

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 11/16-17/2020 THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah 1*

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING CLASSROOM AND ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS: BEGINNING THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH!

**Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484 - Mon 7 pm!**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

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**Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN**

+12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma **ZOOM**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 Passcode: 715340 - Tues 7 am!**

Join Zoom Meeting

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**Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746**

**Passcode: 715340**

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## **OPENING PRAYER – Introduction**

### **HOLY COMMUNION – When I Survey The Wondrous Cross – I. Watts**

- 1. When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.*
- 2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.*
- 3. See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*
- 4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

**HOLY COMMUNION – 1 Corinthians 11:23-26** *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; [24] and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." [25] In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

## **Introduction to Jeremiah**

- I have chosen to study Jeremiah because **it is set in a time of crisis and of the moral decline of a nation.** It reveals what is behind the death of a nation. I hope this is not true of our nation, but the forces which are destroying our nation are the same forces which destroyed the nation Judah
- As a young man, Jeremiah began his ministry in the days of Josiah the king of Judah, and for forty-one years **he preached in Judah, trying to awaken the nation to what was about to happen to it, to get them to turn around, to save the nation from the judgment of God. In all those forty-one years, never once did he see any sign of encouragement. Never did he alter for one moment the headlong course of this nation toward its own destruction. Never did he see any sign that what he was saying had any impact at all upon these people. And yet he was faithful to his task.** Through much personal sorrow and struggle and heartache and difficulty and danger, **he performed what God had sent him to do.** And in so doing, he left a tremendous record of the greatness of God, of the power of God over nations and His control of history, and of the hope which arises out of darkness.
- We can learn a great deal about what is going on in our nation's life by studying this great prophecy of Jeremiah. **We can learn here how to behave in a time of national and personal crisis. What a believer should do when things are falling apart around him in his home, his community, his nation, and the world in which he lives?** The answers are here. And from this prophecy we will **also learn what is the word of hope in an hour of despair and darkness, and how God plants the seeds of new life in the midst of death and destruction all around.** As you know, it is a great book! I think there is much to learn from Jeremiah! I look forward to our reaping enormous benefit as we go through it together.

*Chapter 1 – A portrait of the prophet and of the times in which he lived.*

*Verses 1-3 – Jeremiah's prophecy in its historical background:*

*Verses 4-10 - How God called, prepared and provided the power for Jeremiah's ministry:*

*Verses 6-8 – Jeremiah's response in shrinking back from the call – the provision of God:*

*Verses 9 - 10 – The third division of the call, the power of God is promised – God's Word:*

*Verses 11 - 12 – The first prophetic symbol depicting Jeremiah's ministry in the land:*

*Verses 13 – 15 – The second prophetic symbol: The boiling pot – coming invasion of Judah*

*Verse 16 – God's cause of judgment:*

*Verses 17-19 – The final promise to Jeremiah:*

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Jeremiah 1**

***Verses 1-3 – Jeremiah's prophecy in its historical background:***

***Jer 1:1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiyah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, (Mat 16:14) So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."***

- Anathoth was about three miles to the north-east north of Jerusalem. It was one of the priestly cities. The priests were not given an inheritance in the land. The Lord was their inheritance. They did

have certain cities. Anathoth was one of the priestly cities. The high priest at the time that Josiah was King over Judah, was named Hilkiah. It's possible that this Hilkiah was the father of Jeremiah and indeed the high priest at that time, which would mean that he came from a family of notable spiritual influence in Israel. His uncle was Shallum and Huldah the prophetess was the wife of Shallum. Thus, his aunt Huldah was the prophetess that they consulted when they found the words of the Law.

- **Jeremiah:** The precise meaning of the name is unknown, with suggested interpretations including Yahweh Throws; Yahweh Establishes; Yahweh points or sends.

