

The Book of Jeremiah

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¹ Diagrams adapted from lecture notes of Dr. Tim Mackie.

Jeremiah 1:1-3 Superscription

¹The words of **Jeremiah**,
the son of Hilkiah,
one of the priests
who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin,

²to 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.

³It came also in the days of **Jehoiakim**
the son of Josiah,
king of Judah,
and until the end of the eleventh year of **Zedekiah**,
the son of Josiah,
king of Judah,
until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

JOSIAH (2 Kings 21:24—23:30)	640	
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	604	<i>(w/Egypt)</i>
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ZEDEKIAH (2 Kings 24:18—25:21)	597	
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	588	<i>Rebels (w/Egypt) → siege</i>
	587	
	586	<i>3rd exile + ruin of Jerusalem</i>

Jeremiah 1:4-19
Prologue: Jeremiah's Call and Commission

1:4-10	A Jeremiah's Call: Part 1
1:11-12	B Vision 1: Almond Staff
1:13-16	B' Vision 2: Boiling Pot
1:17-19	A' Jeremiah's Call: Part 2

A Jeremiah's Call: Part 1 (1:4-10)

"To whomever I send you, you will go, and whatever I command you, you will speak.
 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you." (v. 7-8)

B Vision 1: Almond Staff (1:11-12)

"And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, 'What do you see...?'
 "And I said, 'A staff of almond wood, I see.'
 "And Yahweh said to me..."

B' Vision 2: Boiling Pot (1:13-16)

"And the word of Yahweh came to me a second time, saying, 'What do you see...?'
 "And I said, 'A boiling pot, I see.'
 "And Yahweh said to me..."

A' Jeremiah's Call: Part 2 (1:17-19)

"You will arise and you will speak to them whatever I command you.
 Do not be afraid of them ... for I am with you to deliver you." (vv. 17, 19)

Jeremiah is going to face hostility and resistance from the "kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail" (1:18b-19a). Like the Suffering Servant, Jeremiah is going to be rejected and personally suffer for the divine word of judgment that he brings to Israel.

– adapted from Tim Mackie

Jeremiah 2—10

Accusations and Calls for Repentance

2—6	“And the word of Yahweh came to me saying...” (2:1-2a)	
	2:2b—3:11	<i>Harlotry Cycle</i> : Israel’s Idolatry = Adultery
	3:12—4:4	“Repentance” [שוב] and “Rebellion” [משובה] Poems
	4:5—6:30	<i>Foe Cycle</i> : The “Enemy from the North” and Lament Poems
7:1—8:3	“The word which came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying...” (7:1a)	
	7:1b—8:3	Temple Sermon
8:4—10:25	“And you will speak to them, ‘Thus speaks Yahweh...’” (8:4)	
	8:4—9:15	Accusations and Announcements of Ruin
	9:16—10:25	Laments, Accusations, and Idolatry Exposed

Inclusio:

“Israel was holy to Yahweh, the first-fruits of his harvest, all who ate [אכל] him were declared guilty, disaster came upon them.” (2:2-3)

Inclusio:

“Pour out your anger on the nations who do not know you ... for they have eaten [אכל] Jacob, and they have eaten [אכל] him and destroyed him.” (10:25)

Jeremiah 11—20
Accusations, Warnings, and Laments

11—12	13—15	16:1—17:18	17:19—18:23	19—20
11:1-14 Narrative “cursed is the man” (11:3)	13:1-11 Narrative Sign-Act: <i>defiled underwear</i>	16:1-13 Narrative Sign-Act: <i>no marriage or kids</i>	17:19-27 Narrative Sabbath Violated	19:1-13 Narrative Sign-Act: <i>shattered pot</i>
11:15-17 Poem: Olive Tree	13:12-14 Parable: Wine 13:15-27 Poem: Judgment 14:1—15:9 A <i>Lament</i> A’ B <i>Petition</i> B’ C <i>No Intercession</i> C’ (14:11 ←→ 15:1)	16:14-15 A Hope for Judah 16:16-18 B Double Judgment 16:19-21 A’ Hope for Nations	18:1-11 Narrative Sign-Act: <i>potter’s house</i>	19:14—20:6 Narrative Jeremiah imprisoned
		17:1-13 Poem: Heart “cursed is the man” (17:5)	18:12-17 Poem: Accusation	
11:18—12:6 Lament #1 Inclusio (11:20b)	15:10-21 Lament #2	17:14-18 Lament #3	18:18-23 Lament #4	20:7-13 Lament #5 Inclusio (20:12b)
12:7-17 Poem: Spoiled Inheritance				20:14-18 Final Lament “cursed is the man” (20:15)

