

IN &  
OUT

# *Jeremiah*

PART 1

YOU'VE FORSAKEN ME:  
REPENT AND RETURN

IN & OUT®  
JEREMIAH  
PART 1  
YOU'VE FORSAKEN ME: REPENT AND RETURN

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## **A Nation, a Message, and a Man**

### **A Nation . . .**

**God is very clear in His Word: neither Israel nor any other country can walk in unfaithfulness to God and go unpunished (Ezekiel 14:12-20).**

### **A Message . . .**

**The message is hard, but God’s heart is not judgment—it’s repentance. At any moment, God can turn bad situations around. But *we* have to listen!**

**Like their neighbors, God’s people in Jeremiah’s day preferred the message of “Peace, peace,” not realizing they were at war with God!**

### **A Man . . .**

**Jeremiah was one of the most vulnerable and personal Old Testament prophets. His prayers, struggles, questions, disappointments, doubts, and tears will show you how to walk more honestly and, as a result, more intimately with God. Through Jeremiah you will see how to serve God faithfully, even if it’s difficult.**

**May we have eyes to see . . . ears to hear.**

## **TAKING IT IN**

As you study Jeremiah, know that God is going to hammer home truth until the nail sinks deep into the heart of the matter. God is not going to let up. Remember that you need to persevere, to keep going; you need this message. You need to continuously apply and share what you learn with those God brings into your path because the future of your nation is at stake—your future and the future of your loved ones.

Our first lesson will cover the first two chapters of Jeremiah.

1. Let’s begin our initial observations. You’ll find a set of Observation Worksheets in the Appendix of this book. Observation Worksheets are printouts of the texts

we're studying, double-spaced and with wide margins to make them easy to read and mark.

Start by asking questions, interrogating the text like a reporter or investigator using the 5 Ws and H questions: *who, what, when, where, why* and *how*.

- a. Let's begin with people—the WHO—the easiest to see. Read Jeremiah 1 and mark references to *Jeremiah* and *God*, including pronouns. Color *Jeremiah* in one color, possibly orange. (We don't recommend marking Jeremiah in every chapter, but it's helpful in chapter 1 where we are given specific information about the man.)

There is a **Key Word Bookmark** on the back cover of your Precept book which you can refer to for suggested markings for frequently used words such as *God*.

- b. Now that you've marked *Jeremiah* and *God*:
  - 1) **Who** is speaking to whom?
  - 2) Jeremiah gives more information about himself than do all the other Old Testament prophets. In the Appendix you'll find a page to record a "bio" on "Jeremiah, a Man Appointed by God." List your insights from chapter 1. You'll add to it as we progress through the book.
  - 3) Now look at where you marked God and list what you learned about Him.

- c. As you read Jeremiah 1, you may have noticed some important repeated words. These are called **key words**, because they help unlock the meaning of the text. Their repetition shows you how important they are to the author’s message.

It’s helpful to make a list of key words and phrases you want to mark along with how you mark them. This Key Word Bookmark will help you as you move from chapter to chapter. You can list key words on the back of the bookmark that’s on the back cover of your Precept book.

An asterisk [\*] shows words with a suggested marking on the bookmark.

Start with the following:

- 1) *word of the LORD*
  - 2) *nations, \* kingdoms*
  - 3) *north*—You might use a compass or arrow pointing up (northward).
  - 4) *gods*—You can use a big black **I**. Later we will mark *idol* the same way. Idolatry is an important theme.
- d. Who, what, WHEN. . . .

Marking references to time is a good habit. Time is indicated in many different ways: by words like *month* and *year*, by events like the annual feasts, and by sequencing terms like *before*, *then*, *after*, *until*. Each time phrase is significant and often vital to understanding the progression of events, so don’t neglect them; mark them.

- 1) Now read Jeremiah 1 again and mark all the time references.\*
- 2) Does Jeremiah 1 give any clues to WHEN the events listed are happening? It does! Write your answer below. Then look at “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah’s Time” in the Appendix.

