

# The Call and Mission of Jeremiah

*Quote: "Yahweh is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Yahweh is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of Yahweh. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth."*

Lamentations 3:24-27

## Bible Marking

## Jeremiah 1

Jeremiah 1:1 - **"The words of Jeremiah"** - these were the words of Yahweh, because Jeremiah was to speak the words that Yahweh commanded him.

**"Jeremiah"** - means - "Whom Yahweh raises up, exalts or appoints". See vv4-5.

**"the son of Hilkiyah"** - = "portion of Yah". Possibly the High Priest at this time - 2 Kings 22:4.

**"of the priests"** - ie. a prophet-priest. A type of the Lord Jesus Christ who was a prophet (Deut 18:18) and a priest (Psa 110:4). And will also be a king (Psa 2).

Jeremiah 1:6 - **"I am a child"** - means a young man. Used of Joseph (Gen 37:2), David when he slew Goliath (1 Sam 17:33,42,55,58). See Lam 3:24-27; Psa 119:9. Yahweh rarely raises up an old man in scripture to do a work. Instead He raises up young students of His Word who have vigour and enthusiasm. In their youth, he moulds them through His Word. This makes them of greater value in later life.

Jeremiah 1:7 - **"whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak."** - Similar words are used prophetically of Christ in Deut 18:18. See also John 14:24. Jeremiah here types Christ.

Jeremiah 1:8 - **"Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD."** - cp Ezekiel's commission (Ezek 2:6-7); Joshua's commission (Josh 1:5); Paul's experiences (2 Tim 3:11). See Heb 13:6 (application to us).

Jeremiah 1:9 - **"touched my mouth"** - see mgn - Isaiah 6:7. Similar to Isaiah. See also Ezek 2:8-3:11. Yahweh gave him the power to speak His Words. This becomes a major issue in the book. The phrase "saith Yahweh" or similar occurs over 350 times. Those who rejected the word of Yahweh through Jeremiah would perish (Jer 27:10,15; 28:15-17), while the words of Yahweh in the mouth of Jeremiah were vindicated (eg Jer 38:18; 39:1-8).

### Jeremiah 1 - The Call and Commission of Jeremiah

1. Vv1-3 The Prophet and his Period of Ministry
2. Vv4-10 - Jeremiah's Commission
3. Vv11-19 - Divine Encouragement
  - a. vv11-12 - Sign of the Almond Rod
  - b. Vv13-16 - Sign of the Seething Pot
  - c. Vv17-19 Speak Unto them All That I Command Thee

Mark above & below Jer 1

### Jeremiah's Early Years

Jeremiah was born during the reign of Manasseh. For most of his reign, he promoted false worship, even bringing it into the Temple of Yahweh to defile it (2 Chron 33:3-4). The Word of Yahweh was neglected to the point that the Book of the Law was lost (34:14). Manasseh made Judah and Jerusalem to do WORSE than the heathen whom Yahweh destroyed before them. (2 Chron 33:9).

Towards the end of his reign Manasseh repented and endeavoured to reform Judah. This was largely unsuccessful, however it was into this environment that Josiah and Jeremiah were born and brought up. Jeremiah's stand for the truth would bring him into conflict with his own countrymen. Even the men of Anathoth (Jeremiah's home town) would turn against him - Jer 11:21.

Jeremiah 1:11 - **"rod of an almond tree"** - See Numbers 17:8 - where Aaron's rod budded and brought forth almonds as a token against the rebels who opposed his position, and authority.

**"almond tree"** - From a root word "shaqad" meaning to "awake", "to be alert". When the almond (the first tree to blossom) awakens into blossom, we are reminded that the seasons are continuing as Yahweh says, and that Yahweh's work continues as he has said (1 Thes 5:1-6; Rom 13:11).

Jeremiah 1:12 - **"hasten"** - Heb "shaqad". The root word for "almond" see note on v11. **"perform it"** - means "to accomplish". See Isa 55:11.

Jeremiah 1:13 - **“a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north”** - See margin (4) “from the face of the north”. ie. a Cooking pot on the boil with it’s contents tipping from the north.

Jeremiah 1:15 - see margin (b) - **Jer 39:2-3**.

Jeremiah 1:18-19 - Two types of defence: The men of Jerusalem trusted in walls to defend them against Babylon, but Babylon would overcome them. Jeremiah had no physical walls, his trust was in Yahweh. Yahweh was a sure defence against the people of the city. See **Jer 36:26; Jer 39:11-12**.

Mark above & below Jer 1-2

### **Jeremiah is “Put in Charge of the Nations” Jer 1:10 (Roth)**

Not only does Jeremiah set out Yahweh’s judgments on Israel as well as on the Gentiles. He also speaks of Israel’s restoration and the basis upon which those of the nations can be restored.

CONCERNING ISRAEL (KEY VERSE: **JER 31:28**): To be “plucked up” and “broken down” (**Jer 45:4**) because they were spiritually “broken down” (**Jer 4:26**) and therefore Yahweh had hidden his face from them because of their wickedness (**Jer 33:4-5**). Yahweh would “destroy” the inhabitants of Jerusalem (**Jer 6:21-23**), the land (**Jer 9:11-12**) and the people (**Jer10:14-15; 15:7; 27:10,15**).

However Yahweh would not make a full end of Israel (**Jer 4:27**) like He will of ALL other nations (**Jer 30:11**).

Israel will ultimately be “built” and “planted” (**Jer 31:28; 24:6; 31:4; 33:7; 32:41**). Jerusalem to be built on her own heap (**Jer 30:18; 31:38**).

CONCERNING THE NATIONS: (KEY PASSAGES: **JER 25:8-29; 46:1--51:64**): Particular attention is given to Babylon which was to be “destroyed” (**Jer 51:54-55**) and “thrown down” (**50:15**), but other nations including Edom (**Jer 49:7-8**) and Moab (**Jer 48:8,36**) were also to suffer destruction.

Israel will in the last days be “plucked out” from among the nations, and restored to their land (**Jer 12:14-15**) prior to the “return” of Christ. Those of the nations who learn the ways of Yahweh will be built in the midst of Israel (see **Gal 3:8**), while those who do not will perish (**Jer 12:16; Isa 60:12**).

Basis upon which Yahweh’s judgments could be averted: **Jer 18:7-10**.