

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 284 – Words Of Jeremiah Through Destroy Then Build (Jeremiah 1:1-10)

1. Based on the first three verses of this book and using the history we have recorded (i.e. Kings and Chronicles), when did the word of the Lord come to him?

The first three verses say this: *“(1) The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiyah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: (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. (3) It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month” (Jeremiah 1:1-3).*

- Jeremiah was the son of a priest, which could infer he was somewhat familiar with the work of the Lord under the Law (cf. **Deuteronomy 21:5**) but in no way guarantees that he is faithful on that alone (**I Samuel 2:11-12; 22** and **I Samuel 3:10-13**).
- Anathoth was in Benjamin (**Joshua 21:17-18**, **I Chronicles 6:60**, and **Jeremiah 32:8**).
- Josiah the son of Amon takes us back to **II Kings 21:24-23:28 / II Chronicles 33:25-35:27**.
- Jehoiakim [a.k.a. Eliakim **II Kings 24:34**] the son of Josiah king of Judah takes us back to **II Kings 24:34-25:5 / II Chronicles 36:5-36:8**. At this point the Egyptians had invaded and then right after that Babylonian invasion occurs (**II Chronicles 35:1-6**).
- Zedekiah [a.k.a. Mattaniah **II Kings 24:17**] son of Josiah is recorded from **II Kings 24:16-ff. / II Chronicles 36:10-ff.**
- Israel was carried away into Babylonian captivity because of rebellion against God until 70 years were accomplished and Cyrus set them free (**II Chronicles 36:14-23**).

2. At what point did God know Jeremiah was going to be His prophet?

Before he was formed in the womb: *“(4) Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (5) Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations” (Jeremiah 1:4-5).*

- The phrase “the word of the Lord came unto me” shows DIRECT revelation (**Genesis 15:1**, **II Samuel 7:4-5**, and **Ezekiel 27:1-2**) and in this sense was meant to be communicated to others from the prophet (i.e. **II Chronicles 11:2-3** and **Jeremiah 28:12-13**).
- Refusal to adhere to what God spoke through the prophets was refusal to hear God speaking (**Zechariah 7:1-14**).
- God knows everything before it happens (**Isaiah 42:9**, **Isaiah 46:9-10**, **Acts 2:22-23**, **Acts 15:18**, and **Romans 4:17**).

- Life in the womb accredited to God (**Genesis 29:31, Job 31:15, and Psalms 127:3**) and brings life into the world (**Psalms 71:5-6 and Job 10:18**).
- God ordained him a prophet from the womb (cf. **Judges 13:5-7, Isaiah 49:5, Luke 1:31-32, and Galatians 1:15-16**).
- God appointed His prophets and used them to communicate His will (**II Kings 17:13, Jeremiah 7:25, I Corinthians 12:28-30, Mark 3:13-19, and Ephesians 4:11**).
- The message of Jeremiah, and other prophets, was not just limited to Israel (**Romans 16:26**).

3. Was Jeremiah ready from the start to be a prophet?

No: *“Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child”* (**Jeremiah 1:6**).

- Jeremiah and Ezekiel addressed God this way “Ah Lord God” several times (**Jeremiah 4:10, Jeremiah 14:13, Jeremiah 32:17, Ezekiel 4:14, Ezekiel 9:8, Ezekiel 11:13, and Ezekiel 20:49**).
- God has heard excuses before (**Exodus 3:1-4:17**) and they still come (**Luke 14:16-24**).
- Though Jeremiah wasn’t always excited about the task of being God’s prophet, he also reached a point wherein he couldn’t help but speak (**Jeremiah 20:7-9**).

4. How did the Lord answer Jeremiah’s excuse of not knowing what to speak?

By explaining that it would not be Jeremiah that would be speaking, but God through Him: *“(7) But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. (8) Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. (9) Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth”* (**Jeremiah 1:7-9**).

- He would go to all whom God would send him (**Isaiah 6:8-12 and John 6:29**).
- This does not mean prophets lost freewill (**I Corinthians 14:32**).
- Jeremiah was expected to speak what God said (**I Kings 22:14, Proverbs 30:5-6, Ezekiel 3:17-18, and Titus 2:1**).
- God told him not to fear for God would literally, physically, deliver Jeremiah (**Isaiah 51:12-13, Jeremiah 1:19, Ezekiel 2:6-8, Acts 12:5-16, Acts 16:1-10, and Acts 27:9-44**).
- God put His words in Jeremiah’s mouth (**II Samuel 23:2, Job 32:8, Matthew 10:16-20, John 16:13, I Corinthians 2:9-13, I Corinthians 14:37, Galatians 1:10-12, II Timothy 3:15-17, and II Peter 1:20-21**).

5. What was Jeremiah going to do before building and planting?

Destroying: *“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” (Jeremiah 1:10).*

- **Jeremiah 31:28, Matthew 15:13, II Corinthians 10:1-5; cf. II Kings 19:30-31 and Joel 2:32.**