- 3) Color-code each of the kings in verses 2 and 3. Since these are all kings of Judah, you might put a blue box around each of them, then give each one a distinct color inside the box. Put these kings on your Key Word Bookmark and continue marking them throughout Jeremiah. This will help you put the chapters into the historical context.
- e. We are going to fully explore the **WHEN** of Jeremiah later, but first let's get the major **Ws** answered. **WHERE? Where is the event happening, where will it happen, where are the people from?** Get the point?
- 1) Read Jeremiah 1 and mark the *wheres* (geographical locations\*). See your bookmark for a marking suggestion.
  - 2) When you mark a “**where**” you don't know, it's a good idea to look at a map. Look at the “Map of Israel” in the Appendix and find Anathoth. It's about four miles from Jerusalem.
- f. You probably saw that some of the **WHOs** were nations or kingdoms from the north, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and other cities of Judah. So now we've connected the **WHO** with the **WHERE**. But in verses 15-19 you run into the pronouns *they* and *them*. Understanding who or what pronouns refer to sometimes takes a little thinking. But the good news is that context is “king”—it rules over interpretation. So all you need to do is read the surrounding verses and think to discover the answers.
- 1) Read Jeremiah 1:14-19 again, paying careful attention to “they” and “them” each time they occur. Then answer the following:
    - a) Who will evil break forth on?
    - b) What is the evil? Who are “they” who set up their thrones at Jerusalem?



- c) Who will God pronounce judgments against in verse 16? Who has forsaken Him? Who might “dismay” Jeremiah when he preaches a message of judgment? Who will fight against Jeremiah?
- 2) Are “they” in verse 15 the same as “they” and “them” in verses 16-19? How do you know?
- g. Now the last of the **5 Ws: WHY?** *By the way, the text may not answer all the 5 Ws and H, so don't force it.* Does Jeremiah 1 give you any clues regarding:
- 1) why God appointed Jeremiah as a prophet?
  - 2) why He commands Jeremiah to speak to “them” of verse 17?
  - 3) why “they” in verse 19 will fight against Jeremiah?
- h. And of course there is that last question: **HOW?** Watch for *hows* as we move through Jeremiah.

**Jeremiah Part 1**

Lesson 1, Chapters 1–2

2. Finally, you will find a “Jeremiah at a Glance” chart in the Appendix. You will see chapter numbers and then a place to write a theme (the main event or teaching) for each chapter. Write (in pencil) the theme of Jeremiah 1. The purpose of the At a Glance chart is to provide a compact visual chapter-by-chapter summary of the book you can return to for easy reference.
3. Study the chart, “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah’s Time” found in the Appendix. Find the kings’ names mentioned in Jeremiah 1. Color each king’s name the same color you used on your Key Word Bookmark. Note from the chart that some of the kings have more than one name. Add these to your bookmark beside their names used in Jeremiah.
4. Now we start observing Jeremiah 2.
  - a. Add the following key words and phrases to your Key Word Bookmark and mark them as you observe Jeremiah 2. Check your bookmark for ideas for marking.
    - 1) *the land of Israel*\*
    - 2) *love*\*
    - 3) *forsake*—a downward orange arrow
    - 4) *evil*
    - 5) *anger (God’s)*—see *wrath*\*
    - 6) *prophets* (other than Jeremiah)
    - 7) *shame, ashamed*—you might color it red like someone blushing, and put a slash through it like this / if it is *not ashamed*
  - b. Record a chapter theme for Jeremiah 2 on the “Jeremiah at a Glance” chart.
  - c. Now, analyze chapter 2 paragraph by paragraph. Write, as briefly as possible, a summary statement of each paragraph.
    - 1) 1-3
    - 2) 4-8

3) 9-13

4) 14-19

5) 20-25

6) 26-28

7) 29-37

d. Jeremiah 2:13 says God's people have committed two evils. What are they?

