

# OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

## PERIOD SEVEN

### LAST DAYS OF JUDAH - JEREMIAH, LAMENTATIONS

#### LESSON 34

*In this lesson we want to learn about Jeremiah*

- *Who he was.*
- *When he lived.*
- *The books he wrote and their outlines.*
- *The work of Jeremiah.*
- *The messages to the people of Judah.*
- *His suffering and sorrow.*
- *The prophecies of the Messiah.*

Time	PERIOD SEVEN	JUDAH
Main thought	LAST DAYS OF JUDAH AS A KINGDOM	
Chapters that tell of this part	2 Kings 18:1 2 Chronicles 10:1	to to 2 Kings 25:30 2 Chronicles 36:16
What this part tells about	931 BC Southern Kingdom - Judah - Rehoboam to . . . . Judah lasted 350 years.	586 BC end of Jerusalem
	<p><b>Government of Judah</b></p> <p>19 kings, they all belong to the family of David.</p> <p><b>Way of Living</b></p> <p>They all lived about the same, none were very poor, and none were very rich. They had a simple way of living.</p>	<p><b>Religion</b></p> <p>Little by little the people turned from God - then they came back to God as the prophets brought them back to God.</p> <p><b>Prophets</b></p> <p>850 - 700 - Joel, Isaiah, Micah, - Obadiah 700 - 600 BC - Jeremiah, Zephaniah, - Nahum, Habakkuk</p>

JUDAH	Jehoahaz    Jehoiachin										
King	Josiah			Jehoiakim	Zedekiah	Judah in exile in Babylon					
Prophet	Nahum		Ezekiel								
Prophet		Habakkuk		Daniel							
Prophet		Jeremiah									
BC	630	620	610	600	590	580	570	560	550	540	530
Prophet											
Prophet											
King	Israel in exile in Assyria										
ISRAEL											

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The people sinned more after Josiah, king of Judah, died. Their sin was so great that the Lord had to punish them. The Lord let Nebuchadnezzar take Jerusalem. He took all the important people of Jerusalem to Babylon. It was a time of great sorrow for the people of Judah.

Jeremiah told the people of Judah, "Accept the Lord's punishment. Obey King Nebuchadnezzar." The people did not listen to Jeremiah. They went to Egypt. They took Jeremiah with them.

**2. THE MAN JEREMIAH**

The name Jeremiah means "the Lord appoints." This means that the Lord had a definite time when He would punish Judah. It means the Lord would do what He said He would do. He would punish Judah in His chosen time.

Jeremiah was chosen to be a prophet before he was born (Jeremiah 1:5).

Jeremiah is called the weeping prophet. He had great sorrow over the sins of the people of Judah.

Jeremiah started to prophesy during the 13th year King Josiah ruled (Jeremiah 1:2; 25:3). He started to prophesy just before the "book of the law of the Lord" was found in the temple.

Jeremiah also prophesied during the time King Jehoiakim and King Zedekiah ruled.

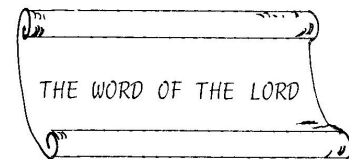
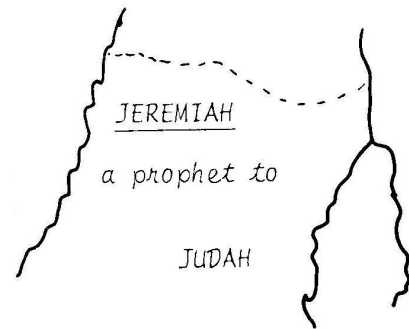
Jehoahaz and Jehoiachin ruled for a very short time while Jeremiah prophesied. Jeremiah prophesied for about 40 years. Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Ezekiel and Daniel also prophesied during part of this time.

**Jeremiah prophesied to the people of Judah.** The Lord told Jeremiah, *"The people will not listen to you. They will even fight against you,"* (Jeremiah 1:18,19).

Jeremiah was like the Apostle Paul. He was not afraid to preach the Word of the Lord. He was beaten and put into prison for what he said. Yet, he kept on preaching.

Jeremiah wrote the book of Lamentations to tell of his sorrow over the sin of the people of Judah. Jeremiah said, "the Word of the Lord" many times in his messages. He used many picture words in his messages. Sometimes he acted out his messages.

