

Jeremiah Notes

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- Israelite Priest lived and worked in Jerusalem during the final decades of the kingdom of Southern Judah.
- Called as a Prophet to warn Israel of the severe consequences of breaking their covenant with God through their idolatry and injustice.
- Predicted the Empire of Babylon would come as God's servant to bring this judgement on Israel by destroying Jerusalem and taking the people into exile.
- His words became reality; Jeremiah lived through the siege and witnessed the exile personally. (see [2 Kings 24-25](#))

The Making of Jeremiah ([Ch. 36](#))

After 20 years of preaching in Jerusalem God called Jeremiah to collect all sermons, poems, and essays into writings

Employed a scribe Baruch who wrote all the materials into a scroll: Reads like an anthology

- A messenger of of God's justice and grace.

Accusation and Warning For Israel (Ch. 1-24)

- Prophet to Israel and also to Nations to Uproot and tear down, to plant and build up

*“See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms,
To pluck up and to break down, To destroy and to overthrow, To build and to plant.”*
(Jeremiah 1:10)

- Accuse Israel and warn them of God’s coming judgement, but also give hope of the future.

- **Core Idea**

Israel has broken the covenant with God and violated all of the terms of the agreement written in the Torah

- Adopted the worship of Canaanite gods
 - Building idol shrines all over the land
 - Metaphor of idolatry: as adultery with language of prostitution, promiscuity, and unfaithfulness to describe how Israel has given its allegiance to other gods
- Corrupt Leaders
 - Jeremiah repeatedly accuses Israel’s leaders the priests, kings, and other prophets have all become corrupt, have abandoned the Torah, and the covenant which has lead to rampant social injustice where Israel’s leaders didn’t seem to care
 - The most vulnerable people were being taken advantage of including widows, orphans, and immigrants in clear violation of the Torah ([Ch. 7](#)-Jeremiah’s Temple Sermon)
 - Israelite’s are coming to worship God in the temple as if everything is just fine, but outside the temple they are worshipping other gods and even adopting the horrifying Canaanite practice of child sacrifice.
 - Jeremiah makes announcement
 - God of Israel is coming in judgement
 - Destroy His own temple
 - Send an enemy from the North (Babylon) to conquer Jerusalem

Chapter 25 Announcement of Exile

- Israel hasn’t turned back to their God
- In the 1st year of Babylon’s new King Nebuchadnezzar

- Jeremiah is told by God to announce that the Babylonian armies and its neighbors are headed to Israel to conquer them and take them into exile for 70 years.
- Compares Babylon to a cup of wine filled to the brim with God's just anger
 - God will make Israel([26-45](#)) and the Nations([46-51](#)) drink from this cup

Chapter 26-45 Judgement and Hope for Israel

- [Ch 26-29](#) Jeremiah is rejected by Israel's leaders
 - He begged Israel to turn back up to the last minute, but leaders kept getting rejected
- [Ch 34-45](#) Jerusalem is under siege and eventually destroyed by Babylon, Jeremiah was persecuted through that time, and kidnapped and taken against his will by Israelite rebels.
 - [Ch 30-33](#) Hope for Israelite's Future
 - Picks up on Moses' prediction that after Israel has broken the covenant and gone into exile, God would not abandon His people, but would renew His covenant with them and transform their hearts ([Deuteronomy 30](#))
 - God will one day inscribe the Torah on their hearts and the Messiah will come and recognize God as the true God

Chapter 46-51 Judgement and Hope for the Nations

[Ch 46-49](#) God will use Babylon to judge the Nations around Israel

- Egypt, Philistia, Edom, Moab, Ammon, Damascus, Hazor
 - [Ch 50-51](#) God will judge Babylon
 - Although God uses Babylon to execute His justice, God doesn't endorse their violence and idolatry; so they too will come under His judgement and justice
 - Babylon has become the archetype of a rebellious nation (Gen 11)

Chapter 52 Destruction and Exile ([2 Kings 25](#))

- Taken from the end of [2 Kings 25](#): Fulfillment of Judgement
- Captive King Jehoiachin (air to the line of David) - Promise of Hope for David's line
 - King of Babylon releases him from prison; shows him favor; invites him to eat at the royal table for the rest of his life
 - God hasn't abandoned His people
 - Final words conclude with a note of Hope for the future