

Jeremiah FS

Petrus Chang, GLEF 2020



PROPHET to the
NATIONS

Introduction

Facts about the book – Jeremiah & his ministry – Overview & Structure – Key Content – Key verse – Key message – Personal application notes – Chapter Overview – Treasures

Introduction



Facts (about the book)

- 24th book
- 2nd major prophetic book
- 52 chapters
- 60 pages (German bible, Luther 1984)
- 2nd longest single book in the Bible (based on page count) after Psalms (95 pages)
- Author: Jeremiah, Baruch, et al.

Excerpt: Most prolific OT authors

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Moses: | 175 pages |
| 2. Jeremiah et al: | 129 pages |
| 3. David et al: | 95 pages |
| 4. Ezra: | 93 pages |
| 5. Samuel et al: | 66 pages |
| 6. Ezekiel: | 55 pages |
| 7. Isaiah: | 54 pages |
| 8. Salomon et al: | 38 pages |

(according to Jewish tradition, based on page count, Luther 1984)

Introduction

Jeremiah

- Birth: Anathoth? (in Benjamin), 650? 643? BC
- Meaning:
Hebrew name יְרֵמְיָהוּ (*Yirmiyahu*) meaning "**YAHWEH** will exalt"
- Father: Hilkiah
 - High priest during the reign of king Josiah (reigned 640-609 BC)
 - Re-discovered the book of the Law 622 BC
- Contemporary prophets:
 - Prophet Zephaniah: Teacher & Mentor
 - Prophetess Huldah: Relative
- Death: Egypt? 570 BC?



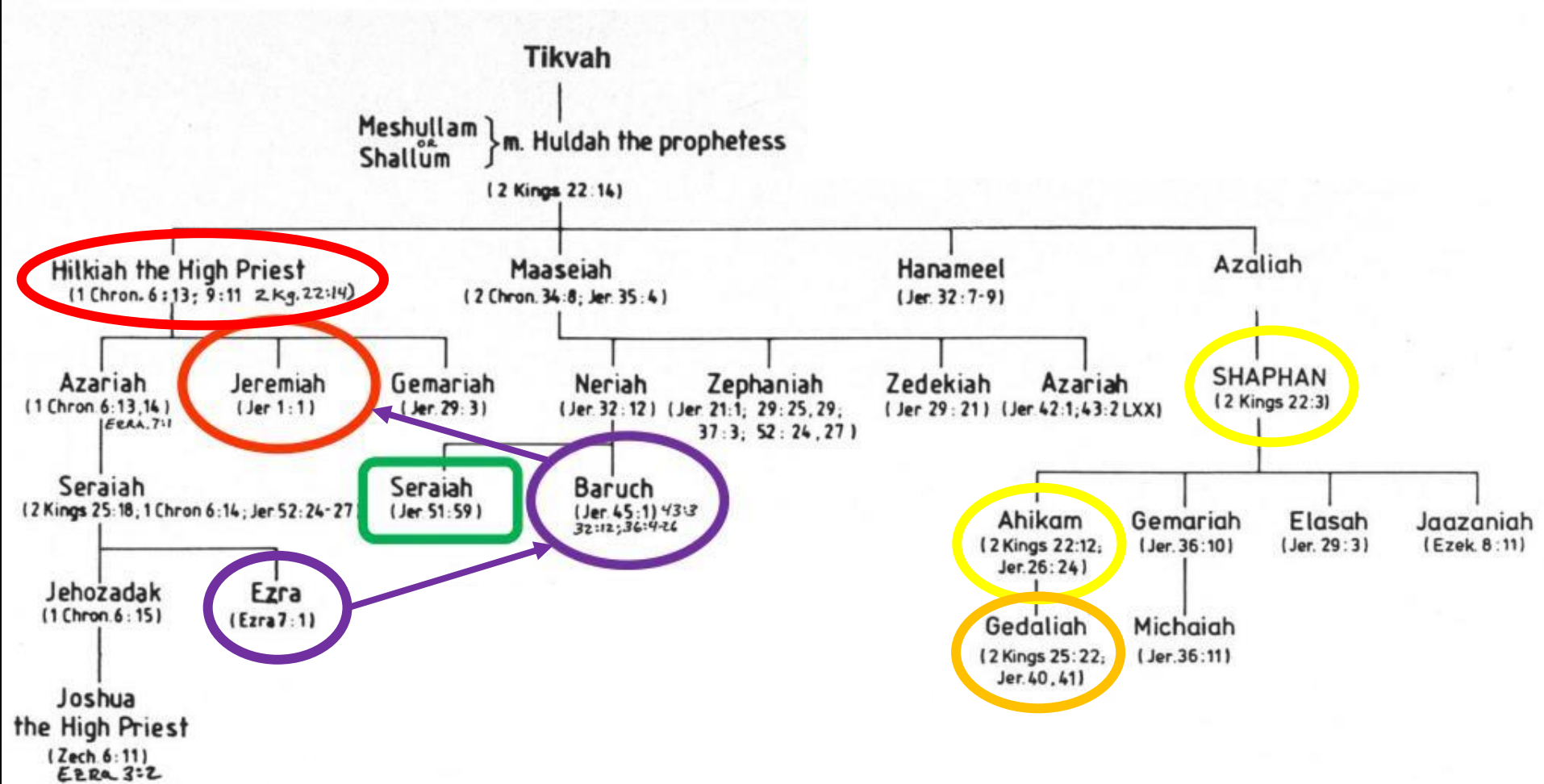
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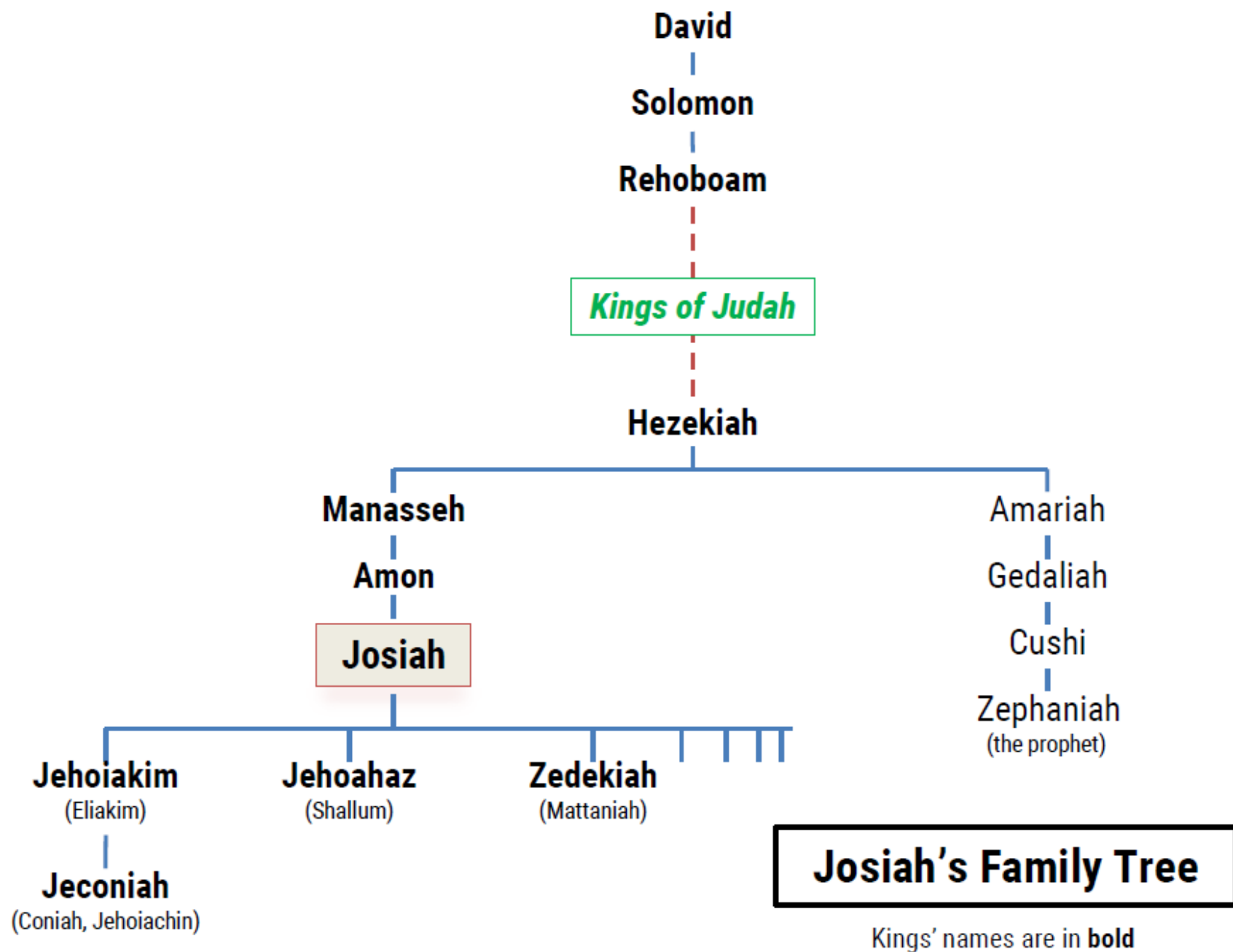
Jeremiah's Ministry

- Prophet, 2nd major after Isaiah
- 40 years (626-586 BC)
- 5 kings
 - Josiah (-13 + 31 years)
 - Jehoahaz (3 months)
 - Jehoiakim (11 years)
 - Jehoiachin (3 months)
 - Zedekiah (11 years)
- After Jerusalem's destruction
 - Gedaliah (4 years?)
- Prophecies
- Authored Kings, Jeremiah, Lamentations
- Performance art
- Disciple: Baruch

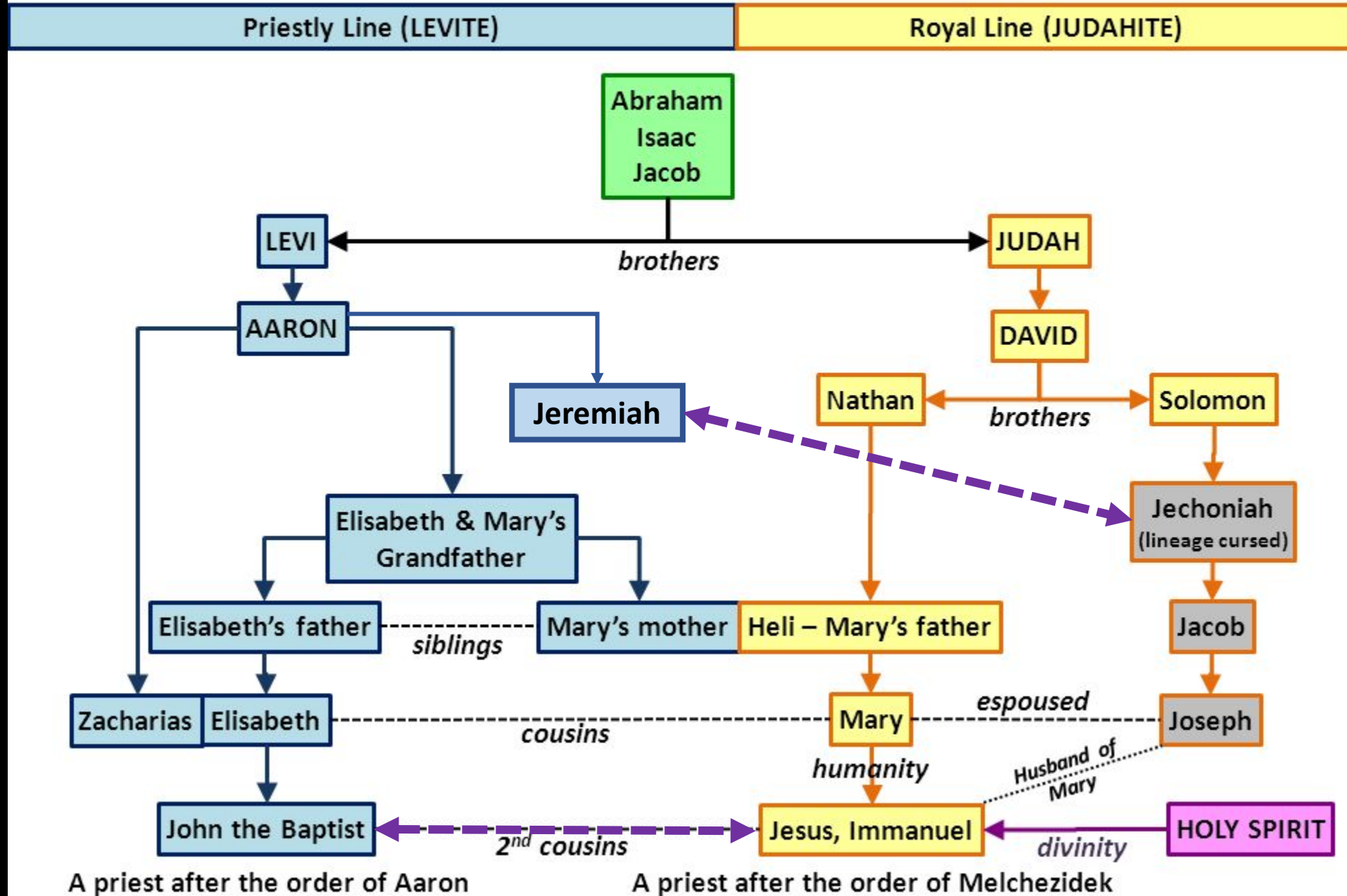


The Family of Jeremiah (priests of Anathoth)





Jesus Lineage – Family Relationships





Introduction

JEREMIAH

	Judah's Sin and Judgment	Prophecies against the Nations	A Sobering Ending
	<u>Jeremiah's call</u> <u>Idolatry</u> <u>Corrupt leadership</u> <u>Moral compromise</u> <i>CHAPTERS</i> <i>1–45</i>	<u>Exhortations to Judah</u> <u>Promises of restoration (30–33)</u> <u>Fall of Jerusalem and aftermath (39–45)</u> <i>CHAPTERS</i> <i>46–51</i>	 <u>Jerusalem in ruins</u> <i>CHAPTER</i> <i>52</i>
Theme	Judgment is coming; repent!		
Key Verses	7:23–24; 8:11–12, 21; 9:23–24; 31:1–40		
Christ in Jeremiah	The fountain of living waters (2:13); the righteous Branch, the coming Shepherd, the LORD our righteousness (23:4–6); the New Covenant (31:31); Redeemer (50:34)		

Introduction

Outline

Chapters	Content
1	Jeremiah's calling
1-25	Core messages
26-29	Additions to core messages
30-33	Restoration of Israel, "New covenant"
34-35	Additions to core messages
36-45	Historical: Jehoiakim, Zedekiah, Fall of Jerusalem, Gedaliah, Egypt
46-51	Judgment speeches against other nations including Babylon
52	Appendix, retelling of the fall of Jerusalem

Content

- Against idol worship and many sins of Judah, adultery, greed for unjust gain, etc.
- Against false prophets
- Against reliance in other gods or nations
- Announcement of God's judgement
- Call to repentance, before it is too late, to return and to obey God
- Laments and God's answers
- God's hope for restoration of Judah and Israel after 70 years
- God's vision for salvation of all nations
- The new covenant and pointing to Christ
- God's final victory

Introduction

I Knew You Before I Formed You
Jeremiah 1:5



Key verse

“Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you; I
appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

(Jer 1:4,5 ESV)



Key message (in 20 seconds)

- God's judgement will come because of idol worshipping
- Repent from idol worshipping before it is too late!
- It is too late and Judah and Jerusalem will be destroyed, surrender, go into exile, be saved!
- Judah and Jerusalem will be restored – after 70 years of God's discipline and repentance
- Israel has failed, but God will fulfill his world salvation plan for the whole world through the righteous plan and the new covenant
- Babylon will be destroyed, God and his people are the final victors

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Key message

- The idols are dead and worthless gods. The Lord is the only true God, the spring of living water.
- Do not go after idols and worship other gods. It produces many more terrible sins. It is only a waste of time and resources. It brings about God's judgement. Repent, turn back to God, obey God, before it is too late.
- Trust in God, strive to grow in knowing and understanding God, ask for and go the ancient paths. This is the key of a blessed and happy life like a tree planted by the water.

