

**Jeremiah 1:1-10****7-31-97****Intro:**

- It's the 7<sup>th</sup> cent bc. - We have a young priest in the city of Anathoth, who becomes a Prophet.
- He becomes known as the "weeping prophet"(but in no way a wimpy Prophet!)
- He was a Patriot, wholly committed to *God & Holiness!*
- His contemporaries were - {Zeph., Hab., & Daniel}
- He Preached about the impending captivity. He was persecuted for his message to his people.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> part of his ministry the message was "*Repent or be Destroyed*".
  - After the fall Neb. Gave him the option to go to *Babylon*, or *stay w/the poor remnant* {2 Kings 24:14}.
  - Later this remnant went down to **Egypt** against Jer. & Baruch's Advice (43:6,7).
  - Jer. Still sought to turn them back to the Lord.
  - Jer. Predicted their return to the land in the end {23:5-8}
  - Jer. Probably died down in Egypt.
- Q: Have you ever hesitated to accept God's call? If so why?
  - Here Jer. Hesitates (6)...Why?
  - His new job would be **Demanding, Difficult**, & above that he was **Doubtful!**

**1. His new Job would be DEMANDING! (1)**

- 1.1. Jer. Dad, & dad's dad was a priest!
- 1.2. It was much more demanding being a *Prophet* than a *Priest*!
  - **Priests** - duties were **predictable**. {everything was written down in the Law.} They just had to follow directions.
    - **Prophets** - duties were **unpredictable**.
  - **Priests** - duty was to conserve the **Past**.
  - **Prophets** - labored to change the **Future**.
  - **Priests** - dealt with the **externals**.(determining ritual cleanness)
    - **Prophets** - The prophet tried to reach & change **the heart**. (Heart found 66 x's) {Jer. Is the prophet with the heart!}
  - **Priests** - usually ministered to individuals.

- **Prophets** - usually to nations. (& usually they didn't like the message!)
  - **Priests** - belonged to a special tribe that was respected & had authority!
    - **Prophets** - came from any tribe & had to prove his call!
  - **Priests** - had a guaranteed income.
    - **Prophets** - no guaranteed income.
- 1.3. Jer. would have had a much easier time being a priest! This new assignment was going to be demanding!

## 2. His new Job would be DIFFICULT! (2,3)

- 2.1. The Times: It was a time of **Rebellion** against God.
- 2.1.1. Jer. was born during the reign of the wicked king **Manasseh**.
- 2.1.2. Both Manasseh & his son(Amon) led the people into deep **Idolatry!**
- 2.1.3. It was a time where godly priests were **not** greatly appreciated.
- 2.2. It was a time of **Reformation** not true Repentance!
- 2.2.1. After Amon, Josiah came to the throne, they found the Law, it was read to him, he repented & leads the nation to repentance(but it was only superficial).
- 2.2.2. Jer. knew this & boldly says...3:10!
- 2.2.3. (vs.2,3) - The 3 kings mentioned were: **Josiah** the Reformer; **Jehoiakim** the Tyrant; & **Zedekiah** the Weathercock/Vascillator.
- 2.2.3.1. "We 3 kings of Orient are,  
**Josiah** was godly but the Nation didn't get far!  
**Jehoiakim** the Tyrant taxed em heavy,  
 only to pay King Nebuchadnezzar's levy!  
**Zedekiah** from both sides of his mouth did talk,  
 he blew back & forth like a well lubed weathercock!"

## 3. Jeremiah was DOUBTFUL! (6)

- 3.1. Jer. saw the *work* before him, the *wickedness*, around him, & the *weakness* within him!
- 3.2. Q: When it comes to ministry have you ever felt inadequate?
- 3.3. Q: Have you ever felt adequate? (look out)
- 3.3.1. Paul asked "who is sufficient for these things?" {Paul pondering the responsibilities of ministry} 2 Cor.2:16.

- 3.3.2. He answers his own question in 3:5.
- 3.4. Q: How many mistakes has God made?
  - 3.4.1. When God calls, He isn't making a mistake!
  - 3.4.2. It's good to know your weaknesses. But don't let your weaknesses keep you from getting anything done!
- 3.5. Q: Does, "oh I don't think the Lord can use me", speak of humility or...pride?
  - 3.5.1. Pride - Because you think you have something to do with it?

#### 4. **Jeremiah was given 3 great Assurances! (4-10)**

- 4.1. #1 Assurance - Gods Electing Grace! (4,5)
  - 4.1.1. God doesn't **save us**, **call us**, or **use us** because were deserving...it's all by grace!
    - 4.1.1.1. **1 Cor.15:10** "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."
  - 4.1.2. **4 things GOD did!**
  - 4.1.3. ***[1] I Formed you!*** - God gives us our genetic structure.
    - 4.1.3.1. "What we are is God's gift to us; what we do is our gift to Him!"
  - 4.1.4. ***[2] I Knew you!*** - Speaks of God's sov. election of his servant.
    - 4.1.4.1. Amos 3:2 (God to Israel)"You only have I known of all the families of the earth;..." {knew you = chose you}
  - 4.1.5. ***[3] I Sanctified you!*** - He was set apart for & by the Lord!
  - 4.1.6. ***[4] I Ordained you!*** - To be a Prophet → "A chosen, authorized, & deputized, spokesman for God, who declared God's word to the people!"
    - 4.1.6.1. A prophet didn't only reveal the future, but often dealt with the present!
    - 4.1.6.2. Q: Do you think prophets spoke more of the future or of the present?
  - 4.1.7. God has Formed you, Knows you, sanctified you, & ordained you for something!

4.1.7.1. God has a distinct purpose for each life. Our 1 aim should be to **find it, & work out His** plan!

4.1.7.2. **Ps.139:16** “Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, ***The days fashioned for me***, When as yet there were none of them.” {JFB - “both their number & what events were to befall me in them.”}

#### 4.2. #2 Assurance - Gods Protecting Presence! (6-8)

4.2.1. **3 Instructions!**

4.2.2. **[1] Go** where I send you! **[2] Speak** what I commend you!  
**[3] Don't be afraid** of the people!

4.2.3. Also a promise “I am with you!” (also at end in vs.19).

#### 4.3. #3 Assurance - Gods Effective Word! (9,10)

4.3.1. When *Isaiah's lips* were touched with a coal he was **Purified**.  
When *Jer.'s mouth* was touched by the hand of God he was given  
**Power & Authority!**

4.3.2. Jer. not only got the “words”, but the promise of power behind the words.(1:12) - {Read - Is.55:10,11}

4.3.3. **vs.10** - Jer. had a different ministry because he had to tear down before he could build up, root up before he could plant!

4.3.3.1. I like when you can just plant seed's in someone's life rather than go thru all the tearing down of bad doctrine. (don't feel bad if you didn't grow up w/religion!)

## 5. End:

5.1. Q: Do you feel too weak to serve? Ask 3 questions:

5.2. [1] Has God called you?

5.2.1. Then He will equip you & enable you!

5.3. [2] Are you obeying His commands by faith?

- 5.3.1. Then He is with you to protect you!
- 5.4. [3] Are you sharing the word?
  - 5.4.1. Then He will accomplish his purposes no matter how the people respond!
- 5.5. **Q:** Is God calling you to something Demanding or Difficult?
  - 5.5.1. Facing someone? A more difficult job or ministry?
- 5.6. **Remember:** “God never gives a commission w/o assuming the responsibility of its execution *in, with, or thru* us.”
- 5.7. **Next week:** 2 visions - “An Almond Tree & a Boiling Pot!”