Jeremiah 21—45

Jeremiah vs. Israel and the Coming of Babylon

Rejection of Jeremiah's Message

- 21—23:4 **A** Jeremiah vs the Royal House of Judah
- 23:5-8 **B** Restoration Hope & New David
- 23:9-40 **C** Jeremiah vs. the Prophets of Judah
- 24 **D** Good and Bad Figs = Exile to Babylon
- 25 **D** Seventy Year Exile to Babylon
- 26—29 **C** Jeremiah vs. the Prophets of Judah
- 30—33 **B** Restoration Hope & New David
- 34—44 **A** Jeremiah vs. the Royal House + Remnant of Judah

21:1-10 <u>Narrative</u> Sword/Famine/Pestilence for Zedekiah & Remnant (21:7)	21:11—23:4 <u>Jeremiah vs. King</u> (6 oracles)	23:5-8 <u>Restoration</u> “days are coming” (23:5, 8) New David (23:5)	23:9-40 <u>Jeremiah vs. Prophets</u> (6 oracles)	24 <u>Narrative</u> Good/Bad Figs Sword/Famine/Pestilence for Zedekiah & Remnant (24:8, 10)
A		B	C	D
D'	C'	B'	A'	
25 <u>Oracle</u> : 70-year Exile 4 th year of Jehoiakim (25:1) Disaster “on all flesh” (25:31)	26—29 <u>Jeremiah vs. Prophets</u> (narrative)	30—33 <u>Restoration</u> “days are coming” (30:3; 33:14) New David (33:15)	34—44 <u>Jeremiah vs. King</u> (narrative)	45 <u>Oracle</u> : to Baruch 4 th year of Jehoiakim (45:1) Disaster “on all flesh” (45:5)

Jeremiah 21:1—23:8
Jeremiah vs. The Royal House of Judah
6 Oracles

21:1-10 Rejection of Davidic King “Zedekiah” = “Yahweh is righteous”	“concerning the house of the king of Judah”	“concerning _____ ”	23:1-8 Promise of New David “a righteous branch” (23:5) “Yahweh our righteousness” (23:6)
	A 21:11-14 “house of David” (21:12)	A’ 22:11-17 Shallum (22:11)	
	“do justice” (21:12)	“do justice” (22:13, 15)	
	B 22:1-5 “house of king of Judah” (22:1)	B’ 22:18-23 Jehoiakim (22:18)	
	“don’t listen” (22:5)	“won’t listen” (22:21)	
	C 22:6-10 “house of king of Judah” (22:6)	C’ 22:24-30 Jehoiachin (22:24)	
	“he will no longer see the land of his birth” (22:10)	“hurled to a land where he wasn’t born” (22:26)	

Jeremiah 23:9-40
Jeremiah vs. The Prophets of Judah
6 Oracles

#1	<i>Both prophet and priest are ungodly</i>	23:9-11
#2	<i>Prophets of Samaria and of Jerusalem</i>	23:12-15
#3	<i>Do not listen to prophets who fill you with vain hopes</i>	23:16-17
#4	<i>They have not stood in the council of Yahweh</i>	23:18-22
#5	<i>I am against the those who prophesy lies in my name</i>	23:23-32
#6	<i>I will cast off he who says, “The burden of the Lord”</i>	23:33-40

