

# Old Testament Introduction

## *The Book of Jeremiah*

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### INTRODUCTION

1) This book gets its name from its author, Jeremiah, which means “*Whom Jehovah*\_\_\_\_\_.” His name is characteristic of his ministry. The Lord “*appointed*” Jeremiah to prophesy during a very turbulent time in Judah’s history. His prophecies were very unpopular with the religious establishment of his day, but were an encouragement to the righteous remnant.

2) It has been stated that “*Among the brightest stars of Old Testament history, there is not a name that shines brighter than that of Jeremiah.*” Jeremiah was certainly one of the most colorful Old Testament prophets.

- He was a \_\_\_\_\_, whose home was Anathoth, a suburb of Jerusalem where many priests resided (**1:1**).
- He was ordained to the prophetic office before he was \_\_\_\_\_ (**1:5-6**).
- He began his preaching ministry in the 13th year of King Josiah, 635 B. C., which was about \_\_\_\_\_ years after the ministry of Isaiah ended.
- The times during which he ministered were perilous (**16:1-4**).
- He spent a good deal of time imprisoned because of his unpopular \_\_\_\_\_ (**37:15-16**).
- He suffered with those left behind in the land after the Babylonians carried Judah away captive and was finally exiled to \_\_\_\_\_ (**43:1-7**).

3) Jeremiah was called of God to prophesy in the darkest hours of Judah, when Judah as a nation was dying. He is known as the \_\_\_\_\_ prophet and the prophet of the \_\_\_\_\_. Jeremiah didn’t weep for his own trials, though they were very grievous. He wept for the sins of his nation and the fearful destruction that these sins were bringing upon them. He knew that the beautiful city of Jerusalem with its magnificent temple would be in ruins and that his own people would be taken into captivity. No wonder Jeremiah wept!

4) Isaiah and Jeremiah are the two prominent writing prophets. Reading their prophecies show that they were very different in their personalities. Isaiah comes

across as the bold and fearless type. Jeremiah seems to be more gentle and compassionate. They ministered in different times—Isaiah, more than \_\_\_\_\_ years before the fall of Jerusalem—Jeremiah, just before the fall. Although their ministry was separated by many years, the message was the same. Isaiah foretold of the judgment that **was to come**; Jeremiah notified that the judgment **was at hand**.

5) The book of Jeremiah is a combination of history, poetry, and biography. Jeremiah often used symbolism to communicate his message.

- The rod from the almond tree = **1:11-12**.  
*The almond tree budded early in the year, thus the message was that judgment was coming early.*
- The pot of boiling water facing northward = **1:13**.  
*The judgment would come from the north, i.e., Babylon.*

### AUTHORSHIP

1) **Traditional:** Jeremiah wrote this book **1:1; Daniel 9:2; Matthew 2:18**.

2) **The Critical view:** “*The book is composite, containing genuine Jeremiac sayings, Baruch’s contributions and later additions.*”<sup>1</sup>

### RECIPIENTS

The main body of the book is written to Judah and Jerusalem (**2-45**). He is also called a “*prophet to the nations*” (**1:5**). In chapters **46-51** he prophesies against \_\_\_\_\_ other nations.

### DATE OF WRITING

During Jeremiah’s ministry, approximately \_\_\_\_\_ B. C. to \_\_\_\_\_ B. C.

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<sup>1</sup> Gerald A. Larue, *Old Testament Life and Literature*, pg. 256.

### **PURPOSE OF BOOK**

To urge God's people, Judah, to turn from their \_\_\_\_\_ and back to God. Judah (*Southern Kingdom*) was following hard after the way that had brought destruction to Israel (*Northern Kingdom*). Jeremiah was commissioned to bring the last appeal from Jehovah before destruction (**7:2-7**).

### **THEME OF THE BOOK**

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Judah and the resultant Babylonian captivity.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. God's Judgment on Judah **1-45**
- II. God's Judgment on the Nations **46-52**