. What are the four reasons he gives to ask God to remove his anger from his people? Do these appear to be strong arguments from a human perspective? What answer does he receive in 15:1?

- 11) What will be the four modes of punishment upon Judah according to verses 2-9? How accurately do these prophecies line up with future events? How could this be?

- 12) Jeremiah's words from God have caused a very strong reaction from the people. What comfort does God offer to Jeremiah in verse 11?

- 13) What improper attitudes do we see in Jeremiah in verses 15-18? What does God call on him to do in verse 19? What promises does God repeat to Jeremiah in verses 20-21? What additional promises are made to him in these verses?

Application Questions:

- 1) We see that the people of Judah did not learn from the mistakes of their fathers, but can we as God's people of today be guilty of the same mistakes? Give some examples you have observed.

- 2) We can learn many lessons about prayer from these chapters especially chapters 14 and 15. What can we learn about how we should pray and how God answers our prayers?

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Lesson Five== Consequences of Rejecting God's Word
Chapter 16-20

- 1) Jeremiah was specifically prohibited for doing three things in the first nine verses of chapter 16? What were those things and what was the lesson the people were to learn from Jeremiah's example? What graphic terms describe the coming events?

- 2) According to verses 10-18, what was Jeremiah to tell the people when they asked him about the reasons for the coming destruction? What does it mean when God says he will "double their iniquity"?

- 3) In this chapter we are introduced to the idea "they shall know that I am the Lord". What is meant by this phrase and where else do we see this as the predominant theme in another OT book? How will they know?

- 4) The prophet tells us about the extent of the sin of Judah and also draws a contrast between trusting God and placing out trust in uncertain things in verses 1-11 of chapter 17. What illustration shows the foolishness of reliance on things/men?

- 5) Jeremiah once again prays for deliverance from the difficulties he will continually face in his ministry. What do we learn about him from this and other such passages?

- 6) How does God answer his prayer? Do you think this was the answer he desired or expected? Where is Jeremiah told to go and what as he told to preach to the people in verses 19-27? Write down/comment on the "if-then" statements in these verses.

- 7) Jeremiah uses another object lesson to teach the people about God's power and rule over the kingdoms of men. What lessons can we draw from chapter 18 verses 1-10?

- 8) What are the practical applications of the illustration of the potter in the near term for the people of Judah according to verses 11-17? What lessons from nature are called as a witness against God's people?
- 9) What do the leaders of the people plan to do to cause more pain and anguish for Jeremiah? What does he do in response to their evil actions? What can we learn from his reaction?
- 10) Jeremiah was once again told to show the people a message from God using "visual aids". What was he told to purchase and what did he do with the object to teach the lesson? What will happen to Judah according verses 6-9?
- 11) Who is the next person who decides to persecute Jeremiah? What does he do to him to show his contempt for him? What does Jeremiah say to him after he is released? Is the truth often hindered by those who should support it? Give some examples.
- 12) Jeremiah describes how he has been treated by his brethren because of his preaching. What does it appear that he is thinking about doing? What keeps him going?
- 13) We see Jeremiah in a period of deep sorrow in the final five verses of chapter 20. What other OT characters have expressed a similar sentiment? Why did they have these same feelings?

Application Questions:

- 1) We can see the foolishness of relying on things of this life and not trusting in God. What have been some negative consequences in our time of reliance on men?
- 2) Many people in the religious world today believe in various forms of premillennial doctrines. What verses/ideas would you cite from the chapters we studied for today's lesson to refute this false doctrine?

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Lesson Six== Woes To The Kings of Judah/False Prophets
Chapter 21-24

- 1) Who did Zedekiah send to Jeremiah to hear the “word of the God” and what groups of people do these two represent? What do you think Zedekiah assumed would be the “word of the Lord” in his present distress? (See Isaiah 37:1-7)

- 2) What answer was Jeremiah told to give to Zedekiah concerning his request for help? What does God say he would do through the agency of the invaders from Babylon? Will the invaders “take any prisoners”?

- 3) What was the best course of action for the people of Judah according to verses 8-10 and does this seem to be unusual advice? What do you think would be the reaction to this recommendation from the prophet?

- 4) According to verses 11-14 of chapter 21, what two things was the king of Judah told to do which could have possibly averted the coming disaster for the hand of Babylon?