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(Jer 1:4,5 ESV)



Key message

- Prophets who say “Peace, peace”, when there is no peace are false prophets who lead the people who follow them to judgement. True prophets lead the people to repentance.
- God could not but desolate his own people and land full of idol worship and unrepentance. But after 70 years of discipline and repentance will restore God’s people.
- The people who voluntarily surrender to God’s discipline and go to exile in obedience to God’s command and keep their faith in captivity are the good figs that will be the foundation for the restoration of God’s people.

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(Jer 1:4,5 ESV)



Key message

- Israel and Judah have failed, but God has not failed. He carries out his salvation plan that ultimately leads to the salvation of God's people and all nations: God will raise a righteous branch of David who will bring justice and righteousness into the world. God's people will live with God in a new covenant. This is our ultimate hope and also God's hope for all nations.
- At the end Babylon will fall and be completely destroyed. God will be the final victor. Those who prevail until the end will be saved.

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Personal application points

- I am foolish to give all my time and strength to follow idols of titles, glory and money. These are worthless, powerless idols like broken cisterns that can hold no water.
- God is the only God, the spring of living water. I shall set my heart and priority to understand, obey and please God. I shall trust in God instead in wisdom, might and riches and become a tree planted by the water.

Introduction

I Knew You Before I Formed You
Jeremiah 1:5



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(Jer 1:4,5 ESV)



Personal application points

- This generation is probably the most prosperous and most enabled generation that has ever lived on this earth. But it may also be the most idol worshipping and sinful generation. It is in dire danger of being useless for God, which is equivalent to self-destruction and God's judgement.
- God has a broken heart for this idol worshipping generation. He has a broken heart for the lost (Israel) and the going to be lost (Judah). His heart is that all nations will return to God, be saved and can have true vision and hope. Therefore, he has appointed me a prophet for the nations in this generation.

Introduction

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Jeremiah 1:5



Key verse

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(Jer 1:4,5 ESV)



Personal application points

- I shall be a prophet to my children and the next generation without resign.
- I shall be a prophet to students on campus, especially medical students and colleagues.
- I shall be a prophet to the nations, even for Muslim nations.
- I must not be a false prophet who preaches “Peace, peace”, when there is no peace, such as a ‘love gospel’ or ‘prosperity gospel’.
- I must say the message that produces repentance. With God’s help I may be strong like a fortified city, iron pillar and bronze wall and prevail by God’s grace.

Introduction



Key verse

“Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you; I
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(Jer 1:4,5 ESV)

Personal application points

- Finally, Babylon will fall. The righteous branch of David will win. God will have the final and eternal victory as well as those who believe in him and are faithful to him to the end. This is my ultimate hope and my strength to prevail in faith.



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Jeremiah 1:5



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(Jer 1:4,5 ESV)

One word

I appointed you a prophet to the nations.



Introduction

Chapter Overview (1-10)

Text	Key Verse	Content	When
1:1-19	1:5	The call of Jeremiah	Josiah, 13th year
2:1-37	2:11,13	Israel's unfaithfulness	Josiah
3:1-4:2	3:17,18	Israel called to repentance. Vision of the throne of God.	Josiah
4:3-31	4:14	Judah called to repentance	Josiah
5:1-31	5:1	The sins of Jerusalem	Josiah
6:1-30	6:16	Disaster upon Jerusalem. Ancient path.	Josiah
7:1-32	7:22,23	The temple speech (1 st). Against false worship.	Josiah
8:1-23	8:11	No wisdom and no peace	Josiah
9:1-26	9:23,24	Boast to know the Lord	Josiah
10:1-25	10:10	Idols and the living God	Josiah

Introduction

Chapter Overview (11-20)

Text	Key Verse	Content	When
11:1-23	11:2,3	The broken covenant. Plot against Jeremiah from the people of Anathoth. Jeremiah's 1 st lament.	Josiah
12:1-17	12:16,17	The Lord punishes his own people as a warning to surrounding nations.	Josiah
13:1-27	13:15,16	The ruined linen belt. The broken jars. Warning to honor the Lord. Humiliation of Jerusalem.	Josiah
14:1-22		Jeremiahs prayer in famine.	Josiah
15:1-21	15:19	Jeremiahs prayer in famine (cont'd). Jeremiah's 2 nd lament.	Josiah
16:1-21	16:21	Consequence of disobedience	Josiah
17:1-27	17:7,8	Trust in God. Keep the Sabbath holy. Jeremiah's 3 rd lament.	Josiah
18:1-23	18:5	Parable of the potter.	Josiah
19:1-15	19:11	Parable of the broken flask. Jeremiah's prophecy against the Topheth practice.	Josiah
20:1-18	20:9	Jeremiah's mistreatment by Pashur. Jeremiah's 4 th lament.	Josiah

Introduction

Chapter Overview (21-30)

Text	Key Verse	Content	When
21:1-11	21:8,9	Jeremiah speaks against Zedekiah's request, setting out the way of life or death.	Zedekiah
22:1-30	22:4,5	Jeremiah speaks against the kings of Judah, the sons of Josiah.	???
23:1-40	23:5,6	Promise of the righteous branch.	
24:1-10	24:5-7	The good figs and the bad figs	Zedekiah
25:1-38	25:4-6	Seventy years of Babylon's reign	
26:1-24	26:12-15	Jeremiah's temple speech (2nd)	Jehoiakim, beginning
27:1-22	27:16,17	Message of the Yoke	Zedekiah, beginning
28:1-17	28:8	Hananiah, the false prophet	Zedekiah, 4 th year, 5 th month
29:1-32	29:12-14	Jeremiah's letter to the exiles	Zedekiah, after deportation of Coniah
30:1-24	30:2,3	Restoration	

Introduction

Chapter Overview (31-40)

Text	Key Verse	Content	When
31:1-40	31:33	Return of Israel and Judah. The new covenant.	
32:1-44	32:14,15	Jeremiah buys a field during the last days of Jerusalem.	Zedekiah, 10 th year
33:1-26	33:15,16	2 nd answer of the Lord to Jeremiah. Restoration of Juda. Fulfillment of David's covenant through the righteous branch.	Zedekiah
34:1-22	34:15,16	Jeremiah speaks against the breaking of covenant for released slaves.	Zedekiah
35:1-18	35:18,19	The obedience of the Rechabites	Jehoiakim
36:1-32	36:2,3	Baruch's scroll	Jehoiakim
37:1-17	37:17	Jeremiah's imprisonment	Zedekiah
38:1-28	38:20	Jeremiah saved by Ebed-melech the Ethiopian from death in the cistern. Last conversation between Jeremiah and Zedekiah.	Zedekiah
39:1-18	39:17,18	Fall of Jerusalem. Deliverance of Jeremiah and Ebed-Melech.	Zedekiah
40:1-16	40:6	Jeremiah returns to Mizpah. Gedaliah's governorship.	Gedaliah

Introduction

Chapter Overview (41-50)

Text	Key Verse	Content	When
41:1-18	41:17,18	Gedaliah murdered. On the way to Egypt.	Gedaliah
42:1-22	42:11,12	Jeremiah speaks against moving to Egypt	Gedaliah
43:1-13	43:7	Judean remnants move to Egypt taking Jeremiah and Baruch with them	Egypt
44:1-30	44:23	Jeremiah speaks against the worship of the queen of heaven	Egypt
45:1-5	45:5	Jeremiah's words for Baruch	Jehoiakim
46:1-28	46:25,26	Judgement on Egypt	
47:1-7	47:4	Judgement on the Philistines	
48:1-47	48:42	Judgement on Moab	
49:1-39	49:38,39	Judgement on Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar and Hazor, and Elam	
50:1-46	50:19,20	Judgement on Babylon	

Introduction

Chapter Overview (51-52)

Text	Key Verse	Content	When
51:1-64	51:63,64	Judgement on Babylon. Jeremiah's scroll to Seraiah	
52:1-34	52:31,32	Fall of Jerusalem. Release of Jehoiachin.	

Introduction



Treasures

- Almond tree (Ch 1)
- Boiling pot (Ch 1)
- Spring of living water vs. broken cisterns (Ch 2)
- Vision of the throne of God (Ch 3)
- Peace, peace, when there is no peace (Ch 6+8)
- Ancient paths (Ch 6)
- Den of robbers (Ch 7)
- Become like Shiloh (Ch 7)
- Ruined linen belt (Ch 13)
- Broken jars (Ch 13)
- Tree planted by the water (Ch 17)
- Potter's clay (Ch 18)
- Broken flak (Ch 19)
- A righteous branch (Ch 23)
- Good and bad figs (Ch 24)
- Cup of the Lord's wrath (Ch 25)
- Wooden yoke (Ch 27)
- Iron yoke (Ch 28)
- New covenant (Ch 33)

Factual Study

Chapters 1-52

Chapter 1 – Prophet

Overview

	Introduction
1:1	Words of Jeremiah, son of Hilkiah, one of the priests of Anathoth in Benjamin
1:2-3	In the days king since 13 th year of Josiah, Jehoiakim, until end of Zedekiah
	Call of Jeremiah
1:4-5	Jeremiah shall be a prophet to the nations
1:6-8	Not too young, but preach
1:9-10	Jeremiah's mouth touched and set over nations and kingdoms
1:11-12	Parable of the almond branch
1:13-16	Parable of the boiling pot in the North
1:17-19	Jeremiah is a fortified city, an iron pillar

Summary

Jeremiah is a son of Hilkiah, a priest from Anathoth in Benjamin. He receives and speaks the word of the Lord during the reign of the kings of Judah Josiah, Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah.

Despite his youth the Lord calls Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations (not only to Judah).

Jeremiah is to speak the words of repentance and judgement to his people (beginning in the 13th year of king Josiah when Judah is still prosperous).

The Lord will be with Jeremiah, so he will prevail like a fortified kingdom, an iron pillar or bronze walls.

Chapter 1 – Prophet

Key verse

“Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you; I
appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

(Jer 1:4,5 ESV)



Core message

- God called youthful Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations by giving him his words into his mouth.
- The purpose of Jeremiah’s words is the call to repentance and return to God, not only to Judah but to all nations, by not omitting the words about God’s judgement.
- God calls us as prophets to the nations to speak the words of God, the gospel, in prosperous times.
- The gospel of God is not the ‘love | peace gospel’ or ‘prosperity gospel’, but the complete gospel that does not exclude God’s judgement and the consequences of sin to be preached.



Chapter 1 – Prophet



Chapter 2 – Double sin



Overview

	Israel' unfaithfulness
2:1-3	Israel was holy to the Lord like a bride
2:4-9	Israel became unfaithful to the Lord
2:10-13	Double sin: Exchanged glorious god for worthless idols.
2:14-19	Israel becomes a slave and prey
2:20-22	Israel became a corrupt, wild vine
2:23-25	Israel is like a restless young camel
2:26-30	Israel only turns to God in misery, but does not repent
2:31-32	Israel: "We are free, we will come no more to you"
2:33-35	Israel: "I am innocent. I have not sinned"
2:36-37	Israel to be shamed by Egypt and Assyria

Summary

Israel was once the holy bride of the Lord.

But Israel has become a shameless adulteress and idol worshipper.

She has committed foolish double sin: She has exchanged the glorious God for worthless idols, the spring of living water with broken cisterns that can hold no water.

As a consequence she will be disappointed and ashamed by everyone.

Chapter 2 – Double sin



Key verse

“Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols.

[...]

My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

(Jer 2:11,13 NIV)

Core message

- The Lord is the glorious God and the spring of living water.
- The idols are worthless and broken cisterns that can hold no water.
- Instead of running after many idols or even other faiths and churches that seem to be “cooler” or “better” we shall follow the one and only God, Lord.

Chapter 2 – Double sin

God – Fountain of living waters

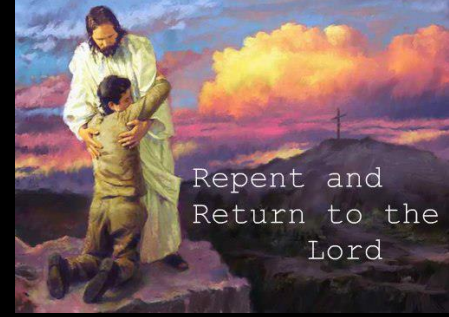


Other gods and idols – broken cisterns



*"Broken cisterns that can hold no water"
(Jeremiah 2:13)*

Chapter 3 – Repent (Israel)



Overview

	Israel Called to Repentance
3:1-5	Faithless and shameless Israel
3:6-10	Judah is not better than Israel even though it has seen the Lord's judgement over Israel. It is doing the same sins. Its repentance is pretense.
3:11-13	The Lord calls Israel to return and repentance
3:14-18	The Lord's vision of all nations in Jerusalem 'the Lord's throne' and Judah joining Israel in coming home.
3:19-20	Israel has forsaken the Lord
3:21-25	Israel's beginning repentance
4:1-2	Israel put your idols away!

Summary

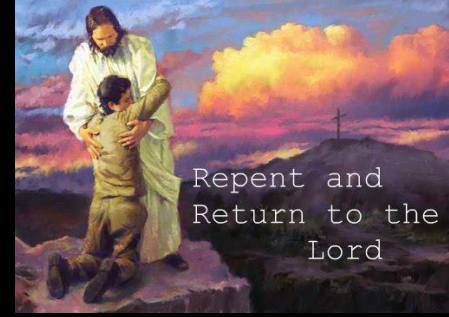
Israel (northern kingdom) has forsaken the Lord without remorse or repentance for idol worship. Consequently, the Lord has given her the certificate of divorce and sent her away.

Despite having witnessed Israel's fate, Judah is not any better, but does the same sins.

The Lord has not given up on Israel, but still calls her to return from idol worship. Then the Lord wants to forgive and heal her.

The Lord has a vision that once Jerusalem will be "the Lord's throne" at which all nations will gather in repentance and Judah and Israel will come home to the Lord.

Chapter 3 – Repent (Israel)



Key verse

“Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, ‘Return, faithless Israel, declares the Lord. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the Lord; I will not be angry forever.

Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the Lord your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the Lord.

“Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness.” “Behold, we come to you, for you are the Lord our God.””

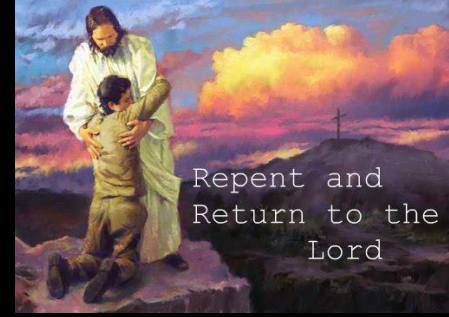
(Jer 3:12,13,22 ESV)

Core message

- God still calls for the return of his people, even though they have already gone lost like Israel (the northern kingdom).
- God wants to forgive and heal them, but they must return to the Lord first.



