

VIA EMMAUS: A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

Jeremiah: A New Heart For An Idolatrous People (29)

“I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart” (Jeremiah 24:7)

INTRODUCING JEREMIAH

- Background** “the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth” (1:1) – *a few miles NE of Jerusalem; it is a priest’s town (Josh 22:17-18); Jeremiah is a descendent of Abiathar (1 Sam 2)*
- Time Period** “Josiah...[Jehoahaz]...Jehoiakim...[Jehoiachin]... Zedekiah...until the captivity” (1:2-3)
2 Kings 22:1- 25:30 – *the history from Josiah until Gedaliah (Jer 52:31-34 ~ 2 Ki 25:27-30)*
- Prophecies** *Jeremiah is a collection of prophetic news clippings, not an historic book in chronological order*
Josiah (627-609 BC) – 1:1-19; 3:6-6:30
Jehoahaz (609) & Jehoiakim (609-597 BC) – ch. 7; 25; 26; 35; 36; 45; 46; 47; 48
Jehoiachin (597) & Zedekiah (597-586 BC) – ch. 20-22; 24:1-10; 27; 28; 29; 30-31; 32; 33; 34
After the Fall of Jerusalem – 40-41; 42-43
- Message** **Judgment and Salvation = A New Heart for an Idolatrous People**
Evident from the call of Jeremiah (1:4-19) – *Tearing down, plucking up... planting and building*
Evident from 2 predominant themes in Jeremiah – “the heart” (49x) & “knowing the Lord” (59x)
Evident from prophecy of the Good and Bad Figs (24:1-10) and the Book of Comfort (ch. 31-34)

AN OUTLINE OF JEREMIAH

Introduction (1:1–19)

Jeremiah's call (1:4-19) – *YHWH overcomes his fear, gives him his message, promises protection*

YHWH Indicts Judah for Spiritual Adultery: A Call for Repentance (2:1–6:30)

Spiritual adultery (2:1–3:5) – *Israel has forsaken God and pursued her own lovers (2:13; 3:10)*
Repentance shall receive mercy (3:6-4:4) – *circumcise your heart (4:4)*
Rebellion invites the judgment (4:5-6:30) – *wash your hearts (4:14); stubborn hearts (5:23-24)*

YHWH Indicts Judah for False Trust and Idolatry: A Lesson on the Human Heart (7:1–10:25)

The temple will not save (7:1–8:3) – *YHWH was on their lips, but not their hearts (7:24)*
Judah rejects God's Torah (8:4–17) – *Everyone does what is right in their own eyes (8:6)*
Judah lives deceitfully (8:18–9:9) – *What Judah says and what he does are inconsistent (9:8)*
Judah engages in idolatry (9:10–10:16) – *Judah follows their uncircumcised hearts (9:14, 26)*
Judah will go into exile (10:17–25)

YHWH Indicts Judah For Breaking Covenant: A Lesson in Covenantal Theology (11:1–20:18)

Judah’s broken covenant (11:1–23) – *Wayward hearts invite judgment/abandonment (11:6-17)*
The parable of the loin cloth (13:1-27) – *Israel’s rebellious heart will ruin them (13:10)*
God promises disaster (14:1-15:21) – *Prayer won’t save them from judgment (14:11; 15:1-2)*
Judgment and grace (16:1-21) – *Restoration is possible on the other side of the Exile (16:14-21)*
The heart of the matter (17:1-27) – *The heart is desperately wicked (17:5-13)*
The potter’s house (18:1-19:15) – *The potter instructs us of our Covenantal God (v. 1-12)*
Jeremiah is persecuted (20:1-18) – *God’s message is hated by the seed of the serpent*

YHWH Indicts Judah's Shepherds: A Call for a New Kind of Leader (21:1–29:32)

Jeremiah opposes Judah's kings (21:1–23:8) – *Judah's hope is a new kind of king* (23:1-8)
Jeremiah confronts false prophets (23:9–40) – *The lying prophets' hearts are deceived* (23:25f)
The Parable of the Figs (24:1-10) – *God's plan of salvation = a new heart that will return to God*
Seventy years of captivity (25:1-38) – *The Lord's perfect judgment; Read by Daniel* (9:2)
Jeremiah pronounces judgment on temple worship (26:1-24) – *Type of Christ* (cf. Matt 16:14)
Jeremiah contests Hananiah and Shemiah (26:1–29:32) – *Christian spokesman endure reproach*
Jeremiah closes this section with a letter to the saints in exile – “You will find me when you seek me with all your heart” (29:11-13)

YHWH Promises a New (Kind of) Covenant: A Message of Hope (30:1–33:26)

God will restore Judah (30:1–24) – *After the exile, David will reign again, and God will restore*
God will make a new covenant with Israel (31:1–40)

- v. 26-30 It is the fulfillment of Jeremiah's call and it will be more individual
- v. 31 It will restore fractured relationships – in the NT it is applied to Jews and Gentiles
- v. 32 It's not like the Old Covenant because it cannot be broken; it has a better mediator
- v. 33 The law will go in the heart – *solves heart problem*
I will be their God and they will be my people – *solves the distance problem*
- v. 34 Participants of the New Covenant will know God – *solves the knowledge problem*
I will forgive their iniquity – *solves the guilt problem*
- v. 35-37 The New Covenant is as sure as God's covenant with creation (cf. 33:20-22)
- v. 38-40 The New Covenant is not only personal, but cosmic

The exiles will return to Judah (32:1–44) – *Jeremiah buys a field; The everlasting covenant*
God will honor the Davidic covenant (33:1–26) – *The kingdom of priests is coming* (33:14-26)

YHWH Judges Judah (34:1–45:5) – Judgment begins with the house of God

God's faithfulness and Judah's infidelity (34:1–35:19)
Judah rejects God's word (36:1–32)
Jerusalem's last days (37:1–39:18)
Judah's futile rebellion against Babylon (40:1–41:18)
Judah's futile rebellion against God (42:1–45:5)

YHWH Judgment on the Nations (46:1–51:64) – Judgment extends to the ends of the earth

God will judge Egypt (46:1–28)
God will judge Philistia (47:1–7)
God will judge Moab (48:1–47)
God will judge many nations (49:1–39)
God will judge Babylon (50:1–51:64)

The Fall of Jerusalem (52:1–34) -- Darkness Falls on Jerusalem But a Ray of Light Emerges

Jerusalem's fall and Zedekiah's blinding (52:1–11)
The destruction of the temple (52:12–23)
The exiling of the people (52:24–30)
The continuation of the Davidic lineage (52:31–34)

YHWH will pluck up, break down, destroy, and overthrow, then he will build and plant!
The promises of God will continue to look bleak in the history of Israel, but...
The closing paragraph reminds us that God is at work in redemptive history