Jeremiah told of his visions. He told more about things that happened to himself than the other prophets did.



## 2. THE BOOK JEREMIAH

### A. Outline of the book.

We cannot outline the book of Jeremiah by the **time** things happened. Baruch wrote for Jeremiah. He did not write down the things that happened **when** they happened. Example: The things written in chapters 35,36 happened before those written in chapters 27 through 34. Why the book was written this way is not known. Some believe parts of the book were written at different times and were put together later. We know that part of the book had been burned by Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 36:20-26). Jeremiah was told to write the same words down again and to add to them (Jeremiah 36:28,29).

The book of Jeremiah seems to be divided into parts. Each part tells of one idea. Example: Prophecies about Judah and prophecies about the Messianic kingdom that was to come are found in Jeremiah chapters 1 to 45. Prophecies about the other nations are found in Jeremiah chapters 46 to 51.

The prophecies in chapters 40 to 44 were given after the fall of Jerusalem. The prophecies to the people left in Judah are found in Jeremiah 42:7 - 43:3. The prophecies to the people left in Egypt are found in Jeremiah 43:4 - 44:30.

- The prophet and the people, Jeremiah 1:1 - 18:23.
- The prophet and the leaders, Jeremiah 19:1 - 29:32.
- The promise that the people of Israel would return to their country, Jeremiah 30:1

- 33:26.

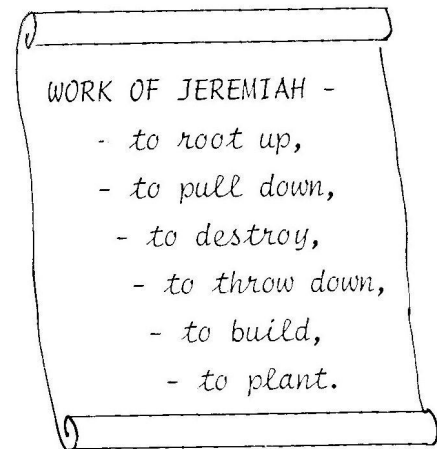
- The kingdom of Judah fell apart, Jeremiah 34:1 - 39:18.
- Jeremiah set free, Jeremiah 40:1-7.
- Gedaliah and Ishmael, Jeremiah 40:7 - 41:18.
- The prophecies to Judah, Jeremiah 42:1 - 43:3.
- Prophecies to those who went to Egypt, Jeremiah 43:4 - 44:30.
- Jeremiah's words to Baruch, Jeremiah 45:1-5.
- The prophecies about the nations and cities Jeremiah 46:1-51:64.
- The end of the book, Jeremiah 52:1-34.

## B. Lessons of the book.

- **Work of Jeremiah.**

READ JEREMIAH 1:1-10.

What did the Lord say Jeremiah would do (Jeremiah 1:10)?



To pluck up (root out) or tear down speaks of Jeremiah preaching against the sin and wickedness among the people of Judah and the nations. To plant or build up speaks of Jeremiah prophesying about the people of Judah coming back to their own country.

- **Visions of Jeremiah.**

READ JEREMIAH 1:11-15.

What did Jeremiah see in his first two visions?

Jeremiah 1:11

Jeremiah 1:13



The almond tree was the first tree to bud in spring. Because of this it was a picture of something that would happen soon. The Lord would punish the people of Judah soon.

The boiling pot was a picture of the nations around Judah. They were boiling with anger. Soon the Lord would let them boil over onto Judah. They would take the people of Judah away.



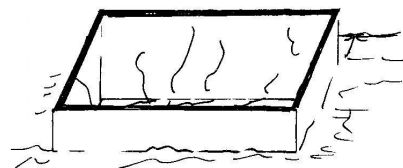
- **Evils of the people of the Lord.**

READ JEREMIAH 3:1-6.

What two evils were the people of the Lord doing (Jeremiah 2:13)?

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Jeremiah said the idols or gods of the people around Israel were like broken cisterns. A cistern is a large hole in the ground where water is kept. A broken cistern cannot hold water.



READ JOHN 4:10,14. The people of Judah rejected the water from the Lord. They turned to the water places of the idols. The idols had no water. The people needed to be right with God. They needed help with their problems. The idols could not make the people right with God. The idols could not help the people with their problems.

