

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, April 14, 2024
Sermon Series: The Potter & the Clay – Jeremiah/Lamentations
Message 1. The Prophet Jeremiah – Jeremiah 1:1-10
Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction – Jeremiah is the longest book in the Bible (21,673 words), and in it we hear the preaching, poetry, and prophesy of “the weeping prophet.” He preached amidst a people steeped in idolatry, full of ingratitude, and in a time when external practice was preferred over internal obedience. His message is a constant word from the Lord to “return to Yahweh.” Jeremiah was not allowed by the Lord to be married, or to participate in festivals or even funerals for loved ones. His life was symbolic of the life of those cut off from joy and happiness as judgment was coming upon the nations. His amanuensis, Baruch (Blessed) son of Neriah (Yahweh is My Light) took Jeremiah’s dictation and sermons and wrote them down and at times read them to the people. Jeremiah would not have been considered to have had a successful or fruitful ministry by today’s standards of success, but to God He was an outstanding success because he was faithful and obedient. He was moody, fearful, doubted his call and his ability often, but could not stop from preaching the Word of the Lord.

- I. Jeremiah’s Clan and Contemporaries – vs. 1
 - A. A Priestly Family from Anathoth
 1. Three miles NE of Jerusalem
 2. Hilkiyah is believed to be in the line of Abiathar and Eli
 - B. The Time – BC 627 to 570 - 2 Kings 21-25; 2 Chronicles 33-36
 - C. Other Prophets – Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Ezekiel
- II. Jeremiah’s Culture – vs. 2-3
 - A. The Days of Josiah and Jehoiakim
 1. Kings of Judah – Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah
 2. After that – Babylonian Captivity
 - B. Manasseh’s Sin – 2 Kings 21:2-18
 - C. Josiah’s Reformation – 2 Kings 22:1-3, 8-13
 1. Jeremiah Called in Josiah’s 13th year, 5 years before the Book is found
 2. Book of Deuteronomy – Quoted 66 times in 86 places in Jeremiah
 3. Restored Passover – 2 Kings 22:21-25
 - D. A Culture of Constant Crisis – reformation wasn’t enough – 2 Kings 22:26-27
 1. Assyria was falling, Babylon was rising, The Medo-Persians were coming
 2. Captivity and exile were imminent
 3. False prophets promised everything was good and even preached that when captivity happened it would only last 2 years – Jer. 28:2-4
 4. The Signs of the Times – 1 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Tim. 4:1-5
 - a. Rapid moral and spiritual decline
 - b. External religiosity
 - c. Increasing apostasy
 - d. Increased international conflicts and economic tensions
 - e. Evidence of divine judgment
- III. Jeremiah’s Call – vs. 4-8
 - A. His Call is Similar to Moses, Gideon, Isaiah, and Paul (Gal. 1:15)
 1. Call/Commission – vs. 5, Exodus 3:10; Judges 6:14
 2. Objection – vs. 6, Exodus 3:11; Judges 6:15; Isa. 6:5
 3. Reassurance – vs. 7-8, Exodus 3:12; Judges 6:16

4. A Sign – vs. 9, Exodus 3:12; Judges 6:17-22; Isa. 6:6-7

B. The Word of Yahweh Came to Me

1. Before I Formed You – Gen. 2:7; Jer. 18:2-4 – God created Jeremiah as a spokesman for Himself
2. I Knew You – factual, intimate knowledge
3. I Set You Apart – set apart from all others for a specific, particular use
4. I Have Given You – appointed, a specific assignment as a prophet to the nations – “There is no limit to God’s sovereignty, therefore there are no limits to the scope of Jeremiah’s ministry.” – Numbers 8:19; Eph. 4:11

C. Jeremiah’s Objection – I am a youth and can’t preach - 1 Timothy 4:12

D. God’s Reassurance

1. You will go everywhere I send you to go
2. You will say everything I command you to say
3. Do not be afraid
4. I am with you to deliver you, declares Yahweh

IV. Jeremiah’s Commission – vs. 9-10

A. Yahweh Touched His Mouth – Ezek. 3:1-3

B. “I Have Put My Words in Your Mouth” – John 14:24; Deut. 18:18; Isa 41:10; 43:5

C. The Work is Sovereign, the Words are God’s

1. Judgment – dislodge entrenched wickedness
 - a. Uproot
 - b. Tear down
 - c. Destroy
 - d. Overthrow
2. Restoration – rebuild on a foundation of grace
 - a. Build
 - b. Plant

