

Class Schedule for Jeremiah & Lamentations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan 1	1	Introduction	Introduction of Jeremiah
Jan 8	2	Chapters 1:1-3:5	The Call of Jeremiah & First Sermon
Jan 15	3	Chapters 3:6-6:30	Second Sermon: Judah to be Judged
Jan 22	4	Chapters 7-10	Third Sermon: Judah's Hypocrisy
Jan 29	5	Chapters 11-12	Fourth Sermon: Judah's Breach of Covenant
Feb 5	6	Chapters 13-15	Fifth & Sixth Sermons
Feb 12	7	Chapters 16-17	Seventh Sermon: Jeremiah Unmarried
Feb 19	8	Chapters 18-20	Eighth Sermon: Sign of the Potter
Feb 26	9	Chapters 21:1-23:8	Ninth Sermon: Against Judah's Kings
Mar 5	10	Chapters 23:9-23:40	Tenth Sermon: Against False Prophets
Mar 12	11	Chapters 24-25	Eleventh & Twelfth Sermons
Mar 19	12	Chapters 26-29	Jeremiah's Conflicts
Mar 26	13	Chapters 30-33	The Restoration of Jerusalem
Apr 2	14	Chapters 34-36	Messages Before the Fall
Apr 9	15	Chapters 37-38	Events Before the Fall
Apr 16	16	Chapters 39-41	The Fall of Jerusalem
Apr 23	17	Chapters 42-45	Flight To Egypt
Apr 30	18	Chapters 46-47	Prophecies Against Egypt & Philistia
May 7	19	Chapters 48	Prophecies Against Moab
May 14	20	Chapters 49	Prophecies Against Many People
May 21	21	Chapters 50-51	Prophecies Against Babylon
May 28	22	Chapters 52	The Fall of Jerusalem
Jun 4	23	Lamentations 1-2	The Lament & The Anger of God
Jun 11	24	Chapters 3	The Prayer for Mercy
Jun 18	25	Chapters 4	The Siege of Jerusalem
Jun 25	26	Chapters 5	The Prayer for Restoration

INTRO TO JEREMIAH

The book of Jeremiah is the prophecy of a man divinely called in his youth from the priest-city of Anathoth. A heartbroken prophet with a heartbreaking message, Jeremiah labors for more than forty years proclaiming a message of doom to the stiff-necked people of Judah. Despised and persecuted by his countrymen, Jeremiah bathes his harsh prophecies in tears of compassion. His broken heart causes him to write a broken book, which is difficult to arrange chronologically or topically. But through his sermons and signs he faithfully declares that surrender to God's will is the only way to avoid calamity.

Author

The book clearly states that Jeremiah is its author (1:1). He dictated all his prophecies to his secretary Baruch from the beginning of his ministry until the fourth year of Jehoiakim, and later sections were also composed. Only chapter 52, a supplement which is almost identical to 2 Kings 24:18–25:30, was evidently not written by Jeremiah.

Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah the priest and lived about two miles north of Jerusalem in the town of Anathoth. As an object lesson to Judah, he was not allowed to marry (16:2). Because of his unwelcome message of divine judgment to be brought about through Babylonian invasion, he was threatened and imprisoned. The prophet survived the Babylonian assault on the city and was later taken to Egypt where he died.

Date

According to 36:1–3, the writing of portions of Jeremiah may be dated with some precision to the fourth year of Jehoiakim (605 B.C.), when Jeremiah was commanded by God to write down the prophetic messages he had delivered to the people over the previous twenty years. This material apparently corresponds to chapters 1–20. The remaining chapters contain prophecies and historical accounts in topical rather than chronological order, covering the second twenty to twenty-five years of Jeremiah's ministry.

Jeremiah was a contemporary of Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, and Ezekiel, and his ministry stretched from c. 627 to c. 580 B.C. There were three stages in Jeremiah's ministry. From 627 to 605 B.C. he prophesied while Judah was threatened by Assyria and Egypt. From 605 to 586 B.C. he proclaimed God's judgment while Judah was threatened and besieged by Babylon. From 586 to about 580 B.C. he ministered in Jerusalem and Egypt after Judah's downfall.