## LIVING IT OUT

1. Now if you have time, think through all you've observed in your study this week. You need to make sure you are getting the facts: gaining knowledge about God, Jeremiah, and what God is doing. Whatever helps you review and remember what you've just observed, do it. This may mean just think, jot down some notes, or write a prayer to the Lord.



# JEREMIAH 1

## Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

- THE words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin,
- 2 to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.
- 3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the exile of Jerusalem in the fifth month.
- 4 Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
- 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
And before you were born I consecrated you;  
I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
- 6 Then I said, “Alas, Lord GOD!  
Behold, I do not know how to speak,  
Because I am a youth.”
- 7 But the LORD said to me,  
“Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’  
Because everywhere I send you, you shall go,  
And all that I command you, you shall speak.
- 8 “Do not be afraid of them,  
For I am with you to deliver you,” declares the LORD.
- 9 Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me,  
“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.
- 10 “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.”

- 11 The word of the LORD came to me saying, “What do you see, Jeremiah?”  
And I said, “I see a rod of an almond tree.”
- 12 Then the LORD said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over  
My word to perform it.”
- 13 The word of the LORD came to me a second time saying, “What do you  
see?” And I said, “I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north.”
- 14 Then the LORD said to me, “Out of the north the evil will break forth on  
all the inhabitants of the land.
- 15 “For, behold, I am calling all the families of the kingdoms of the north,”  
declares the LORD; “and they will come and they will set each one his  
throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all its walls  
round about and against all the cities of Judah.
- 16 “I will pronounce My judgments on them concerning all their  
wickedness, whereby they have forsaken Me and have offered sacrifices  
to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands.
- 17 “Now, gird up your loins and arise, and speak to them all which I  
command you. Do not be dismayed before them, or I will dismay you  
before them.
- 18 “Now behold, I have made you today as a fortified city and as a pillar of  
iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah,  
to its princes, to its priests and to the people of the land.
- 19 “They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am  
with you to deliver you,” declares the LORD.

## JEREMIAH 2

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

NOW the word of the LORD came to me saying,

2 “Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD,

“I remember concerning you the devotion of your youth,

The love of your betrothals,

Your following after Me in the wilderness,

Through a land not sown.

3 “Israel was holy to the LORD,

The first of His harvest.

All who ate of it became guilty;

Evil came upon them,” declares the LORD.’ ”

4 Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel.

5 Thus says the LORD,

“What injustice did your fathers find in Me,

That they went far from Me

And walked after emptiness and became empty?

6 “They did not say, ‘Where is the LORD

Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt,

Who led us through the wilderness,

Through a land of deserts and of pits,

Through a land of drought and of deep darkness,

Through a land that no one crossed

And where no man dwelt?’

7 “I brought you into the fruitful land

To eat its fruit and its good things.

But you came and defiled My land,

And My inheritance you made an abomination.

- 8 “The priests did not say, ‘Where is the LORD?’  
And those who handle the law did not know Me;  
The rulers also transgressed against Me,  
And the prophets prophesied by Baal  
And walked after things that did not profit.
- 9 “Therefore I will yet contend with you,” declares the LORD,  
“And with your sons’ sons I will contend.
- 10 “For cross to the coastlands of Kittim and see,  
And send to Kedar and observe closely  
And see if there has been such *a thing* as this!
- 11 “Has a nation changed gods  
When they were not gods?  
But My people have changed their glory  
For that which does not profit.
- 12 “Be appalled, O heavens, at this,  
And shudder, be very desolate,” declares the LORD.
- 13 “For My people have committed two evils:  
They have forsaken Me,  
The fountain of living waters,  
To hew for themselves cisterns,  
Broken cisterns  
That can hold no water.
- 14 “Is Israel a slave? Or is he a homeborn servant?  
Why has he become a prey?
- 15 “The young lions have roared at him,  
They have roared loudly.  
And they have made his land a waste;  
His cities have been destroyed, without inhabitant.
- 16 “Also the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes  
Have shaved the crown of your head.