- 5) What acts of justice and mercy were required to prolong the rule of Zedekiah and his descendants on the throne of David? What rhetorical question will those who observe the state of Jerusalem (the great city) in the near future ask and what obvious answer will be evident from reading the OT prophets?

Oracles Against Three Of Judah’s Kings

- 6) What will be the fate of Shallum (Jehoahaz) the son of Josiah? In what country did he end his life? (2 Kings 23:30-34)

- 7) How did Jehoiakim (Eliakim) become king of Judah? How is his rule described and what would be the reaction when he was forced from the throne? How is his burial described in verse 19?

- 8) What would be the fate of Coniah (Jehoiachin) and his descendents? How was his rule described (figuratively) but what would happen to the symbol of his rule? Did any of his sons (David's seed) ever rule in Jerusalem after him?

- 9) What stern condemnation was given to the current shepherds of God's people and what would be their fate very soon?

- 10) Jeremiah describes the True Shepherd (Messianic Hope) that would be raised up from among the people? How is the Shepherd described in verses 5-6 of chapter 23?

- 11) How are the prophets among God's people at the current time described in verses 9-15? How are these prophets compared those in Samaria?

- 12) What warning was given to the people concerning the prophets who were in the land at the same time as Jeremiah? What was the source of their message and why would they preach this message? Do we see this same issue with those who "speak for God" today?

- 13) What do the baskets of "good figs" and the "bad figs" seen by Jeremiah in chapter 24 represent? What elements of destruction are once again promised to the people of Judah in verse 10 of chapter 24?

Application Questions:

- 1) We learn from the last few verses of chapter 22 that no one will sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem and prosper. What does this tell us about the King-ship of our Lord? How do premillennialists attempt to deal with this group of verses?

- 2) How are we to avoid being taken in by those who claim to "speak the word the Lord" today? List some Scriptural references to show how can we recognize false prophets.

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Lesson Seven== Fourth Year of Jehoiakim and Zedekiah
Chapters 25-29

The fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign, which was 605 B.C., was a pivotal year in the history of Judah. During this year the following key historical mile-markers were established:

- *Battle of Carchemish—Nebuchadnezzar defeats Egypt and chased them back to their own land*
- *Nebuchadnezzar began his reign in Babylon following his father's death*
- *The first group of Jews, including Daniel, Hanniah, Mishael and Azariah was deported to Babylon from Judah*

- 1) How long had Jeremiah been prophesying to Judah according to the first few verses of chapter 25? What can we learn from his dedication to his duty his fellow man? Was Jeremiah was the only one telling the people the truth? What was its effect?

- 2) What important declaration does Jeremiah make about the captivity in Babylon according to verses 8-14? How does he refer to Nebuchadnezzar and does this seem strange? Why or why not? What will be Babylon's fate?

- 3) What "visual aid" does Jeremiah use to show the destruction that will come to many of the nations about Judah? Make a list of the nations in verses 14-26 and find them on a map. What illustrations are given in verses 27-38 to show the extent of the devastation that God will bring to the nations?

- 4) Where does Jeremiah deliver his next speech according to the first seven verses of chapter 26? What important lesson do we learn from what he is told to speak? Who among the people heard the words he spoke?

- 5) What is the reaction of the prophets and the priests to Jeremiah's word from God according to verses 8-19? What was his defense for the message he spoke? Who came to his aid and why?

- 6) Who does Jehoiakim put to death according to the last few verses of chapter 26? What does this tell us about the king's attitude toward God and His word's messengers? Why was Jeremiah spared at this time?
- 7) What visual aid does Jeremiah use to show Who was in charge of the rise and fall of the nations of men? Why was this illustration very appropriate? Who did Babylon serve as they conquered the nations?
- 8) Who is given a warning in verses 12-22 of the chapter? What does Jeremiah tell them to do? Who was speaking dangerous lies according to these verses? What final word of hope is given in the last verse of the chapter?
- 9) Who challenges the truth of Jeremiah's prophecy about Judah's captivity? What was his prediction? What does he do to show contempt for Jeremiah's message?
- 10) What did Jeremiah do in response to the challenge? What happens to the one who challenges Jeremiah's message (God's words)? What is the real test for any prophet?
- 11) What is Jeremiah's message in the first seven verses of chapter 29? What prophecy is re-told in verses 8-14?
- 12) What will be the fate of those who remain in Jerusalem? What will be the fate of false prophets including Shemaiah?

