

JEREMIAH: THEMES

Lesson One

1. The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying...
2. Choice of life and God or death and idols
3. "My inheritance" ~God
4. Therefore
5. Listen
6. "This is what the LORD Almighty says ..."
7. Israel's unfaithfulness to God, the imagery of God as the faithful husband and Israel as the unfaithful wife
8. Object lessons
9. Judgments
10. Consequences
11. The power of the word



These eggs are from my parents' chickens, and yes, they are truly that color!

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As you read through Jeremiah, what words, phrases, and themes are repeated?

Lessons and Questions

God Himself chose Jeremiah to be His speaker to the people of Israel. God had faithfully kept His promises to Israel, but the people had deserted Him, tending relationships with other nations and their idols and gods. God was deeply wounded by their unfaithfulness and prompted the prophets to call them back. They did not return.

Question: Can you envision your relationship with God using marital imagery? Consider that He wants you to be faithful and trustworthy and truly love Him.

Has God given you a warning lately that you are not heeding? This is serious!

When someone is a prophet, what they say is of utmost importance. They are actually claiming to speak the words of God! The book of Jeremiah is

filled with the phrases, "The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah," and "This is what the LORD Almighty says." Then Jeremiah was to speak that word, no matter what it was or to whom, as God commanded. You can imagine that there were some near-death experiences as Jeremiah faithfully said things that people did not want to hear. God's promise was to rescue Jeremiah, and He did, for His words put Jeremiah in peril.

What can you do to be more faithful in speaking or doing exactly what God asks you to say or do?

God continually gives His people choices: do you want to live and prosper with Me, or do you want destruction and death without Me? Will you choose Me or will you choose idols? Will you be faithful or will you be corrupt?

God gives us those same choices. My prayer is that you and I will choose to freely love God with all we are and have, even if, like Jeremiah, we are put in difficult (even life-threatening) situations.

If you think in pictures, you'll love this book. Throughout Jeremiah, God uses object lessons to make His points clear.

Finally, "Whenever you see a 'therefore' in literature, find out what it is *there for*." *Therefore* in Jeremiah is often closely related to consequences and God's responsive judgments.

"Jesus, help me see the truths and themes You considered important to Jeremiah and these people, and help me to wisely, attentively integrate their story's themes with my own. Thank You! Amen."