Chapter 3 – Repent (Israel)



Key verse

“At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart.

In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage.”

(Jer 3:17,18 ESV)

Core message

- The world has sinned against God and is lost. But God has a heart and a vision for the salvation of all nations: All nations as well as Judah and Israel shall gather and return to Jerusalem, the Lord’s throne

Chapter 4 – Repent (Judah)



Overview

	Judah Called to Repentance
4:3-4	Juda and Jerusalem must circumcise their hearts
4:5-7	Disaster will come from the north. Put on sackcloth!
4:9-10	Leaders will be surprised and horrified.
4:11-14	A hot wind will come. Jerusalem must wash her heart of evil.
4:15-18	Besiegers come from a distant land. It is the consequence of their ways and deeds.
4:19-22	Jeremiah sees war, defeat, destruction of the land, but his people do not see it.
4:23-28	The whole land becomes a desolation.
4:29-31	Jerusalem will find herself betrayed.

Summary

Now the Lord calls Judah and Jerusalem to repentance. It is already late. Disaster is looming from the north like a lion and like a hot wind. Soon there will be invasions by foreign armies, defeat after defeat.

The leaders of Judah are surprised that God's punishment is actually coming.

But they do not want to repent nor turn back to God trusting in the help of Assyria and Egypt.

But they will be deserted and betrayed by Assyria and Egypt and Judah and its cities will be destroyed.

But still they can repent.

Chapter 4 – Repent (Judah)



Key verse

“O Jerusalem, wash your heart from evil, that you may be saved. How long shall your wicked thoughts lodge within you?”

(Jer 4:14 ESV)

Core message

- Disaster is coming because of the sins. And it is going to be horrible.
- But earnest repentance may still avert the judgement.

Chapter 5 – Sin

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Overview

	The sins of Jerusalem
5:1-2	Nobody seeks justice and truth
5:3	They do not repent
5:4-6	Simple and higher people live in disobedience
5:7-8	Adultery is prevalent everywhere
5:9	The Lord must punish
5:10-11	They are unfaithful to the Lord
5:12	They relativize the Lord
5:13-14	The prophets don't have the Lord's words

Summary

Chapter 5 – Sin

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Overview

	The sins of Jerusalem (cont'd)
5:15-17	God will bring a nation from afar over them to punish them
5:18-19	Because they have forsaken the Lord and serve foreign gods
5:20-25	They do not fear and obey the Lord.
5:26-27	They kidnap people
5:28-29	They do not uphold justice for the weak
5:29	The Lord must punish
5:30-31	Judah is very sick

Summary

God is searching in Jerusalem for a person who is righteous so he can have mercy on Jerusalem.

But instead the city is full of sin:

- 1) No repentance = Pride and stubbornness
- 2) Disobedience to the Lord
- 3) Adultery
- 4) Dishonor of the Lord's word
- 5) Serving of other gods
- 6) Kidnapping
- 7) Injustice towards the weak

The spiritual situation is very dire. The Lord must punish Jerusalem.

Chapter 5 – Sin

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Key verse

“Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city.”

(Jer 5:1 NIV)

Core message

- A person who seeks the Lord and comes to God with repentant and obedient heart can experience God’s mercy.
- The following sins without true repentance will cause God’s punishment:
 - 1) No repentance = Pride and stubbornness
 - 2) Disobedience to the Lord
 - 3) Adultery
 - 4) Dishonor of the Lord’s word
 - 5) Serving of other gods
 - 6) Kidnapping
 - 7) Injustice towards the weak

Chapter 6 – Disaster



Overview

	Disaster on Jerusalem
6:1	Disaster looms from the north
6:5	Jerusalem's palaces destroyed
6:6a	Siege ramps build against Jerusalem
6:6b-7	J full of injustice
6:8	J to return before it is too late
6:10	They despise the Lord's word
6:11	They will be deported
6:12	They will be disowned
6:13-15	Greedy for unjust gain, practice deceit, false peace, no shame
6:16	Ask for the ancient paths

Summary

Chapter 6 – Disaster



Overview

	Disaster on Jerusalem (cont'd)
6:19	They do not listen to the Lord's words and reject the law
6:26	Put on sackcloth and roll in ashes
6:27-30	Jeremiah to be a tester of metals, but they are rejected silver.

Summary

Because there is only injustice in Jerusalem and because they do not listen to the Lord's words and reject the law, the Lord will bring disaster on Jerusalem.

The elements of disaster are mentioned:

- destruction of the palaces
- siege ramps built against the walls
- deportation to a foreign country
- loss of land

There is still the call for repentance to return, to ask for and walk in the ancient paths, to put on sackcloth and roll in ashes.

Jeremiah is the tester of Jerusalem's repentance, but it is only rejected silver.

Chapter 6 – Disaster



Key verse

“This is what the Lord says: Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”

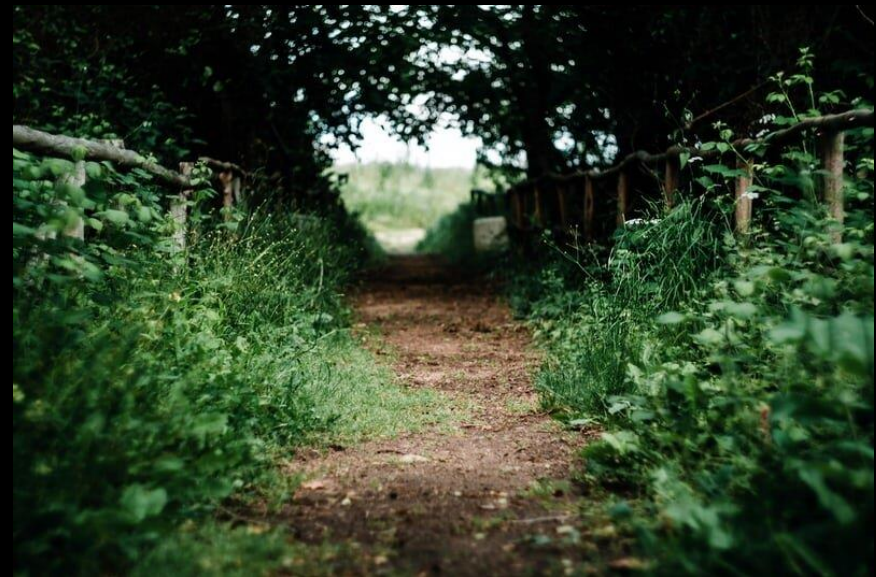
(Jer 6:16 NIV)

“Hear, you earth: I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their schemes, because they have not listened to my words and have rejected my law.”

(Jer 6:19 NIV)

Core message

- Not listening to God’s word and rejecting God’s law is the pathway to disaster.
- We must ask for the **ancient paths**, ask where the good way is, and walk in it: We must listen to God’s word and live according to God’s law. It is the way of salvation and life.



Chapter 7 – Temple



Overview

	The temple address
7:1-2	Jeremiah to speak in the temple
7:3-4	Do not rely on the temple building, but amend your ways and deeds
7:8-11	The temple is a den of robbers because of their sinful lives.
7:12-15	The temple will become like Shiloh because of false worship
	Against false worship
7:16-20	Against idol worship, i.e. Queen of heaven
7:21-23	Instead of offering cult, obedience
7:24-28	They do not want to listen like their ancestors
7:29-32	Against Topheth worship.

Summary

Jeremiah speaks in the house of the Lord (the temple). The people of Jerusalem must not rely on the existence of the temple building, but the must live with repentance. By worshipping without repenting the have made the temple a den of robbers. The Lord denies this superficial temple and will destroy it like Shiloh.

The Lord detests false worship, especially the worshipping of the Queen of heaven, Topheth worship and meaningless offering and he will destroy this false worship. The Lord wishes obedience of the Lord's words.

Chapter 7 – Temple



Key verse

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place.”

(Jer 7:3 ESV)

“For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices.

But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’”

(Jer 7:22,23 ESV)

Core message

- The true temple that we can rely on is repentance and serious observance of God’s words.
- True worship is obedience and walking in God’s ways.
- Without repentance and without obedience our temple and our worship is meaningless and even detestable to God.



Chapter 8 – No peace

Overview

	No wisdom and no peace
8:1-3	Dead bones from those who followed other gods
8:4-9	The people refuse to return or repent
8:8-9	They have rejected the word of the Lord
8:10	Greedy for unjust gain, practice deceit
8:11	They say: “Peace, peace”, but not peace
8:12-13	They have no shame. They will be punished by the Lord.
8:14-17	Fear of the people when false hope for peace dissolves
8:18-23	Jeremiah’s sorrow for his people is inconsolable

Summary

The people of Jerusalem do not want to repent or return to the Lord. They want to continue on their evil ways stubbornly. They have sunken below the level of animals.

They have lost all wisdom because they reject the word of the Lord. They continue to greed for unjust gain and to practice deceit. The prophets do not try to challenge the spiritual problems, saying “Peace, peace” when there is no peace.

They will be punished until no one is left. Jeremiah is full of sorrow for his people.



Chapter 8 – No peace

Key verse

“The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the Lord, what kind of wisdom do they have?”

(Jer 8:9 NIV)

“They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. “Peace, peace,” they say, when there is no peace.”

(Jer 8:11 NIV)

Core message

- People become more stupid than animals when the word of the Lord is rejected and when leaders do not seriously challenge the spiritual problems, but only superficially say “Peace, Peace” when there is no peace.
- Nowadays spiritual leaders have rejected the word of God and only say “Peace, love, etc.” But this is the path to destruction.
- We must challenge the spiritual problems until there is true repentance as well as observance and obedience to God’s word.



Chapter 9 – Boast



Overview

	Boast to know the Lord
9:1-9	The Lord must punish his people who have become a people of adultery, falsehood and deception
9:10-11	Desolation of land and city
9:12-13	Because they have forsaken God's law
9:14	Because they stubbornly follow their own hearts and go after Baals
9:15-16	Scattering and death
9:17-22	They should order wailing women and teach their daughters wailing
9:23-24	Boast to know and understand the Lord
9:25-26	The Lord punishes Israel who is uncircumcised in the heart

Summary

The Lord must punish his people because they are full of malice and deceit even among family members.

The Lord must punish his people and the land because they have forsaken God's law and follow their own heart stubbornly and go after Baals.

The Lord must punish his people who are uncircumcised in their hearts.

A wise man is the one who knows and understands the Lord, who delights in in steadfast love, justice and righteousness.

Chapter 9 – Boast

Key verse

“Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,

but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”

(Jer 9:23,24 ESV)

Core message

- We must not boast of wisdom, might or riches. These things often corrupt people to be liars and deceivers and result in their punishment by God and only wailing.
- We must be ambitious to understand and know God, who delights in steadfast love, justice and righteousness.
- We must practice God’s mercy, holiness according to his law, and a life of faith. Then we will be wise people.



Chapter 10 – God



Overview

	Idols and the Living God
10:1-5	The idols are worthless.
10:6-10	The Lord is the true and living God. One must obey him.
10:11-13	The Lord has made earth.
10:14-16	The Lord is Jacobs treasure.
10:17-18	The Lord punishes the inhabitants of the land
10:19-22	Mourning of suffering sheep whose shepherds have become stupid.
10:23-25	Jeremiah's prayer not to be entirely destroyed by God's discipline.

Summary

Jeremiah speaks against idol worship of his people. They are made men out of wood. They are nothing. They will perish from the earth. Who follows them is stupid.

But the Lord is the true and living God who has made earth. He must be obeyed. He is Jacob's treasure.

Because of idol worship the people of Israel as well as their foolish shepherds must suffer God's discipline from a power from the north.

Chapter 10 – God



Key verse

“But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath.”

(Jer 10:10 NIV)

Core message

- The Lord is the only true and living God who must be feared and obeyed.
- Idols worshippers are foolish people.

Chapter 11 – Broken covenant



Overview

	The Broken Covenant
11:1-6	The people of Judah and Jerusalem must hear and obey the covenant.
11:7-8	But they do not want to
11:9-10	Israel and Judah have broken the Lord's covenant
11:11-14	The Lord will bring disaster upon Jerusalem and its people because they are full of idols.
11:15	The doom for the wicked deeds cannot be averted by offerings.
11:16-17	The Lord will burn the tree he himself planted.

Summary

Chapter 11 – Broken covenant



Overview

	Plot against Jeremiah (1 st lament)
11:18-20	The Lord revealed the evil plans of the people of Anathoth.
11:21	The people of Anathoth want to kill Jeremiah if he continues to prophesy.
11:22-23	The Lord will punish them that no one of them will be left.

Summary

The people of Judah and Jerusalem have broken God's covenant deliberately despite many reminders by God.

Therefore, the punishment of breaking the covenant is coming on them.

The people of Anathoth threaten Jeremiah to kill him, if he continues to speak the words of the Lord. But Jeremiah trusts the Lord.

Chapter 11 – Broken covenant



Key verse

““Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

You shall say to them, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Cursed be the man who does not hear the words of this covenant”

(Jer 11:2,3 ESV)

Core message

- We must hear and keep the words of the covenant.
- Who does not want to hear or keep the words of the covenant despite many warning from God’ servants loads curse on himself.
- Offerings cannot avert doom for breaking the covenant.
- In modern times the covenant is at least the gospel.

Chapter 12 – Learn



Overview

	The Lord punishes his own people
12:1-4	Jeremiah cannot understand
12:5	Jeremiah's understanding is so limited
12:6	He is even betrayed by his own family.
12:7-13	The Lord has turned against his own land.
12:14-17	The Lord wants to uproot his people from their land, but bring them back.
12:16-17	The other nations learn the ways of the Lord's people, otherwise they will uprooted and destroyed.

Summary

God punishes his own land, even uprooting his own people out of their own land.

It is painful for God himself and a horrifying spectacle for the surrounding nations.

The surrounding nations must learn from this, learn the ways of the Lord's people. Otherwise they will be punished and uprooted like God's own people.

Chapter 12 – Learn

Key verse

“And if they learn well the ways of my people and swear by my name, saying, ‘As surely as the Lord lives’—even as they once taught my people to swear by Baal—then they will be established among my people.

But if any nation does not listen, I will completely uproot and destroy it,” declares the Lord.”

(Jer 12:16,17 NIV)

Core message

- We must not have Schadenfreude, but understand God’s pain for punishing his own land and people and pray for their restoration.
- We must observe and learn from the punishment and failure of God’s own people and do better than them in fearing and obeying God. Then we can be God’s people by God’s grace.
- Otherwise, we will be uprooted but without hope of recovery.



Chapter 13 – Pride

PRIDE goes before
destruction, and a
haughty spirit before a fall.
PROVERBS 16:18

Overview

	The ruined linen belt
13:1-2	Jeremiah to buy and wear a linen belt.
13:3-5	J to go to the Euphrates and to put the linen belt into a crevice of a rock
13:6-7	After a long time J to recover the linen belt; it was ruined and unusable.
13:8-11	Israel and Judah are like the ruined belt, unusable for glorious use by the Lord because of their unhearing and stubbornness.
	The jars filled with wine
13:12	J to tell that all jars are filled with wine
13:13-14	All inhabitants of Judah shall be filled with drunkenness and broken like jars

Summary

Israel and Judah have become useless for God's glorious purpose, because they do not listen to the Lord and are proud and stubborn.