Application Questions:

- 1) Was Jeremiah a "successful" preacher? Why or why not? What can we learn from his example?
- 2) We live today in a world of moral and social relativism. What can learn from this lesson about God's view of relativism? List some OT and NT references

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Lesson Eight== God's Book of Consolation
Chapters 30-33

- 1) What three promises do we see in the first nine verses of chapter 30? Why would these promises be critical for the people of Judah to know? What will be the fate of those nations whom God brought against Judah?

- 2) How is the sinful state of Judah described in verses 12-17? What had been the end result of God's people following after idolatry? What was the only thing that could save them?

- 3) What eternal and surpassing promise do we see in verses 21 and 22? What would be the benefits to Judah (initially) and to all peoples eventually? Do you think the people focused more on the promises in 18 or 21? Why?

- 4) What does the phrase "at that time" and "my people" in verse one of chapter 31 mean? What will be restored to the people according verses 2-6? What does God promise to do in verses 10-26?

- 5) What eternal principle of God's laws through the ages do we see stated in verses 29-30? What relevance does this have to many of our friends in the denominational world today? What is our society's view of these principles?

- 6) What promise do we see in verses 31-34? What is the meaning of this promise to the people of Judah and to all people of all time? What does this passage tell us about latter day revelations?

- 7) Where do we find Jeremiah in the first few verses of chapter 32? Who was at the gates of the city and what does Jeremiah tell the king about his longevity? What message was the king seeking from Jeremiah?
- 8) What does Jeremiah do according to verses 6-15? Does this appear to be a rationale decision from a human standpoint? What does this tell us about the Jeremiah? Why is it important that this event be done in the presence of several witnesses?
- 9) Go through and diagram the prayer that Jeremiah offers to God in verses 16-25 of the chapter. What new elements do we see in this prayer that we do not see in the earlier prayers in the book?
- 10) How does God answer his prayer in verses 26-44 of the chapter? Go through and note some of the things that God tells them and us in his response to Jeremiah's prayer?
- 11) Where do we find Jeremiah at the beginning of chapter 33? What word of hope do we see in verses 6-9 of the chapter? What promises do we see in verses 10-14 of the chapter? What would these things mean to the people of Judah?
- 12) What blessing do we see in verses 14-18? Do you think the people who read/heard this prophecy understood the true meaning of these verses? Why or why not?
- 13) What illustration from the natural world does God call as a witness to his faithfulness to bring about his promises to his people (including us)?

Application Question:

- 1) We see in these chapters the strongest message of hope for God's people in the book of Jeremiah. Go through a briefly list some of the promises seen in these chapters and their fulfillment(s).

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Lesson Nine== Prophecies During Jehoiakim/Zedekiah's
Reign Chapters 34-39

- 1) What was the state of Jerusalem as chapter 34 opens? What message of hope is part of the word of God to Zedekiah? What were the only two remaining defended cities left outside of Jerusalem?

- 2) What does Zedekiah do in reaction to the news about the fate of the city? Was his command appropriate in God's sight? What happens when the Babylonian army has a distraction and withdraws from the city? What lessons can we learn from this?

- 3) How does God turn their own use of the word of "liberty" against them? From what will they be free and to what will they become a slave? Do we have a similar choice?

- 4) Whom does Jeremiah show as an example of sincere and whole-hearted obedience in chapter 35? What command(s) did they obey and why? How do the people of Judah compare to their good example? What promise was made to the Rechabites?

- 5) Who was the scribe for Jeremiah according to the first few verses of chapter 36? What was the scribe told to do and where was he to go? What can we learn about the process of inspiration of the Scripture from this passage?

- 6) Who is the first to hear the words that have been written and what was their reaction? What did these people tell him (the scribe) and Jeremiah they should do? Why?

- 7) Who reads these words to the king, Jehoiakim, and his nobles and princes? What does Jehoiakim do when he hears the word of God? What promises of God are repeated to him? What do Jeremiah and his scribe do in reaction to this event?

- 8) What does Zedekiah ask of Jeremiah in the first few verses of chapter 37? Does this seem unusual based on what we know about Zedekiah? What does Jeremiah tell the king about the “help” from Egypt and the fate of Jerusalem?

- 9) How do the princes react to his message and what does the king do with Jeremiah? What foolish and ironic question does Zedekiah ask Jeremiah (for the third time) and what is the answer?

