



Jeremiah & Lamentations

A New Covenant

Session 25

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Summarize the messages of Jeremiah in one sentence.
- Draw an application for today from Jeremiah's "temple sermon" in Jer. 7.
- Explain Jeremiah's understanding of the new covenant and contrast it with the old covenant.

INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah prophesied from 627 BC to just after the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 586 BC, during the last days of the house of Judah. He was called during the reign of Josiah, who renovated the Temple, found the long-lost Book of the Covenant in a dusty Temple closet, and systemically began weeding out idolatry in the land. It was a better time. But after Josiah slept with his fathers, the last four kings of Judah continued the nation's downward trajectory.

Jeremiah was highly influenced by Isaiah, so there are elements of his prophecy which are similar to Isaiah's, like judgment on all nations (chs. 46-51), Branch imagery (23:5-6), and a multinational remnant (4:1-2). Outline:

- 1:1-19: Jeremiah's Call
- 2-25: Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem
- 26-29: Jeremiah's Disputes with False Prophets
- 30-33: The Book of Consolation
- 34-39: The Days of Jehoiakim and Zedekiah
- 40-45: Jeremiah's Experiences after the Fall of Jerusalem
- 46-51: Oracles against Foreign Nations
- 52: The Fall of Jerusalem

THE WEEPING PROPHET

Jeremiah's call is recorded in 1:1-19. Scholars estimate that Jeremiah was somewhere between 17 and 20 years old when God called him. **What was Jeremiah's mission, and how could his**

message be summed up? Why is he called the “weeping prophet” and how do we see this identity in the book of Lamentations?

JEREMIAH’S TEMPLE SERMON

What was the point of Jeremiah’s “Temple sermon” in 7:2-10 and what relevance does it have for today?

BURNING IN MY BONES

As Jeremiah continued to preach, his enemies’ hatred of him grew. Unfortunately for Jeremiah, God does not insulate even the most godly leaders from suffering, and in ch. 20 Pashhur the priest and high official in the Temple persecuted him harshly. **What was Jeremiah’s only comfort in the midst of his sufferings?**

What does Jeremiah teach us about true vs. false prophecy?

THE NEW COVENANT

The most distinctive element of Jeremiah's prophecy comes right in the middle of what is called the Book of Consolation (chs. 30-33). Just like Isaiah, Jeremiah states that God would bring the captives back from Babylon in a new kind of exodus. In fact, 16:14-15 and 23:7-8 say that the return from exile would eclipse the exodus in the redemptive memory of God's people. In ch. 31, Jeremiah prophesies that one day, God would make a new covenant with His people.

Elements of the New Covenant:

(1) God's solution to the _____

(2) God would _____ on their hearts

(3) They become the _____

(4) Everyone in the covenant community _____

CONCLUSION

Summary of Jeremiah:

Through the Righteous Branch of David, God will _____ of

His people and _____ by making a _____

_____ with them so that _____.

Consider these thoughts this week:

- Does Jeremiah's brokenness over the sin of his people have an impact on your spiritual walk?
- How could we apply Jeremiah's "Temple sermon" to ourselves and our current culture?
- What would it mean for you to have a "burning in your bones" to make God known?
- How does the new covenant compare and contrast with the previous covenants?

HOMEWORK

- Read pp. 299-326, 483-489 in *Old Testament Theology* by Paul House
- Watch The Bible Project's videos on [Jeremiah](#) and [Lamentations](#)
- Engage with Jeremiah 1-31 and all of Lamentations

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