As a consequence they will be ruined like the ruined belt. Judah will be broken like jars of wine since they are drunken from their pride.

Chapter 13 – Pride

PRIDE goes before
destruction, and a
haughty spirit before a fall.
PROVERBS 16:18

Overview

	Warning to honor the Lord
13:15-16	Honor the Lord before it is too late
13:17-18	Because of pride Judah will be exiled.
	Jerusalem humiliated
13:20-27	Because of her sins, forgetting God and adultery, Jerusalem is humiliated and shamed as her sins are revealed in public

Summary

Because of their pride Judah will be exiled and Jerusalem be humiliated and shamed in public.

Chapter 13 – Pride

PRIDE goes before
destruction, and a
haughty spirit before a fall.
PROVERBS 16:18

Key verse

“Hear and give ear; be not proud, for the Lord has spoken.

Give glory to the Lord your God before he brings darkness, before your feet stumble on the twilight mountains, and while you look for light he turns it into gloom and makes it deep darkness.”

(Jer 13:15,16 ESV)

Core message

- Pride come before the fall and is the way to become useless, broken, humiliated and shamed.
- We must not be proud, but listen to God, hear God, obey God, and give glory to God, before it is too late.



Chapter 14-15 – Futile prayer



Overview

	Futile prayer for mercy
14:1-6	A terrible drought
14:7-9	Plead for the Lord's help. Confession of sins and disobedience.
14:10-11	Jeremiah must not pray for this people, but the Lord wants to destroy them.
14:12	J report about lying prophets
14:14-16	All false prophets and all people following their false prophesies will die
14:17-18	The Lord weeps for the people who died of famine, sword and are deported
14:19-22	Prayer of repentance and plead for the Lord's mercy.

Summary

There is a terrible drought. Jeremiah pleads the Lord for help confessing his peoples' sins and disobedience and God's righteous punishment.

The Lords is tired of mercy. He will not save his people nor the false prophets. They will die of famine and sword. Those who do not die will become prey and servants of their enemies.



Chapter 14-15 – Futile prayer



Overview

15:1-4	No mercy from the Lord, but they will become an image of horror
15:5-6	The Lord is tired of mercy.
15:7-9	The Lord kills his own people.
	Jeremiah's lament (2nd lament)
15:10	J laments as everyone curses him
15:11-14	Some will be spared from being killed. But they will become prey and servants of their enemies.
15:15-18	J laments about persecution and his hard life in staying with the Lord
15:19-21	The Lord is with J, makes him a strong wall and will save him if he returns.

Summary

Jeremiah laments that people are cursing and persecute him and about his hard life staying with the Lord.

The Lord encourages him that if he returns the Lord will be with him, make him a strong wall, and will save him.

Chapter 14-15 – Futile prayer



Key verse

“You have rejected me, declares the Lord; you keep going backward, so I have stretched out my hand against you and destroyed you— I am weary of relenting.”

(Jer 15:6 ESV)

“Therefore thus says the Lord: “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them.”

(Jer 15:19 ESV)

Core message

- The Lord’s mercy against the sin of deliberate disobedience is not endless. We must not believe false prophets that God will always be peaceful. This is a lie. We must not assume that we can always pray to God with repentant words.
- Only true return (= repentance) with obedience can save and restore us, if it is not yet too late.



Chapter 16 – Consequence



Overview

	Consequence of disobedience
16:1-4	Jeremiah not to marry or bear children because they will die
16:5-7	J not to mourn for someone; people will die without being mourned
16:8-9	J not to visit a house of feasting; the sounds of joy will end
16:10-13	Because they have left the Lord, served and other gods and did not obey the Lord
16:14-15	The Lord will restore Israel
16:16-18	Nobody can hide for the Lord. First the sin will be repaid for doubly.
16:19-21	All nations will know the only true Lord

Summary

Jeremiah must go into social distancing – he may not marry, not bear children, not go to mourn for someone or participate in joy, because the Lord brings death about his people by diseases, famine and sword.

This is the consequence of the people having left the Lord and served other gods and not obeyed the Lord.

The Lord intends to restore Israel, but before they have to pay doubly for their sins. Then every nation will realize that the Lord is the only true God.

Chapter 16 – Consequence



Key verse

“But you have behaved more wickedly than your ancestors. See how all of you are following the stubbornness of your evil hearts instead of obeying me.

So I will throw you out of this land into a land neither you nor your ancestors have known, and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favor.”

(Jer 16:12,13 NIV)

“Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the Lord.”

(Jer 16:21 ESV)

Core message

- Ultimately, there is no fruit and no joy in neglecting and disobeying God and serving other gods.
- Serving other gods becomes a curse and captivity.
- The discipline through which we may learn that only God is the Lord is very painful.
- The cost of sin is expensive.
- **Serving and obeying the Lord is privilege and blessing**

Chapter 17 – Trust

Overview

	Trust in the Lord
17:1-4	Judah will lose its inheritance and be enslaved in a foreign land because of idol worship
17:5-6	The man who trusts in man and flesh is a shrub in the desert
17:7-8	The man who trusts in the Lord is a tree planted by water
17:9-10	The Lord searches the heart
17:12-13	The Lord is the true hope and the spring of living water
	Jeremiah's 3 rd lament
17:14-18	Jeremiah's prayer for healing and to put shame his persecutors



Summary

The Lord is the hope of Israel and the spring of living water. Who trusts in the Lord is like a tree planted by the water and bears fruit even in the drought.

But who turns away from the Lord and trusts in man and on the strength of flesh will always be like a shrub in the wasteland.

Chapter 17 – Trust

Overview

	Keep the Sabbath Holy
17:19-22	The kings of Juda and the inhabitants of Jerusalem not to bear a burden on the Sabbath day
17:23	The people of Jerusalem not listening and stiff-necked
17:24-26	Keeping the Sabbath: Always kings, officials and the city inhabited
17:27	Otherwise the city burned

Summary

The first step to trust in the Lord is to keep the Sabbath holy. If his people would only keep the Sabbath holy by not bearing a burden or working on the Sabbath day, they would always have kings and officials and the city always be inhabited.

Unfortunately, they failed with the most basic step.



Chapter 17 – Trust

Key verse

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

(Jer 17:7,8 NIV)



Core message

- Trust in man and man's strength fails; trust in God, who is the true hope and spring of living water.
- Trust in God begins by keeping the Sabbath day holy.



Chapter 18 – Potter's clay

Overview

	The parable of the potter
18:1-2	God commands Jeremiah to visit a potter
18:3-4	Jeremiah observes a potter at his work
18:5-6	Israel is like the potter's clay in God's hand
18:7-10	God can destroy and built a kingdom, but he will regret based on their deeds
18:11-12	God calls Israel to repentance, but they want to stay in their evilness
18:13-17	God's people have forgotten God, making their land a horror
	Jeremiah's prayer against his enemies
18:18	Enemies devise a plot against Jeremiah.
18:19-23	Jeremiah prays against his enemies.

Summary

The parable of the potter. God lets Jeremiah visit and observe a potter at his work. Jeremiah observes that the potter can make something out of the clay as he likes if it does not please him.

In the same manner God holds Israel's fate in his hands if they do not repent. Israel's fate depends on their repentance or stubbornness. Unfortunately, they choose to stay in their sin to the horror of their land and to others.



Chapter 18 – Potter's clay

Key verse(s)

“O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.”

(Jer 18:5)

“Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: ‘Thus says the Lord, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.’”

(Jer 18:11)

Core message

- God is Lord like a potter. If the clay is not according to his will it will be destroyed.
- We must repent and obey God's commands. Then calamity will be averted.

Chapter 19 – Broken flask



Overview

	The broken flask
19:1-3a	God tells Jeremiah to buy a flask from the potter and speak to elders at the valley of the Son of Hinnom at the Potsherd Gate.
19:3b-5	God will bring disaster because they have forsaken God and done detestable offerings.
19:6-9	God will destroy the Topheth and its worship.
19:10-13	Jeremiah should break the flask. God will break the people and the city that it will become like a Topheth.
19:14-15	Jeremiah repeats his message in the court of the Lord's house

Summary

The parable of the broken flask. The people of Jerusalem have sinned against God by practicing the Topheth worship. God will break this worship and its worshippers like a flask. Jerusalem will become a Topheth. The Valley of the Son of Hinnom will become the Valley of Slaughter.

In the [Hebrew Bible](#), **Tophet** or **Topheth** ([Hebrew](#): תֹּפֶת; [Greek](#): Ταφέθ; [Latin](#): *Topheth*) was a location in [Jerusalem](#) in the [Gehinnom](#) where worshipers influenced by the [ancient Canaanite religion](#) engaged in [child sacrifice](#) to the gods [Moloch](#) and [Baal](#) by [burning children alive](#). Tophet became a theological or poetic synonym for [Hell](#) within [Christendom](#).

Chapter 19 – Broken flask



Key verse

“and say to them, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I will smash this nation and this city just as this potter’s jar is smashed and cannot be repaired. They will bury the dead in Topheth until there is no more room.”

(Jer 19:11 NIV)

Core message

- The practices of worshipping other Gods are detestable and not commanded by God.
- God hates and will smash such practices.

Chapter 19 – Broken flask

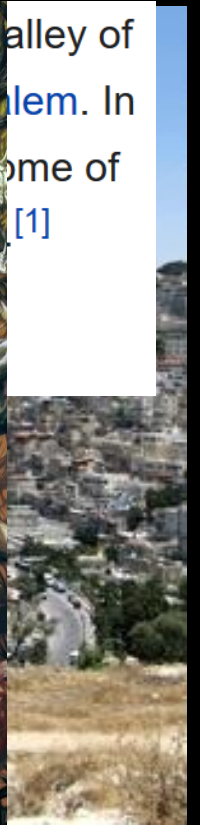
Topheth



Valley of Hinnom



Valley of
Hinnom. In
some of
[1]



Chapter 20 – Pashur

Overview

	Jeremiah and Pashur
20:1-2	Pashur beats Jeremiah and put him in the stocks for one night.
20:3-6	Pashur will be “Terror on every side” for he will see his friends die and Juda conquered and himself captive and dying in Babylon because of preaching lies.
	Jeremiah’s Complaint
20:7-9	Jeremiah does not want to speak in the name of the Lord, but he cannot keep it
20:10-11	Jeremiah has many enemies, but the Lord is with him like a mighty warrior
20:12-13	Jeremiah praises God who saves him.
20:14-18	Lament

Summary

Jeremiah is mistreated by Pashur, who is one of the priests, because he preaches the painful message of God. Pashur will receive God’s horrible judgement.

Jeremiah laments about his hard task that he has become a laughingstock preaching God’s words. He does not want to speak in the name of the Lord anymore, but he can’t keep God’s message in himself shut. He trusts and praises God who is with him like a mighty warrior and will rescue him from all his enemies.

Chapter 20 – Pashur

Key verse

“If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.”

(Jer 20:9 ESV)

“But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten.”

(Jer 20:11 NIV)

Core message

- God’s mission is hard, involving mockery and mistreatment.
- We must trust God who is with his servants like a mighty warrior and rescues them from their enemies.



Chapter 21 – The way of life or death

Overview

	Jeremiah speaks against Zedekiah's inquiry
21:1-2	Zedekiah asks Jeremiah for a wonder from God against Nebuchadnezzar.
21:3-7	Jeremiah prophesies retreat, death, defeat, captivity, and punishment of Zedekiah, his officials, his people, and the city by Nebuchadnezzar
21:8-11	The way of life is to surrender to the Babylonians. To stay in the city is the way of death, since God has decided Jerusalem's destruction.

Summary

Zedekiah requests Jeremiah to inquire to God for a miracle against Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon who is besieging Jerusalem.

Jeremiah prophesies against Zedekiah that he, his people and the city of Jerusalem will be defeated, taken captive and punished.

But God shows them the way of life and death, which they can choose. The only way to save their lives is to surrender to the Babylonians in submission to God's will to destroy Jerusalem.

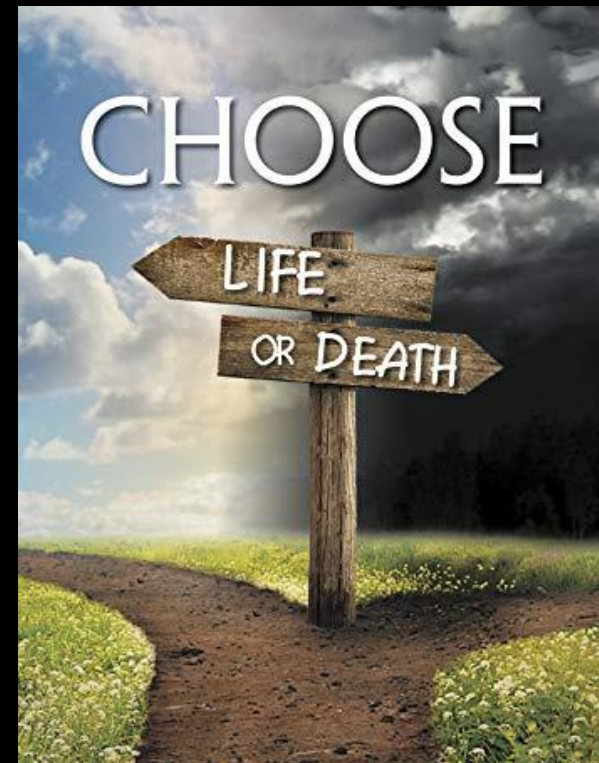
Chapter 21 – The way of life or death

Key verse

“And to this people you shall say: ‘Thus says the Lord: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out and surrenders to the Chaldeans who are besieging you shall live and shall have his life as a prize of war.’” (Jer 21:8,9)

Core message

- The way of life is to submit to God’s command even though we may not like it.



Chapter 22 – Against the kings of Judah

Overview

	Judgement against the Kings of Juda
21:11-22:2	The kings of Juda must carry out just and righteous judgement, punish the robber, protect the oppressed.
22:3-4	If the kings obey their kingship and kingdom will prevail, otherwise destroyed.
22:6-9	Juda's kingship will become a desolation and terrifying warning.
22:10-12	Shallum will be taken captive and not return, but die in captivity
22:13-19	Jehoiakim is an evil king who did not want to listen to the Lord. He will die shamefully in front of Jerusalem's doors.
22:24-30	Conja, son of Jehoiachin, and his mother will die in captivity.

Summary

Jeremiah speaks against the kings of Judah in his time. All of them do not listen to the Lord. Therefore, their end will be shameful.