- 10) Where is Jeremiah at the end of chapter 37? Who asks for permission to kill Jeremiah in chapter 38 and what reasons do they give for the request? How does the king respond to their request and what do we see about his character?

- 11) What do these men do with Jeremiah and who comes to his rescue? Why did he risk his life to rescue Jeremiah? Where does Jeremiah remain until the city is taken?

- 12) What advice does Jeremiah repeat to the king in their final conversation in verses 14 through 23 of chapter 38? Did he listen?

- 13) What events are recorded in chapter 39? How does the courageous king react to all these things? What happens to the king, his family and the nobles of Judah? What promise is made to the one who rescued Jeremiah from his enemies?

Application Questions:

- 1) What can we learn about the nature of true obedience from these passages? Are proper actions without proper motives of any value to our God? How can we apply this lesson?

- 2) What can we learn from Jehoiakim’s reaction to God’s word? How do some people today display the same attitude toward God’s word? How do we avoid this error?

Book Of Jeremiah == Summer Session 2003
Embry Hills church of Christ
Lesson Ten== Jeremiah's Ministry after Jerusalem Falls
Chapters 40-44

- 1) What does the captain of the guard say to Jeremiah in the first few verses of chapter 40? Does this seem like an unusual thing for him to say? What choice does he give to Jeremiah and what alternative does he choose?

- 2) Who is given the position of governor over the cities of Judah? Where do we hear about him and his family earlier in the book? What happens when the people hear who is the new governor? What do we learn about the blessings given to the people of Judah by God?

- 3) Who warns the governor about a plot against his life? Who is behind the plot and how does the governor react to this news? Why do you think he reacted in this way?

- 4) What happens to Gedaliah and to all those who were with him? What can we learn about the important role of leaders among God's people? How did the ten men who went to see the governor survive their trip according to verse 8?

- 5) According to verses 10-18 what happens to the one who killed Gedaliah? Where do the people in Judah want to go? Why do they desire to leave their homes in Judah?

- 6) What do the people ask Jeremiah according to the first few verses of chapter 42? Does their request seem somewhat ironic? According to verses 7-22 of the chapter, what answer does Jeremiah receive from God? Was this a test of their faith?

- 7) How do the people react to the word of God from Jeremiah according to the first few verses of chapter 43? Does this reaction seem typical of the people of Judah?

- 8) Who was the leader of those who refused to hear the word of the Lord from Jeremiah? What four things does Jeremiah say will await those who do not obey the voice of God?

- 9) What was Jeremiah told to do according to verses 8-10? What object lesson was he to teach the people using this “visual aid”? Who will serve God in the conquest of the Egyptians?

- 10) What events does Jeremiah recount for the people who fled Judah and are dwelling in Egypt? What questions does Jeremiah ask in verses 7-9? What will be the fate of the people who fled to Egypt according to verses 12-14?

- 11) What do the men tell Jeremiah after he had completed his warning to them? What was their reasoning for their refusal of God’s word? When did they think was the source of their troubles?

- 12) What does Jeremiah tell them about their line of reasoning according to verses 20-23? Why do you think he still had to preach this message to the people after all this time?

- 13) Who will once again be God’s instrument against the Jews in Egypt and the Egyptians? Will there be any possibility of escape for those in Egypt? Why?

Application Questions:

- 1) We see God’s people are asked to follow His will even though it may not seem to make sense to us? Do we face some of the same challenges today? List a few items.

- 2) What can we learn about the long-suffering of God from the lesson this evening?

Book Of Jeremiah == Summer Session 2003
Embry Hills church of Christ
Lesson Eleven== God's Word Against Heathen Nations and
Appendix Chapters 45-52

- 1) Why was Baruch troubled according to the first few verses of chapter 45? Does Jeremiah express some of these same feelings early in the book? Why do you think these felt this way? What was God's word of rebuke and comfort to him?

- 2) What nation does Jeremiah speak against in chapter 46? What happens to the well-prepared and well-equipped army in verses 5 and 6? Who will be the agent of God's judgment against Egypt according to verses 13-18? What will be the fate of all the nobles and false gods of Egypt, but what about Judah(last two verses of chap. 46)?

