

THE WORDS OF JEREMIAH
MESSAGE OF THE BOOK
(Jeremiah 1:1-3)

I. Background and Setting

- A. Ministry spanned reigns of Judah's LAST FIVE KINGS (cf. 2 Kings 22-25; 2 Chron. 34-36)
 - 1. Early ministry may have INFLUENCED Josiah's REFORMS
 - 2. Later ministry addressed entrenched IDOLATRY and IMMORALITY
- B. Witnessed the DECLINE and COLLAPSE of Assyria and the RISE of Babylon
- C. Early contemporaries were ZEPHANIAH and HABAKKUK and later were EZEKIEL and DANIEL

II. Themes

- A. Primary theme is JUDGMENT upon Judah through BONDAGE to Babylon for SEVENTY YEARS (25:11, 12; 29:10; cf. 2 Chron. 36:21)
- B. Secondary theme anticipated RESTORATION in a FUTURE Messianic kingdom (23:3-8; 30:1-33:26)

III. Structure

- A. The PREPARATION of Jeremiah (1:1-19)
- B. The PROCLAMATIONS to Judah (2:1-45:5)
 - 1. CONDEMNATION of Judah (2:1-29:32)
 - 2. CONSOLATION to Judah (30:1-33:26)

3. CALAMITY upon Judah (34:1-45:5)
- C. The Proclamations of JUDGMENT on the NATIONS (46:1-51:64)
- D. The FALL of JERUSALEM (52:1-34)
1. The city's DESTRUCTION (52:1-23)
 2. The Jews' DEPORTATION (52:24-30)
 3. The King's DELIVERANCE (52:31-34)
- IV. Current Relevance
- A. The ROLE of the prophet
1. Proclaims a BIBLICAL worldview in opposition to the POPULAR worldview of the CULTURE
 2. Preaches REPENTANCE from SINS turning to SUBMISSION to God's Word
- B. The CHARACTER of the prophet
1. His unreserved CANDOR with God
 2. His uncompromising FAITHFULNESS to God
 3. His unrelenting HATRED for SIN
 4. His unflagging COMPASSION for Judah
- C. The COURAGE of the prophet
1. He CONFRONTED evil when evil was NORMALIZED
 2. He REBUKED preachers of an "EASY GRACE" who promised endless BENEFITS without RESPONSIBILITIES
 3. He PROCLAIMED a God who demands RIGHTEOUS living and sends His WRATH against all DISOBEDIENCE