Themes and Literary Structure

Although Jeremiah is not easily arranged chronologically or thematically, its basic message is clear: the inevitable and inescapable judgment of God upon Israel for her rebellion and disobedience. The book may be divided into four main sections: the call of the prophet Jeremiah (ch. 1), prophecies to Judah (2:1–45:5), prophecies to the Gentiles (46:1–51:64), and the fall of Jerusalem (ch. 52).

Often known as the "weeping prophet," Jeremiah faithfully proclaimed the divine condemnation of rebellious Judah for forty years. His sympathy and concern for his nation caused him to grieve deeply over the rebelliousness and imminent doom of his people.

Often Jeremiah desired to resign the prophetic office because of the harshness of his message and the unfriendly response that it elicited. It was Jeremiah's difficult task to confront a people who seemed to become more insanely confident as the peril grew. They believed that God would not let Jerusalem fall because they possessed the temple and the one true religion. Jeremiah was required to tell them that the terms of God's covenant mandated punishment for disobedience.

The well-known section on the new covenant (chs. 30–33) reflects Jeremiah’s special interest in the covenant. All the prophets based their accusations and appeals on Israel’s covenant relationship with God, but Jeremiah does so much more explicitly. He does not fault the content of the old covenant, but recognizes that it must be internalized if it is to be lived out. Thus he prophesies the coming of a new covenant—one that will be written on the hearts of God’s people (31:31–34).

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OUTLINE OF JEREMIAH

Part One: The Call of Jeremiah (1:1–19)

- I. Jeremiah’s Call 1:1–10
- II. Jeremiah’s Signs 1:11–16
- III. Jeremiah’s Assurance 1:17–19

Part Two: The Prophecies to Judah (2:1–45:5)

- I. The Condemnation of Judah 2:1–25:38
 - A. Jeremiah’s First Sermon: Judah Sinned Willfully 2:1–3:5
 - B. Jeremiah’s Second Sermon: Judah to Be Judged 3:6–6:30
 - C. Jeremiah’s Third Sermon: Judah’s Hypocrisy in Worship 7:1–10:25
 - D. Jeremiah’s Fourth Sermon: Judah’s Breach of the Covenant 11:1–12:17
 - E. Jeremiah’s Fifth Sermon: Judah’s Revived Relationship 13:1–27
 - F. Jeremiah’s Sixth Sermon: The Drought in Judah 14:1–15:21
 - G. Jeremiah’s Seventh Sermon: Jeremiah’s Unmarried State 16:1–17:27
 - H. Jeremiah’s Eighth Sermon: Sign of the Potter’s House 18:1–20:18
 - I. Jeremiah’s Ninth Sermon: Against Judah’s Kings 21:1–23:8
 - J. Jeremiah’s Tenth Sermon: Against Judah’s False Prophets 23:9–40
 - K. Jeremiah’s Eleventh Sermon: The Two Baskets of Figs 24:1–10
 - L. Jeremiah’s Twelfth Sermon: The Seventy-Year Captivity 25:1–38
- II. The Conflicts of Jeremiah 26:1–29:32
 - A. Conflict with the Nation 26:1–24
 - B. Conflict with the False Prophets 27:1–22
 - C. Conflict with Hananiah 28:1–17
 - D. Conflict with Shemaiah 29:1–32
- III. The Future Restoration of Jerusalem 30:1–33:26
 - A. Restoration to the Land 30:1–24
 - B. Restoration of the Nation 31:1–40
 - C. Rebuilding of Jerusalem 32:1–44
 - D. Reconfirming the Covenant 33:1–26
- IV. The Present Fall of Jerusalem 34:1–45:5
 - A. Messages Before the Fall 34:1–36:32
 - B. Events Before the Fall 37:1–38:28
 - C. Events During the Fall 39:1–18
 - D. Messages After the Fall 40:1–44:30
 - E. Message to Baruch 45:1–5

Part Three: The Prophecies to the Gentiles (46:1–51:64)

- I. Prophecies Against Egypt 46:1–28

¹*Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts : Old and New Testaments.*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996).

