

Jeremiah

Background

Book:

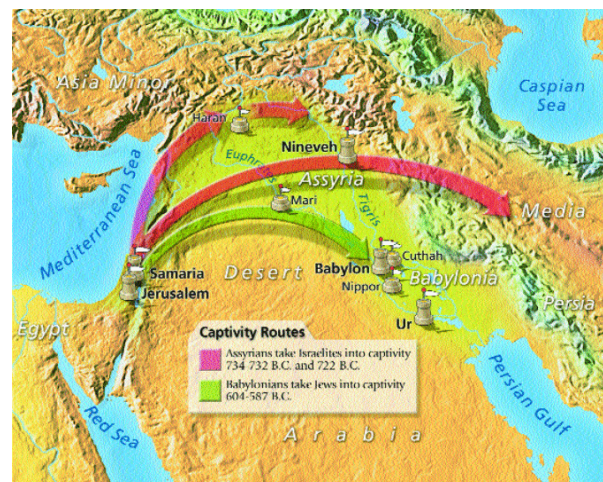
- Northern Israel fell to the Assyrians in 722 B.C..
- The book covers a forty-year period in which the Southern kingdom of Judah sees its last days and is exiled for breaking the covenant with the Lord.
- Jeremiah's ministry begins in 627 B.C. and continues after Jerusalem's destruction in 587 B.C.. It spans the reigns of five kings: Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah.

Man:

- Jeremiah was born and raised in Anathoth and came from a priestly line.
- He was called to be a prophet in 627 B.C. and preached for over forty years.
- His messages were not well-received and he faced verbal and physical persecution.
- He never married per God's command and his ministry only records two converts.
- Jeremiah courageously preached a message of coming judgment because of sin. He was faithful even in the midst of difficulty. He is known as the "prophet of lament" or the "weeping prophet". He was determined, dedicated, long-suffering, and a prophetic visionary and model.
- He was taken into exile to Egypt by his own countrymen where he likely died.

Outline/Structure

1. Jeremiah 1: the Prophet's Call and Ministry
2. Jeremiah 2-29: Israel's Sin
3. Jeremiah 30-33: Israel's Restoration
4. Jeremiah 34-51: Israel and the Nation's Judgment
5. Jeremiah 52: Historical Conclusion



Major Themes

1. God's Character (10:5-10)
2. Man's Sinfulness (2:1-5, 12-13; 5:22-25; 17:1, 5-6, 9-10, 13:22-23)
3. God's Word (1:4-10; 20:8-9)
4. God's Judgments (4:23-28; 52:3)
5. God's Messiah (23:3-6; 33:14-16)
6. God's Covenants (22:8-9; 31:31-34; 32:38-41)

Application

1. Preach the Word and leave the results to the Lord.
2. Suffering and persecution should be expected and prepared for. Be faithful even unto death.
3. God provides what he commands through the Gospel.

Lamentations

Background

- The book is a poetic and literary reflection upon the fall of Jerusalem. The city and her exiles lament the destruction of Judah.
- Many believe Jeremiah the prophet wrote the book (2 Chron. 35:25) because there are similar themes in Lamentations and within Jeremiah's works as well as the fact that the prophet witnessed the fall and destruction of Jerusalem.
- The book is ultimately anonymous.

Outline/Structure

1. Jerusalem's Misery and Desolation (Ch. 1)
2. The Lord's Wrath Against His People (Ch. 2)
3. Judah's Complaint & the Basis for Consolation (Ch. 3)
4. Contrast Between Zions Past and Present (Ch. 4)
5. Judah's Appeal for Forgiveness and Restoration (Ch. 5)

Major Themes

1. Sin is Absolutely Debilitating (2:18-20)
2. God's Judgements are Devastating (2:1-7)
3. God's Mercy is Our Only Deliverance (3:20-33)

Applications

1. Flee sin. Fight against it. Kill it.
2. Find your hope in the Lord alone.
3. It is ok to weep and feel deeply the horrors and lingering consequences of sin. We should grieve and lament at times.
4. God punishes and disciplines us for our good.