

Jeremiah

What's In a Name?	The name "Jeremiah" (Yirmeyahu) means "the Lord exalts." That name is fitting because hardly anyone listened to Jeremiah over the course of his ministry when he predicted a banishment from the Holy Land for a period of 70 years. They learned during the exile he was right. God exalted Jeremiah. That's why he is in your Bible.
An Extreme Prophet	The prophets as a whole are a rather interesting group of individuals. Most, but not all (Isaiah), lived on the fringes of society. As such, God inspired them to do some extreme things. Isaiah preached naked. Ezekiel laid on his side for days upon end. Hosea married a prostitute. But Jeremiah is known as "the Weeping Prophet." He weeps often in the text because (a) people didn't listen and (b) because Judah was going into captivity. Jeremiah also preached with an ox yoke around his neck to denote the captivity.
When Jeremiah Prophesied	Jeremiah prophesied <u>after</u> the Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to Assyria in 722 BC, but <u>before</u> the Southern Kingdom of Judah fell to Babylon in 587 BC. Jeremiah would go into Babylonian Captivity with Judah. Consequently, he was <u>after</u> Isaiah and a <u>contemporary</u> of Ezekiel in the late 600s and early 500s BC.
Scribe/Prophet Relationship	Jeremiah is a great book for seeing how the scribe/prophet relationship worked. Jeremiah's personal scribe Baruch is mentioned frequently in the book. He wrote down what Jeremiah told him to.
Why Jeremiah Prophesied	Jeremiah prophesied after the death of King Josiah of Judah. Josiah was killed by the Egyptians. As a result, Judah became subject to them. The people of Judah appointed Jehoahaz as their new king, but the Egyptian Pharaoh Necho put his own choice, Jehoiakim, on the throne instead (as a vassal). As a result, the people turned to idolatry rather than the Lord and Jeremiah prophesied judgment that was on the horizon.
Theme	Judgment is assured but a remnant will be preserved
Key Verse	<i>"I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number." (23:3)</i>
The Difficulty of an Outline	Jeremiah is a sporadic book that follows no apparent sequence. Isaiah was easy to break down (Judgment in 1-39 and Grace in 40-66). Jeremiah isn't so easy. For judgment and grace are interwoven throughout the book. As a result, the best thing to do in an introductory outline is to highlight some important themes

Jeremiah is Called and Calls Israel Adulterers (chs 1-6)

The Calling	⁴ The word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew ^[a] you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations"... ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." (1:4-5,10)
The Calling Out	"If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? Would not the land be completely defiled? But you have lived as a prostitute with many lovers—would you now return to me?" declares the Lord" (3:1)
So Disaster Is Coming from the North	"Announce in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem and say: 'Sound the trumpet throughout the land!' Cry aloud and say: Gather together! Let us flee to the fortified cities!' ⁶ Raise the signal to go to Zion! Flee for safety without delay! For I am bringing disaster from the north, even terrible destruction." (4:5-6)

Disaster is Coming for a Number of Reasons

False Religion and Idolatry (chs 7-10)	⁹ "Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, ^[a] burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, "We are safe"—safe to do all these detestable things? ¹¹ Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! Declares the Lord. (7:9-11)
Opposition to the True Prophets (chs 11-15)	¹⁸ Because the Lord revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. ¹⁹ I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." ²⁰ But you, Lord Almighty, who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause. ²¹ Therefore this is what the Lord says about the people of Anathoth who are threatening to kill you, saying, "Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord or you will die by our hands"— ²² therefore this is what the Lord Almighty says: "I will punish them. Their young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters by famine. ²³ Not even a remnant will be left to them, because I will bring disaster on the people of Anathoth in the year of their punishment." (11:18-23)

Listening to False Prophets and Believing Them (chs 21-29)	In the fifth month of that same year, the fourth year, early in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, the prophet <u>Hananiah</u> son of Azzur, who was from Gibeon, said to me in the house of the Lord in the presence of the priests and all the people: ² “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon. ³ <u>Within two years</u> I will bring back to this place all the articles of the Lord’s house that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon removed from here and took to Babylon. ⁴ I will also bring back to this place Jehoiachin ^[a] son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and all the other exiles from Judah who went to Babylon,’ declares the Lord, ‘for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.’” (28:1-4)
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But I Know the Plans I Have for You, Says the Lord (Not What You Think) – ch 29	
Was a Born Out of a Response to False Prophecy	⁸ Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. ⁹ They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the Lord. (29:8-9)
It Won’t Be 2 Years. It Will Be 70.	¹⁰ This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. (29:10)
In that Time of Captivity, I Know the Plans I Have for You	¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. ^[b] I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.” (29:11-14)

God Will Restore His People After that 70 Years – chs 30-33	
Jeremiah Buys a Field	⁶ Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me: ⁷ Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative it is your right and duty to buy it.’ (32:6-7)
The Remnant Will Return and the Lord Will Restore	“Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; his love endures forever.” For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before,’ says the Lord. ¹² “This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘In this place, desolate and without people or animals—in all its towns there will again be pastures for shepherds to rest their flocks. ¹³ In the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem and in the towns of Judah, flocks will again pass under the hand of the one who counts them,’ says the Lord. ¹⁴ “‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. (33:11-14)

The Nations Won’t Get Away with Their Evil, Either (chs 46-51)	
² “Announce and proclaim among the nations, lift up a banner and proclaim it; keep nothing back, but say, ‘Babylon will be captured; Bel will be put to shame, Marduk filled with terror. Her images will be put to shame and her idols filled with terror.’ ³ A nation from the north will attack her and lay waste her land. No one will live in it; both people and animals will flee away. (50:2-3)	
**These chapters are important because they show what will happen to those nations who lifted up their hands against Judah (Egypt, Philistines, Babylonians, etc).	

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What Jeremiah Predicted Happened (
Gone	So Judah went into captivity, away from her land. ²⁸ This is the number of the people Nebuchadnezzar carried into exile: in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews; ²⁹ in Nebuchadnezzar’s eighteenth year, 832 people from Jerusalem; ³⁰ in his twenty-third year, 745 Jews taken into exile by Nebuzaradan the commander of the imperial guard. There were 4,600 people in all.
Promised Land King Now a Vassal (Haunting Last Words)	³³ So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes and for the rest of his life ate regularly at the king’s table. ³⁴ Day by day the king of Babylon gave Jehoiachin a regular allowance as long as he lived, till the day of his death. (52:33-34)