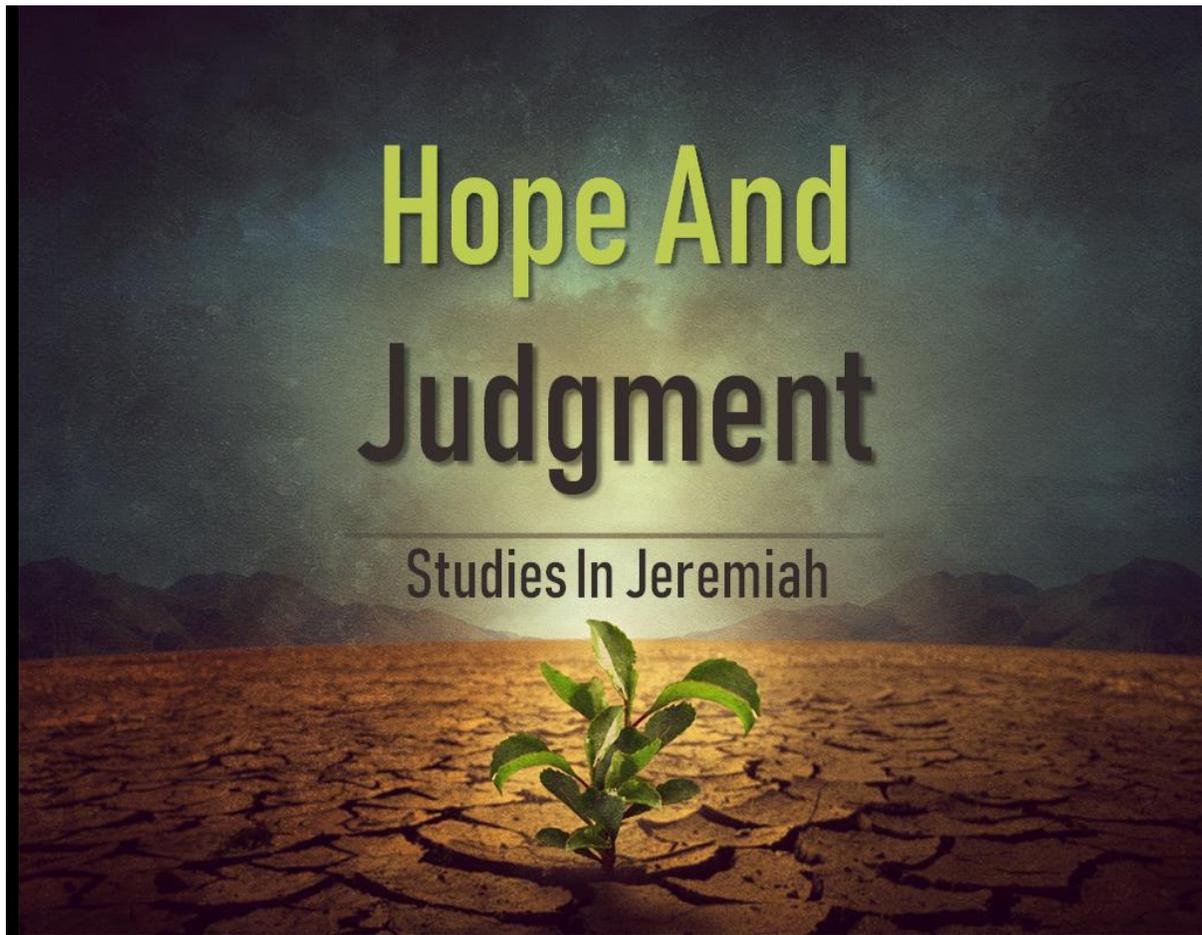


# **“Hope And Judgment”**

## **Studies In Jeremiah**



September-November 2018

Danville Rd. church of Christ

# Table Of Contents

Lesson 1- Introduction To Jeremiah

Lesson 2- Jeremiah Chapter 1

Lesson 3- Jeremiah 7

Lesson 4- Jeremiah 14

Lesson 5- Jeremiah 18

Lesson 6- Jeremiah 24

Lesson 7- Jeremiah 35

Lesson 8- Jeremiah 42

Lesson 9- Jeremiah 45

Lesson 10- Lamentations

## Preface

In the Old Testament, we see a cycle of sin, repentance and return by God's people. Sadly, it often took extreme measures to turn them back to God. God is longsuffering and does not want anyone to lose their soul, so He is willing to do whatever it takes to bring us back (2 Peter 3:9). Things could not get much lower for Judah in the days of Jeremiah.