Chapter 22 – Against the kings of Judah

Key verse

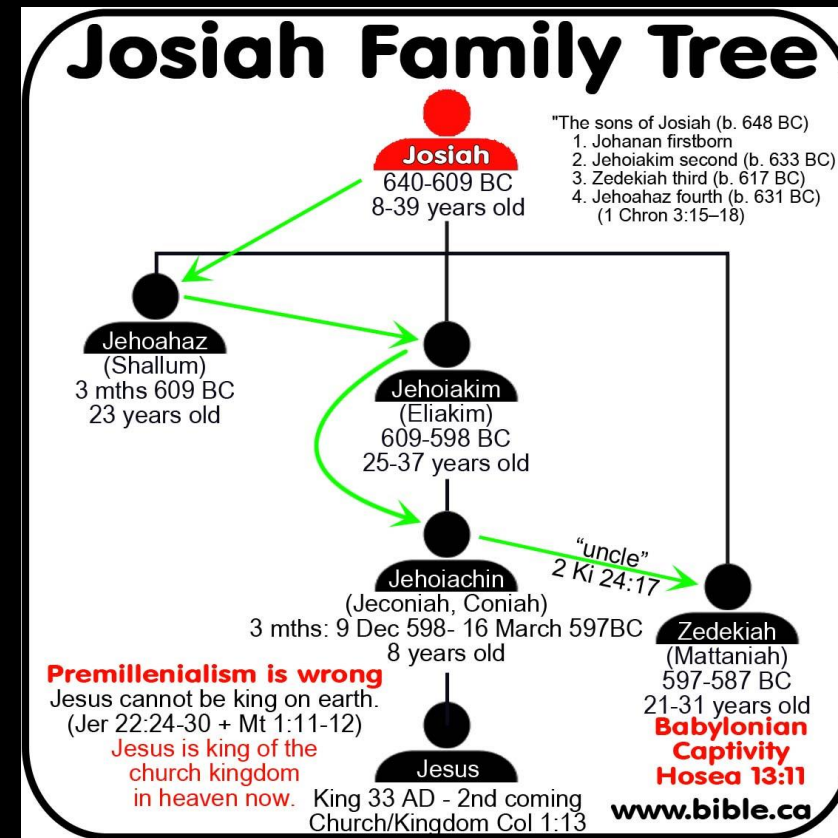
“For if you will indeed obey this word, then there shall enter the gates of this house kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their servants and their people.

But if you will not obey these words, I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that this house shall become a desolation.”

(Jer 22:4,5)

Core message

- Observing and obeying God's word is the key to continuous kingship.



Chapter 23 – A righteous branch

Overview

	Promise of the Righteous Branch
23:1-2	God will punish evil shepherds who scattered the flock
23:3-4	God will gather the remnants of the flock and put caring shepherds over them.
23:5-6	God promises a righteous branch for David, “The Lord is our righteousness”
23:7-8	God will bring up and lead the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country
	Against deceiving Prophets
23:9-40	

Summary

Because of evil shepherds and deceiving prophets the flock of God, the house of Israel, has been scattered and taken into captivity. God will punish them.

But God will bring the scattered remnants as well as the descendants of the house of Israel taken captive in the north back. He will raise up for David a righteous branch that will rule over Israel in justice and righteousness.

Chapter 23 – A righteous branch

Key verse

““The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.”

(Jer 23:5,6 NIV)

Core message

- Jesus is the righteous branch, the good shepherd, the Lord our righteous Savior.



Chapter 24 – Good and bad figs



Overview

	The Good Figs and the Bad Figs
	Reign of Zedekiah, after deportation of Coniah
24:1-3	God shows Jeremiah two baskets with good and bad figs in front of the temple.
24:4-7	The good figs are the exiles from Judah. They will be brought back, built up, since they return to God with their whole heart.
24:8-10	The bad figs are Zedekiah and all the people who are left in Jerusalem or in Egypt. They will become a horror to all kingdoms.

Summary

God shows Jeremiah two baskets of figs in front of the temple. One is full of good figs, the other is full of bad figs, which are so bad that one cannot eat them.

The good figs are those who went into Babylonian exile. God will bless them, bring them back, and use them as the core of a restored people, since they are those who returned to God with their whole heart.

The people who are left in Jerusalem are the bad figs. They are those who still refuse to listen to God. They will become a horror to all kingdoms.

Chapter 24 – Good and bad figs

Key verse

“Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans.

I will set my eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up, and not tear them down; I will plant them, and not pluck them up.

I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.”

(Jer 24:5-7 ESV)

Core message

- We must be good figs, going into exile.
- When we listen to God’s words and return God with our whole heart, from a worldly point of view it looks like going into exile.



Chapter 25 – Cup of the Lord's wrath



Overview

	Seventy years of Babylon's reign
25:1	Jehoiakim 4 th , Nebuchadnezzar 1 st
25:2-3	Jeremiah has spoken to Judah for 23 years, but they have not listened.
25:4-7	They also have not listened to all other prophets and servants of God.
25:8-11	Since they would not listen, this whole land will be devastated and subject to the king of Babylon.
25:12-14	After 70 years Babylon itself will be devastated and become servants according to Jeremiah's prophesying.
25:15-38	All nations must drink the cup of the Lord's wrath, beginning with Jerusalem and ending with Babylon.

Summary

The people of Judah would not listen even though Jeremiah and many prophets and servants of God had persistently spoken to them for 23 years since the days of king Josiah. Therefore, they will experience devastation and slavery to the king of Babylon.

But after seventy years, Babylon's reign will end and itself will be devastated and made subject to servanthship. But before that all nations must experience the Lord's wrath executed by the king of Babylon beginning from Jerusalem until the king of Babylon must drink the cup of the Lord's wrath himself.

Chapter 25 – Cup of the Lord's wrath

Key verse

“You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the Lord persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets,

saying, ‘Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds, and dwell upon the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers from of old and forever.

Do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, or provoke me to anger with the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm.’”

(Jer 25:4-6 ESV)

Core message

- One must listen to God's warning and call to repentance through his servants before it is too late.
- If one does not listen to God's call to repentance to the end, then there is God's training, the wine of wrath.



Chapter 26 – Don't kill the messenger, but repent

Overview

	Jeremiah's temple speech
26:1	Beginning of Jehoiakim's reign
26:2-6	Jeremiah is to speak in the courtyard of the temple that it will be made like Shiloh and Jerusalem a curse if they will not repent.
26:7-9	The priests and the prophets want Jeremiah dead.
26:10-15	Jeremiah in court calls the officials and people to repentance.
26:16-19	Some elders remember the repentance speech of Micah of Moresheth that brought salvation at the time of Hezekiah. Jeremiah is spared.

Summary

In the courtyard of the temple Jeremiah speaks against the temple that it will be made like Shiloh and Jerusalem will become a curse if they will not repent.

The priests and prophets want Jeremiah dead, but he is protected by the officials and the people who recognize him as the one who speaks in the name of the Lord, God.

Chapter 26 – Don't kill the messenger, but repent

Overview

	Jeremiah's temple speech (cont'd)
26:20-23	Another prophet Uriah who also spoke against the temple and Jerusalem but defected to Egypt out of fear for his life was captured and murdered by king Jehoiakim.
26:24	Jeremiah is protected by Ahikam, the son of Shaphan

Summary

In the courtyard of the temple Jeremiah speaks against the temple that it will be made like Shiloh and Jerusalem will become a curse if they will not repent.

The priests and prophets want Jeremiah dead, but he is protected by the officials and the people who recognize him as the one who speaks in the name of the Lord, God.

Chapter 26 – Don't kill the messenger, but repent

Key verse

“Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard.

Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you.

But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you.

Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.””

(Jer 26:12-15 ESV)

Core message

- Sometimes God's message is very disturbing.
- We must not kill the messenger.
- Instead we must listen to God's message with humble heart and be saved.



Chapter 27 – Bow under the yoke



Overview

	Message of the Yoke
27:1	Beginning of Zedekiah's reign
27:2-11	Jeremiah is to give the message of the yoke to the nations surrounding Judah: God will subject all nations to the king of Babylon. Those who will subject to God's will be left in their own land, otherwise punished.
27:12-15	Zedekiah shall bring his neck under the yoke of Babylon and live, instead of listening to false prophets and die.
27:16-17	The priests and the people must not listen to false prophets, but serve the king of Babylon.
27:18-22	The vessels will be brought to Babylon.

Summary

Jeremiah advises all nations around Judah as well as king Zedekiah as well as the priests to bow their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon since this is God's plan and the way to live.

Jeremiah warns them not to hear false prophets who proclaim messages that are more pleasing, but in the end bring destruction to all who follow them.

Chapter 27 – Bow under the yoke



Key verse

“Then I said to the priests and all these people,
“This is what the Lord says: Do not listen to the prophets who say, ‘Very soon now the articles from the Lord’s house will be brought back from Babylon.’ They are prophesying lies to you.

Do not listen to them. Serve the king of Babylon, and you will live. Why should this city become a ruin?”

(Jer 27:16,17 NIV)

Core message

- We must not hear the words of false prophets which tell us pleasing lies, but we must hear the words of truth.
- We must serve God and we will live. If we not serve God that we will be taught so be serving merciless worldly rulers.
- If we still do not learn obedience, the end is destruction.

Chapter 28 – Iron yoke

Overview

	Hananiah the False Prophet
28:1	Beginning of Zedekiah's reign, Fifth month of the fourth year
28:2-4	Hananiah prophesies peace
28:5-9	Jeremiah states that true prophets prophesy repentance
28:10-11	Hananiah breaks the yoke of Jeremiah
28:12-14	The wooden yoke is replaced by a yoke of iron
28:15-17	Hananiah is punished and dies (seventh month of the fourth year)

Summary

Prophet Hananiah stands up proclaiming the opposite of what Jeremiah prophesied, that within two years the yoke of Babylon will end, the vessels and that the people who have been deported will return. As a visual demonstration Hananiah breaks the wooden yoke of Jeremiah. But this only effects that an iron yoke is put into its place. Within two months Hananiah dies.



Chapter 28 – Iron yoke

Key verse

“From early times the prophets who preceded you and me have prophesied war, disaster and plague against many countries and great kingdoms.”

(Jer 28:8 NIV)

Core message

- True prophets preach repentance.
- False prophets preach rebellion against the Lord.



Chapter 29 – Seek the Lord



Overview

	Jeremiah's letter to the Exiles
	After the deportation of Coniah
29:1-3	Jeremiah writes a letter to the elders, priests, prophets and the people of Judah in Babylon
29:4-7	They should settle and prosper in Babylon
29:8-9	They should not listen to false prophets
29:10-14	After seventy years of earnest repentance they will return.
29:15-19	Those who stayed in Jerusalem in defiance of the Lord will be punished
29:20-23	False prophets Ahab and Zedekiah will be judged
29:24-32	False prophet Schemaja will be judged.

Summary

Jeremiah writes a letter to those who have gone into exile to Babylon. He writes them to settle and prosper in Babylon, since it will take 70 years of repentance until they will return.

Jeremiah also announces God's judgement on all false prophets who state otherwise.

Chapter 29 – Seek the Lord

Key verse

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

(Jer 29:12-14 ESV)



Core message

- God's training is God's love that leads us to true repentance and returning of our hearts to the Lord.
- For some people it takes seventy years.
- God will judge those who hinder repentance.



Chapter 30 – Restoration



Overview

	Restoration of Israel and Judah
30:1-3	Jeremiah to write all the words of God into a book because God will restore his people
30:4-7	A time of distress for Jacob
30:8-9	God will break the yoke off their necks
30:10	Jacob will be saved from afar and return
30:11-15	God was with Jacob through disciplining him
30:16-17	God will heal Jacob
30:18-20	Jerusalem will be rebuilt
30:21-22	God will give them a new ruler and they will be again his people
30:23-24	God's judgement over the godless

Summary

God commands Jeremiah to write all words God has revealed to him into a book. The reason is that God will restore the fortunes Israel and Judah and will bring them back.

After God has disciplined Jacob because of their sins he will break the yoke of their servanthship, bring them back from afar, heal him, rebuild Jerusalem, give them a new ruler and make them again his people while judging the godless.

Chapter 30 – Restoration



Key verse

“Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you.

For behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the Lord, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it.”

(Jer 30:2,3 ESV)

“Their prince shall be one of themselves; their ruler shall come out from their midst; I will make him draw near, and he shall approach me, for who would dare of himself to approach me? declares the Lord.”

(Jer 30:21)

Core message

- The fruit of discipline and repentance is restoration as God’s people.
- Through discipline and suffering the true ruler, Jesus, is revealed.

Chapter 31 – Return

Overview

	Return of Israel and Judah
31:2-6	The Lord wants to restore Israel
31:7-9	Israel will return from the North
31:10-14	And from the coastlands far away
31:15-17	The Lord comforts Rachel from Ramah
31:18-19	The Lord has compassion on Ephraim.
31:21-23	The Lord calls Israel to return to its cities
31:24-26	Judah will be inhabited again
31:27-28	Israel and Judah will be inhabited again
31:29-30	Everyone must bear his own sin
31:31-34	A new covenant
31:35-40	The Lord's salvation is steadfast as will be the rebuilt city of God.

Summary

The Lord has compassion on Israel (the ten tribes of the northern kingdom) and will return him to its cities from the North and far coastlands. The Lord will also return Judah to its cities.

Then he will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah. In the new Covenant the Law will be given into their heart.

Chapter 31 – Return

Key verse

““This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

(Jer 31:33 NIV)

Core message

- God not only wants to save Judah, but all Israel. God’s heart is to return all people back to him. God want’s to save the whole world until the far coastlands.
- There will be a new universal covenant based on the law of God put in the minds and hearts of people.



Chapter 32 – Hope



Overview

	Jeremiah Buys a Field During the Siege
32:1	Zedekiah's reign, 10 th year Nebuchadnezzar, 18 th year
32:2a	Jerusalem under siege
32:2b-5	Jeremiah captive in the palace of the king
32:6-10	Jeremiah buys a field by the Lord's order
32:11-15	Jeremiah orders Baruch to preserve the sealed deeds in an earthenware vessel
32:16-25	Jeremiah inquires the Lord why he should buy the field when Jerusalem will fall soon
32:26-35	Jerusalem will definitely fall
32:36-41	The Lord will bring them back and will make a new covenant.
32:42-44	Fields shall be bought for money again

Summary

These are the last days of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is under siege by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Defeat and destruction is only a question of time.

Jeremiah is held captive in the palace of king Zedekiah. In these end times the Lord orders him to buy a field from his relative. Jeremiah orders Baruch to preserve the purchase contract in an earthenware vessel for enduring preservation.

It is a sign of hope in dire circumstances that once Judah and Jerusalem will be rebuilt and that once again fields will be bought in a new Jerusalem under a new covenant.

Chapter 32 – Hope

Key verse

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time.

For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.’”

(Jer 32:14,15 ESV)

Core message

- In the most dire circumstances we can do hopeful deeds of faith by faith in God’s promises.
- Kingdoms and congregations fall. But God will restore his kingdom once again. We may preserve our deeds and words of faith in earthenware vessels.





Chapter 33 – David’s covenant

Overview

	Promise of Restoration
33:1	Jeremiah hold captive in the king’s court
33:2-5	The Lord will tell great and hidden things
33:6-9	The Lord will restore the city as she was in the beginning and also cleanse it from sins
33:10-11	Joyful and thankful voices will be heard again
33:12-13	Shepherds and flocks will pass again
	The eternal Covenant with David
33:14-16	A righteous branch of David
33:17	Never lack a man on the throne of Israel
33:18	Never lack a man to offer burnt offerings
33:19-26	The new covenant is steadfast as the law of day and night

Summary

This is God’s second answer to Jeremiah’s inquiry in chapter 32.

God will restore Juda.

God will fulfill its promise with the house of David. A righteous branch will sprout from David’s line who will be called “The Lord is our righteousness.” Juda will never lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel and a man to offer burnt offerings. This promise is ultimately fulfilled by Jesus Christ, who is king and high priest in one person.

Chapter 33 – David's covenant



Key verse

“In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

(Jer 33:15,16 ESV)

Core message

- God himself fulfills his promise to save his people while his people have utterly failed.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to David. In him we are saved and righteous despite our sins.
- This “Covenant with David” is eternal like the covenant with day and night.



