

Who is Jeremiah?

- Jeremiah is unique because we get to know him more than any other prophet.

- The exact meaning of his name is disputed
 - Yahweh establishes
 - Yahweh exalts
 - Yahweh hurls down

- The overall picture for him a sad and lonely one.
 - He was persecuted and hated by Jehoakim who wanted to kill him and his buddy Baruch
 - Spent at least one night in the stocks
 - Ment to bring shame and humiliation
 - Banned from the temple
 - Chapter 36
 - Had all of his work cut up and burned.
 - Thrown into a mud pit, and would of been left for dead
 - Put in prison
 - Put on trial for treason and accused of fleeing to the emend
 - Opposed by popular teachings and false prophets & priests

- Most info on him comes from after 608
 - After death of Josiah.
 - Many stories in the book are dated after his death, but before his death they aren't.
 - Not sure why.

- Born in a city called Anathoth?
 - is the name of one of the Levitical cities given to "the children of Aaron" in the tribe of Benjamin (Joshua 21:13–18; 1 Chronicles 6:54–60).
 - Residents were called Antothites or Anetothites.
 - City about 3 hours north of Jerusalem

- Born into a priestly family
 - Maybe a descendant of Eli!
 - Possible connection fo the press that exiled to Anathana due to supporting a different king that solomon.
 - Abatha
 - 1 kings
 - 1 Samuel 3
 - Prophetic word for Eli

- Dont know actual birthdate
 - His call was the 13th year of Josiah
 - Chapter 1
 - He was maybe 15-18 at this point
 - 645-640 BC

- Worked under/along side of Josiah

- Dont have any evidence that he was an acting priest
 - We can tell from his story that he was taught the customs, ways & stories of his people.
 - Seems to be greatly influenced by the great stories of Israel's past.
 - Borrows the images of Hosea and the unfaithful wife

- His call was in 627 BC
 - Chapter 1
 - Don't know what happened exactly, unlike:
 - Isaiah = chapter 6 in the temple
 - Ezekiel = had powerful experiences
 - His call wasn't received with eagerness or excitement.
 - Like Moses (he had about 4)
 - Jeremiah gives 2
 - Im just a boy
 - Don't know what to say (no real authority)
 - Usually get from age and/or authority and he had neither
 - God deals with both of these!
 - This call wasn't an easy one at all
 - It appears that very little people heeded his warnings.

- He was called to pluck up and tear down, which had to happen before he could rebuild and restore
 - By the nation (Babylon) from the North.

- 2 k 22 & 2 chron 2 shows us that Josiah was dealing with massive reformation.
 - Jeremiah was also dealing with this. (3:6)
 - We don't have any clear evidence that links Josiah & Jeremiah.
 - It does appear that Jeremiah is dealing the people of Israel doing the reformations for the right reasons.
 - Josiah = Physical Reformation
 - Jeremiah = Heart transformation

- How he preached & prophesied
 - 25:3 shows us the meat of his message and that he mostly preached in the temple.
 - He spoke in temples
 - 7:2 & 26:2
 - Streets, marketplaces & gates
 - 11:6 & 17:19
 - He really seemed to have a good prospective as to the true heart condition of the nation during the big reformations lead by Josiah

- His main topics
 - **He preached against the superstition around the temple**

- Chapter 7
- Keep in mind the accommodation made by God to give them both a temple and a king.
 - Temple =
 - King = 1 sam 8

- **Warns against the possibility of coming Judgements:**
 - 5:14
 - Great description of what happens when an army invades.
 - 250,000 people moving would destroy the land just by traveling.
 - Imagine what the land looked like after the People of God traveled during the wilderness...
 - 250,000 vs 3,500,000!
 - 6:1 & 6:22
 - Remember when we read these graphic descriptions, this shows us just how horrible it was in the ancient world... and how it is still like this in some areas.
 - If you a history buff... its things like this that would later cause the world leaders to gather in Geneva after WW2 and created the Geneva convention
 - 1949 & 196 countries agreed to this.
 - The Geneva Conventions are rules that apply only in times of armed conflict and seek to protect people who are not or are no longer taking part in hostilities; these include the sick and wounded of armed forces on the field, wounded, sick, and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea, prisoners of war, and civilians.
 - I submit to you that the reason we have such vivid descriptions is to warn the OR what is coming.

- As we will see in my favorite chapter... 18... that God never wanted anyone to experience war, but it was the inevitable result of the choices and actions they were making.
- Even as we see with what manessah & Amon, Judgement was declared, but the prophets Hulu ??, judgement was delayed.
 - I believe that Gods judgment would always be delayed due us turning back to him.
- Something else to note, and bring prospective for us who read this, God warned them as a whole nation before they settled into the promise land regarding these type of judgments.
 - Deut 28. & end of Lev. See handout.

- **against their pride**
 - Chapter 26
 - Uriah was also killed for preaching against the temple

- **against apostasy & idolatry**
 - Apostasy = the abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief
 - 2:32
 - Notice the “days”... not months or years... but daily
 - When people worship, we take on and become the thing we worship.
 - 2:11 & :26

- **call to true repentance.**
 - 3:12
 - One of the coolest pictures of Gods heart.
 - 4:1

- Had they of repented and turned back, they would of been restored & recommissioned to their true purpose.
 - Gen 12:2
 - Exo 19:5

- More examples false repentance
 - 2:23, 2:35, 3:6 & 10, 5:3

- Through out the book, we sometimes find ourselves not sure who is speaking... God or Jeremiah.
 - I like this, this shows us the true beauty of this book.
 - Jeremiah reflects the heart of God so well.
 - 4:19
 - 4:22

- After all the events of the attack and conquering of Jerusalem, Jeremiah finds himself being taken to egypt.

- The last couple messages are Jeremiahs warnings and rebukes for the idolatry in Egypt.
 - Also preached judgment in Egypt as well.

- He would been around 60 during this time.
 - Almost 45 years of ministry.
 - Everything he said came true.

- As far as we know... he died in Egypt. Alone.

- How do you think Jeremiah reflected on his ministry while he was in Egypt?!
 - Lots of Grief & Sadness
 - Everyone ignored him.
 - Reflected on the promises of protection
 - Yet despite the protection, he still suffered the same judgment as the others... he was “deported.”
 - He was protected from:
 - Execution from Jehoiakim
 - Rescued out of the cistern
 - Execution from Zedekiah’s officials
 - Prison was probably the safest place for him to be
 - Was given water and a loaf a bread a day