- II. Prophecies Against Philistia 47:1–7**
 - III. Prophecies Against Moab 48:1–47**
 - IV. Prophecies Against Ammon 49:1–6**
 - V. Prophecies Against Edom 49:7–22**
 - VI. Prophecies Against Damascus 49:23–27**
 - VII. Prophecies Against Kedar and Hazor 49:28–33**
 - VIII. Prophecies Against Elam 49:34–39**
 - IX. Prophecies Against Babylon 50:1–51:64**
 - A. Babylon’s Defeat 50:1–20
 - B. Babylon’s Desolation 50:21–46
 - C. Babylon’s Destiny 51:1–64
- Part Four: The Fall of Jerusalem (52:1–34)**
- I. The Capture of Jerusalem 52:1–11**
 - II. The Destruction of Jerusalem 52:12–23**
 - III. The Exile to Babylon 52:24–30**
 - IV. The Liberation of Jehoiachin 52:31–34**

2

Babylonians Invade Palestine

Babylon overthrew Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, in 612 B.C., and moved quickly to establish control over much of the ancient Near East. Defeating the Egyptians at the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon moved against Palestine and deported important people such as Daniel to Babylon. Judah’s king Jehoiakim thus became a Babylonian vassal, but he rejected Jeremiah’s warnings in 601 B.C. and rebelled. Jehoiachin became Judah’s next king in 597 B.C., but was replaced by Zedekiah three months later when Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem and deported Jehoiachin to Babylon. Zedekiah was the last king of Judah; his attempted alliance with Egypt led to Nebuchadnezzar’s occupation and overthrow of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

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²*Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts : Old and New Testaments.*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996).

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Jeremiah ~ Chapters 1:1-3:5

Thought Question:

1. How do you feel when you have to bring someone news that you know they won't like?

Chapter Questions:

2. When was Jeremiah chosen to be a prophet?
3. What did Jeremiah think about being a prophet?
4. What vision did Jeremiah first see and what did it mean?
5. What was Jeremiah's second vision and what did it mean?
6. What did God tell Jeremiah about the response he would receive from Judah?
7. What two sins did God say His people had committed?
8. What attitude did the people of Judah fail to have toward the LORD?
9. To what animal behavior did God compare the behavior of Judah?
10. To what did God compare Israel's abandonment of God?
11. How did Judah's talk contrast with her behavior?

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 3:6-6:30

Chapter Questions:

1. Despite witnessing God's "divorcing" Israel, what did Judah go ahead and do? (3:6-10)
2. What did God want Israel to do? What would God do? (3:11-14)
3. What kind of leaders did God intend to give to His faithful remnant? (3:15)
4. What did Jeremiah say the people could do to avert God's wrath? (4:3-4)
5. How did Jeremiah feel about knowing the fate of his people? (4:19-21)
6. On what condition did God say He would forgive the city of Jerusalem? (5:1)
7. What limitation did God place on the destruction of Israel and Judah? (5:10-11)
8. What was the condition of the people of Israel during Jeremiah's time? (5:30-31)
9. When Babylon finished "gleaning" the vine of Israel, how many would be left? (6:9)
10. What did God's appointed watchmen tell the people? (6:17)
11. How did Jeremiah describe the invading army of Babylon? (6:22-23)

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 7-10

Chapter Questions:

1. In what specific place did God tell Jeremiah to deliver his prophecy? (7:1-2)
2. Why did the people think Jerusalem would never be destroyed? (7:4)
3. What specific changes was God looking for in the behavior of Israel? (7:5-7)
4. Why did God tell Jeremiah not to pray for the people of Judah? (7:16-18)
5. What message had God been sending Israel since He called them out of Egypt? (7:21-26)
6. What was going on at Topheth that was detestable to God? (7:30-31)
7. In what way was Israel's lack of repentance unusual? (8:4-7)
8. Who was guilty of greed, deceit, and minimizing Israel's predicament? (8:10-11)
9. What was it about the words of the people that displeased God? (9:7-9)
10. What is the only boast that has legitimacy with God? (9:23-24)
11. What surpassing qualities of God did Jeremiah praise? (10:6-7)
12. What great truth is revealed to us through Jeremiah? (10:23)

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 11-12

Chapter Questions:

1. Of what important era in their history did God want Jeremiah to remind Israel? (11:1-5)
2. What did the covenant tell Israel God would do if they did not obey? (11:6-8)
3. Why was God punishing His people? (11:9-11)
4. What would Judah discover when they sought help from their idols? (11:12-13)
5. Why was Jeremiah told not to pray for Judah? (11:14-17)
6. How did Jeremiah find out about a plot on his life? (11:18-20)
7. What punishment would Anathoth suffer for their plot against Jeremiah? (11:21-23)
8. What questions did Jeremiah ask God? (12:1-4)
9. How did God answer Jeremiah's questions? (12:5-6)
10. What did God intend to do to His unfaithful people? (12:7-13)
11. What was God going to do with Judah and the surrounding nations? (12:14-17)

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 13-15

Chapter Questions:

1. How was Israel like Jeremiah's linen sash? (13:1-11)
2. What did the lesson of the wine bottles mean? (13:12-14)
3. Why were they being punished by God? (13:20-27)
4. What desperate situation did Jeremiah foresee for Jerusalem? (14:1-6)
5. Why did God say He would not be dissuaded from punishing Israel? (14:7-12)
6. What were the so-called prophets saying to Israel? (14:13-16)
7. For what did Israel plead to God? (14:19-22)
8. What was God's answer? (15:1-3)
9. What king of Judah was particularly responsible for Israel's wickedness? (15:4)
10. What set God firmly against the people of Israel? (15:5-9)
11. How was Jeremiah treated because of the message he brought from God? (15:10)
12. For what did Jeremiah plead with God? (15:15-18)
13. How did God answer Jeremiah and what did He want Jeremiah to do? (15:19-21)

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 16-17

Chapter Questions:

1. What common practices did God forbid Jeremiah to partake in? (16:1-9)
2. Why was Jeremiah forbidden to participate in marriages and funerals? (16:5-9)
3. How was Jeremiah to answer the questions of why God was doing this? (16:10-13)
4. What would no longer be said and what would be talked about instead? (16:14-15)
5. What was the LORD going to teach the people before He brought them back? (16:16-21)
6. What does it mean that Judah's sin was engraved on their heart? (17:1)
7. What would happen to Judah as a result of their sin? (17:2-5)
8. What brings curses upon people and what brings blessings? (17:5-13)
9. Why was Jeremiah asking God for help? (17:14-18)
10. How was Israel breaking the Sabbath, how did God want them to keep it? (17:19-27)
11. What would God do if they hallowed the Sabbath and what would he do if they did not? (17:19-27)

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 18-20

Chapter Questions:

1. What was the potter doing as Jeremiah watched? (18:1-4)
2. How did God liken His power over the nations to the decisions of the potter? (18:5-10)
3. What was the lesson of the potter and the clay to Israel? (18:1-11)
4. What unthinkable thing had Judah done against God? (18:12-17)
5. How did Israel attack Jeremiah and what did he want God to do about it? (18:18-23)
6. Where did God tell Jeremiah to take the elders and deliver a prophecy? (19:1-2)
7. What wicked things were being done in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom? (19:3-5)
8. Why would the name of the valley be changed? (19:6-9)
9. Why did Jeremiah speak to all the people at the temple? Is this in response to the elders reaction to his prophecy at Tophet? (19:14-15)
10. How did the chief governor respond to Jeremiah's prophecy in the temple? (20:1-2)
11. How did Jeremiah react to being mocked constantly for his prophecies? (20:7-13)
12. How had Jeremiah come to feel about his life and birth? (20:14-18)

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 21:1-23:8

Chapter Questions:

1. Why did King Zedekiah send messengers to Jeremiah? (21:1-2)
2. What was God's answer to Zedekiah? (21:3-7)
3. What message did God have for the people of Jerusalem? (21:8-10)
4. What did God ask of the house of David? Why? (21:11-12)
5. Why was God punishing the people of Judah and Jerusalem? (21:13-14)
6. Where was Jeremiah told to proclaim God's message? (22:1)
7. What principles of ruling did God list as conditions for His blessings? (22:1-5)
8. What would other people say about the desolation of Jerusalem? (22:6-9)
9. What arrogant and selfish behavior on the part of the king angered God? (22:13-14)
10. How was Josiah different from his sons? (22:15-30)
11. What would God do for His "flock" after He delivered them from bad leaders? (23:1-4)
12. What would become greater than the Exodus out of Egypt? (23:7-8)

