

Rev. White's reading notes  
based on synthetic reading of the book

# Jeremiah

Book of Jeremiah  
161005 and 200711

The prophetic book of Jeremiah, like Isaiah and other prophetic books, demonstrates the sovereignty of the God who is both creator and maker of not just the nation of Israel, but of the whole world and of the entire universe. We see this sovereignty in the calling of the Prophet Jeremiah to do the work of *plucking up, of planting, and of castigating* Judah for their idolatrous and unfaithful relationship to a loving and a faithful God. Also, we see this in the prophecies against the non-Israelite nations. We see that God's sovereignty is not limited by political borders or geographical boundaries.

Actually, we can see, in addition to the above, a couple of additional things. Notice in Jeremiah that God not only scolds other nations, but also God selects other nations. God is able and willing not only to chide and chastise other nations, but also God is willing and able to choose them and use them. The book of Jeremiah shares and shows that God will discipline and disempower any nation that operates in injustice or comports itself as a country in ways inconsistent with the character of God.

What's also noteworthy is that Jeremiah faced some challenges and opposition as the divine messenger speaking a message on God's behalf. That's because sometimes the Word of the Lord is an unfavorable message that is not received charitably especially by people who are being disciplined by God. Jeremiah was imprisoned, had to hide or be hidden, had his life threatened, was captured and kidnapped, and ultimately was spared and covered by the power and the providence of an amazing God!

This providence is particularly visible when we see how God is able to protect and keep Jeremiah even while other nations are exercising political power and military might over Jerusalem and Judah. When the news reports and forecasts look down and dismal for the nation of Jeremiah's birth, Jeremiah survives and succeeds because he's protected by the God of his birth Who know Jeremiah before the time of Jeremiah's birth!

There are a number of great quotes that come from Jeremiah. Jeremiah 1:4-10, Jeremiah 4:2, Jeremiah 5:1-5, Jeremiah 21:11-12, Jeremiah 22:1-4, 15-17, Jeremiah 23:5-6, 23-32, Jeremiah 29:4-14, Jeremiah 30:3, Jeremiah 31:15 (compare Matthew 2:18), Jeremiah 33:14-16, to name a few.

It is good to see God's grace and unfailing love for Judah as God promises to bring them back and give them a new heart. Ultimately, we see that the people go into exile because they continue to resist and rebel. Their failure to follow led to falling into exile. This is not the failure of an impotent God, but instead the judgement of a sovereign and all powerful God of justice who is able to work through whomever God chooses to discipline wayward children.

A couple of other interesting observations have to do with the characterization of God in the midst of the judgment that would be visited upon the nation of Judah. We see that while God both curbs and corrects, God also comforts and consoles.

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We see this as God is the one who covers and keeps His interlocutor in the person of Jeremiah. Additionally, God promises to keep the inheritance. This shows that while another nation has come, laid siege to, and overcome the nation of Judah, this happens not because of any inability or impotence on behalf of God. Rather, it is precisely because of God's sovereignty and God's power that God is able not only to deliver discipline for unrepentant rebellion, but also God is able to hold onto the inheritance and the promises that God had already made!

So we can see that the God who disciplines also delivers. We see that the God who curbs and corrects also covers and keeps. We see that the God who punishes is also the God who preserves and delivers promises. The discipline of the people and the nation is not because the international superpower or national enemy is stronger than God or the people of God. Instead, it is because of what God has allowed or even what God has assigned in response to the waywardness of God's people. Therefore, the solution remains in God. The power still belongs to God. And the victory is still in God!

The last chapter is interesting because it seems to be a flashback. If the preceding chapters are the result of Jeremiah and the issues after the exile, the last chapter seems to reiterate and reinforce the idea that the punishment of Judah is exile which is deserved due to the evilness of the Israelites.