

JEREMIAH



FAITHFUL PROCLAMATION FACING PERSECUTION

CHAPTERS 1-29
SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

by: Brent Kercheville

- 1 Be concise.** Please share your thoughts and answers, but be considerate so that others will have time to share their answers also. Be charitable and kind. Be willing to share with the group, but do not try to dominate the conversation. Use the time after the class to find help with any personal issues or problems you may be confronting in your life.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

(James 1:19–20)

- 2 Be thoughtful with your answer.** Consider your words. Do not simply regurgitate what you have always heard. We have the tendency to speak in “Christianese” — words that only people who grew up on the pews would understand. Think about how your words will be heard by others. Will they understand what you are saying? Is what you are about to say going to be useful for the building up of the faith of others? Or will your words be confusing, cause hurt, or worse, damage someone’s faith? Speak without harshness or anger, but with kindness and humility.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

(Ephesians 4:29)

- 3 Rely on the scriptures for truth.** It is easy to rely upon conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. Bible study is about seeking God’s answers for our lives, not dispensing the advice of the world. We must consider that our natural answers may be the wrong answers if they are not founded on God’s word.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

(1 Corinthians 1:25)

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

The book of Jeremiah is the prophecy of a man divinely called in his youth from the priest-city of Anathoth. Anathoth lies about three miles northeast of Jerusalem. Jeremiah prophesied from 627-580 B.C., a time of major political and social upheaval in Judah. Jeremiah witnessed the uprising of the Babylonian Empire and overthrowing of the Assyrian Empire in 612 B.C. War between Babylon and Egypt followed afterward. Judah became the battlefield for Babylon and Egypt to wage their war. During this time Babylon repelled the Egyptian forces and put the nation of Judah under their power. Jerusalem began paying tribute to Babylon and in 606 B.C. the first group of captives were carried away, including the prophet Daniel. In 597 B.C. Judah revolted and Nebuchadnezzar carried a second group into captivity, including the prophet Ezekiel. Again Judah revolted and in 586 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar came in to Judah and destroyed Jerusalem.

Jeremiah lived during corrupt times in Judah. Idolatry was rampant and pagan rites corrupted the worship of God at the altars of the Temple. The gallant effort of Josiah to bring about a reformation in the land did not have any effect on the hearts of the people. Stealing, murder, adultery, and lying were common place in the land. Yet while the people were corrupt, they never ceased to perform the outward acts of worship to God. But the sacrifices of the people were nothing more than mechanical ritual. Because the people were involved in these sins, there was room for only one of two outcomes: radical repentance on a national level, or divine judgment executed on a rebellious, disobedient nation. The book of Jeremiah unveils which of these two paths the nation chose to take.

Notice the reigns of the kings that Jeremiah prophesied under and use these for future reference: Josiah 640-608, Jehoahaz 608, Jehoiakim 608-607, Jehoiachin 597, Zedekiah 597-586

OUTLINING JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY:

_____ (Jeremiah 1)

_____ (Jeremiah 2-6)

_____ (Jeremiah 7-10)

_____ (Jeremiah 11-20)

_____ (Jeremiah 21-29)

_____ (Jeremiah 30-33)

_____ (Jeremiah 34-45)

_____ (Jeremiah 46-51)

_____ (Jeremiah 52)

ISRAEL AND JUDAH AT THE TIME OF JEREMIAH

from the ESV Study Bible



JEREMIAH

1

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Describe God's call to Jeremiah. What do we learn about God? What do we learn about God's plan?
- 2 What is Jeremiah's response to God's calling? Can you relate to Jeremiah?
- 3 Explain God's response to Jeremiah's response. How does God deal with Jeremiah's objections? What lessons do we learn?
- 4 What is Jeremiah's mission given by God (1:9-10)? Explain.
- 5 Explain the two visions Jeremiah sees and their meanings (1:11-16).
- 6 What are God's final words to commission Jeremiah (1:17-19)? What is Jeremiah told to do?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is God recalling in 2:1-3? What were God's people like?

- 2 What is God's question (2:5)? What have the people failed to do (2:5-8)? What have the people done? What lessons do we learn from the people's failure?

