

Outlines of Jeremiah Sheet #1

By Pastor Ronnie Wolfe – 9/17/2008

I. THE PERIOD OF HIS PROPHECY

A. The People

1. Jeremiah spoke to people who would not listen to him, and he knew it
2. Judah was nearing downfall, and Jeremiah knew it.
3. But he prophesied anyway.

B. The Place

1. Jeremiah was a prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah
2. Israel and Judah had been divided by divine intervention
3. Read 1 Kings 12:16 – The division between north and south
4. Israel (north) went into captivity to Assyria in 722 BC
5. Judah was left alone for less than 150 years
6. Despite Jeremiah's warnings, Judah fell in 586 BC to Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.

C. The Events

1. The battle of Carchemish between Judah and Egypt
 - a. Josiah died in this battle
2. The battle at Carchemish between Egypt and Babylon
 - a. Babylon won a victory over Egypt
 - b. Babylon gained control of the whole region of Egypt and Judah
3. Jerusalem's fall
 - a. Jehoiachin, king of Judah, surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar on March 16, 597 BC
 - b. Zedekiah foolishly revolted against Nebuchadnezzar, and Jerusalem fell in 586 BC.

D. The Peculiar Privilege of the Jews

1. Rom. 9:4 Who are Israelites; to whom [pertaineth] the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service [of God], and the promises; 5 Whose [are] the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ [came], who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.
 - a. The Adoption - God's choice in Israel
 - b. The Glory – The Shekinah Glory
 - c. The Covenants – The original covenant to Abraham and subsequent ones
 - d. The Law – The Law of Moses and other laws given
 - e. The Service – Rituals and Patterns of worship
 - f. The Promises – All prophecies and promises given to Israel
 - g. The Fathers – Their history back to Abraham
 - h. The Christ – Divine prophecies of the coming of Messiah and their fulfillment in Jesus.

E. Two Evils of Judah

1. Scripture
 - a. Jer 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, [and] hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.
2. Application
 - a. Forsaken me, the fountain of living waters – Forsaken Jehovah

- b. Hewed out cisterns that hold no water – Depending upon their own power rather than God’s power.
 - (1) God reminds them four times that “He hath made the earth by his power” (Jer. 10:12; 27:5; 32:17; 51:15).
 - (2) Their own strength will be given to the enemy – Jer 20:5 Moreover I will deliver all the strength of this city, and all the labours thereof, and all the precious things thereof, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I give into the hand of their enemies, which shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them to Babylon.

II. PURPOSE OF THE PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH

A. God Set Jeremiah Over The Nations

- 1. Jer 1:10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.
 - a. To root out
 - b. To pull down
 - c. To destroy
 - d. To throw down – the above four words are of destruction
 - e. To build
 - f. To plant – these last two words are of construction
- 2. “Verily the waster seems the builder too. That is always the twofold activity of the word of God.¹
 - a. Jeremiah had to tear down completely before he could build up again.

B. Some Thought Jeremiah’s Mission A Failure

- 1. He was in a dungeon
- 2. He was in Egypt
- 3. Despite all that happened to Jeremiah, God’s word gave ultimate victory.

III. THE ULTIMATE LESSONS OF THE BOOK

A. Forsaking The Fountain of Living Water

- 1. Those who forsake God’s word will be forsaken by God -- Psalm 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, [and] all the nations that forget God.
- 2. The Bible has become an idle story to us and not the living word of God; therefore, we have forsaken it.
- 3. Then will God forsake us (his churches; homes; our nation)?

B. Hewn-out Cisterns With No Water

- 1. The word of God continues to speak to us today, but are we depending upon our own power?
- 2. May the message of Jeremiah become real to us today, and let us not be as Judah and refuse to hear it.

¹Morgan, G. Campbell, *Studies In The Prophecies of Jeremiah* (Fleming H. Revell Company, Old Tappan, New Jersey), 1969