Chapter 34 – False repentance



Overview

	Covenant broken to freed slaves
34:1	The Lord's word to Zedekiah while Jerusalem was under siege by king Nebuchadnezzar
34:2-5	Jerusalem will be burned and Zedekiah taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, but die in piece, if he hears the Lord's word.
35:6-7	Jerusalem under siege, only Lachish and Azekah left of the fortified cities
35:8-16	The Lord's word to Zedekiah because of broken covenant to freed slaves.
35:17-22	Because Zedekiah and his people have broken the covenant of the release of slave the Lord will bring the armies of Babylon back to Jerusalem for judgement.

Summary

Jeremiah warns Zedekiah that Jerusalem will be burnt, but that he can die in piece in Babylon if he hears the Lord's word.

It seems like that Zedekiah under the impression of imminent defeat made a covenant to release the Hebrew slaves that pleased God. But as soon as the armies of Babylon retreat he and his people break and undo their covenant.

As a consequence, the Lord announces through Jeremiah that he will bring back the armies of Babylon to Jerusalem, this time for final judgement.

Chapter 34 – False repentance



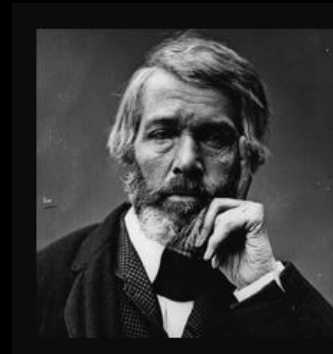
Key verse

“You recently repented and did what was right in my eyes by proclaiming liberty, each to his neighbor, and you made a covenant before me in the house that is called by my name, but then you turned around and profaned my name when each of you took back his male and female slaves, whom you had set free according to their desire, and you brought them into subjection to be your slaves.”

(Jer 34:15,16 ESV)

Core message

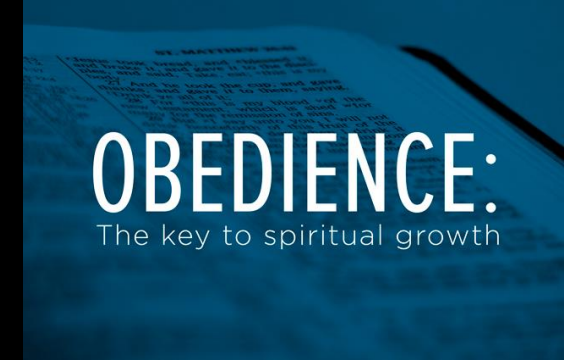
- Repentance is pleasing to God and is the first step of salvation.
- But false repentance is followed by God’s righteous judgement.



Of all acts of man repentance is the most divine. The greatest of all faults is to be conscious of none.

~ Thomas Carlyle

Chapter 35 – Obedience



Overview

	The Obedience of the Rechabites
35:1	The Lord's word to Jeremiah during Jehoiakim's reign
35:2-5	Jeremiah to offer the Rechabites wine
35:6-11	The Rechabites deny drinking wine in obedience to their ancestor Jonadab
35:12-16	The disobedience of the people of Judah and Jerusalem is highlighted by the obedience of the Rechabites.
35:17	Calamity will come upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their disobedience
35:18	The Lord honors the obedience of the Rechabites.

Summary

During the reign of king Jehoiakim Jeremiah is to test the Rechabites, who have come to Jerusalem for shelter from the advancing armies of the Chaldeans, by offering them to drink wine.

The Rechabites refuse to drink wine in obedience to the commands of their ancestor Jonadab.

The obedience of the Rechabites highlights the disobedience of Judah and Jerusalem even more.

The Lord promises to punish the disobedience of Judah and Jerusalem and to honor the obedience of the Rechabites.

Chapter 35 – Obedience

OBEDIENCE:

The key to spiritual growth

Key verse

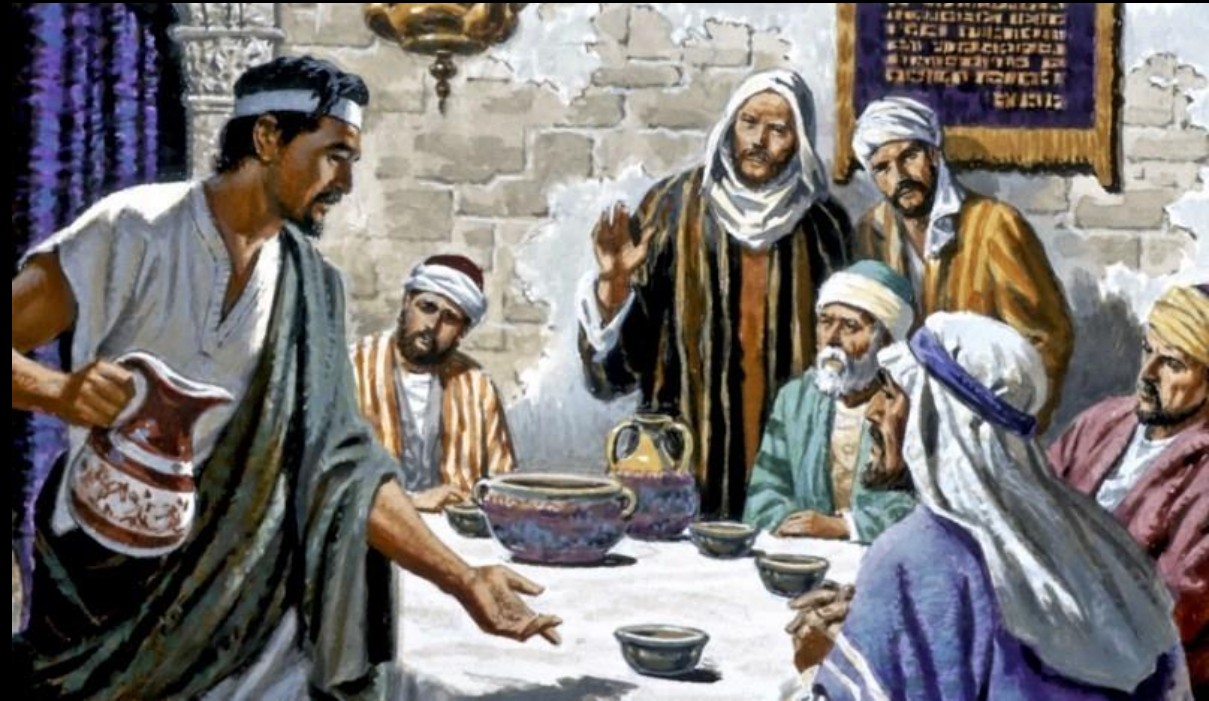
“But to the house of the Rechabites Jeremiah said, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Because you have obeyed the command of Jonadab your father and kept all his precepts and done all that he commanded you,

therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Jonadab the son of Rechab shall never lack a man to stand before me.””

(Jer 35:18,19 ESV)

Core message

- God honors obedience. In the end, God also punishes disobedience.



Chapter 36

Overview

	Jehoiakim burns Jeremiah's Scroll
36:1	Jehoiakim's reign, 4 th year
36:2-3	Jeremiah is to write all his words into a scroll
36:4	Baruch writes the scroll of Jeremiah
36:5-7	Jeremiah orders Baruch to read the scroll on a day of fasting since he is banned
36:8-10	Baruch reads the scroll during a day of fasting in the fifth year, ninth month in the temple
36:11-13	Micaiah reports Baruch's reading to the king's officials.
36:14-15	The officials send Jehudi to bring Baruch

Summary

During Jehoiakim's reign Jeremiah is banned from the temple. Therefore, he is to write all the words of warning into a scroll, which is done by Baruch. Baruch is to read the words of Jeremiah in the temple.

Baruch's reading of Jeremiah's words is reported to the king's officials and finally to the king himself.

King Jehoiakim hears the words of the scroll, but burns the scroll while hearing. Therefore, the Lord will bring all the words of the scroll over him.

Jeremiah lets Baruch write a new scroll.



Chapter 36

Overview

	Jehoiakim burns Jeremiah's Scroll (cont'd)
36:16-19	The officials tell Baruch and Jeremiah to hide after hearing the words of the scroll
36:20-23	Jehoiakim burns the scroll while it is read to him
36:24-26	Jehoiakim wants to seize Jeremiah and Baruch, but they are hidden.
36:27-28	Jeremiah is to write a new scroll
36:29-31	Jeremiah announces God's judgement over Jehoiakim and his officials
36:32	Baruch writes a new scroll

Summary

During Jehoiakim's reign Jeremiah is banned from the temple. Therefore, he is to write all the words of warning into a scroll, which is done by Baruch. Baruch is to read the words of Jeremiah in the temple.

Baruch's reading of Jeremiah's words is reported to the king's officials and finally to the king himself.

King Jehoiakim hears the words of the scroll, but burns the scroll while hearing. Therefore, the Lord will bring all the words of the scroll over him.

Jeremiah lets Baruch write a new scroll.



Chapter 36 – Baruch's scroll

Key verse

“Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today.

It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the disaster that I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.”

(Jer 36:2,3 ESV)

Core message

- Our task is to proclaim God's message by any means.
- Everybody will hear the word of God. But not everybody will accept it.
- The word of God cannot be suppressed. It survives its oppressors and its words become true.



Chapter 37 – Imprisonment



Overview

	Jeremiahs Imprisonment
	Zedekiah's reign
37:1-5	Zedekiah becomes king of Judah and inquires to Jeremiah for a word of the Lord after the Chaldeans have moved from Jerusalem before the army of Pharaoh.
37:6-11	Zedekiah must not be lulled in a sense of false security. Pharaoh will return to his country and the Chaldeans will come back and burn Jerusalem.
37:11-16	Jeremiah is accused of defecting to the Chaldeans and imprisoned.
37:17	Zedekiah asks for a word of the Lord in secrecy, Jeremiah's message unchanged.

Summary

Zedekiah has come to power after Conja is deported to Babylon. Jeremiah is well known to the kings of Judah. Zedekiah asks Jeremiah for a good word of the Lord.

Jeremiah warns Zedekiah not to be lulled in a false sense of security since the Egyptians will not stop the Chaldeans who will ultimately burn Jerusalem.

Jeremiah is imprisoned so that he may not defect to the Chaldeans. The time of his sufferings begin. But despite his suffering he does not change his message.

Chapter 37 – Imprisonment



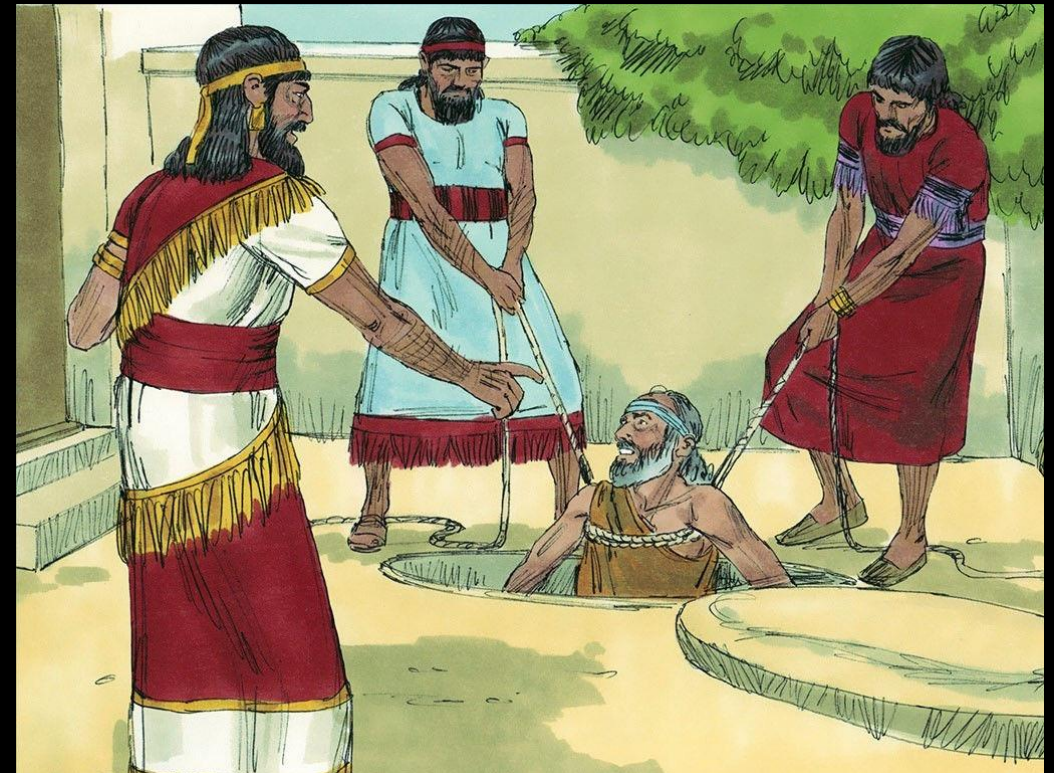
Key verse

“King Zedekiah sent for him and received him. The king questioned him secretly in his house and said, “Is there any word from the Lord?” Jeremiah said, “There is.” Then he said, “You shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon.””

(Jer 37:17 ESV)

Core message

- Even in the time of suffering we must not change our message.





Chapter 38 – Last call

Overview

	Zedekiah's reign
	Jeremiah rescued
38:1-6	Jeremiah is cast into the cistern of Malchiah to die with the king's permission
38:7-12	Jeremiah is saved from death by Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, who inquired for Jeremiah to the king
	Jeremiah's last meeting with Zedekiah
38:14-28	Last meeting between Jeremiah and Zedekiah: Jeremiah urges to king to surrender to the king of Babylon to save himself and the city.

Summary

It is the last days of Jerusalem. The city is under siege by the Chaldeans. There is no bread in the city anymore.

Some officials, including Pashur, want to kill Jeremiah, and throw him into the cistern of Malchiah to die. Was is not for Ebed-Melech who saved him from the cistern he would not have witnessed the defeat of Jerusalem.

In the last meeting between Jeremiah and Zedekiah the prophet urges the king to surrender to the king of Babylon to save himself, his family and the city.

Chapter 38 – Last call



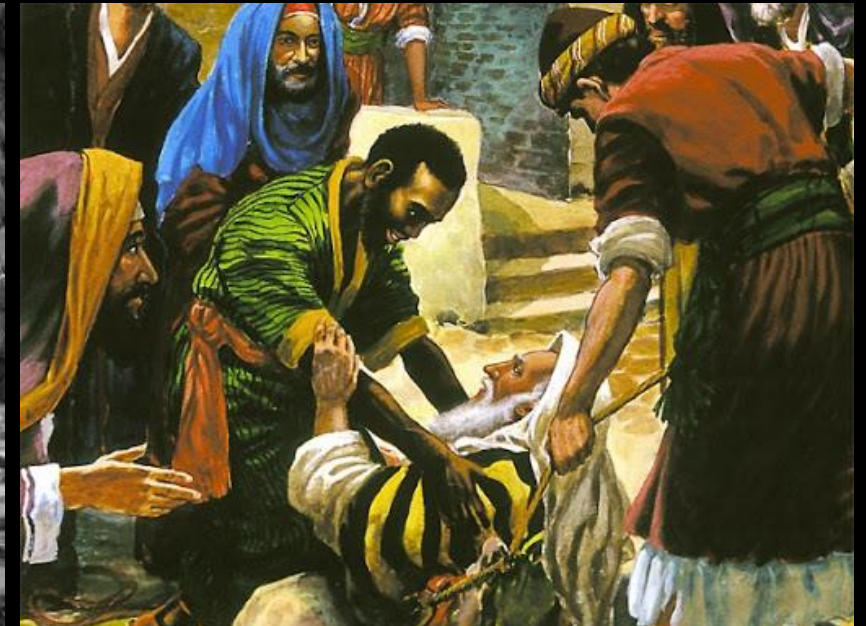
Key verse

“Jeremiah said, “You shall not be given to them. Obey now the voice of the Lord in what I say to you, and it shall be well with you, and your life shall be spared.”