They had completely rebelled; Jerusalem was in ruins, and many of God's people were being carried to Babylon into captivity. But even sinking the lowest they could go, there was always hope. We too always have hope if we have breath. So, this study is an opportunity for us to consider the reality of judgment and hope, while changing accordingly. I believe there is not a more needed study today.

We will be studying Jeremiah using base camps or anchor points. Jeremiah is the longest book of the Bible based on the number of words- even more than Psalms, so we need to take one step at a time.

Please read the entire book of Jeremiah at least once before beginning this study. Even if you do not understand it initially, it will help tremendously. When you do, if possible, read it aloud. This will help you keep a clear mind and stay focused. And lastly, try to read with your spouse, child, relative or friend. This will help us to be accountable and edify both.

Note: This material was prepared in part based on excellent studies by Tom Holley and discussions with Mike Morrow, Tony Sayre and my High School Bible Class in the Czech Republic. I am also so thankful to my wife Lauren for her great spiritual encouragement and excellent editing. If you have any questions, you may email them to [robersonjustin@bellsouth.net](mailto:robersonjustin@bellsouth.net)

# Introduction To Jeremiah

During Jeremiah's ministry beginning in 626 B.C until the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. he saw his brethren fall from the mountaintop of confident hope to the pit of despair. Judah was subject to Assyria, Egypt, then Babylon. During Jeremiah's work, five kings served in Judah. One was killed during war; one was taken as a prisoner to Egypt, and two were exiled in Babylon. Most of God's people were taken and the city of Jerusalem destroyed. Yet in all this, there was hope. Judgment and hope are two principles we must understand today lest history repeat itself. However, no book of the Old Testament depends more on a knowledge and context of the world around it than Jeremiah. So, this lesson will help us to be ready to begin chapter 1.

1. Is the nickname "The Weeping Prophet" accurate to describe Jeremiah? How would you describe him?

Bonus Question- Who Else Wept Over Jerusalem And Why?

2. What does Jeremiah's name mean? What does his name mean in the context of a wicked King?

3. How do the conditions of Jeremiah's day parallel our own? Give some similarities and differences.

4. Briefly describe the five Kings that reigned during Jeremiah's life.

Josiah- Zechariah 12:11

Jehoahaz (Shallum)

Eliakim (Jehoiakim)

Jehoiachin (Coniah)

Zedekiah (Mattaniah) Jeremiah 37:17-38:28

5. My friend Vicki is an excellent equestrian. One important rule is that the whip and sugar must be used to condition a horse to behave. Never just one of the two. With that illustration in mind why is it so important that we understand God's wrath and love?

# Jeremiah Chapter 1

1. Give the what, who, where and when of the book of Jeremiah based on verse one through three of chapter one? How do we know this is not a fairy tale or a fictional story?

2. There are lots of action verbs in verses four through six- name some. If Jeremiah was already ordained a prophet, was his salvation guaranteed? Can you give an example?

3. Jeremiah said he could not speak because he is a youth. What did God say and do the first time? (1:7-12)

Bonus Question- Why is it better to be a little shy rather than being overconfident?

4. What was the illustration given by God in verse 13? What does this mean?

5. When you read the poetic description of the invasion of Judah by Babylon in verses 14-16, what word points us to the reason? What was the reason?