***Jer 1:2 to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. (2Ki***

***21:24) But the people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon. Then the people of the land made his son Josiah king in his place (640-609 B.C.). (Jer 25:3) "From the thirteenth year of Josiah (627 B.C.) the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, this is the twenty-third year in which the word of the LORD has come to me; and I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, but you have not listened***

- ***He was of the priests,*** and, as a priest, was authorized and appointed to teach the people; but to that authority and appointment God added the extraordinary commission of a prophet.
- ***To whom the word of the LORD came:*** Though this book contains the *words of Jeremiah*, it also contains ***the word of the LORD***. This prophecy, like all inspired Scripture, is both the word of man and the word of God. It is the divinely inspired and infallible word of God but brought through the personality of man.
- ***In the days of Josiah:*** King Josiah was one of the better kings of Judah, zealous for reform. According to **2 Chr 34:3**, it was in the eighth year of Josiah's reign that he sought the LORD, and few years later began an aggressive campaign to purify Israel of idolatry and to return to the LORD.
- ***Now Josiah came to the throne of Judah after the reign of Amon,*** who reigned for 31 years. At the death of Manasseh his son Amon took the throne and ruled only for two years. At his death Josiah, only eight years old, came to the throne in Judah. When he was sixteen years old he began a spiritual reformation. During this time of spiritual reformation they began to rebuild the run down temple. In the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah, Jeremiah began his prophecy and his prophesying to the nation.

***Jer 1:3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month. (2Ki 23:34) Then Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in place***

***of his father Josiah, and changed his name to Jehoiakim (609-598 B.C.). And Pharaoh took Jehoahaz and went to Egypt, and he died there. (Jer 39:2) In the eleventh year of Zedekiah (597-586 B.C.), in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, the city was penetrated. (2Ki 25:8) And in the fifth month (586 B.C.), on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.***

- These are the final days of Judah before going into captivity. When reign of Josiah ended at his death (est. 609 B.C.), **Jehoahaz** took the throne. Jeremiah does not mention Jehoahaz probably because he only reigned for **three months** before he was taken to Egypt by Necho. Jehoiakim came to the throne.
- **Jehoiakim** ruled for **eleven years (609-598 B.C.)**. His reign was followed by Jehoiachin. Jeremiah does not recognize him either. He was eight years old when he started to reign, and he only reigned for **three months** and he was wiped out. It was a time of real civil turmoil and unrest and thus those two short reigns are not recognized. The longer reigns were acknowledged here. Jehoiachin's

uncle, Mattaniah, renamed **Zedekiah** by Nebuchadnezzar, began his reign (**897-586 B.C.**), reigning for **eleven** years before he was carried away as a captive to Babylon.

- **Jeremiah lived during this whole period of the fall of Judah to Babylon, (586 B.C.).** He lived through the sieges and the captivities, the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. He was called of God to prophesy in these days of great spiritual declension, days in which the nation had turned from God and had taken a course from which it did not alter. It is sad to see a nation die! This was the lot of Jeremiah. The interesting thing is that God was still speaking though they had irrevocably turned against Him and had taken the course that was destined to destroy them God continued to speak.
- **God just does not give up.** He continues to speak even after a person has taken a direction and course of life that is going to ensure that person's destruction. The Lord continues to speak. Thus, was the case with Jeremiah. The marvelous thing was that God was still speaking to these people and still calling them to repent, still calling them to return to God. Tragically Judah was destroyed. He prophesied, until the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month, August, 586 B.C.

### **Verses 4-10 - The Call of Jeremiah – How God called, prepared and provided the power for Jeremiah's ministry:**

#### ***Jer 1:4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:***

- **Then the word of the LORD (52X in Jeremiah) came to me:** Jeremiah had a personal encounter with the LORD. He was apparently raised in a godly, priestly home – yet he had to have a personal encounter with God and His word.
- **This is a recounting of the beginning of this experience of Jeremiah in hearing the word of the LORD.** All through the book of Jeremiah you hear this phrase repeated, "*The word of the LORD came to me saying*". As we read over and over how the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, it is interesting, and my mind is curious just how did the LORD did speak to Jeremiah? Was it an audible voice? Was it a still small inner voice? Jeremiah speaks with such confidence that "*the word of the LORD came to me saying,*" you wonder how did the LORD speak to Jeremiah.
- **With Jeremiah it would appear that it was not an audible voice.** We find the case where the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah saying, "buy the field of your uncle for it is coming up for redemption and the right of redemption is yours." Then Jeremiah said, "Then I knew it was the word of the LORD that came to me saying buy the field." When the cousin came and said "My father sent me to ask you to redeem the field" then it was confirmation to his heart that it was really the LORD speaking to him.