(Jer 38:20 ESV)

Core message

- There is no other way than to obey the voice of the Lord for salvation.
- There are not endless chances to hear and obey the voice of the Lord. We must not miss the last call.



Chapter 39 – Fall & Deliverance



Overview

	The Fall of Jerusalem
	Zedekiah's reign, the end
39:1-3	Jerusalem's walls are breached after 18 months of siege.
39:4-5a	Zedekiah's unsuccessful attempt of escape; taken to N in Riblah, Hamath
39:5b-7	Zedekiah sentenced by Nebuchadnezzar, blinded and taken captive to Babylon
39:8	Jerusalem burned, its wall teared down
39:9-10	The remaining citizens deported to Babylon, only a few left
39:11-14	J freed by the personal decree of N.
39:14-18	Ebed-Melech promised freedom

Summary

After 18 months of siege the walls of Jerusalem are breached and the city is conquered by the Chaldeans.

Jerusalem and king Zedekiah receive their judgement as foretold countless times by Jeremiah.

Jerusalem is burnt and its walls teared down and its inhabitants deported. Zedekiah is taken captive to Babylon after he must witness the slaughter of his sons and nobles with his last eye sight.

Jeremiah is rescued. The Lord remembers the good deeds of Ebed-Melech and has also prepared deliverance for him.

Chapter 39 – Fall & Deliverance

Key verse

“But I will deliver you on that day, declares the Lord, and you shall not be given into the hand of the men of whom you are afraid.

For I will surely save you, and you shall not fall by the sword, but you shall have your life as a prize of war, because you have put your trust in me, declares the Lord.’”

(Jer 39:17,18 ESV)

Core message

- Those who do not listen to God until the end experience God’s righteous judgement.
- Those who put their trust in God will be saved like Jeremiah and Ebed-Melech.



Chapter 40 – Survivors

Overview

	Jeremiah Remains in Judah
	Gedaliah's governorship
40:1	Jeremiah spared from deportation in Ramah
40:2-6	Jeremiah goes to Gedaliah in Mizpa
40:3-10	The remaining soldiers gather in Mizpa
40:11-12	The remaining people of Judah returned to Judah
40:13-16	Gedaliah warned of his own murder, but he does not believe it.

Summary

Jeremiah is saved from deportation by Nebuzaradan when they are already in Ramah.

After the conquest and destruction of Jerusalem Nebuchadnezzar has appointed Gedaliah as governor for Judah. Jeremiah returns to stay in Mizpah as well as many of the remaining captains and soldiers and many other people of Judah.



Chapter 40 – Survivors

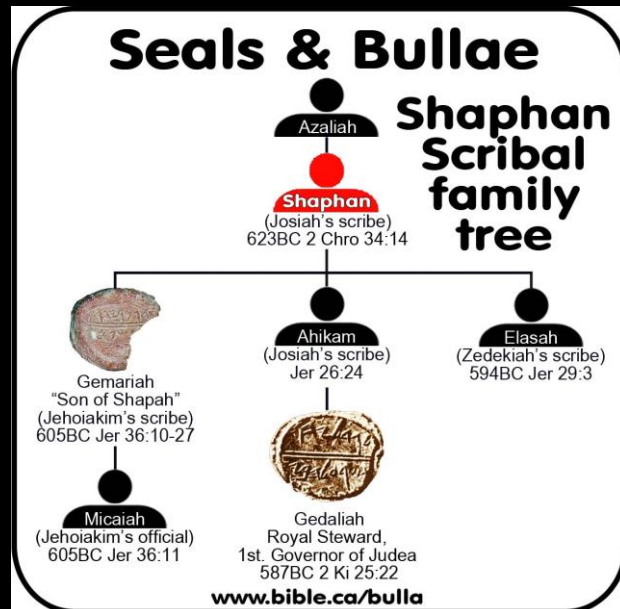
Key verse

“Then Jeremiah went to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, at Mizpah, and lived with him among the people who were left in the land.”

(Jer 40:6 ESV)

Core message

- Those who listen to God’s words and honor his prophets will survive judgement day as remnants.



From Bad To Worse

Chapter 41 – Worse

Overview

	Gedaliah Murdered
	Gedaliah's governorship
41:1-3	Ishmael murders Gedaliah, many Judeans and Chaldean soldiers
41:4-8	Ishmael also murders eighty men from cities from the former northern kingdom who came to repent
41:9-10	Ishmael flees from Mizpah
41:11-15	Johanan pursues Ishmael, recapturing all people
41:16-18	Johanan intends to move to Egypt for fear of the Chaldeans.

Summary

The remnants of Judah under Gedaliah cannot live in peace. Ishmael murders Gedaliah, many Judeans, Chaldean soldiers and innocent people.

Johanan can rescue the people from Mizpah from Ishmael, but out of fear for the wrath of the Chaldeans he intends to move to Egypt.

Chapter 41 – Worse

From Bad To Worse

Key verse

“And they went and stayed at Geruth Chimham near Bethlehem, intending to go to Egypt because of the Chaldeans. For they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.”

(Jer 41:17,18 ESV)

Core message

- Sometimes things get even worse. Nonetheless we must trust and obey God more than fear.



Chapter 42 – Remain



Overview

	Gedaliah Murdered
	Flight to Egypt
42:1-4	The remaining Judeans ask Jeremiah for God's direction
42:5-6	They promise obedience
42:7-8	After ten days Jeremiah receives the Lord's directions
42:10-12	Remaining in the land means the Lord's mercy
42:13-17	Going to Egypt means death
42:18-22	Jeremiah warns the remaining Judeans not to go to Egypt.

Summary

The remaining Judeans ask Jeremiah for the Lord's direction on their intent to expatriate to Egypt.

After ten days Jeremiah is able to give them the Lord's direction. He warns them strongly, not to move to Egypt. To move to Egypt is to ignite the Lord's wrath again. To remain in Judah by trusting in the Lord is the way to his mercy.

Chapter 42 – Remain



Key verse

“Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid. Do not fear him, declares the Lord, for I am with you, to save you and to deliver you from his hand.

I will grant you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and let you remain in your own land.”

(Jer 42:11,12 ESV)

Core message

- We must remain in the land God has set us in trusting in God who can deliver us from all threat and evil.
- Running away out of fear is the way of doom.



Chapter 43

Overview

	Jeremiah Taken to Egypt
	Flight to Egypt
43:1-3	The Judeans accuse Nehemiah and Baruch of lying
43:4-7	They disobeyed the Lord, moving to Egypt and taking everyone with them including Nehemiah and Baruch
43:8-13	In Tahpanhes, Jeremiah prophesies the conquest of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar

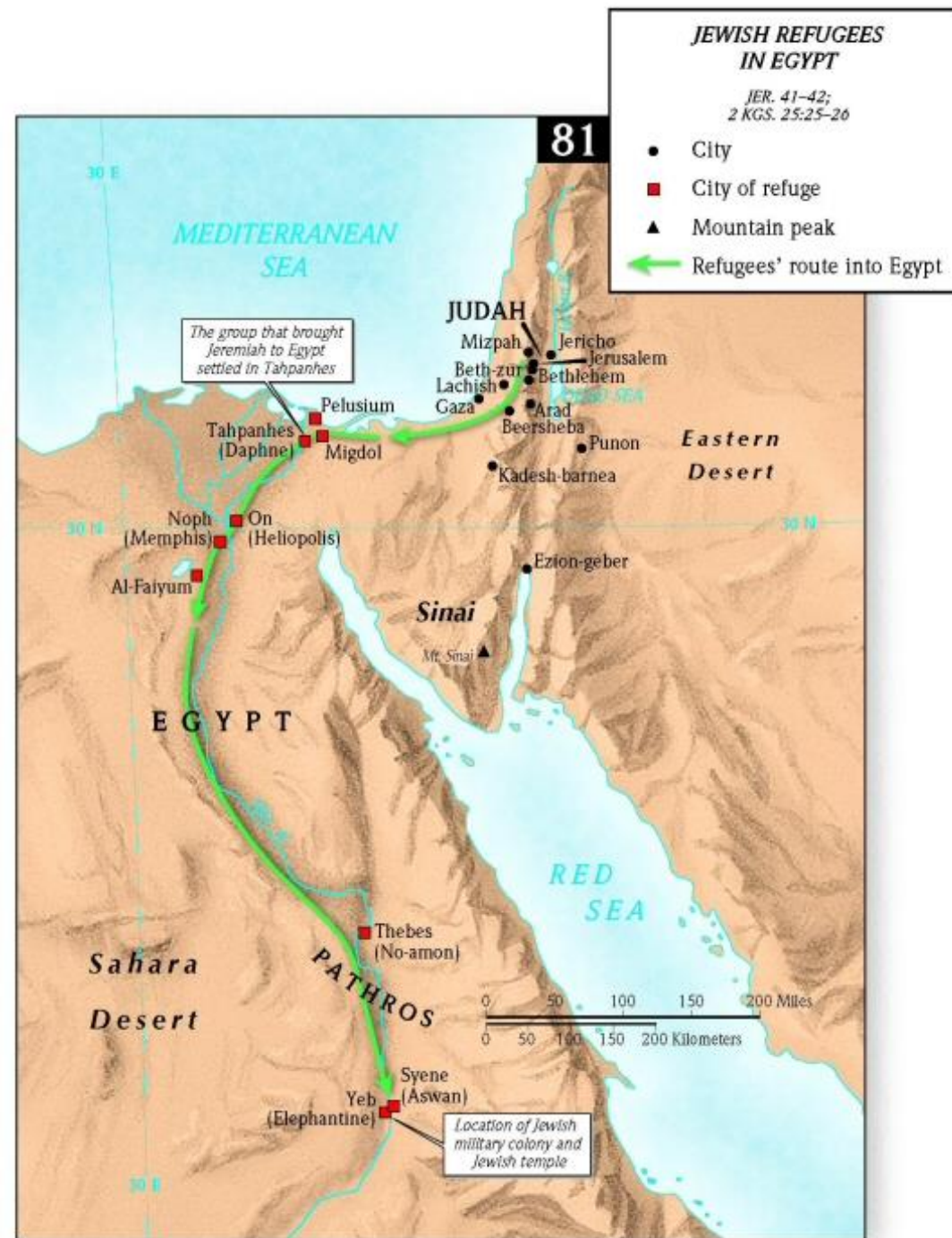
Summary

Despite their promise to obey the direction of the Lord regardless of it being pleasing or not the remaining Judeans move to Egypt in disobedience to the Lord's direction. They have learned nothing from the Lord's judgement over the kings of Judah and Jerusalem.

Jeremiah and Baruch are also taken to Egypt against their will.

In Tahpanhes, Jeremiah prophesies Egypt's conquest and punishment by Nebuchadnezzar.

Chapter 43



Chapter 43

Key verse

“And they came into the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of the Lord. And they arrived at Tahpanhes.”

(Jer 43:7 ESV)

Core message

- Disobedience and not learning from the mistakes is the seed to God’s continuous judgement.

Chapter 44 – Idolatry

Overview

	Judgment for Idolatry
	Flight to Egypt
44:1	Jeremiah's word to all Judeans in Egypt (Migdol, Tahpanhes, Memphis, Pathros)
44:2-6	Remember Jerusalem's fall
44:7-10	But also the remaining Judeans serve other gods having learnt nothing
44:11-14	The remaining Judeans will be eradicated
44:15-19	Judeans: Worship of the queen of heaven gave us bread
44:20-23	Jeremiah: Worship of the queen of heaven was the cause of all evil
44:24-28	All men of Judah in Egypt shall die
44:29-30	Pharaoh Hophra will suffer Zedekiah's fate

Summary

Jeremiah warns the remaining people of Judah in Egypt not to in worship of the queen of heaven since this has been the reason for the downfall of Judah and Jerusalem.

But the remaining Judeans have learnt nothing from God's judgement over Jerusalem. They, especially their women, are determined to worship the queen of heaven by queer logic.

Jeremiah does not cease to tell them the Lord's consequent judgement over Judah and Egypt. The remaining Judeans will be reduced to a very few. Pharaoh Hophra will suffer Zedekiah's fate.



Chapter 44 – Idolatry

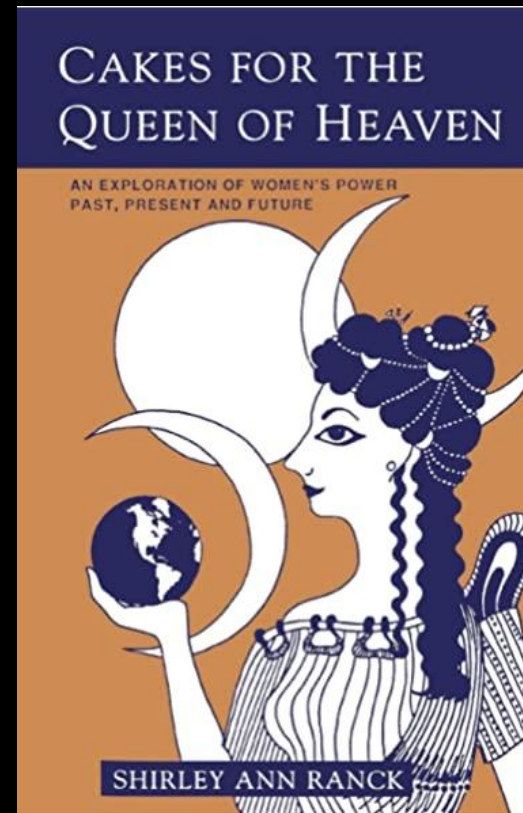
Key verse

“It is because you made offerings and because you sinned against the Lord and did not obey the voice of the Lord or walk in his law and in his statutes and in his testimonies that this disaster has happened to you, as at this day.”

(Jer 44:23 ESV)

Core message

- Idol worshipping brings disaster, but unfortunately history repeats itself.



Chapter 45 – Prize

Overview

	Word of comfort to Baruch
45:1	Jehoiakim's reign, 4 th year
45:2	The Lord speaks to Baruch
45:3	Baruch full of sorrow and pain
45:4	God tears down his own land
45:5	Baruch shall not seek great things for himself, but will retain his life wherever he goes.

Summary

Baruch is Jeremiah's aide, servant, and writer (who followed Jeremiah even to Egypt). He is also full of sorrow and pain.

The Lord knows his sorrow and pain and takes care of him. The Lord's best message to him is to make clear that God will tear down his own land. Baruch shall not seek great things for himself, since all things of the flesh are doomed, but he will gain his life as a prize of war, wherever he goes.



Chapter 45 – Prize

Key verse

“Should you then seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them. For I will bring disaster on all people, declares the Lord, but wherever you go I will let you escape with your life.’ ”

(Jer 45:5 NIV)

Core message

- In the end times we shall not seek great things, since all flesh is doomed.
- But we will retain our life wherever we go.



Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

— Theodore Roosevelt —

www.jewishhistory.org › ezra-and-nehemiah ▼

Ezra and Nehemiah « Jewish History

As the primary **disciple of Baruch** the son of Neriah (who had been the primary **disciple** of Jeremiah), he remained by the side of his great teacher in Babylon ...