- 3 What are the charges laid against Israel (2:9-12)? What is God's point?

- 4 What are the two sins the people have committed (2:13)? Explain. What is the result (2:13-19)?

- 5 What sins does God identify in 2:19? What lessons do we learn?

- 6 What sins are described in 2:20-22? What is the condition of the people (2:20)?

- 7 What condemnations are stated against the people (2:23-25)?

- 8 What has sin done to the people (2:26-28)?

9 How else have the people failed (2:29-30)?

10 How are the people sinning against God in 2:31-34?

11 What is the ultimate reason for the condemnation of the people (2:35-37)?

TRANSFORMATION:

What are the sins that God charges the people in this chapter? What do you notice about the nature of these sins?

What does God desire the people to do? What mindset is condemned?

What lessons do you learn for your life as you live as a follower of Jesus?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is God's message to Israel in 3:1? What do we learn about God and ourselves?

- 2 What has God done because of their sins (3:2-5)? What is the sinful thinking of the people?

- 3 What sins have the people committed (3:6-10)?

- 4 What is God's call (3:11-13)? What must the people do?

- 5 What will God do if the people return (3:14-20)? What is God promising?

- 6 What will God's people do (3:21-25)?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is God's message in 4:1-4? What do we learn for ourselves about what God seeks from us? What will happen if the people do not respond to God's call?

- 2 What is about to happen (4:5-9)? Who is doing it?

- 3 What will God do (4:10-13)? What is Jeremiah's complaint (4:10)? Explain.

- 4 What is the call of God (4:14)? Explain the imagery.

- 5 Why is this calamity coming upon them (4:15-18)?

- 6 What is the response of the prophet Jeremiah (4:19-26)? What does he see? Explain.

- 7 What promises does God make (4:27-28)? What will the nation attempt and fail at (4:30)?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is God's condemnation of these people in 5:1?

- 2 What is the people's sin in 5:2-3?

- 3 What did God determine to do (5:4-6)? What was the response of the people?

- 4 Should the people be forgiven (5:7-11)? Why shouldn't forgiveness be offered?

- 5 What is the false thinking of the people (5:12-13)? Is this still true today?

- 6 Explain the imagery of 5:14-17.

- 7 What does God promise (5:18-19)?

- 8 What is wrong with the people (5:20-31)? What is the result of their errors?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is God's message (6:1-8)? Take special note of verse 7.

- 2 What are the two reasons for God's wrath coming (6:10-11)? What do we learn from this?

- 3 What sins have the people committed (6:13-15)? How extensive is the sinning?

- 4 What are the people called to do (6:16)? What does this mean? Would the people do it?

- 5 Why is the people's worship rejected (6:19-20)?

- 6 What will God do (6:21-30)? What exactly is God doing (6:27)? What will be the result of God's testing (6:30)?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the warning in 7:1-4? What did the people think about the temple? What do we learn from this?
- 2 What does God promise (7:5-7)? What do we learn?
- 3 What is God's message in 7:8-15? Where is verse 11 quoted in the New Testament and what was its meaning?
- 4 What does God tell Jeremiah (7:16-20)? What do we learn from this? What New Testament passage teach similarly?
- 5 What is repeatedly said about this people in 7:21-29? What did God tell them? What is the warning of verse 24 that our culture needs to hear today?
- 6 What sins are the people condemned for committing in 7:30-34? What principle does God declare in 7:31?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the message of 8:4-6? What sins have the people committed?

- 2 What else is the problem with the people (8:7-9)? What have they done? What do we learn?

- 3 What is God's message in 8:12-17?

- 4 What does Jeremiah express (8:18-19)?

- 5 Explain 8:20-22. What is the message?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the reaction of Jeremiah (9:1-2)? What do we learn from this?

- 2 What results from not knowing the Lord (9:3)?

- 3 What is the condition of society (9:4-6)? What do we learn from this reality?

- 4 What will God do (9:7-11)?

- 5 What do the people need to be wise enough to understand (9:12-16)?

- 6 What is being pictured as the result of their sins (9:17-22)?