#### ***Jer 1:5 "Before I formed you (22x times) in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the***

***nations."*** (*Isa 49:1, 5a- Jesus*) "*Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name [5] "And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant. (Eph 1:4- you and I!) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (Gal 1:15-Paul) But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, (Psa 139:13-16-David)*

- **It goes back even before conception in the foreknowledge of God.** He knew Jeremiah. In God's foreknowledge, He knew you. The book of Revelation speaks of those whose names were written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world. God is omniscient. He dwells in a dimension that is so far above and beyond our dimension that it is impossible for us to comprehend Him. God who dwells in the eternal can speak of things as existing though they do not as yet exist because He knows that they are going to exist. God's knowledge and calling of Jeremiah began even before he was even conceived.

- **Before I formed you I knew you. Before you were born, before you came out of the womb I had set you apart and I had ordained you to be a prophet to the nations.** Now though his primary prophecy was to Judah, he did also prophecy to the nations. As we get into the book of Jeremiah we will find him prophesying against Babylon, prophesying concerning Edom and other nations. God called him as a prophet to the nations. This is a great verse with respect to abortion-the idea that anyone in the womb is not yet a person!
- **The example of John the Baptist being called from the womb.** When John the Baptist was being carried in his mother Elizabeth's womb. Mary, pregnant with Jesus, came to visit her cousin Elizabeth. As Mary greeted her cousin, Elizabeth said, "What is it that the mother of my Lord should come to visit me, for the moment you spoke the babe leaped within my womb."
- **John was ordained by God to be the forerunner of Christ** before He was ever born, before He was ever conceived. Elizabeth was an old, barren woman. Zacharias was an old man. Gabriel appeared and told him, Fear not, Zacharias: For your prayer is heard. Your wife Elizabeth shall bear you a son and you shall call his name John. This announcement of John as the forerunner of Christ was the fulfillment of the promise that before the Messiah that God would send Elijah to prepare the hearts of the people.

### **Verses 6-8 – Jeremiah’s response in shrinking back from the call – the provision of God:**

***Jer 1:6 Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth."*** (Exo 4:10) *Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."*

- The word youth is usually a reference to a teenager and thus it is thought that he was probably still in his teens at the time that the Lord spoke to him that He was going to use him as a prophet to the nation. You can understand his reticence. It was not though an unwillingness, it was not, "I will not" but, "I cannot" speak for I am a youth. To this objection the LORD declared:
- **Ah, Lord GOD! I cannot speak, for I am a youth:** Jeremiah was probably 17 to 20 years old at this time. Apparently, he felt that his *youth* prevented him from being a good or authoritative messenger of God’s word.
- **Do not say, "I am a youth"** because God used David when he was a young man. As a young man David served his father faithfully in the shepherd’s field, killed a lion and a bear protecting the flock, killed Goliath, served King Saul and was a commander in the Israeli army.
- **Do not say, "I am a youth"** because God filled John the Baptist with the Holy Spirit *in the womb* (Luke 1:15). You aren’t too young to be filled mightily with the Spirit of God.

***Jer 1:7 But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.*** (Num 22:20) *And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do."*

- Jeremiah says - "I cannot *speak*." The LORD - "I don’t want you to speak for yourself, just say *whatever I command you*." Jeremiah - "Lord I am not eloquent!" The LORD - "I don’t want you to be eloquent all I want is for you to *speak* My word." **That is all God wants, is for you to share His word.** You don’t have to be eloquent, just speak the word He gives to you, the word that He places in your mouth, that is what you are to share with others.
- **For you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak:** God spoke with both encouragement and persuasion to Jeremiah. He protested that he couldn’t go because of his youth but God simply said, "*you shall go*."