Did the people of Judah learn anything from what happened to the people of Israel (Jeremiah 3:8)?

What were the people of Judah like?

The Lord called His children (people of Judah) to return to Him. What did the Lord promise to give His children if they would return (Jeremiah 3:14-19)?

How did Jeremiah feel about the people of Judah (Jeremiah 4:19)?

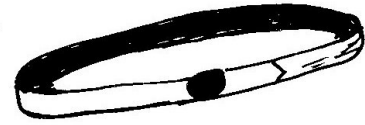
For whom did the people make cakes (Jeremiah 7:18)?

What would the Lord do to the people for this (Jeremiah 7:20)?

- **A message acted out.**

READ JEREMIAH 13:1-11.

The Lord told Jeremiah, "Buy a waistband. Take it and hide it in a rock."



After some time the Lord told him, "Go and get the waistband." It was spoiled so it could not be used. What was the waistband a picture of (Jeremiah 13:1-11)?

- **People of Judah.**

READ JEREMIAH 17:7-9; 18:1-6.

What four judgments were to come upon the people of Judah (Jeremiah 15:2)?

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What would the man be like who trusted in the Lord (Jeremiah 17:7,8)?

READ PSALM 1.

What is the heart of man like (Jeremiah 17:9)?

What did the potter do to the clay that was spoiled (Jeremiah 18:1-6)?



This was a picture of what the Lord wanted to do to Israel.

- **Jeremiah and his enemies.**

READ JEREMIAH 20:1-12.

The enemies of Jeremiah made it hard for him. All his friends left him. This

discouraged Jeremiah very much. To Whom did Jeremiah go for help (Jeremiah 18:18-20)?

Jeremiah said the cities of Judah would be destroyed. Pashur, the priest, did not like these words. What did he do to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:1,2)?

Pashur let Jeremiah go the next day. Jeremiah prophesied against Pashur, "*Thus saith the Lord, Behold I will make thee a terror to thyself and to all thy friends,*" (Jeremiah 20:3-6 [KJV]).

Even though the friends of Jeremiah turned against him, he still trusted in the Lord (Jeremiah 20:7-12).

- **False prophets.**

READ JEREMIAH 23:11-28.

There were many false prophets in Judah. They deceived the people. They told the people, "*Ye shall have peace*", Jeremiah 23:17[KJV]. Jeremiah told these prophets that they would be punished (Jeremiah 23:12).

What is the "Word of the Lord" like (Jeremiah 23:29)?

- **Prophecies of the Messiah.**

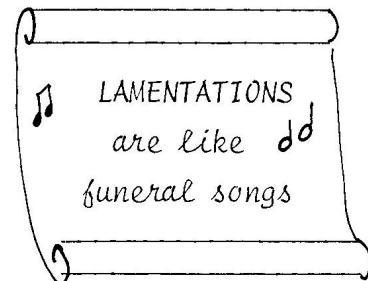
READ JEREMIAH 23:4-6; 31:15.

Jeremiah prophesied about the Messiah. See Matthew 2:16-18. What happened to make these prophecies come true?

## THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah told about his sorrow for the people of Judah in songs. The songs were like those sung at funerals. These songs are in the book of Lamentations. Lamentations means "to sorrow or lament." It is the sorrow of a person whose loved one has died.

### A. Outline of the book.



- Jerusalem before and now, Lamentations 1:1-22.
- The dealings of God with Zion, Lamentations 2:1-22.
- Hope that suffering will end, Lamentations 3:1-66.
- Sin caused suffering, Lamentations 4:1-22.
- Prayer for the suffering, Lamentations 5:1-22.

## **B. Lessons of the book.**

READ THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS.

There is light and hope even when there is darkness and sorrow. There is light and hope for those who trust in the Lord (Lamentations 3:22-26). READ AGAIN LAMENTATIONS 3:22-26.

## **WORDS TO LEARN**

1. act - to do.
2. appointed - chosen.
3. lament - to sorrow as a person sorrows for a loved one who has died.
4. potter - one who makes bowls, jugs and things like these out of clay.
5. reject - to not accept a gift or a person.
6. waistband - belt.