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 23:9-23:40

Chapter Questions:

1. Why was Jeremiah's heart broken? (23:9-10)
2. What was the problem with the prophets and priests? (23:11)
3. What evil deeds were done by the prophets in Israel and Judah? (23:13-14)
4. What was God going to do with these prophets? (23:15)
5. Where were these prophets getting the "visions" they reported? (23:16)
6. What lie were the prophets telling those who despised God? (23:17)
7. What would have happened had these prophets truly stood with God? (23:18-22)
8. What were the prophets trying to accomplish with these "dreams"? (23:25-27)
9. How does God's Word contrast with the "dreams"? (23:28-29)
10. What kinds of prophets does God stand opposed to? (23:30-32)
11. Why were the people told not to use the word "oracle"? (23:33-36)

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 24-25

Chapter Questions:

1. Which of the inhabitants of Judah were taken into exile in Babylon? (24:1)
2. How great was the contrast between the two batches of figs? (24:2-3)
3. How did God look upon the people who went into captivity in Babylon? (24:5)
4. What was God's intention with regard to the exiles from Judah? (24:4-7)
5. How were Zedekiah and the survivors like poor figs? (24:8-10)
6. How long had Jeremiah been speaking the word of God to the people of Judah? (25:2-3)
7. What was the message of the prophets? (25:5-6)
8. How did the people bring God's judgment on themselves? (25:7)
9. How long would Judah remain in captivity? (25:8-11)
10. Why would Babylon eventually be made desolate? (25:12-14)
11. What nations were in line to be judged by God? (25:17-26)
12. What was God's answer to any nation that refused the cup from Jeremiah? (25:27-29)

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 26-29

Chapter Questions:

1. What was Jeremiah instructed to do in the courtyard of the temple? (26:1-6)
2. What charge did the religious officials bring against Jeremiah? (26:7-11)
3. What did Jeremiah warn the rulers even as he put himself at their mercy? (26:12-15)
4. What example from Israel's past was raised by some of the elders? (26:17-19)
5. What happened to Urijah the prophet when he warned the same people? (26:20-23)
6. What visual demonstration was Jeremiah ordered to give? (27:2)
7. What nations were told that they would be conquered by Nebuchadnezzar? (27:3-6)
8. How would the nations that submitted fare better than those who resisted? (27:10-11)
9. What test did Jeremiah give to prove that the false prophets were wrong? (27:18)
10. When did Hananiah say the sacred articles and the king would return? (28:3-4)
11. How was Hananiah's prophecy of peace going to be proven right or wrong? (28:7-9)
12. What did God tell the exiles to do while in Babylon? (29:4-9)
13. What did Jeremiah inform the exiles about those who remained behind? (29:15-19)

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 30-33

Explain or define these words and phrases:

The latter days (30:24):

Remnant (31:7):

Covenant (31:31):

Research:

How is Ephraim God's firstborn? (31:9)

Who was Molech, and why were children passed through fire to him? (32:35)

Chapter Questions:

1. What did God tell Jeremiah to do with the words that had been revealed to him? (30:1-2)
2. What did God promise to do for Israel, allowing them to return to Zion? (31:10-11)
3. Why did God tell Jeremiah to buy a field? (32:1-44)
4. What was God's guarantee of His promise to restore the nation? (33:1-22)

Application:

What can we draw from God's fulfillment of these promises to Israel?

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 34-36

Define:

Liberty (34:8):

Research:

Explain the law concerning slaves, especially Hebrew slaves.

Explain the cutting of a calf in two and passing through the parts of it? (34:18)

Who were the Rechabites? (35:2)

Chapter Questions:

1. How did the people of Jerusalem profane the name of God? (34:8-22)
2. Why were the Rechabites brought into the house of God? (35:1-19)
3. Why were the Rechabites blessed by God? (35:18-19)
4. Why did God want Jeremiah to write a scroll? (36:1-3)
5. What similar thing happened to the king's father? What was his reaction? (36:20-26)

Application:

What advise would you give someone before entering into a covenant?