Jeremiah 26—29
Jeremiah vs. The Prophets of Judah

26 Jeremiah's Message to Jerusalem	27 Jeremiah's Sign-Act: Yoke of Babylon	28 Hananiah's Counter Sign-Act: Broken Yoke	29 Jeremiah's Message to the Exiles in Babylon
“The beginning of the reign of <i>Jehoiakim</i>...” (26:1) Jeremiah rejected by the priests, prophets, and people Contrast with two prophets: Micah (26:17-19) Uriah (26:20-23)	“The beginning of the reign of <i>Zedekiah</i>...” (27:1) “Don't listen” (x3) to False Prophets Who Promise: [#1] Quick Return from Exile [#2] Quick Return of Temple Articles	“The beginning of the reign of <i>Zedekiah</i>...” (28:1) Hananiah = False Prophet Who Promises: [#1] Quick Return from Exile [#2] Quick Return of Temple Articles Hananiah “speaks rebellion” [דבר סרה] (28:16)	“After <i>Jehoiachin</i> departed from Jerusalem” (29:2) Jeremiah's Letter (29:1-23): Settle, build homes, plant gardens, pray for <i>shalom</i> (70 years of exile) Contrast with two prophets: Ahab (29:21-22) Zedekiah Shemaiah's Counter-Letter (29:24-32) Shemaiah “speaks rebellion” [דבר סרה] (29:32)

The key conflict is which prophets truly speak for Yahweh: the lone, suffering Jeremiah or the prophets sponsored by the royal house? – Tim Mackie

Jeremiah 30—33
The Book of Comfort

30:1-4 Introduction			
“restore fortunes” (30:3)			
30:5—31:22 <i>Poems: Future Restoration</i>	31:23-40 <i>Poems: Future Restoration</i>	32 <i>Narrative:</i> Jeremiah Imprisoned & Sign-Act: Purchase Field	33 <i>Narrative:</i> Jeremiah Still Imprisoned
30:5-24 5 Oracles	31:1-22 5 Oracles	8 Oracles: 4 Judgment + 4 Restoration 2 Judgment Oracles (3b-5) 2 Restoration Oracles (14-15) 2 Judgment Oracles (26-35) 2 Restoration Oracles (36-44)	8 Oracles of Restoration: 1-2 Great Restoration 3-4 New Sounds & Pastures 5-6 New David & Priests 7-8 Eternal Covenants
“restore fortunes” (30:18)	“restore fortunes” (31:23)	“restore fortunes” (32:44)	“restore fortunes” (33:7, 11, 26)

Poems of Future Restoration (30—31)
Part 1: 30:5—31:22

Introduction	30:1-4
“For behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the Lord, and I will bring them back to the land”	

Yahweh will Defeat Foreign Nations Attacking Israel on the Day of the Lord		30:5-24
#1	<i>Tribulation Preceding Israel’s Restoration</i>	5-7
	“it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it”	
#2	<i>Serve King David, Not Foreigners</i>	8-9
	“I will break his yoke from off your neck”	
#3	<i>Return to Land in Peace</i>	10-11
	“I will make a full end of all the nations”	
#4	<i>Heal Incurable Wound</i>	12-17
	“all who devour you shall be devoured”	
#5	<i>Rebuilding of Jerusalem</i>	18-24
	“wrath has gone forth ... it will burst upon the head of the wicked”	

Yahweh will Turn Israel’s Weeping into Joy when He Brings Them Back to the Land		31:1-22
#6	<i>God of All Clans of Israel</i>	1
	“they shall be my people”	
#7	<i>Yahweh will Gather Israel</i>	2-6
	“Arise, and let us go up to Zion”	
#8	<i>Yahweh will Gather Israel</i>	7-9
	“I will ... gather them from the farthest parts of the earth”	
#9	<i>Declare to Nations: Blessing on Israel</i>	10-14
	“He who scattered Israel will gather him”	
#10	<i>Do Not Mourn, God is Merciful</i>	15-22
	“your children shall come back to their own country”	

Poems of Future Restoration (30—31)
Part 2: 31:23-40

A	Holy City Rebuilt		31:23-26
	“The Lord bless you, O habitation of righteousness, O holy hill!” (31:23)		
B	Land Reseeded		31:27-30
	“The days are coming...when I will sow the house of Israel...with the seed of man” (31:27)		
C	New Covenant		31:31-34
	“I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel” (31:31)		
B	Seed of Israel		31:35-37
	“If this fixed order departs ... then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation” (31:36)		
A	Holy City Rebuilt		31:38-40
	“the city shall be rebuilt ... The whole valley ... shall be sacred to the Lord” (31:38, 40)		