- 3) What heathen nation does Jeremiah speak against in chapter 47? What do we know from other books of the Bible about Judah's relationship to this nation? Where (in geographic terms) will their destruction originate? What will these men do to get their gods to help them according to verse 5? Where have we seen this before and how successful was it then/now?

- 4) Jeremiah speaks about which heathen nation in chapter 48? Who was the forefather of this group of people (Gen 19:37)? What was their relationship to God's people through their years in the promised land?

- 5) Who was the god of the people of Moab? What was involved in the "worship" of this god? What was the most glaring sin of the people of Moab according to verse 7? What will happen to the people's trust in their god when their destruction is come? What will God do with their arrogance against him?

- 6) Who will be destroyed according to the first few verses of chapter 49? How were these people related to the people of Judah? Who was the god of this group of people? Would their trust in it be of any value? What was their most glaring sin?

- 7) What nation does Jeremiah speak against in verses 7-22 of chapter 49? Who was the forefather of this nation? How extensive/complete will their destruction be? What was the most glaring sin of this group of people? What will be the fate of this nation's great cities?
- 8) Who will be the next victim of the wrath of God according to verses 29-33? Why would they be destroyed?
- 9) What nation is addressed in the last six verses of chapter 49? Where was this nation of people located? Why would their destruction have significance to Judah? What will happen to this nation in the "last days" and what could this prophecy mean?
- 10) What nation's destruction was announced in chapters 50 and 51? Who will be the instrument of God's judgment against them? Read the Daniel chapter two and make note of God's use of the world empires to bring about the eternal kingdom of heaven. We will discuss this flow of history in class. Particularly notice verses 17 and 18.
- 11) In verses 15-19 we see a comparison of God and the idols of the nations. What words and phrases are used to describe the true and living God? The idols? How is the destruction of Babylon and the extent thereof describe in these chapters? What type of sin is common to all these destroyed nations?
- 12) What was Jeremiah's final "visual aid" in the last seven verses of chapter 51 and what was the lesson to be learned? We talked about the four agents of destruction (S,F,P,C) throughout our study of Jeremiah. Go through chapter 52 and find various instances of these destructive agents being used.

Application Question:

- 1) We can see how pride caused the downfall of the nations. What must we do to avoid the same type of sin today? List some scripture references dealing with the subject.

Book Of Lamentations == Summer Session 2003
Embry Hills church of Christ
Lesson Twelve==The People's Lament and God's Judgment
Chapters 1-5

Background Information

--Jeremiah looked ahead to Jerusalem's destruction, Lamentations looks back in sorrow to the destruction of the city and the temple.

--Lamentations answers several questions that would naturally follow Jerusalem's fall

== How could God allow the destruction of his temple/city?

== Did his promises fail?

== Did God no longer love his people?

== What does the future hold for the people of Judah?

== Would the enemies of Judah and their sins be dealt with?

--Although the book is very sad and sorrowful it is not an indictment of God but rather a confirmation of his justice and goodness.

--Four chapters of the five in the book are written as an acrostic, chapters 1, 2 and 4 each verses begins with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet (22 verses in each, 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet) Chapter 3 has three verses for each letter and is 66 verses long Chapter 5 is 22 verses but it is a prayer and is not an acrostic.

--The acrostic form of the first four chapters may have been used to aid in memorization or it may have been representative of the completeness (A-Z) of Judah's sin against God.

--Some writers suggest these five chapters or poems may have been used in worship.

--Many scholars think Jeremiah was the author and that seems reasonable, but it cannot be proven conclusively.

Suggested Methods To Organize The Text

Alternative 1

- I. The Prophet and People Weep Over Jerusalem's Fall == Chapter 1
- II. God's Judgment on His People is described == Chapter 2
- III. Jeremiah's Grief is Comforted By the Hope of God's Mercy == Chapter 3
- IV. Judah has Become Like tarnished Gold Due to Its Sin == Chapter 4
- V. Jeremiah's Prayer For Mercy on Judah and Jerusalem

Alternative 2

- I. The Suffering of Jerusalem
- II. The Suffering of The Temple
- III. The Personal Suffering of Jeremiah
- IV. The Suffering During The Siege
- V. Judah's Penitent Plea

