

Jeremiah: *Profile in Courage*

Introduction

I. The Author—Jeremiah means “Yahweh looses.” He was from Anathoth, a small village about three miles northeast of Jerusalem on the edge of the Judean wilderness. Jeremiah’s father was Hilkiah, a levitical priest. Like Ezekiel and Zechariah, Jeremiah was a prophet from the priestly line. His ministry extended from 627 B.C. until about 580 B.C. (the final five decades of Judah’s history). The Book of Jeremiah is very autobiographical. The personality and passions of the prophet breathe from every page. Jeremiah was a man of compassion who wept over the coming calamity of Jerusalem and Judah. He experienced loneliness and rejection as the people to whom he ministered opposed his every prophecy (1:18-19). He was not allowed to marry, have children, or publicly mourn over anyone’s death (16:1-5). Evidently, Jeremiah was somewhat well-to-do. He had a secretary (Baruch), and he had the financial means to purchase property on two different occasions (32:1-44; 37:12). He is known as the “weeping prophet” and the “prophet of the broken heart.”

II. The Audience—the nation of Judah

III. The Aim—To pronounce imminent judgment on Judah and Jerusalem at the hand of the Babylonians because of their sin and to provide hope of Judah’s ultimate restoration.

IV. The Arrangement

JEREMIAH

	Judah’s Sin and Judgment	Prophecies against the Nations	A Sobering Ending
	<u>Jeremiah’s call</u> <u>Idolatry</u> <u>Corrupt leadership</u> <u>Moral compromise</u>	<u>Exhortations to Judah</u> <u>Promises of restoration (30–33)</u> <u>Fall of Jerusalem and aftermath (39–45)</u>	Egypt Damascus Philistia Kedar & Hazor Moab Elam Ammon Babylon Edom
	CHAPTERS 1–45	CHAPTERS 46–51	Jerusalem in ruins CHAPTER 52
Theme	Judgment is coming; repent!		
Key Verses	7:23–24; 8:11–12, 21; 9:23–24; 31:1–40		
Christ in Jeremiah	The fountain of living waters (2:13); the righteous Branch, Coming Shepherd, the LORD our righteousness (23:4–6); the New Covenant (31:31); Redeemer (50:34)		

V. The Analysis

The Book of Jeremiah is the least chronological and most emotional and personal of the prophets.

1—Jeremiah's Call

2—45—Judgment on Judah

13 Oracles of Judgment (2—25)

Book of Doom

Personal Conflicts of Jeremiah (26—29)

Future Comfort for Judah and Israel (30—33)

Book of Consolation

Present Catastrophe on Judah (34—45)

46—51 Judgment on Nine Gentile Nations

52—Epilogue written after 562 B.C.

VI. The Application

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