***Jer 1:8 Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver***

**you," says the LORD.** (Eze 2:6) "And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. (Eph 6:20) for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly (**courageously**), as I ought to speak

- **The LORD is saying, do not fear man, but fear Me!** (Mat 10:28) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. **Who do we fear?**
- **So, Jeremiah is commissioned to go, to speak the word of the LORD,** commissioned not to fear for the presence of the LORD would be with him.
- **Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you:** Jeremiah had two reasons to be afraid. First, he was young. Second, his message was hard to hear. But the presence of God with him was greater than those two reasons.
- **I am with you:** "I will not only send you as other kings do their ambassadors, but I will go with you!

**Verses 9 - 10 – The third division of the call, the power of God is promised – God's Word:**

**Jer 1:9 Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your**

**mouth.** (Isa 6:7) And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." (Isa 51:16) And I have put My words in your mouth; I have covered you with the shadow of My hand, That I may plant the heavens, Lay the foundations of the earth, And say to Zion, 'You are My people.' "

- **Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth:** In his vision, Jeremiah saw the LORD touch him in this personal way. As God touched the mouth of Isaiah at his call to the office of prophet, He also touched the mouth of Jeremiah (though in a different way).
- **This is such an encouraging verse!** We need to remember to keep His word paramount as we have opportunity to witness. **He has given His word to us!** He has made it available, "**has put in in your mouth**"! **God has said He honors His Word about His name!** (Psa 138:2b) *For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.* (Mat 5:14) "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **God has promised to empower, to anoint and to utilize His word! Not my word about His word, but His word! Read the Bible!**

**Jer 1:10 See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw**

**down, To build and to plant."** (2Co 10:4) *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, [5] casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

- **See, I have this day set you:** Jeremiah was definitely called, but he did not fulfill his call in his first year – or his first ten years. His 40-year ministry had several different phases and taken together they fulfilled God's call.
- **The first 18 year period of Jeremiah's ministry** took place under the protection of the godly king Josiah, who took advantage of turmoil in the surrounding superpowers (such as Assyria, Egypt, and Babylon) to reform the nation and turn it back to the Lord. During this time, Jeremiah went on a preaching tour through the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem (**Jer 11:6**). Yet

during this time the hearts of the people did not seem changed. He preached for 23 years but no one seemed to listen (*Jer 25:3*). He even faced many threats against his life (*Jer 11:19* and *12:6*).

- **After King Josiah died, things got worse.** Jeremiah read a scroll of his collected prophecies to the new King Jehoiakim (11 year reign)– and the king took the scroll, cut it in pieces, and threw it in the fire (*Jer 36:22-23*). In this general period Jeremiah was chained and flogged (*Jer 20:2*), and survived a close brush with death (*Jer 26:10-11*).
- **His most difficult season** was the final 11 years under King, Zedekiah. Jeremiah brought a message from God that must have seemed like madness to his generation, that they must prepare for it and submit to it. He wrote to those already exiled in Babylon, he told them to prepare for a 70 year exile and to have a peaceable attitude towards Babylon (*Jer 29:7, 10*). He was regarded as a traitor and imprisoned (*Jer 37:11-16*).
- **To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant.** As a young man, Jeremiah was an unlikely candidate for such a ministry. Yet God knew that Jeremiah had the personality and character to fulfill this call as the years went on. Jeremiah will be given the Word of God in all its power to accomplish this! God’s Word will accomplish what He wants.
- **There are times a nation has become so corrupt, so far gone, that there can be no rebuilding** until it is first of all leveled. In some of these earthquakes when a house has been shaken off of its foundation, you just have to tear the thing down completely before you can start rebuilding. Such was the case with the nation of Judah. The prophetic ministry was first of all tearing down that which was left, pulling it up by the roots, rooting it out. Things are going to get a lot worse basically before they get better. You are to pull down, to root out, to destroy and then you are to build and to plant.