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 37-38

Define:

Besiege (37:5):

Research:

How did Zedekiah become king in Jerusalem? What was his name before he was king? (37:1)

Why did Pharaoh's army come up from Egypt when Jerusalem was under siege? (37:5)

Why was Jeremiah accused of defecting to the Chaldeans? (37:13)

Chapter Questions:

1. Since Zedekiah would not listen to Jeremiah, why would he ask him to pray for them? (37:1-4)
2. What was God's response to Zedekiah? (37:6-10)
3. Why did Zedekiah ask Jeremiah if there was any word from the LORD? (37:17)
4. Why was Zedekiah petitioned to put Jeremiah to death? (38:1-4)
5. What did Zedekiah want to know from Jeremiah this third time? (38:14)
6. What answer did the LORD give Zedekiah this third time he inquired of Jeremiah? (38:17-28)

Application:

Why do people seek after a different answer when they have already received one?

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 39-41

Research:

Who was Gedaliah? Why would he be chosen to be governor? (40:7)

Chapter Questions:

1. How long was Jerusalem besieged before it fell to Babylon? (39:1-2)
2. What did Nebuchadnezzar do to Zedekiah when he was caught? (39:4-10)
3. Why was Nebuchadnezzar so kind to Jeremiah when he was captured? (39:11-14)
4. What message did God give to Ebed-Melech? Why? (39:11-18)
5. What did Nebuzaradan understand about Jerusalem's destruction? How? (40:2-3)
6. Whom did Nebuchadnezzar leave in Israel? (40:7)
7. Who came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, when Nebuchadnezzar made him governor? (40:7-12)
8. About what was Gedaliah warned? Why did he not listen? (40:13-16)
9. Why did Ishmael kill Gedaliah and all the others? (41:1-10)
10. What happened to Ishmael, the son of Nethaniah? (41:11-15)

Application:

If you were Jeremiah, would you have chosen to go to Babylon or stay in Israel? Why?

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 42-45

Research:

Who was Baruch? Why might they have thought he was against them? (43:3)

What do we know of the goddess the Israelites were worshipping? (44:19)

Chapter Questions:

1. What request did the people make of the prophet Jeremiah? (42:1-3)
2. Was their request an honest one? (42:19-22)
3. How did Johanan and the other leaders rationalize their disobedience? (43:1-3)
4. While at Tahpanhes, what lesson did God tell Jeremiah to teach? (43:8-13)
5. In what way God amazed by the remnant in Egypt? (44:7-10)
6. What did the people vow to do as they defied Jeremiah openly? (44:15-19)
7. Why was the scribe, Baruch, feeling sorry for himself? What was God's response to him? (45:1-5)

Application:

How might we possibly deceive ourselves as the remnant in Egypt did?

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 46-47

Research:

Find out what you can about Pharaoh Necho and His interaction with Judah and Babylon.
(46:2)

Where were the Philistines originally from? (47:4)

Chapter Questions:

1. Why were Ethiopians, Libyans, and Lydians coming forth to fight? (46:9)
2. Why was Egypt God's adversary? (46:10)
3. How were Egypt's mercenaries like fat bulls? (46:21)
4. What was God going to do to Egypt in the future? (46:25-26)
5. Why did God comfort Jacob to have no fear? (46:27-28)
6. Who is the sword of the LORD against the Philistines? (47:1-7)

Application:

What can we learn from God's judgment upon nations other than Israel and Judah?

Jeremiah ~ Chapter 48

Research:

Find out what you can about Moab, their ancestry, when they were taken captive and when they were restored?

Chapter Questions:

1. Where was Moab's trust misplaced? (48:6-9)
2. Why was Moab being brought to derision? (48:26-27)
3. How had Moab exalted itself against the LORD? (48:26, 42)
4. Is the restoration of Moab simply a physical or does it have a spiritual meaning as well? (48:47)

Application:

How can we keep ourselves from exalting ourselves against the LORD as Moab did?