- 1) What is the city of Jerusalem (and Judah in general) compared to in the first few verses of chapter 1? How do those who observe the scene react to the plight of Jerusalem? What is the root cause for all the problems that have been observed by Jeremiah? Was this outcome predictable and why/why not?
- 2) What appeal is made by Jerusalem in the last few verses of chapter 1? Does this seem like an appropriate request for the people of Judah to make to God? Is this request appropriate for us today?
- 3) What two-word phrase is repeated multiple times during the first 10 verses of chapter 2? What does this tell us about “the enemy” who has brought all this affliction of Jerusalem? What are the seven things that have been taken from Jerusalem according to verses 6 and 7?
- 4) According to verses 17-19, what is the only hope for the people of Jerusalem? Why would this conclusion be reasonable? Go through the last three verses of chapter two and note the extent of the destruction that has been brought to the city. Who has suffered in this disaster?
- 5) Go through the first 18 verses of chapter 3 and note all the ways Jeremiah describes the despair and sorrow he feels because of the destruction he foretold and then observed. Why would Jeremiah be especially heart broken over the disaster? (Compare this with Jesus’ lament over Jerusalem.)
- 6) What are some of the characteristics of God that give Jeremiah hope according to verses 19-39 of chapter 3? What is Jeremiah’s plea to the people in verses 40-47 based on the facts stated in verses 19-39?
- 7) What confidence does Jeremiah express in God in the 55-59? What does he ask of God in the last seven verses of the chapter? What lessons can we learn from this to improve our prayer life?

- 8) What terrible suffering is seen in the first ten verses of chapter 4? Why were these things happening to the people of Jerusalem? What earlier punishment from God was compared to Jerusalem's fate? Who does Jeremiah say was in a better state according to verses 9-10?

- 9) What were the two reasons for the destruction of Jerusalem? Who should bear the greater blame for the fall of the people? Who must ultimately take responsibility for their actions?

- 10) What enemy's fate is reiterated in the last two verses of the chapter? Why would this message be very welcomed by the people of Judah?

- 11) The final chapter is a prayer of Jeremiah for mercy from God. What does Jeremiah mention to show the extent of their devastation and sorrow in verses 1-14? Why does he include these things in his prayer to God and what can we learn from this?

- 12) What word of praise does Jeremiah give to God in verse 19? What is Jeremiah's final request in the last few verses of the chapter?

Application Questions:

- 1) Many times people blame God for the suffering and hardships that come into their lives. What can we learn from Lamentations concerning this sinful attitude?

- 2) Lamentations is an affirmation of God's righteousness, justice, faithfulness and reliability. How do we see all these elements seen in the cross of Christ?

Books Of Jeremiah/Lamentations == Summer Session 2003
Embry Hills church of Christ
Lesson Thirteen==Review and Summary

Practical Lessons from the Book

--The book stresses the omniscience of God, God knows and sees beyond the realm of human knowledge.

--When we are willing to be used in God's service, He can take our weaknesses and turn them into strengths. God sees us as what we can become, not what we are.

--When we forsake our covenant relationship with God we have committed a terrible evil, but we can return with a repentant heart to God.

--External forms of religion, without true devotion, is worthless.

--Genuine repentance requires ceasing from evil and returning in faith to God. Either one without the other is incomplete.

--Sin, in any form, extracts a high price. It ruins internally, externally and (most importantly) eternally.

--God's righteous cause will triumph over evil.

--The only hope for the world in the Messiah and the covenant sealed with His blood.

--Those who proclaim God's truth, without compromise, will suffer in this life.

--Every man will have to stand before the Judge and give an account for his life/actions.

- 1) List as many ways as you can remember from our study that Jeremiah is a type of our Savior.
- 2) List some of the messianic prophecies from the book (chapters 30-33 especially).
- 3) List the last four kings of Judah and what facts we know about each one.
- 4) List some of the visual aids used by Jeremiah to teach a lesson(s).
- 5) Go through and make notes about the prayers offered by Jeremiah and also make note of how God answered his prayers.
- 6) List some of the persecution Jeremiah and those who were like him had to undergo because of the message he had to deliver from God.
- 7) List some lesson we should learn from the “foreigners” that God’s people could not/or would not understand.
- 8) List the nations around Judah that God dealt with in his time and in His way.
- 9) If you had to construct one sentence to summarize the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations what would the sentence say?
- 10) List out something new or something you did not expect to learn from our study.

**THANKS FOR BEING PART OF THE STUDY OF THESE
GREAT BOOKS GIVEN BY GOD FOR OUR LEARNING**