

Jeremiah

The record of Jeremiah's life in God's Word, the Christian Bible, spans forty years, from his call in the thirteenth year of King Josiah [626BC] until the fall of Jerusalem in 587BC.

In those four decades he prophesied under the last five kings of Judah, [Jeremiah 1:1-3].

While Jeremiah was preaching, important personalities and events were shaping history in the Middle East beyond his native Judah.

This was one of the most fateful periods in the history of the ancient Middle East and it affected Judah's history too.

The Assyrian Empire disintegrated and Babylon and Egypt were left to struggle against each other for the leadership of the Middle East.

When the call came to Jeremiah from God, nearly a century had passed since the northern kingdom of Israel had fallen to the Assyrians.

Judah in the south contrived to survive, by a miracle it weathered the storm of Sennacherib's invasion as Isaiah had predicted, [2 Kings 19:5-7, 35].

In this atmosphere of international political tension and national religious declension Jeremiah grew up into boyhood.

Jeremiah grew up in a pious priestly home, [Jeremiah 1:1]; his name means "Yahweh exalts" or "Yahweh throws down," might well symbolise both his parent's prayers for their nation and their aspirations for young Jeremiah.

Jeremiah's parents would have communicated to him their anxiety over the religious persecutions and apostasies of Manasseh and Amon, educated him in Israel's laws as given by God through Moses and filled his fertile mind with the teachings of Isaiah and other prophets of the previous century.

Jeremiah 1:4-9 [New King James] *"Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.' Then said I: 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.' But the LORD said to me: 'Do not say, "I am a youth," for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,' says the LORD. Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: 'Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.'"*

Jeremiah's call by God teaches how intimately God knows us, [Psalms 139:1-16] and how He values us before anyone else knew that we would exist.

Jeremiah had to depend on God's love as he developed endurance for a long life being used by the Creator God to fulfil His will for His people.

Endurance is **not** a common quality; many people lack the long-term commitment of caring and willingness that are vital to sticking with a task against all odds.

Jeremiah was a prophet who endured for the people to whom God had told him to speak were usually antagonistic or apathetic to his message. He was ignored and his life often threatened, [Jeremiah 7:27; Jeremiah 11:18-23; Jeremiah 15:15; Jeremiah 17:19-23; Jeremiah 18:18-19].

Jeremiah saw fellow prophets murdered and finally watched Judah's defeat at the hands of the Babylonians.

Jeremiah responded to all this with God's message and human tears.

Jeremiah first hand felt God's love for Judah and the people's rejection of that love.

Jeremiah also knew he had to keep on with his message from God for the people, and saw beyond God's correction to a time of God administering mercy.

Jeremiah's life is an encouragement to all who remain faithful to the Creator God.

Jeremiah was so deeply sorrowful for the fallen condition of Judah that he has earned the title, "Weeping prophet."

The lessons we can learn from Jeremiah's life are –

The majority opinion is not necessary God's will.

God will not accept empty or insincere worship.

Serving the Creator God does not guarantee physical security.

The words of warning that God gave to Judah through Jeremiah are as relevant to today's society.

Jeremiah 5:1-5 [New King James] *“Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; see now and know; and seek in her open places if you can find a man, if there is anyone who executes judgment, who seeks the truth, and I will pardon her. Though they say, “As the LORD lives,” surely they swear falsely.’ O LORD, are not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, but they have not grieved; You have consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to return. Therefore I said, ‘Surely these are poor. They are foolish; for they do not know the way of the LORD, the judgment of their God. I will go to the great men and speak to them, for they have known the way of the LORD, the judgment of their God.’ But these have altogether broken the yoke and burst the bonds.”*

Nothing but the truth is acceptable to the Creator God. When we pray, sing, speak or serve, nothing closes the door to God's acceptance more than hypocrisy, lying or pretence. God sees through the façade we present to other people and refuses to listen or accept.

To be close to the Creator God we have to be honest with Him.

Even the religious and secular leaders, who are supposed to teach and guide the people, have instead led them into sin and pagan worship.

[Please download and study the articles on this website listed under the main heading 'Religion' on the subject of the acceptance of pagan practices by leaders and people, thinking they are worshipping the true Creator God.]

Jeremiah 5:18-19 [New King James] *“Nevertheless in those days,’ says the LORD, ‘I will not make a complete end of you. And it will be when you say, “Why does the LORD our God do all these things to us?” then you shall answer them, “Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours.””*

This happened to Judah during the lifetime of Jeremiah and was prophesied by Jesus Christ would happen to all humanity just before His Second Coming.

Matthew 24:3-14, 21-22 [New King James] *“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’ And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ,” and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”* ... *“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”*

Please download and study the article listed under main heading ‘*The World Tomorrow*’ with the title ‘*Is This The Generation That Will Experience Jesus Christ’s Second Coming?*’

Another parallel we can see in the words that God gave the people through Jeremiah that is what we experience in society today is the lack of fear of the Creator God, as a result of failing to accept Him as the Creator God, [Jeremiah 5:20-31], believing in the lie of evolution.

[Please download and study the articles on this website under the main heading ‘*Evolution – The Delusion Of*’.]

In one way Jeremiah still remains faithful to God as we see that the warnings he was inspired by God to give to Judah in his day, relate perfectly to the deeds of the people today.

All true Christians must bring God’s message to their generation that is found in His Word, the Christian Bible, even if people reject it, as they did in Jeremiah’s day.

We must continue to do God’s work of witness even if it means suffering for it as Jeremiah did.