**Verses 11 - 12 – The first prophetic symbol depicting Jeremiah’s ministry in the land:**

***Jer 1:11 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a branch of an almond tree”***

***Jer 1:12 Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word." (Eze 11:3) who say, 'The time is not near to build houses; this city is the caldron, and we are the meat.' (Eze 24:3) And utter a parable to the rebellious house, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Put on a pot, set it on, And also pour water into it.***

- **Jeremiah is going to have a vision at this point.** a view of the principal errand he was to go upon, which was to foretell the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem by the Chaldeans, for their sins, especially their idolatry. This was at first represented to him in a way proper to make an impression upon him, that he might have it upon his heart in all his dealings with this people.
- **The LORD** is asking Jeremiah what he sees. You really need the Hebrew language to grasp this completely. The word almond in the Hebrew is *‘awake or watcher.’* The almond tree is the first tree that begins to blossom after losing its leaves in the winter. The almond begins in Israel to blossom in the end of January and the first of February. It is the first of the trees to awake from winter.
- **Literally the LORD said,** “What do you see” and he said, “I see the rod of an awake tree.” The LORD responded, “You see well for I will...” and the word hasten is the word awake in Hebrew, “I will awake my word to perform it.” Or “I see the rod of a watch tree” and God said, “I will watch over *my word to perform* it.” The promise that God is going to watch over His word, He is going to perform His word.
- **Jeremiah, what do you see?** Jeremiah would receive a message to *speak*, but before he could speak he had to *see*. ***A branch of an almond tree:*** Jeremiah saw well. He not only understood that it was a branch but was observant enough to know that it was ***a branch of an almond tree.***

**Verses 13 – 15 – The second prophetic symbol:**

***Jer 1:13 And the word of the LORD came to me the second time, saying, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a boiling pot, and it is facing away from the north."***

- ***I see a boiling pot, and it is facing away from the north:*** The idea is of a boiling cauldron that will tip over with its opening facing south. This is a vivid picture of destruction and judgment pouring out upon Judah from the north (***out of the north calamity shall break forth on all the inhabitants of the land***). God said that out of the north there is going to come this flood of armies who are going to destroy. It is a reference to Babylon, who is east yet is also when coming into the land Israel came through Syria down through the northern part of the land, Dan, and then on down through Jerusalem, bringing destruction in her weight and conquering over Jerusalem.

***Jer 1:14 Then the LORD said to me: "Out of the north calamity shall break forth On all the inhabitants of the land. (Jer 6:1) "O you children of Benjamin, Gather yourselves to flee from the midst of Jerusalem! Blow the trumpet in Tekoa, And set up a signal-fire in Beth Haccerem; For disaster appears out of the north, And great destruction.***

***Jer 1:15 For behold, I am calling All the families of the kingdoms of the north," says the LORD; "They shall come and each one set his throne At the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, Against all its walls all around, And against all the cities of Judah. (Jer 6:22) Thus says the LORD: "Behold, a people comes from the north country, And a great nation will be raised from the farthest parts of the earth.***

- ***They shall come and each one set his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem:*** Jeremiah prophetically saw foreign kings dominating a subservient Jerusalem. As the ***gates*** of the ***cities*** were the ordinary places where justice was administered, so the enemies of Jerusalem are here represented as conquering the whole land, assuming the reigns of government, and laying the whole country under their own laws; so that they Jews should no longer possess any political power: they should be wholly subjugated by their enemies.

**Verse 16 – God’s cause of judgment:**

***Jer 1:16 I will utter My judgments Against them concerning all their wickedness, Because they have forsaken Me, Burned incense to other gods, And worshiped the works of their own hands. (Deu 28:20) "The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.***

- Now God says that He will fulfill His judgments against Judah for their wickedness ***because they have forsaken God and have burned incense to other gods and worshipped the works of their own hands***. Forsaken God and worshipped other gods is what they did. Many times when a lady comes and asks for prayer, saying, my husband said that he does not love me anymore and he is moving out. He just does not want to live with me anymore. When they asked who he is interested in, the usual answer is she doesn’t think that he has any other girlfriend. I am sorry to tell you this but I have never seen a man move out unless he is moving in. When you leave the worship of God you have to worship something. You don’t just live in a vacuum or in a void. There is something

that has replaced God in your life. There is another interest, another desire, there is something else that has replaced God in your life. Another God.