- 7 What is God's important message to the people (9:23-24)? What do we learn?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the message about idols (10:1-5)? Explain the imagery.

- 2 What do we learn about God (10:6-10)? Why should he be worshiped? Why is it foolish not to worship and fear him?

- 3 What is the message about God (10:11-16)? What is the message about humanity?

- 4 What makes people senseless and stupid (10:17-22)?

- 5 Jeremiah offers a prayer in 10:23-25. Write down at least five things Jeremiah prays about. What great truths do we learn from this prayer?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What are the terms of the covenant (11:1-5)?

- 2 What is God's warning (11:6-8)?

- 3 What is God's message (11:9-13)?

- 4 What is God's message (11:14-17)?

- 5 What was the plot against Jeremiah (11:18-23)? What have the people told Jeremiah not to do?

- 6 What was God's message to Jeremiah about what the people were plotting (11:18-23)?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is Jeremiah's question and lament (12:1-4)?
- 2 What is God's answer (12:5-6)?
- 3 What is God's message (12:7-13)?
- 4 What does God promise after judgment (12:14-17)? What do we learn about God?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the message of the loincloth (13:1-11)? What do we become when we refuse to listen to God's words?

- 2 What is the purpose of God's people (13:11)? What does this mean for us?

- 3 What is the message of the jar filled with wine (13:12-14)?

- 4 What is terrifying about 13:14?

- 5 What is God's message (13:15-27)?

- 6 What must God's people do (13:15-16)?

- 7 What is the message of 13:23? What do we learn from this?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What must be the confession of all people (14:7)?

- 2 Why should the Lord act (14:7-8)? What is the basis of the people's plea?

- 3 Why does God not accept the people (14:10)?

- 4 What is God's message (14:11-16)?

- 5 What is the fear of the people (14:19-21)? Why is this important?

- 6 Explain verse 22? What do we learn from this declaration?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is God's powerful message in 15:1-2? What do we learn about God from this?

- 2 Why will the nation be destroyed (15:3-4)? Why is this the basis of their destruction?

- 3 What is the sad message of 15:5-9?

- 4 Explain Jeremiah's questioning and complaint (15:10-18). What do we learn from this?

- 5 What is God's response (15:19-21)? What do we learn?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is God's command to Jeremiah (16:1-4)? Why does God restrict Jeremiah in this way? What is the message?

- 2 What is Jeremiah instructed not to do during this calamity (16:5-13)? Why does God command Jeremiah not to do this?

- 3 What does God promise (16:14-16)? What do we learn about God?

- 4 Before God does what he promised in verses 14-15, what must he do first (16:17-18)?

- 5 What does Jeremiah pray (16:19-20)?

- 6 What does God promise to do (16:21)? How would God do this?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is God's message (17:1-4)? Explain the imagery.
- 2 What is condemned (17:5-6)? Why is this condemned? What do we learn?
- 3 What does God call us to do (17:7-8)? Why is this praised? What do we learn?
- 4 Why must we never trust our heart (17:9-11)?
- 5 What does Jeremiah pray for (17:12-18)? What do we learn?
- 6 What does God command (17:19-27)? Give reasons why neglecting the Sabbath, in the face of all the other sins we have read being committed, was such a concern to the Lord.

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the message of the potter and the clay (18:1-11)?
- 2 What is the response of the people and what was God's response to them (18:12-17)?
- 3 What were the people saying (18:18)? What do we learn from this?
- 4 What is Jeremiah's response to the plots of the people (18:19-23)? What do we learn from this?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the first act God commands Jeremiah to do (19:1-2)? What is Jeremiah to proclaim with this act (19:3-9)?

- 2 What is the second act God commands Jeremiah to do (19:10)? What is Jeremiah to proclaim with this act (19:11-13)? Does Jeremiah do as commanded (19:14-15)?

- 3 What happens to Jeremiah after prophesying these messages (20:1-3)?

- 4 What did Jeremiah prophesy after this happened to him (20:3-6)?

- 5 What is Jeremiah's prayer and complaint (20:7-18)?

