

## Lessons from Jeremiah

### Jer. 1:1-4:4

#### Introduction:

Jeremiah was the prophet for Judah during the last 5 kings of Judah. Only 3 are mentioned. The other two are Jehoahaz and Jehoiachin (each reigned 3 months). He was also the prophet when Judah was taken captive by Babylon (1:1-3). This would have been a very difficult time for Jeremiah and Judah because of the sin that so many were committing. The people had all but forgotten about God.

Jeremiah uses the idea of Judah's need to repent over 130 times throughout this book. He does this by using examples (Israel being taken captive by Assyria, animals turning from their masters, etc.) and by directly commanding Judah to repent.

We can learn many things from the life of Jeremiah. In the first four chapters of Jeremiah, we learn 3 valuable lessons that we will talk about today.

#### I. We need to accept the task that God has given us (1:4-10).

- A. God comes to Jeremiah and is going to ask him to do a very difficult thing.
- B. God knew Jeremiah from before he was born (1:4-5).
  1. Jeremiah was important to God, even before he was born.
    - a. God had plans for Jeremiah.
    - b. Jeremiah was "sanctified," or set apart for a special purpose.
  2. We also are important to God.
    - a. There is a purpose to our lives.
    - b. **Ecc. 12:13** - Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
- C. Jeremiah made an excuse as to why he could not go (1:6).
  1. Just like Moses, Jeremiah makes excuses to God.
  2. Jeremiah says that he is too young to go.
    - a. We need to remember the words of Paul.
    - b. **I Tim. 4:12** - Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
  3. Sometimes, we begin to make excuses for why we cannot do things.
  4. However, we need to remember what God tells Jeremiah.
- D. God promises to be with Jeremiah and give him the words that he will need (1:7-10).
- E. From the beginning, God knew what Jeremiah was capable of.
  1. God also knows what we are capable of.
  2. We will be judged based on what we do with our abilities.
    - a. He will never be asked to do more than what we are able.
    - b. If we are using our abilities, we will be rewarded.

#### II. We need to learn from the example that others have set before us (3:6-10).

- A. The main purpose of Jeremiah is to try to get Judah to repent and turn to God.
  1. Jeremiah reminds them of what has happened to Israel.

- a. Israel was carried away captive to Assyria because of their idol worship (**II Kings 17**).
- b. Judah has seen what happened to Israel, their sister, and yet they refuse to return to God.
2. If they would have learned from the example set before them, they would have turned to God and not suffered the same consequences.
3. They should have learned from the examples that were given to them.
- B. We have both good and bad examples that are given to us.
  1. We have examples in the Old and New Testament to follow.
    - a. **I Cor. 10:11** - Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come.
    - b. **Rom. 15:4** - For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
  1. We also need to learn from these examples.
  2. We follow the good and learn stay away from the bad.
    - a. **I Cor 11:1** - Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
    - b. **Phil. 3:17** - Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
    - c. We have the greatest example of Christ.
- C. It is also important to understand that we are all an example to someone, whether good or bad.
  1. We need to make sure that we are setting the proper example for others.

### III. We need to realize when we sin and be willing to repent and turn back to God.

- A. Remember, Jeremiah is the prophet when Judah is taken captive by Babylon.
  1. God does not want to see His people suffer if it can be avoided.
  2. God loved Judah and wanted them to remain His people.
  3. God did not enjoy the punishment that was coming to them.
- B. The main message that Jeremiah preaches to Judah is that of repentance.
  1. Remember, Jeremiah uses this idea over 130 times throughout this book.
  2. **Jer. 4:3-4**
- C. God today wants us to repent when we sin and turn back to Him.
  1. **Acts 17:30-31** - Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, {31} because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.
  2. **II Pet. 3:9** - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

### Conclusion:

May it never be said of us like Jeremiah says of Judah in [Jer. 8:20](#): "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!"