- 17 “Have you not done this to yourself  
By your forsaking the LORD your God  
When He led you in the way?
- 18 “But now what are you doing on the road to Egypt,  
To drink the waters of the Nile?  
Or what are you doing on the road to Assyria,  
To drink the waters of the Euphrates?
- 19 “Your own wickedness will correct you,  
And your apostasies will reprove you;  
Know therefore and see that it is evil and bitter  
For you to forsake the LORD your God,  
And the dread of Me is not in you,” declares the Lord GOD of hosts.
- 20** “For long ago I broke your yoke  
*And* tore off your bonds;  
But you said, ‘I will not serve!’  
For on every high hill  
And under every green tree  
You have lain down as a harlot.
- 21 “Yet I planted you a choice vine,  
A completely faithful seed.  
How then have you turned yourself before Me  
Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?
- 22 “Although you wash yourself with lye  
And use much soap,  
The stain of your iniquity is before Me,” declares the Lord GOD.
- 23 “How can you say, ‘I am not defiled,  
I have not gone after the Baals’?  
Look at your way in the valley!  
Know what you have done!  
You are a swift young camel entangling her ways,

- 24 A wild donkey accustomed to the wilderness,  
That sniffs the wind in her passion.  
In *the time of* her heat who can turn her away?  
All who seek her will not become weary;  
In her month they will find her.
- 25 “Keep your feet from being unshod  
And your throat from thirst;  
But you said, ‘It is hopeless!  
No! For I have loved strangers,  
And after them I will walk.’
- 26 “As the thief is shamed when he is discovered,  
So the house of Israel is shamed;  
They, their kings, their princes  
And their priests and their prophets,  
27 Who say to a tree, ‘You are my father,’  
And to a stone, ‘You gave me birth.’  
For they have turned *their* back to Me,  
And not *their* face;  
But in the time of their trouble they will say,  
‘Arise and save us.’
- 28 “But where are your gods  
Which you made for yourself?  
Let them arise, if they can save you  
In the time of your trouble;  
For *according to* the number of your cities  
Are your gods, O Judah.
- 29 “Why do you contend with Me?  
You have all transgressed against Me,” declares the LORD.
- 30 “In vain I have struck your sons;  
They accepted no chastening.  
Your sword has devoured your prophets  
Like a destroying lion.

- 31 “O generation, heed the word of the LORD.  
Have I been a wilderness to Israel,  
Or a land of thick darkness?  
Why do My people say, ‘We *are free to roam*;  
We will no longer come to You’?
- 32 “Can a virgin forget her ornaments,  
Or a bride her attire?  
Yet My people have forgotten Me  
Days without number.
- 33 “How well you prepare your way  
To seek love!  
Therefore even the wicked women  
You have taught your ways.
- 34 “Also on your skirts is found  
The lifeblood of the innocent poor;  
You did not find them breaking in.  
But in spite of all these things,
- 35 Yet you said, ‘I am innocent;  
Surely His anger is turned away from me.’  
Behold, I will enter into judgment with you  
Because you say, ‘I have not sinned.’
- 36 “Why do you go around so much  
Changing your way?  
Also, you will be put to shame by Egypt  
As you were put to shame by Assyria.
- 37 “From this *place* also you will go out  
With your hands on your head;  
For the LORD has rejected those in whom you trust,  
And you will not prosper with them.”