6. Read Jeremiah 1:17-19. How hard must we work to be faithful where WE are? Also see Jeremiah 15:17-19.

# Jeremiah Chapter 7

Tom Holley says that Jeremiah chapter 7 is like one of the central stops or hubs of the book of Jeremiah. It is a place where all the chapters cross. Many sentences are repeated throughout the rest of the book. If you read the book multiple times, you will be pleasantly surprised by that.

1. Jeremiah is told to proclaim the word of God at the house of God. Does an open heart want to hear truth or something about truth? (V1-2)

2. The expression “lying words” is used how many times in chapter 7? What is the lie being told? What is an application we can make here?

3. Read Jeremiah 7:8-11. What idols do Christians worship and then come into the assembly and worship God too? See Matthew 21:13 and Jeremiah 7:17-21

4. What does God say for Judah to do in verses 12-15 to prove He was serious?

Bonus Question- Verse 16 says for Jeremiah to not pray for the people. Why?

5. Why did God not speak about making sacrifices? What was He saying? (V22-25) How hard was He trying to bring them back? (v26-27)

6. Why were times so sad? (v28-32) It was so sad that they had been robbed of what (v33-34)?

# Jeremiah Chapter 14

Josiah was the first King in the grouping at the end of the Kingdom of Judah. No one before or after Josiah was like him. Josiah led reforms, but Judah only went along in pretense (Jeremiah 3:1-6). If the people were ungodly in the days of Josiah what would they be like in the days of ungodly Kings? In chapter 14, we begin to see the increasing declaration of judgment by God. But even amid famine, pestilence and sword, there is hope.

1. Notice the poetic description of drought in verses 1-6. How severe was it?
2. Why was God not moved to act? (v7) Was God indifferent? (v8-9)
3. Read verses 10-16. Why was the wrath of God or day of accountability now?

Bonus Question- How would the false teachers be punished?

4. What statement did Jeremiah make as he was inspired by the Holy Spirit that gives him his "nickname"? (v17-19)
5. What two rhetorical questions are asked in v20-21? Why?
6. Why do we wait on the Lord/trust in the Lord (v22 and also read Matthew 6:26-34)?

# Jeremiah Chapter 18

1. Where is Jeremiah told to go in the first eleven verses, and what does he learn?
2. What was the people's excuse for not obeying God? (v12) Was this true? What did they do instead? (v13-18)
3. Then what was their next plan? (Jeremiah 18:18)
4. Up until now Jeremiah is told not to pray for the people. But at the end of this chapter, he is instructed to pray an imprecatory prayer. What is this type of prayer? See Revelation 6:9-11
5. When I fully want what God wants to give me right now, is the answer always yes? See James 1
6. What are some examples in the Bible of people praying for what God wants to happen?

## Jeremiah Chapter 24

Chapter 1-20 is all in the days of Josiah. In chapter 21, we see a king who was the son of Josiah. Josiah had three sons after him, and all were very wicked. Even Godly men can have wicked sons. (Ezekiel 18) In chapter 24, we have a surprise in the book involving those carried away in captivity. The surprise is how God sees those carried away and those left behind.

1. In verses 1-3, we see descriptions of figs. What type of fig should we strive to be?
2. In verses 4-7, we find out who the good figs are. Who are they and does this surprise you?

Bonus Question- Can a forgiven man go to God in prayer even when he is suffering the consequences of his own sin? (See Psalm 3)

3. Read Psalm 137:1-7- This is a psalm about what we are studying. Did the captives in Babylon feel like singing? Why?
4. Psalm 137:8 is a verse used by skeptics to discredit God and His people. How should this be understood considering the context?
5. Have we heard verse 6 before? (planted and pulled) Where? How about Jeremiah 24:7?
6. In verses 8-10, what two things are mentioned that would have a good fig to be bad? Why would they not want to go back to Egypt?