- 6 Why must Jeremiah continue to preach (20:9)? What do we learn from this?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Why does Zedekiah ask Jeremiah to inquire the Lord (21:1-2)?
- 2 What is God's first response (21:3-7)?
- 3 What is God's second response (21:8-10)?
- 4 What is the message to the house of David (21:11-14)?
- 5 What lessons was God teaching through these messages of doom?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the message to the king of Judah (22:1-4)?

- 2 What will happen if the king does not obey God's message (22:5-10)? What will the people teach the nations about this event?

- 3 What is the message concerning Shallum (Jehoahaz) (22:11-12)?

- 4 What is the message to God's kings (22:13-17)?

- 5 What is the message to Jehoakim (22:18-23)?

- 6 What is the message to Coniah (Jehoiachin) (22:24-30)?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What promises does God make (23:1-4)?

- 2 What else will the Lord do (23:5-6)? Who is the Branch? How do you know? What will happen when the Branch arrives?

- 3 What else will happen in those days (23:7-8)?

- 4 What is Jeremiah's message against the other prophets (23:9-15)? In what ways were the prophets sinning? What amazing thing does God say in verse 14?

- 5 What is God's message to the people about these false prophets (23:16-22)? What will the faithfulness of God accomplish (23:20)?

- 6 What is God's message about himself (23:23-32)? What is God's message about these false prophets? What do we learn about God?

- 7 What were the people to say to the prophet or priest (23:33-40)? What do we learn from this?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Jeremiah 24:1 sets the date at 597 BC. What happened in this invasion? What prophet was carried away into captivity during this attack?

- 2 What is the message concerning the good figs (24:4-7)? Please note: who are the good figs in the vision?

- 3 What is the message concerning the bad figs (24:8-10)? Please note: who are the bad figs in the vision?

- 4 What is the surprising message about who is God's remnant from this vision?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is God's first declaration (25:1-7)?

- 2 What will God do because of the people's disobedience (25:8-14)? When will the punishment end?

- 3 What is the good news of God's message (25:15-26)?

- 4 What is the bad news to Israel of God's message (25:27-29)? Why must the people drink from the cup?

- 5 What is God's message in 25:30-33?

- 6 What is the message to the shepherds (25:34-38)? Who are the shepherds?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Where is Jeremiah to proclaim this next message (26:1-6)? What was the prophetic declaration?

- 2 What was the response of the priests and prophets to Jeremiah's declaration (26:7-11)?

- 3 What does Jeremiah say in response (26:12-15)?

- 4 Who do some of the elders of the land remember (26:16-19)? What was his message? How did this help Jeremiah?

- 5 Who else do some of the elders of the land remember (26:20-24)? Is this recollection helpful for Jeremiah?

- 6 What was the outcome for Jeremiah (26:24)?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is Jeremiah told to do (27:1-7)?

- 2 God expresses his sovereignty over creation in 27:1-7. What is God's message?

- 3 What does God tell the people to do (27:8-11)? How hard would it be to hear this message?

- 4 What is the message to Zedekiah (27:12-15)?

- 5 What is the message to the priests (27:16-22)?

- 6 What hope is given by God in this passage (27:16-22)?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What was the message of Hananiah (28:1-4)? How was this different from Jeremiah's message?

- 2 What was Jeremiah's response to Hananiah's prophecy (28:5-9)?

- 3 What did Hananiah do next (28:10-11)? How did Jeremiah respond (28:11)? What do we learn from this?

- 4 What was God's prophecy to Hananiah (28:12-17)? Why did this fate come on Hananiah?

- 5 Is this message important today? Are there people who declare false prophecies in the name of the Lord today?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?

Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Who did Jeremiah send his letter to (29:1-9)? Who are some of the people that would be included in this group? What was the message to these people?

- 2 What will happen after the 70 years (29:10-14)? Why did these people need this information?

- 3 What is God's message in 29:15-23? Why is it important for these people to understand this message?

- 4 What was the false message Shemaiah was declaring (29:24-28)?

- 5 What was God's message to the exiles regarding Shemaiah (29:29-32)?

TRANSFORMATION:

How does this relationship change your relationship with God? What did you learn about him? What will you do differently in your life?