Chapter 46

Overview

	Judgement against Egypt
46:1	The Lord's word to Jeremiah concerning all nations.
46:2-12	Egypt under Pharaoh Neco defeated at Carchemish by Nebuchadnezzar
46:13-26	Egypt will be invaded and delivered into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, but continue to be inhabited.
46:27-28	After the Lord has punished all the nations, Israel will be restored.

Summary

Chapters 46-51 are the Lord's words of judgement against the nations surrounding Judah including Babylon itself, starting with Egypt.

Egypt is the traditional protector power of Judah that is relied upon by Judah and its surrounding nations against the northern invaders.

But God will judge Egypt. They have already suffered defeat by Nebuchadnezzar at the battle of Carchemish and lost their dominion over the levant.

Moreover, Egypt itself will be invaded and conquered. But in contrast to Judah it will continue to be inhabited.



Chapter 46

Key verse

“The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, said:
“Behold, I am bringing punishment upon Amon
of Thebes, and Pharaoh and Egypt and her gods
and her kings, upon Pharaoh and those who
trust in him.

I will deliver them into the hand of those who
seek their life, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar
king of Babylon and his officers. Afterward
Egypt shall be inhabited as in the days of old,
declares the Lord.”

(Jer 46:25,26 ESV)

Core message

- God also punishes the idol worshipping in other nations.



Chapter 47

Overview

	Judgement on the Philistines
47:1-7	The Philistines are completely destroyed.

Summary

The Philistines are pagan people that have come to Israel from Caphtor (Crete). They have been a constant enemy to the Israelites.

They will completely perish.

They are not mentioned as a significant power after God's judgement on them.



Chapter 47

Key verse

“For the day has come to destroy all the Philistines and to remove all survivors who could help Tyre and Sidon. The Lord is about to destroy the Philistines, the remnant from the coasts of Caphtor.”

(Jer 47:4 NIV)

Core message

- The Philistines finally perish from history.



The **Philistines** were an ancient people who lived on the south coast of [Canaan](#) from the 12th century BC until 604 BC, when they were exiled to [Mesopotamia](#) by King [Nebuchadnezzar II](#).^[1] They are known for their biblical

Chapter 48

Overview

	Judgement on Moab
48:1-3	Main cities Nebo, Kiriathaim, Heshbon, Madmen, Horonaim destroyed
48:7	Chemosh shall go into exile with his priests and his officials
48:8	All cities, valleys and plains destroyed
48:9	Moab's people deported
48:13	Doomed because of Chemosh worship
48:17-25	Moab completely destroyed.
48:29	Moab is proud and arrogant.
48:42	Moab destroyed as a nation
48:47	The Lord will restore Moab



Summary

Historically, the Moabites are descendants of Lot. They live relatively protected. They are wealthy. They are proud and worship Chemosh, who sometimes requires human child sacrifices.

Moab will be completely destroyed, its people deported, its nation and national identity cease to exist forever.

But God intends to have mercy on Moab again.

Chapter 48

Key verse

“Moab will be destroyed as a nation because she defied the Lord.”

(Jer 48:42 NIV)

“ ‘Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab in days to come,’ declares the Lord. Here ends the judgment on Moab.”

(Jer 48:47)

Core message

- The Moabite nation will cease to exist, but God has a plan for mercy on them.



Chapter 49

Overview

	Judgement on other nations
49:1-6	Judgement on Ammon
49:6	Ammon's fortunes to be restored
49:7-22	Judgement on Edom
49:23-27	Judgement on Damascus
49:28-33	Judgement on Kedar and Hazor
49:34-39	Judgement on Elam
49:39	Elam's fortunes to be restored

Summary

Also the other nations surrounding Judah will be judged.

Of these, Edom, Damascus, Kedar and Hazor seem to be lost forever in history.

But God plans to restore the fortunes of Ammon and Elam (Susiana).

Chapter 49

Key verse

“I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her king and officials,” declares the Lord.

“Yet I will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come,” declares the Lord.”

(Jer 49:38,39 NIV)

Core message

- God is Lord. Nobody can escape God’s judgement. Everyone must face God’s judgement.
- But the purpose of God’s judgement is restoration for those who honor the Lord.

Chapter 49



Chapter 50 – Salvation



Overview

	Judgement on Babylon
50:1	The Lord's word against the Babylon and the Chaldeans
50:2-3	Babylon conquered from the North
50:4-7	This time, the people of Israel and Judah in Babylon will seek the Lord
50:8-10	The land of the Chaldeans conquered
50:11-16	Babylon destroyed, deserted and uninhabited
50:17-18	Babylon punished like Assyria
50:19-20	Israel restored, its sins forgiven
50:21-32	Babylon judged because of her proud
50:33-34	People of Israel and Judah have a strong redeemer

Summary

Chapter 50 – Salvation



Overview

	Judgement on Babylon (cont'd)
50:35-40	Babylon to become desolated like Sodom and Gomorrah because of many idols
50:41-43	People from the north will come. The king of Babel will fall in fear.
50:44	The Lord will come over Babylon like a lion
50:45-46	God's plan over Babylon is made

Summary

Finally Babylon will also experience the Lord's judgement, because of its idol worship and proudness against the Lord.

Babylon and the land of the Chaldeans will be conquered from the people of the North. Babylon will become desolated and uninhabited like Sodom and Gomorrah.

The decline and fall of Babylon is the time where the people of Israel and Judah will seek the Lord earnestly.

When Babylon falls God will return his people to their land.

Chapter 50 – Salvation

Key verse

“I will restore Israel to his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and in Bashan, and his desire shall be satisfied on the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead.

In those days and in that time, declares the Lord, iniquity shall be sought in Israel, and there shall be none, and sin in Judah, and none shall be found, for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.”

(Jer 50:19,20 ESV)

Core message

- Finally, the evil one will be punished and destroyed.
- In the time of judgement we must seek the Lord and renew our relationship with God.
- Those who are faithful until the end will be saved.



Chapter 51 – A new hope



Overview

	Judgement on Babylon
51:1-6	The Lord will take revenge on Babylon
51:7-10	B's judgement reaches up to heaven
51:11-12	The kings of the Medes stirred against B
51:13-14	The Lord has determined B's end
51:15-19	The Lord is truly the great God
51:20-24	B has been the Lord's tool. But the Lord will punish B's evil in Zion
51:25-26	B shall be desolated forever
51:27-28	Many nations will rise against B
51:30-33	B has lost its strength and is ripe
51:34-35	Upon B the violence done to Zion
51:58	B's walls and gates teared down

Summary



Chapter 51 – A new hope



Overview

	Judgement on Babylon
51:36-40	B becomes a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals
51:41-44	B becomes a desert, its walls fall forever
51:45-46	The Lord's people to move out of B
51:47-49	The Lord will punish the idols of B
51:50-51	The Lord's people to move thinking of J
51:52-53	The Lord will punish the idols of B
51:54-57	The Lord will destroy Babylon
51:58	B's walls and gates teared down
51:59-64	Jeremiah gives Seraiah the scroll with all the words against B to be read in B and then to be thrown into the Euphrates as an allegory for the eternal fall of B

Summary

The glory of Babylon was supreme, but also its guilt reached unto heaven. So its downfall will be the most deep. It will be eradicated from the earth and never be rebuilt again.

Prophet Jeremiah has prophesied about the destruction and downfall during the last days of Jerusalem and put this words on a scroll. This scroll is given to Seraiah (brother of Baruch) to be read in Babylon and then to be sunk in the Euphrates.

The words of Jeremiah end here.

Chapter 51 – A new hope



Key verse

“When you finish reading this scroll, tie a stone to it and throw it into the Euphrates.

Then say, ‘So will Babylon sink to rise no more because of the disaster I will bring on her. And her people will fall.’ ” The words of Jeremiah end here.”

(Jer 51:63,64 ESV)



Core message

- The purpose of Jeremiah’s words of judgements on many nations is not wrath, but hope.
- In the darkest crisis of God’s people, there is already planted the seed of salvation and the destruction of the evil one (like in Gen 3:15).
- Ultimately, the gospel of Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God’s salvation seed.
- This world is doomed, but God has entrusted us the seed of new hope through his scroll, the bible.
- This doomed world needs bible teachers and spiritual leaders as seeds of hope.

Chapter 52 – Mercy



Overview

	Fall of Jerusalem
52:1-2	Zedekiah, an evil king for 11 years
52:3	Z rebels against Nebuchadnezzar
52:4-5	N besieges Jerusalem for 18 months
52:6	9 th day, 4 th month (11 th year): No food
52:7-8	City breached, Z flees, but captured at Jericho
52:9	Z brought to N in Riblah (Hamath)
52:10	Z's sons and nobles killed
52:11	Z brought to Babylon, dies in prison
52:12-14	10 th day, 5 th month: the temple and all house of Jerusalem burned, walls teared down

Summary

Chapter 52 – Mercy



Overview

	Fall of Jerusalem (cont'd)
52:15-16	Remaining people deported to B, only a few left to take care of the fields
52:17-23	The temple treasure taken to B
52:24-27	More remaining people, including priests Seraiah and Zephaniah and other officials taken to Riblah and killed.
52:28-30	4600 people deported to B in 3 waves (7 th /18 th /23 rd year of N)
	Jehoiachin released from prison
52:31	Jehoiachin released from prison by Evil-Merodach after 37 years (in prison)
52:32	A seat above all other kings
52:33-34	Jehoiachin dies in piece in B

Summary

Chapter 52 reports the fall of Jerusalem and subsequent events similar to chapter 39, but with completed information beginning with 50:12 ff more similar to 2 Kings 25.

The exact date of the hunger crisis in besieged Jerusalem is given that is the day of breaching in of the Chaldeans.

The release of Jehoiachin, who becomes the 1st exilarch, from prison is reported. Through him the line of David is continued even in exile.

Chapter 52 – Mercy



Key verse

“In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the year Awel-Marduk became king of Babylon, on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month, he released Jehoiachin king of Judah and freed him from prison.

He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat of honor higher than those of the other kings who were with him in Babylon.”

(Jer 52:31,32 NIV)

Core message

- The destruction of Jerusalem and deportation into Babylonian captivity is the most shameful part of the history of his people and God’s hardest training for his people, but ultimately his love.
- God has not forgotten, but remembers his people in captivity and has already prepared a plan for their restoration and return.
- Judah has failed God, but God is faithful. God has not given up on his salvation plan, but faithfully fulfilled his salvation plan through Babylonian captivity finally through fulfilling Jeremiah’s prophesy of the righteous branch for David through Jesus Christ.

Chapter 52 – Mercy



12 And after the deportation to Babylon

Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,^[4]

and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and

Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim

the father of Azor,

14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok

the father of Achim, and Achim the father

of Eliud,

15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and

Eleazar the father of Matthan, and

Matthan the father of Jacob,

16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the hus-

band of Mary, of whom Jesus was born,

who is called **Christ**.

Summary

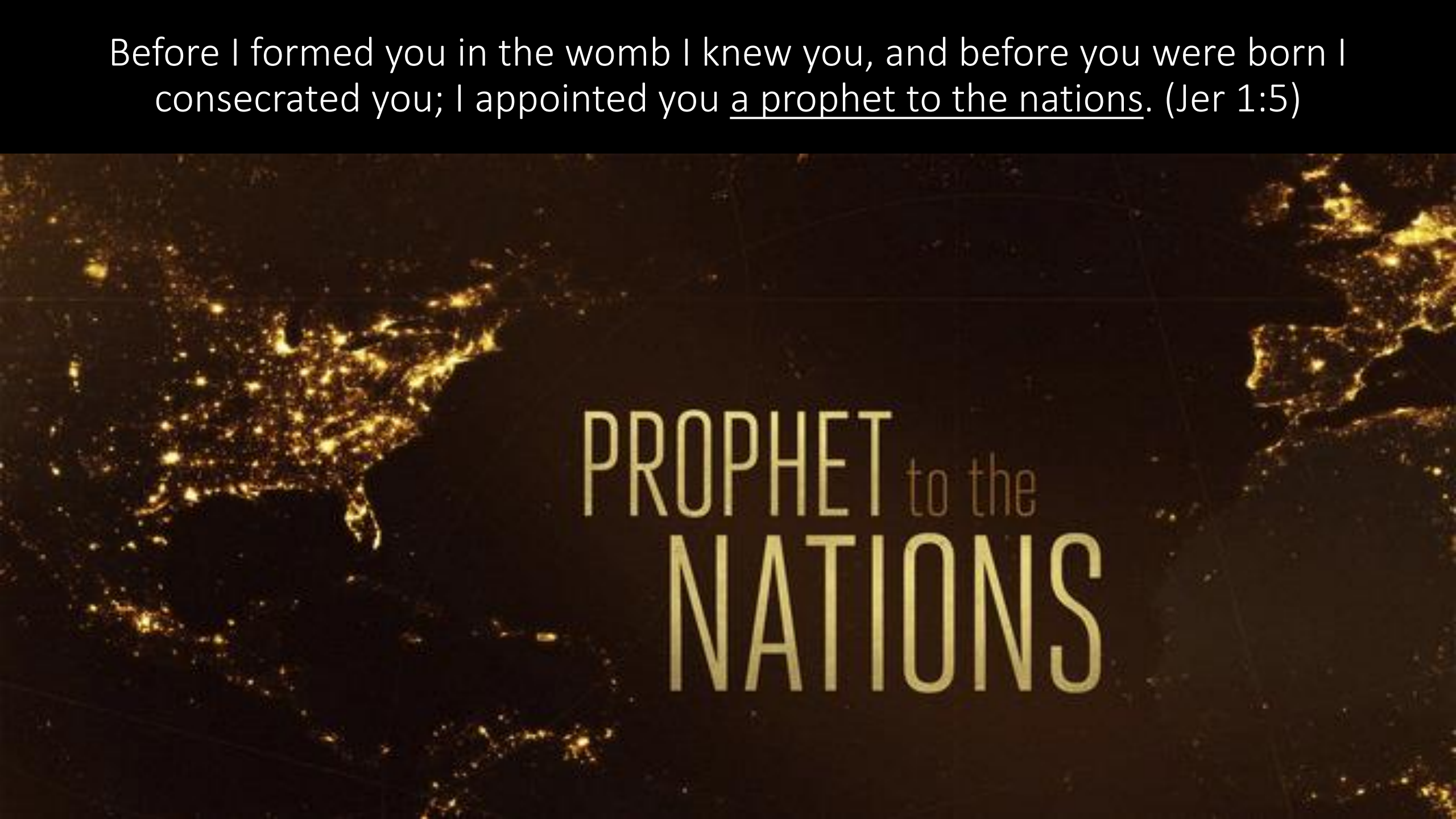
Summary

Take home points

- Repent from following and worshipping idols. It is like adultery. It is the certain path to disaster and judgement.
- Return to God. He is the spring of living water. Serve God by listening and obeying his word. This is the way to be a fruitful tree planted by the water.
- God's heart is to carry out his world salvation plan through Jesus Christ (the righteous branch) and the new covenant (grace and truth) for all nations.
- Babylon (Satan & Antichrist) will be destroyed, God and his people are the final victors.
- These times are darkest times. Our times need prophets. Not false prophets, who just say "Peace, peace". Prophets who speak, plant and live the words of God of repentance, restoration, hope and vision.
- Next generations are called to be prophets to the nations – like a fortified city, an iron pillar, a bronze wall.



Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations. (Jer 1:5)



PROPHET to the
NATIONS