

Key to JEREMIAH

1. STATISTICS:

Writer, Jeremiah (name means "JEHOVAH exalted") priest-prophet to Judah; time of ministry, 626-584 B.C., preceding Babylonian captivity; general theme, warnings of impending judgments; key verse, 1:18; key thought, "go and cry."

2. THEME:

Jeremiah, an Aaronic priest, was called to undertake an exceedingly difficult ministry to Judah. He counseled and warned kings (Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah) and people of impending judgment, but they only called him a pessimist. He began his ministry about 70 years after the death of Isaiah and lived to see the city destroyed. He was carried captive to Egypt.

3. OUTLINE:

Jeremiah's personal history was interwoven among his prophecies. Josiah's reign (1-12)
Jehoiakim's reign (13-20; 25, 26, 35, 36)
Zedekiah's reign (21-24; 27-34; 37-39)
During Babylonian captivity (40-44)
Concerning the surrounding nations (45-52)

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Written against background of contest between three nations (Assyria, Egypt and Babylonia).

Prophecies are not in chronological order, but written with tenderness and pathos. He has been called the "weeping prophet" due to his intimate concern for the sufferings of the people. Yet in the performance of his God-given ministry, he was fearless, faithful and uncompromising.

Jeremiah was contemporary with Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel and Ezekiel.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

At this time there was an abundance of false prophets. These proclaimed peace as Jeremiah announced war; they foretold prosperity as Jeremiah told of coming trouble. The false prophets were spoken of as patriots, Jeremiah a traitor.

An important prediction regarding Jeconiah (Jehoiachin or Coniah) in 22:28-30 is a strong proof for the virgin birth of Christ, for Joseph the husband of Mary was descended from him (Matthew 1:12, 16).

Jeremiah's writings speak largely of the destiny of surrounding nations of Moab, Ammon, Elam (Persia).

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Next to Psalms, Jeremiah is the longest book in the Bible.

As predicted in chapters 51, 52 Babylon was never rebuilt.

Jeremiah mentions the exact time of the captivity (70 years, 25:9-11).

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

Jeremiah's sorrow is GOD's sorrow, Jeremiah's predicted judgment is GOD's. You can best understand by looking at sin and unrighteousness through GOD's eyes in whatever age you live.

~ end of Jeremiah ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
