

# Navigating Uncertainty

## Lesson 1

### Overview of Jeremiah

September 13, 2020

## The Prophet Who Warned and Wept

### Introduction

Jeremiah lived an interesting yet blessed life. Before his birth, he was chosen to be a priest, was asked not to marry because of the terrible time in which he lived, had no one listening to him, and was rejected outright. He was hated, tortured, imprisoned, and charged with being a traitor. He had a very tender heart and was very discouraged as a prophet.

This man with the compassionate heart was not the type of person you would expect to bring a message of doom and gloom upon a nation, yet Jeremiah remained faithful. His life looked very countercultural to how everyone else was living, reminding us of others in the Bible who had similar missions: Noah, Daniel, Jesus, and many other examples we're given of men who went against the grain of culture.

What makes them heroes in the Bible? Their faithfulness to God and His message. How does your life compare? Have you remained faithful to God, or has your message looked more like the culture around you?

***Memory Verse: "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,' declares the Lord. 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.'—Jeremiah 31:33***

Pray and read Jeremiah 1. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

## **What does the passage say?**

1. When was Jeremiah appointed to be a prophet to the nations? (Jeremiah 1:5)
2. What was Jeremiah's original reply to God's words? (Jeremiah 1:6)
3. How did God respond to Jeremiah? (Jeremiah 1:7-10)
4. What was the Lord watching to see? (Jeremiah 1:12)
5. What will take place from the north? (Jeremiah 1:14)
6. Why did God pronounce His judgment on His people? (Jeremiah 1:16)
7. What was Jeremiah to do? (Jeremiah 1:17)
8. What had God made Jeremiah be? (Jeremiah 1:18)

9. What did God promise to Jeremiah? (Jeremiah 1:19)

### **What does the passage mean?**

1. Like Moses (Exodus 4:10), God tells Jeremiah that He will give him His words, and every one of them will come to pass. Why would this inspire Jeremiah to speak boldly? What was Jeremiah's part in this plan?
  
2. In verse 8, God says to Jeremiah, "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you." Where else do we find this sentiment in the Bible? (Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10). This phrase (or something similar to it) is repeated over 32 times in the Bible. Why does God repeat this over and over to his servants?
  
3. God asked Jeremiah to live a life set apart from everything else. God beckoned Jeremiah to a higher calling in many instances. How is Jesus' message for our lives similar? (Luke 9:23-27)

4. Why was Jeremiah's message of coming destruction necessary to bring to these nations? What does God have to say about discipline? (Proverbs 13:24; Hebrews 12:7-11; Revelation 3:19)

### **Applying the passage**

1. God asked Jeremiah to do many hard things throughout his ministry as a prophet. He was probably afraid, yet he was faithful to do his part. What is God asking you to do that may be difficult? Where do you find the strength to be faithful to Him? (Psalm 73:26; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Timothy 1:7)

2. Do you sense a need for discipline because of your sin?  
How has God tried to correct you in these instances?  
What was your response to His discipline and correction?

3. In what ways should you be set apart like Jeremiah?  
What are things or ideas that you need to let go of to be more in line with God's thinking?