## Jeremiah Chapter 35

1. Jeremiah 35 describes one family that stayed faithful when others were not at this time. This continues our theme of eternal hope even during great judgment. Is it possible to have a Godly family in a corrupt society? How?
2. In verses 1-6, we read about Jonabad who lived about 200 years before this event. What did he command? Was his family faithfully following it?
3. In verses 7-9, what types of things could they not do to live as sojourners?
4. Do you see the parallel in this chapter? Read verses 10-15. God told Israel not to do many things, but they did not obey Him. God rose early to tell them. (14) God did everything possible so they would obey His commands. His prophets never stopped. Why did the people not obey?
5. Verses 16-17 tell us the family of Rechab obeyed, but God's family did not. Why was it easier for them to obey an earthly father, and yet God's people could not obey their Heavenly father?

Bonus Question- Did Jonadab do something that pleased the Lord?

6. What does it mean to stand before God? (v18-19)

## Jeremiah Chapter 42

1. Jeremiah 42 describes the aftermath of the destruction of what city? (v1) Yet, what still remained? (v2) (Romans 9:27; 11:5)
2. What was the great question in the people's minds at this time? (v3-6) Has this been a question before? Why? (Deuteronomy 4:34-37, 5:6-15, 15:15, 16:12) (Isaiah 29-31) (Revelation 11:8) (Zechariah 10:11)
3. How long did they have to wait to get an answer? (v7-8) How long do we have to wait for God to give us answers? (Eccl 3:11, 7:13, 23; 8:17; 11:5; 12:13) (Phil 4:6-8)
4. On the human side of thinking, would it make sense to go back to Egypt? Why or Why not? What did God's wisdom say? (v9-17) (Also see Deut 17)
5. Is there any reason to want to return from where God has saved me from? Why is sin called slavery or a taskmaster? (Ex 1:11; 3:7; 5-14) (Isa 28:6-8) (Romans 6:16-18)
6. Despite the people saying they wanted to do right, what was in their hearts? (v19-22) How far did they go? What is the key to having an undivided heart? (John 5:19,30; 8:28)

# Jeremiah Chapter 45

1. Jeremiah 45 takes place when? (V1) Why is this so significant? Is this in chronological order? (See Jeremiah 36:8)

Research Question- What has archeology found of Baruch? (hint: fingerprints)

2. Who is Baruch? (Jer. 43:6) Is Baruch where he ought to be? (Jeremiah 43:6) About how long did he stay with Jeremiah?

3. How did Baruch feel, as he is being oppressed by the King? (V2-3) How bad was his oppression? (Jeremiah 36:26)

4. What was God's response? (V4-5) Is serving God about what we get out of it or what we put into it? (Luke 18:11; Phil 1:16; 2:3)

Thought Question- Why might he have been expecting great things? (Jer. 51:59)

5. What was his prize? (V5) Why is this the greatest prize of all? (Jeremiah 21:8; Deut 30:15-20)

# Lamentations

1. Read the book of Lamentations. {It takes around 30 minutes} Have you ever met a person who said there is no hope in this world? Are they right? How can we find hope in the ruins of a hopeless world? (Lamentations 3:21)

