**Jeremiah 1 (Lesson 2a)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 1 – “Jeremiah’s Calling” (2 minutes to read)**

A. Historical Prologue (1:1-3) – for background, see 2Kgs. 21-25; 2Chron. 33-36

 1. v. 1 – information about Jeremiah (son of Hilkiah, priestly family, from Anathoth in Benjamin)

 2. vv. 2f – when Jeremiah served (started 13th year of Josiah, continued during reigns of Jehoiakim, Jehoahaz, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah, i.e. 627-586 B.C). One year prior Josiah’s reforms begin (2Chron. 34:3-7). Five years later lost book of the law is found (2Chron. 34:8, 14-21).

B. The Appointment of Jeremiah (1:4-10)

 1. vv. 4f – God’s choice and appointment of Jeremiah as a prophet *to the nations* (cf. 1:10). This is curious because most of what he deals with is Judah (chapters 2-44), although he will address the nations at the end of his book (chapters 45-51). See also 25:15-29.

 2. v. 6 – Jeremiah’s reticence because of his youth & lack of rhetorical ability

 3. vv. 7f – God’s reassurance. It’s God’s message (Deut. 18:18f; 2Pet. 1:20f).

 4. vv. 9f – Back to business: judgment (cf. Is. 6; Ezek. 2:8-3:3; Dan. 10:16)

C. Signs Of God’s Assurance (1:11-19) – *“His is a lone voice shouting into the wind.”*

 1. The Almond Tree (vv. 11f) – God’s Word won’t fail (cf. 23:29; Is. 55:10ff); Hebrew for almond tree is *shoked* meaning “awake”.

 2. The Boiling Pot (vv. 13-16) – Babylon (attack from North) is coming as the rod of God’s fury. Ancient empires and leaders were kinsmen.

 3. The Fortification of Jeremiah (vv. 17-19) – Be strong and courageous and do your duty! (cf. 3:16-18; 26:2; 33:1-9) God will strengthen Him for this duty (cf. “Ezekiel” – God is my strength; preaches at the same time). Things will be rough, but you will get through by my grace.

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 1**

 A. Does 1:5 prove Calvinistic predestination? Why not? Compare Judg. 13:5; Lk. 1:15.

 B. What challenges do youthfulness, agedness, and middle-agedness respectively hold in our service to God?

 C. How do we reconcile that Jeremiah, a messenger of God, is given authority to tear down (1:10), yet Paul says (seemingly) the exact opposite (2Co. 10:8; 13:10)?

 D. How are Jeremiah and Moses’ call to be prophets very similar? See Ex. 4:1-17.

**III. Applications For Chapter 1**

 A. God’s Word must be spoken, in season and out of season (2Tim. 4:1-4). It is always profitable, be it in oracles of judgment against sin or in messages of blessing for righteousness (cf. Acts 20:26f; 2Tim. 3:16f).

 B. Standing for what is right will cause you to be hated by some. Even so, God’s side is the side to remain on as it ensures protection and blessing. Though trials and thorns will persist in this life, we must aim our sights on the rewards of the next life (cf. Rom. 8:18, 28, 31-39; 2Cor. 4:8f).

 C. Whatever fears we may have in ministry to God, He has prescribed a remedy (cf. Matt. 10:28). God’s advice to Jeremiah stands: *“You will do as you are told!”*

**Jeremiah 2 (Lesson 2b)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 2 – God’s Indictment (4 minutes to read)**

A. They Rejected His Love (2:1-8)

 1. vv. 1-3 – God laments Israel’s descent (cf. Ex. 19:5f; Dt. 7:6; Hos. 2:15; 11:1)

 2. vv. 4f – As a betrayed lover, God asks what He did to cause this (cf. Hos. 9:10; Deut. 32:16f; Is. 5:3f; Mic. 6:3; Ps. 135:15-18)

 3. vv. 6-8 – Israel’s ingratitude was the catalyst; all are corrupted (Dt. 8:7-20)

B. They Exchanged Glory For Shame (2:9-13)

 1. vv. 9f – Not even the Gentiles do this!; uses merism with Kittim & Kedar

 2. vv. 11-13 – God of glory (fount of living waters) replaced w/ gods of vanity

C. They Are Reaping What They Sowed (2:14-19)

 1. v. 14 – you should’ve learned from the northern tribes (cf. Ezek. 16:25-34)

 2. vv. 15f – once saved from enemies, now same enemies have free reign

 3. vv. 16-19 – they will learn the depth of their descent in captivity

D. Israel’s Stubborn Rejection Illustrated (2:20-28)

 1. v. 20 – A stubborn ox (cf. 1Kgs. 14:22f)

 2. v. 21 – A wild vine (cf. Is. 5:1-7; Mt. 7:15-20)

 3. v. 22 – A stubborn stain; Josiah’s efforts failed (cf. Ezek. 14:1-5)

 4. v. 23 – A wandering camel (cf. Hos. 7:11); Zedekiah’s constant vacillation

 5. v. 24 – A wild donkey (cf. Gen. 16:2; Job 11:12)

 6. v. 25 – A lustful paramour (cf. Deut. 32:15-18; Hos. 9:10)

 7. vv. 26-28 – A professional thief caught red-handed

E. They Senselessly Claimed Innocence (2:29-37; contrast 3:1-5)

 1. Enumeration of sins – rebellion, rejection, idolatry, allegiances with pagans, mistreating the poor, lack of trust in God

 2. Futile attempts at justification (e.g. vv. 29a, 31b, 35)

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 2**

 A. What is the importance of recalling the things that God has done in our past? Why is this so imperative?

 B. What New Testament passage speaks of exchanging the glory of God for corruptible things? Compare and contrast the two passages.

 C. What other prophet(s) describe the sort of denial that we see in this passage?

 D. Judah is said to have had more gods/idols than cities. What other cities, discussed in the New Testament, were historically known for that?

**III. Applications For Chapter 2**

 A. Youthful vigor in the faith can quickly dissolve into abject ungodliness. Let us always remember that God is the “guide of our youth.”

 B. God is to be blessed and honored even in judgment. He is faithful even when people are faithless (2Tim. 2:13).

 C. The conscience may quickly be seared and the spiritual senses dulled (1Tim. 4:2; Heb. 5:12-14). One may find himself or herself denying things that have no logical basis or foundation. Make sure to strengthen your senses of discernment each and every day.