Cross References

2 Kings 21:2-18

2 And he did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh, according to the abominations of the nations whom Yahweh dispossessed before the sons of Israel. 3 Indeed, he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. 4 And he built altars in the house of Yahweh, of which Yahweh had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name." 5 Indeed, he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of Yahweh. 6 He even made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying and interpreted omens, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much that was evil in the sight of Yahweh provoking Him to anger. 7 Then he put the graven image of Asherah, which he had made, in the house of which Yahweh had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever. 8 And I will not make the foot of Israel wander anymore from the land which I gave their fathers, if only they will be careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them." 9 But they did not listen, and Manasseh led them astray in order to do more evil than the nations whom Yahweh destroyed before the sons of Israel. 10 Then Yahweh spoke by the hand of His slaves the prophets, saying, 11 "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations—he has done evil more than all the Amorites did who were before him—and has also made Judah sin with his idols, 12 therefore thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am bringing such calamity on Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle. 13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria and the level of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish—he wipes it and turns it upside down. 14 And I will abandon the remnant of My inheritance and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they will become as plunder and spoil to all their enemies; 15 because they have done what is evil in My sight, and have been provoking Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.'" 16 Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing what is evil in the sight of Yahweh. 17 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh and all that he did and his sin which he sinned, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? 18 And Manasseh slept with his fathers and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza. And Amon his son became king in his place.

2 Kings 22:1-3

22 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. 2 And he did what was right in the sight of Yahweh and walked in all the way of his father David and did not turn aside to the right or to the left. 3 Now it happened in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan, the son of Azaliah the son of Meshullam the scribe, to the house of Yahweh saying,

2 Kings 22:8-13

8 Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of Yahweh." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan and he read it. 9 Then Shaphan the scribe came to the king and responded to the king with a word and said, "Your servants have poured out the money that was found in the house and have given it into the hand of those who do the work, who have the oversight of the house of Yahweh." 10 Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king. 11 Now it happened that when the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. 12 Then the king commanded Hilkiyah the

priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Micaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, 13 "Go, inquire of Yahweh for me and the people and all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is the wrath of Yahweh which is set aflame against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

Jeremiah 28:2-4

2 "Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, 'I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. 3 Within two years I am going to return to this place all the vessels of the house of Yahweh, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. 4 I am also going to return to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles of Judah who went to Babylon,' declares Yahweh, 'for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.'"

1 Timothy 4:1-5

4 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by the hypocrisy of liars, who have been seared in their own conscience, 3 who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God created to be shared in with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

4 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Galatians 1:15

15 But when God, who had set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased

Exodus 3:10-12

10 So now, come and I will send you to Pharaoh, and so you shall bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 And He said, "Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God at this mountain."

Judges 6:14-22

14 Then Yahweh turned to him and said, "Go in this strength of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?" 15 But he said to Him, "O Lord, with what shall I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house." 16 But Yahweh said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall strike down Midian as one man." 17 So Gideon said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your eyes, then do a sign for me that it is You who speak with me. 18 Please do not depart from here until I come back to You, and I bring out my offering and lay it before You." And

He said, "I will remain until you return." 19 So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour; he put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot and brought them out to him under the oak and presented them. 20 And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock and pour out the broth." And he did so. 21 Then the angel of Yahweh put out the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the angel of Yahweh went away from before his eyes. 22 And Gideon saw that he was the angel of Yahweh, so he said, "Alas, O Lord Yahweh! For now I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face."

Isaiah 6:5-7

5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 And he touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is atoned for."

Genesis 2:7

7 Then Yahweh God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and so the man became a living being.

Jeremiah 18:2-4

2 "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will make you hear My words." 3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and behold, he was making something on the wheel. 4 But the vessel that he was making of clay was ruined in the hand of the potter, so he turned around and made it into another vessel, according to what was right in the eyes of the potter to make.

Numbers 8:19

19 And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the sons of Israel, to perform the service of the sons of Israel at the tent of meeting and to make atonement on behalf of the sons of Israel, so that there will be no plague among the sons of Israel by their coming near to the sanctuary."

Ephesians 4:11

11 And He Himself gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

1 Timothy 4:12

12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but show yourself as a model to those who believe in word, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

Ezekiel 3:1-3

3 Then He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and He fed me this scroll. 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you." Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth.

John 14:24

24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

Deuteronomy 18:18

18 I will raise up a prophet from among their brothers like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Isaiah 41:10

10 Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will make you mighty, surely I will help you; Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Isaiah 43:5

5 Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your seed from the east, And gather you from the west.

