



Jeremiah's Song

Jeremiah's Story

- Jeremiah - Hebrew: יֵרֵמְיָהוּ; Greek: Ἰερεμίας, meaning “Jehovah Exalts”; also called the Weeping Prophet
- He is considered the second of the major prophets of the Old Testament.
- Jeremiah is credited with writing the Book of Jeremiah, 1Kings, 2Kings, and the Book of Lamentations, with the assistance of Baruch son of Neriah, his scribe and student; and, he is quoted in the New Testament, and was greatly admired by the Jews.

Jeremiah's Story

- He was the son of Hilkiah, a kohen or Jewish priest, from the village of Anathoth.
- He had a happy childhood, and was called to be a prophet in his mid to late teens in 626 BC.
- He resisted the prophetic call by explaining that he was only a child and did not know how to speak.
- He prophesied of Jerusalem's destruction because Judah had been unfaithful to the covenant and forsaken God by worshiping the Baals. They built altars to Baal to burn their children as offerings.

Jeremiah's Story

- Jeremiah's ministry began in the thirteenth year of Josiah, king of Judah and lasted until after the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of Solomon's Temple.
- This period spanned the reigns of five kings of Judah: Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah.
- In his early ministry, Jeremiah was primarily a preaching prophet, but in his later years, God instructed him to write down the early oracles and other messages for later generations.

Jeremiah's Story

- Jeremiah's ministry prompted others to plot against him - Jer. 11:21-23
- Physical persecution started at the hands of the priest Pashur ben Immer, a temple official - Jer. 20:1-2
- He was opposed by a known prophet, Hananiah - Jer. 28:13
- He was put in a pit of filth by the henchmen of king Zedekiah - Jer. 38
- Johanan, the leader of the last remnant of Judah in the land, betrayed him and took him to Egypt, where he died unwept - Jer. 42

Jeremiah's Song

- He was the prophet who saw the glorious new covenant
 - Jer. 31:31-34 - “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah- 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Jeremiah's Song

- Jeremiah was the prophet who lived in tragedy; his only comfort was his trust in God
 - Lam. 3:21-25 - “This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. 22 Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 The LORD is my portion, says my soul, Therefore I hope in Him!”

Jeremiah's Song

- Received an unwanted call to minister - Jer. 1:5-6.
- Called to a ministry of prophesying nothing but judgment - Jer. 1:9-10.
- He was forbidden to marry so that he might give himself completely to proclaiming the judgment of God; he lived in loneliness - Jer. 16:1-13.
- He wept openly about the sins of his people - Jer. 9:1-2.
- He endured depression when his message went unheeded for most of his life. He came to the point where he tried to abandon his ministry - Jer. 20:7-9
- He was imprisoned by the king because he did not approve of Jeremiah's preaching - Jer. 32:5.

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- Kings, captains, the crowds, and even other prophets came to him asking for the word of the Lord. When he told them something they didn't want to hear, they would mock him as a doomsayer or a liar
- After Jerusalem fell and many were killed or taken captive, he did not gloat. Instead, he becomes heart-broken with the remnant and goes into suffering with them in Egypt where he died unnoticed
 - Lam. 1-5; Jer. 42

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- After enduring a life like this; after being rejected, hated, mocked, imprisoned, ignored; after seeing his beloved Jerusalem ransacked, desecrated and destroyed; after experiencing the horror of war, the brutality of the enemy and the pangs of hunger, after bearing with betrayal by the last remnant of Judah in the land and carried away to Egypt to die an unlamented old man, Jeremiah was still able to stand amid the rubble of the city and among the bodies of the dead and lift his voice in praise to God for His great, unfailing faithfulness to His people.

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- Lam. 3:18-26 - “And I said, My strength and my hope Have perished from the LORD. 19 Remember my affliction and roaming, The wormwood and the gall. 20 My soul still remembers And sinks within me. 21 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. 22 Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 The LORD is my portion, says my soul, Therefore I hope in Him! 25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. 26 It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.”

Jeremiah's Song

- It is possible that these were the last words he ever wrote.
- How could he say that?
 - Heb. 11:32-40

Heb. 11:32-39

“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented-- 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise...”