

A WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE
JEREMIAH and LAMENTATIONS

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The prophet Jeremiah

From Anathoth---4 miles north of Jerusalem

Ministry restrictions

No marriages or children (16:2)

No funerals (16: 5)

No parties or feasts (16: 8)

Known as “weeping prophet” (9: 1-3)

Misunderstood and persecuted because of the unpopularity of his message

Temple sermon almost gets him killed (26)

Imprisoned because he is believed to be a traitor (38: 1-13)

When Jerusalem falls, he is given a choice regarding his desire to live; he stays in Jerusalem to minister to those who are left

Eventually ends up in Egypt and it is believed he died there

Ably assisted by faithful friend and disciple named Baruch

Assistance offered by Ethiopian named Ebedmelech (38: 1-13; 39: 11-18) shows again the absence of color prejudice during biblical times and the active participation of African people in the life and times of the scriptures

Book of Jeremiah

One of the longest books in the scriptures, after the Psalms

Context of Jeremiah’s prophecy is one of the most critical and tumultuous times in the history of God’s people

Chapters:

1-10: 25, Prophet’s call and words of judgment

11: 1-20:18, Laments and Prophecies concerning judgment

21: 1-25: 38, Words against kings and prophets

26: 1-36: 32, Words and actions of comfort and hope (possibly written by Baruch)

37: 1-45: 5, The last days of a kingdom (possibly written by Baruch)

46: 1-51: 64, Oracles against ancient nations

52: 1-34, Destruction of Jerusalem

Major Themes

The call of God can be burdensome as well as fulfilling

Loneliness of call

Misunderstanding of both motives of messenger and intent of message

God’s word is about correction as well as comfort; judgment for disobedience as well as rewards for faithfulness

God’s word will be kept and fulfilled in time

Even in the most dire times, God’s word always offers hope

God does great things with remnants

LAMENTATIONS

About Lamentations

Authorship is attributed to Jeremiah although he is not named within the text

Suggested writing date around 586 BC

Important source of information about the terrible conditions in Jerusalem and Judah after the Babylonian invasion

A highly structured form of poetry in which each chapter with the exception of chapter 3 has exactly 22 verses. Chapter 3 has 66 verses (3 times 22)

Outline of Lamentations

Chapters:

1. Jerusalem's affliction
2. God's anger
3. Jeremiah's agony
4. God's anguish
5. Jerusalem's prayer and appeal

Lessons from Lamentations

Disobedience brings anguish to both God and God's people

God's faithfulness is our bright star of hope in the midst of life's darkest midnights (3: 22-26)

We must never allow the bitterness of our situation to blot out communion and conversation with God through prayer