JEREMIAH, A MAN APPOINTED BY GOD



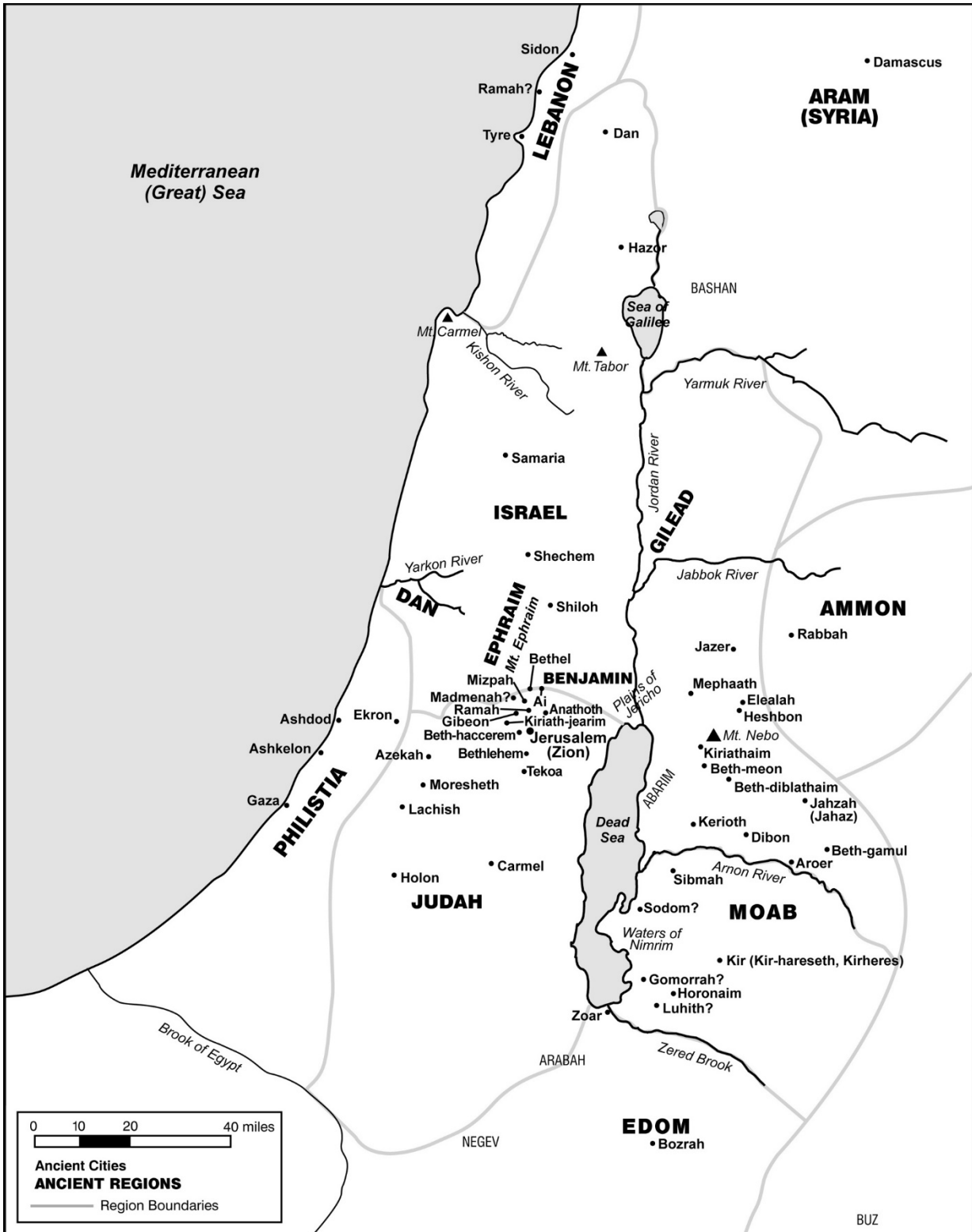
JEREMIAH AT A GLANCE

	Segment Divisions	Chapter Themes
<b>Author:</b>		1
		2
		3
		4
<b>Date:</b>		5
		6
		7
<b>Purpose:</b>		8
		9
		10
<b>Key Words:</b>		11
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**Jeremiah Part 1**  
Map of Israel





**Jeremiah Part 1**

*The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah's Time*

**The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah's Time**