- ***Because they have forsaken Me, burned incense to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands:*** The main reason for the coming judgment was Judah's chronic idolatry. Here with Judah it was Baal, Ashtoreth, Mammon, and Molech. These were the gods that they had turned to. Ashtoreth is the worship of sex or sex became their god. Their lust of the flesh and desires for sex became the masters of their life. They were mastered by their sex drives, which were inflamed through pornography.
- ***Mammon was the god of pleasure.*** They began to live for pleasure, forsaking God and the worship of God and just living for pleasure, the pleasure that could be derived from drugs or from certain activities or power. Molech the god of pleasure and Mammon the god of power. They started living for possessions, building fancy houses and things of this nature. They became absorbed in their processions and they worshipped the works of their own hands. Does this sound anything what is occurring in our country and throughout the world at the present time?

### ***Verses 17-19 – The final promise to Jeremiah:***

***Jer 1:17 "Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed before their faces, Lest I***

***dismay you before them. (Eze 2:6) "And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house.***

- ***Therefore prepare yourself and arise:*** Jeremiah properly saw and understood the two visions. God felt he was ready to go forth, with additional preparation and to ***speak to them all that I command you.***
- ***Do not be dismayed before their faces, lest I dismay you before them:*** God gave Jeremiah the strength he needed – but he had to walk in it. If he did not – if he allowed himself to ***be dismayed before their faces*** – then God would ***dismay*** Jeremiah before those whom he feared.
- ***The LORD is telling him back in the beginning not to be afraid of their faces.*** They are going to be looking in anger at you. They are not going to like what you are saying. You are going to see their faces contorted with anger as you prophecy to them. But don't let that turn you from My word. Don't modify what I am saying. Don't try to appease them. If you are intimidated by the faces that they are making at you I will just let you be confounded before them.

***Jer 1:18 For behold, I have made you this day A fortified city and an iron pillar, And bronze walls against the whole land—Against the kings of Judah, Against its princes, Against its priests, And against the people of the land. (Isa 50:7) "For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.***

- ***For behold, I have made you this day a fortified city and an iron pillar:*** The LORD is saying that I will be your defense Jeremiah! I will be the One who protects you! I will watch over you and you will be as ***a fortified city and an iron pillar and bronze walls against the whole land.*** You are going to stand almost alone in this Jeremiah because I will give you the strength and I will protect you.
- ***The land was corrupted, the priesthood was corrupted, there were false prophets.*** Jeremiah, you will be like a lone voice in the wilderness. You will be standing up against even the religious people and the religious leaders."

***Jer 1:19 They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against***

***you. For I am with you," says the LORD, "to deliver you."*** (Psa 129:2) *"Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth; Yet they have not prevailed against me. (Isa 43:2) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. (Heb 13:5) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."*

- **It is not going to be easy.** The LORD does not draw us through false kind of pretense. The LORD does not say, "Oh if you will just yield to My way it will be so beautiful and wonderful. You will find yourself such ease and things will be so smooth." The LORD is saying to Jeremiah that it is going to be tough! They are going to fight against you. They are going to contort their faces and it is going to be tough but I am going to be with you. You will be as a fortified city. I will watch over you, I will take care of you. They will fight against you but they will not prevail. You are going to prevail Jeremiah. Why? Because the LORD is with you.
- **How is your faith growing with respect to our Lord's promise: *They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you," says the LORD, "to deliver you."***
- **How certain are you that He will never leave you or forsake you, no matter what trials, affliction, sickness, persecution that you, as His child will ever go through?**

## **Closing Prayer**