Jeremiah ~ Chapter 49

Research:

What cup did Edom not drink that God would make them drink? (49:12)

Which of the nations mentioned in chapter 49 would God restore and which ones would cease to exist? (49)

Chapter Questions:

1. What gave the Ammonites a false sense of security? (49:1-6)
2. Whom, from Edom, would God care for? (49:7-11)
3. In what did Edom trust? (49:14-22)
4. Who were the men of the east? (49:28)
5. Who were the Elamites and what were they famous for? (49:34-39)

Application:

Why did God give prophecies against these nations through Jeremiah? Was it for their sake, our sake, or some other reason?

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 50-51

Research:

Babylon was God's sword to destroy Judah, so how did Babylon sin against the LORD? (50:7) (Find all the reasons he mentions in chapters 50 & 51)

Chapter Questions:

1. With their enemies facing God's wrath, what did Jeremiah predict Israel and Judah would do? (50:4-5)
2. When Babylon was made accountable to God, what would become of Israel's guilt? (50:20)
3. What did Jeremiah tell us about Israel's Redeemer? (50:34)
4. What was predicted about the destruction of Babylon? (50:39-40)
5. What had the Babylonians failed to understand about the LORD's relationship to Israel? (51:5)
6. How did Jeremiah contrast the God of Israel with the idols of the other nations? (51:17-19)
7. When was this message about Babylon delivered to the exiles in Babylon? (51:59-64)

Application:

Does our society practice some of the same things that brought on God's punishment for Babylon?

Jeremiah ~ Chapters 52

Research:

Find where else in the bible one could read this account almost word for word. (52)

Why do the two passages read so much alike?

Who is the author of the other passage?

Chapter Questions:

1. How long did Zedekiah reign in Jerusalem? What happened to him? (52:1-11)
2. Who was left behind by Nebuzaradan after Jerusalem was taken captive? (52:12-23)
3. How tall and how big around were the bronze pillars they took? (52:12-23)
4. How many people of Judah were taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar? (52:24-30)
5. What happened to Jehoiachin in Babylon? When did this happen? (52:31-34)

Application:

Why is Jehoiachin's release from prison and prominence in Babylon significant?

LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations describes the funeral of a city. It is a tearstained portrait of the once-proud Jerusalem, now reduced to rubble by the invading Babylonian hordes. In a five-poem dirge, the author expresses the deep emotion of one who has seen the slaughter of many of his people, the enslavement of others, and the abject despair of the few survivors.

Author

Traditionally, this book has been attributed to the prophet Jeremiah, though he is not named in the text. The Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) names Jeremiah as the author, and early church fathers such as Origen and Jerome agreed. Its present location after the book of Jeremiah in the English text reflects this judgment. Stylistic similarities between the two books also indicate that Jeremiah was quite possibly the author.

Date

The vivid and passionate tone of the author gives a strong impression of one who had just experienced the horrors of the destruction of the Holy City and the temple. This fact suggests a date of composition shortly after 586 B.C.

Themes and Literary Structure

The five chapters of Lamentations consist of five mournful poems which can be entitled: (1) the destruction of Jerusalem, (2) the anger of Yahweh, (3) the prayer for mercy, (4) the siege of Jerusalem, (5) the prayer for restoration.

The five poems each comprise a chapter, and the first four have an acrostic structure—a literary form that follows the pattern of the alphabet: the first verse or group of verses begins with the first letter of the alphabet, the second with the second, and so forth. Of course, this structure is almost impossible to reproduce in translation.

The first four chapters (poems) are dirges, loaded with pain and agony, except for two brief outbursts of faith and hope in 3:19–42 and 3:55–60. Chapter 5 is not quite as intense, but even there the throb of deep hurt is present. Throughout the poems, one is aware of theological insights typical of Jeremiah. Sharp contrasts and vivid comparisons are often repeated, and figurative language is abundant.

