

Jeremiah 1:11-19**8-7-97****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Here Jeremiah has a Q & A session with God!
- 1.2. An O.T. Prophet had 3 main elements in their message:
 - 1.2.1. **[1] Past Sin** - The nation had disobeyed Gods Law.
 - 1.2.2. **[2] Present Responsibility** - The people must repent or God will send judgment.
 - 1.2.3. **[3] Future Hope** - The Lord will come one day & establish His glorious kingdom.
- 1.3. Q: Ever want a message from God?
 - 1.3.1. Jer. Didn't get a happy message of deliverance...but a tragic message of judgment.
 - 1.3.1.1. The people started calling Jeremiah a **Traitor!**
 - 1.3.1.2. He would be: misunderstood, persecuted, arrested, & imprisoned.
 - 1.3.1.3. The nations usually didn't even want to **hear the truth** from the prophets.
- 1.4. We have here 2 visions: The Almond Tree & a Boiling Pot!
 - 1.4.1. It's interesting visions usually are an everyday object, but they are **seen differently** by the one receiving the vision.
 - 1.4.2. So here we have a sprig of an **Almond tree**, & a **cooking pot** on an outdoor fire.

2. The Almond Tree! (11,12)

- 2.1. In the Holy Land, the Almond tree blossoms in Jan. & bears fruit in March. It is the 1st indication that Spring is coming.
 - 2.1.1. This speaks of the swiftness of Gods judgment.
 - 2.1.2. Also, when all other trees are dormant, God is wakeful!
- 2.2. A pun falls flat when it is translated into a diff. language.
 - 2.2.1. Almond = shaqed; Watch/Ready = shaqod

- 2.2.2. (12) “I am **watching** over my word to perform it.”
- 2.2.3. The Lord uses a play on words:
 - 2.2.3.1. “God is ever awake to watch over His word & fulfill it.”
- 2.2.4. Read 2 Kings 17:13-15
- 2.3. The 1st vision the vision of the Almond Sprig is saying, “***My word’s will be fulfilled!***”

3. The Boiling Pot! (13-19)

- 3.1. Here is Gods **scalding** judgment against Jeremiah’s people.
- 3.2. “**Facing**”(13) = spilling or tilting, down south.
- 3.3. The nations were always vying for supremacy.
 - 3.3.1. 1st the Jewish rulers turned to **Egypt** for help, then to **Assyria**.
 - 3.3.1.1. **Assyria** was the dominant power at this time. - **Babylon** was no threat to Israel, Egypt, or Assyria.
 - 3.3.2. They failed to **Trust** the Lord & seek **His help!**
 - 3.3.2.1. Their main sin was singled out as ...Idolatry(16)!
 - 3.3.3. This vision confirms that God is in control of All the nations of the world!
 - 3.3.3.1. He can use them to accomplish His will.
 - 3.3.3.2. Even then He was preparing Babylon to chasten His people.

4. Promised Protection! (17-19)

- 4.1. (vs.17) - “**Prepare yourself & arise**” - or “Gird up your loins”, get ready for action, tighten up your belt, roll up your sleeves!
 - 4.1.1. Explain - Gird up loins.
 - 4.1.2. Also, see Nahum 2:1
- 4.2. The “**face warning**” is repeated here(also, vs.8)

- 4.3. (vs.18) - “*I have made you this day a...*” - Our job is Proclamation, **His job** is Protection!(ww)
- 4.4. Note the 3 pictures he paints Jeremiah:
- 4.5. “**Fortified City**” - Surrounded by his enemies GOD would make him a *fortified city*...he was forced to stand alone!
- 4.5.1. **Abraham Lincoln** wasn’t as much loved in his day as he is in ours. He knew about loneliness. 5 things were found on him the day of his death: [1] A handkerchief, embroidered "A. Lincoln" [2] A country boy's pen knife [3] A spectacles case repaired with string [4] A purse containing a \$5 bill -- Confederate money (!) [5] Some old and worn newspaper clippings.
- 4.5.1.1. One of these clippings said, “Remember this: Loneliness stalks where the buck stops!
- 4.5.2. Submit to pressure from peers and you move **down** to their level.
- Speak up for your own beliefs and you invite them **up** to your level.
 - If you move with the crowd, you'll get **no further than the crowd**.
 - When 40 million people believe in a dumb idea, it's still a **dumb idea**.
 - Simply swimming with the tide leaves you **nowhere**.
- 4.6. “**Iron Pillar**” - Jer. Would become as strong as a *iron pillar*.
- 4.7. “**Bronze Walls**” - Attacked from all sides {kings, princes, priests, & people} he would be as unyielding as a *bronze wall*.
- 4.7.1. God’s messengers must be walls & not shifting sand!
- 4.8. The Reliable promise is stated again(8) “I am w/you”.
- 4.8.1. In the battle for truth, one w/God is a majority.
- 4.8.2. “A friend is one who walks in when others walk out.”
- 4.9. To all “Confronters”...These promises are also for you!

5. **Wrap-up:**

- 5.1. In spite of all that was against him: [1] the times were difficult, [2] the task was demanding, & [3] he was doubtful...yet, Jeremiah accepted God’s call!

- 5.2. Jeremiah knew: His own deficiencies; He knew God was greater; & He knew God would enable him to do the job.
- 5.3. Jeremiah made the right decision & therefore became one of the most popular prophets in Jewish history...NO! The most **Unpopular!**
 - 5.3.1. Right is often Unpopular!
- 5.4. By human standards, his ministry was a *failure*, by the will of God, he was a *great success*.
- 5.5. He stood alone, resisted the crowd, & was out of step w/the philosophies & values of the times...for 40 yrs.!
 - 5.5.1. Proclaim the word whatever the cost!
 - 5.5.2. **Q:** What about you? Will you Conform to the world or Carry the Cross?
 - 5.5.3. Prepare yourself, make a firm decision to commit to God's way only!