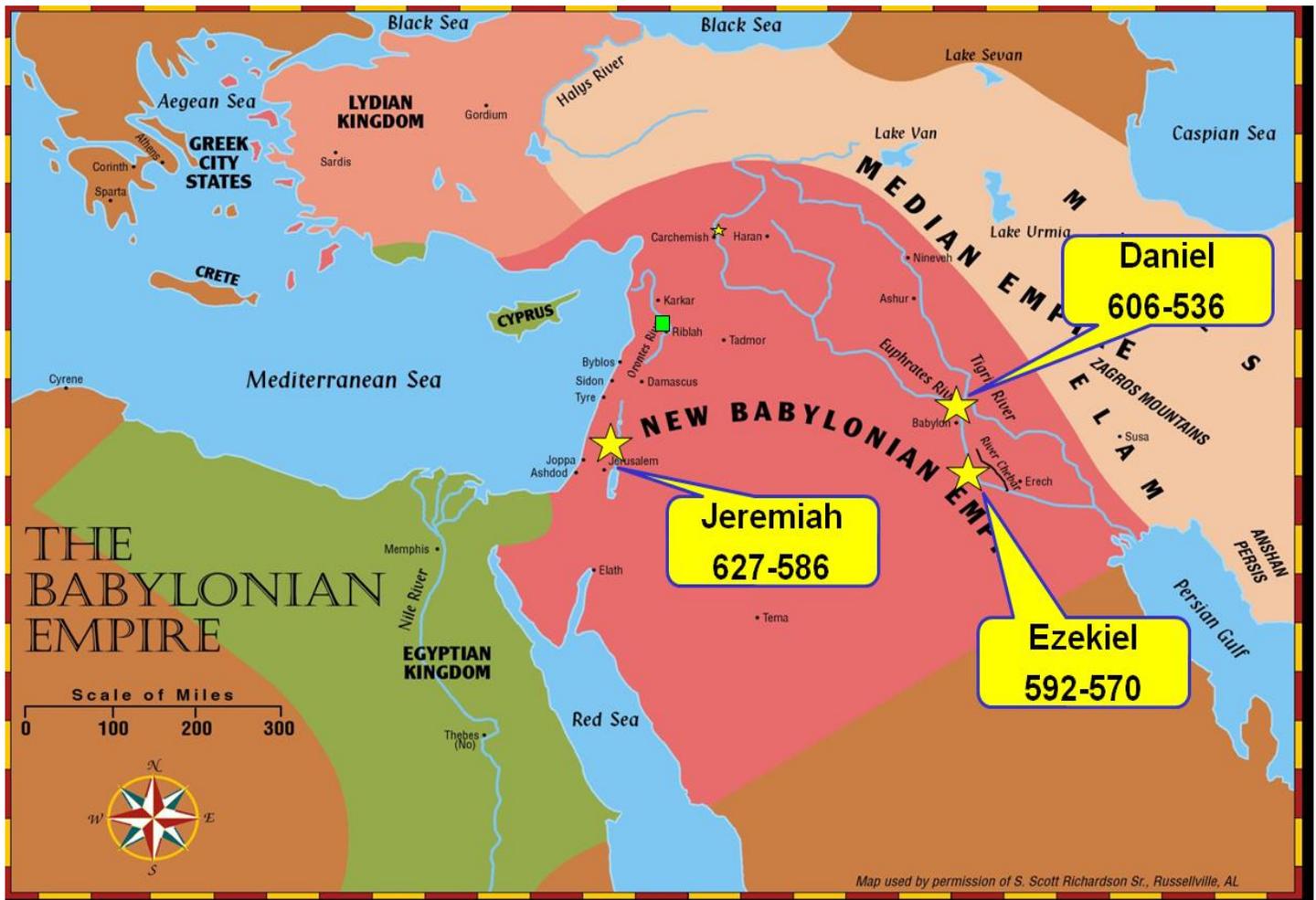
2. In chapters 2 and 4 of Lamentations, we see people eating their own children. Where would you look for hope here? Around you in humans? If you find hope, where must we look?

3. Read Lamentations 3:22-23. Was that easy to say looking around at the burning and the rubble of Jerusalem? Someone might say “if they are new every day why don’t I see one”? How would you answer that? (See James 1:21 and Lamentations 3:24 along with Psalm 103)

4. Why are hope and wait linked together in Lamentations 3:25-27? See James 5.

5. Read Lamentations 3:28. How can we endure the good with the bad? (Job 1:21, 2:10; 1 Tim 6:7; James 5:11)

- In context, people are eating their own children; there is no visual aid to give you hope. But the realization that God lets you live says God still has a purpose for me. We are all alive right now and God wants us to do something with the life He gave us. (Tom Holley)



## Babylonian Captivity

<u>Date</u>	<u>Deportation</u>	<u>Captives Taken</u>
606 BC	First	<b>Nobles, Daniel</b> (2 K. 24:1; Dan. 1:1-2)
597 BC	Second	<b>Jehoiachin, Ezekiel</b> (2 K. 24:12; Jer. 52:28; Ezk. 1:1-2)
586 BC	Third	<b>Jerusalem</b> (2 K. 25:8; Jer. 52:29)