OUTLINE OF LAMENTATIONS

- I. The Destruction of Jerusalem 1:1–22**
 - A. The Lament of the Prophet Jeremiah 1:1–11
 - B. The Lament of the City Jerusalem 1:12–22
 - II. The Anger of God 2:1–22**
 - A. The Anger of God 2:1–9
 - B. The Agony of Jerusalem 2:10–17
 - C. The Appeal of Jerusalem 2:18–22
 - III. The Prayer for Mercy 3:1–66**
 - A. Jeremiah’s Cry of Despair 3:1–18
 - B. Jeremiah’s Confession of Faith 3:19–39
 - C. Jeremiah’s Condition of Need 3:40–54
 - D. Jeremiah’s Confidence in God 3:55–66
 - IV. The Siege of Jerusalem 4:1–22**
 - A. The Conditions During the Siege 4:1–10
 - B. The Cause of the Siege 4:11–20
 - C. The Consequences of the Siege 4:21, 22
 - V. The Prayer for Restoration 5:1–22**
 - A. The Review of the Need for Restoration 5:1–15
 - B. The Repentance of Sin 5:16–18
 - C. The Request for Restoration 5:19–22
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The Theme of Renewal

Throughout the book, the author of Lamentations couples a recognition of human sin and its consequences with profound hope in God and prayers that God will lead His people back to Him along the path of sorrow, repentance, hope, and faith.⁴

⁴ Thomas Nelson Publishers. *Nelson’s Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts: Old and New Testaments*. Rev. and updated ed. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1996. Print.

Lamentations ~ Chapters 1 & 2

Research Questions:

12. Who wrote Lamentations?

13. When was it written?

14. What does it mean to lament?

Chapter Questions:

1. Who is Jerusalem portrayed as in chapter one?

2. Who were Jerusalem's lovers and friends? (1:2)

3. Why did the LORD afflict Jerusalem in this manner? (1:1-5)

4. Who is speaking in verses 12-22? (1:12-22)

5. What did the LORD turn away from and destroy because of His fierce anger? (2:1-9)

6. Why was Jerusalem called "the joy of the whole earth", see Ps 48:2 & 50:2? (2:15)

7. How did the destruction of Jerusalem fulfill God's word from old? (2:17)

Thought Questions:

1. What do these prophetic laments over Jerusalem teach us about God, judgment, hope or anything else you can think of?

Lamentations ~ Chapter 3

Research Questions:

1. Why did God make Jeremiah suffer such terrible affliction? (3:1-18)

Chapter Questions:

1. What was the rod of God's wrath that caused the affliction Jeremiah saw? (3:1)
2. Why had Jeremiah's strength and hope perished? (3:18)
3. What restored Jeremiah's hope? (3:21)
4. How do we wait for the LORD and His salvation? (3:25-26)
5. What does it mean to bear the yoke in one's youth? Why is it good? (3:27-33)
6. Why does woe and well-being both come from God? (3:38-45)
7. What was the LORD's answer when Jeremiah called upon Him? (3:55-57)

Thought Questions:

1. What does Jeremiah's emotional turbulence teach us?

Lamentations ~ Chapter 4

Chapter Questions:

1. What happened to the gold and stones of the sanctuary? (4:2)
2. How were the people of Judah like ostriches and not like jackals? (4:3)
3. What were the once rich and pampered people doing to survive during the destruction of Jerusalem? (4:5)
4. Why were those who died by the sword better off than the rest? (4:9)
5. What had the once compassionate women been brought to? (4:10)
6. Why did people not believe the enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem? (4:12)
7. What did God hold against the prophets and priests of Judah? (4:13-16)
8. Who was the anointed of the LORD mentioned in verse 20? (4:20)
9. What did Jeremiah mean that Edom should “rejoice and be glad”? (4:21-22)

Thought Questions:

1. What lessons can we take from the unimaginable horror that happened in Jerusalem during the Babylonian destruction?

Lamentations ~ Chapter 5

Chapter Questions:

1. Why does Jeremiah ask God to look at what His people have become? (5:1)
2. What happened to the survivors of the Babylonians siege of Jerusalem? (5:2-14)
3. How were they bearing the sins of their fathers who were dead? (5:7)
4. What does it mean that the crown had fallen from their head? (5:16)
5. Why is it important to understand why God is on His throne in every generation? (5:19)
6. Will God turn back His people if they choose not to turn back to Him? (5:21)
7. Had God utterly rejected His people? (5:22)

Thought Questions:

1. Why did the people still have hope even though they had lost every physical blessing they had ever had?