Narratives of Future Restoration (32—33)
Part 1: 32:1-44

Introductory narrative: <i>In the tenth year of Zedekiah when Nebuchadnezzar was besieging Jerusalem</i>			32:1-3a
A ₁	Oracle 1	Judgment on Zedekiah: <i>I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon</i>	32:3b-4
A ₂	Oracle 2	Judgment on Zedekiah: <i>Though you fight against the Chaldeans, you will not succeed</i>	32:5

Narrative: <i>Hanamel, your uncle, will come and say, “Buy my field”</i>			36:6-13
B ₁	Oracle 3	Salvation for Israel: <i>Take the deed of purchase and put it in earthenware</i>	32:14
B ₂	Oracle 4	Salvation for Israel: <i>Houses and fields shall again be bought in Israel</i>	32:15

C	Jeremiah’s Prayer to Yahweh: <i>Israel’s history ... Why did I buy the field?</i>		32:16-25
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Yahweh’s Answer to Jeremiah				
A ₁	Oracle 5	Judgment on Zedekiah: <i>I am giving this city into the hands of the Chaldeans</i>		32:26-29
A ₂	Oracle 6	Judgment on Zedekiah: <i>This city has aroused my anger and wrath</i>		32:30-35
	B ₁	Oracle 7	Salvation for Israel: <i>I will gather them from all the countries</i>	32:36-41
	B ₂	Oracle 8	Salvation for Israel: <i>Fields shall be brought for money in Israel</i>	32:42-44

Narratives of Future Restoration (32—33)
Part 2: 33:1-26

Great Restoration		
Oracle 1	<i>Expect Great and Hidden Things</i>	33:1-3
	“Thus said Yahweh who does it” [יהוה עשה] (33:2)	
Oracle 2	<i>Healed City, Healed People</i>	33:4-9
	“All the <i>shalom</i> I do for it” [אנכי עשה לה] (33:9)	

New Sounds and Pastures		
Oracle 3	<i>The Return of Joyful Sounds</i>	33:10-11
	“In this place of which you say, ‘It is a waste without man or beast’ ... there shall be heard again the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness” (33:10-11)	
Oracle 4	<i>The Return of Pastureland</i>	33:12-13
	“In this place that is waste, without man or beast ... there shall again be habitations of shepherds resting their flocks” (33:12)	

New David and New Priests		
Oracle 5	<i>A Righteous King in a Righteous City</i>	33:14-16
	“I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David” (33:15)	
Oracle 6	<i>Davidic and Levitical Lines to Continue</i>	33:17-18
	“David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel” (33:18)	

Eternal Covenant with David and Priests		
Oracle 7	<i>Covenants with David and Levi Remain Intact</i>	33:19-22
	“If you could break my covenant of the day and my covenant of the night ... then could my covenant be broken with David my servant” (33:21)	
Oracle 8	<i>Seed of Jacob and David Continue</i>	33:23-26
	“If indeed I have not established my covenant of daytime and night ... then the seed of Jacob and David, my servant” (33:26)	

Jeremiah 34—45
Jeremiah vs. The Royal House & The Remnant

34—39 Sequence 1: Jeremiah vs. The Royal House of Judah (<i>before the destruction</i>)					
34 Zedekiah breaks covenant about Jubilee “you don’t listen” (34:10, 14)	35 Rechabites <i>do</i> listen to Jonadab vs. Jehoiakim who <i>does not listen</i> “you don’t listen” (35:13, 15)	36 Jeremiah’s two scrolls: Jehoiakim <i>does not listen</i> “you don’t listen” (36:3, 25, 31)	37 Zedekiah asks Jeremiah to intercede (37:3) Jeremiah rejected and imprisoned “you don’t listen” (37:2)	38 Jeremiah imprisoned Zedekiah meets Jeremiah in secret “you don’t listen” (38:15, 20)	39 Jerusalem captured and destroyed Zedekiah imprisoned Ebed-Melek spared (39:17)
40—45 Sequence 2: Jeremiah vs. The Remnant of Judah (<i>after the destruction</i>)					
40 Gedaliah appointed governor “you don’t listen” (40:3) “remnant of Judah” (40:6, 11, 15)	41 Gedaliah assassinated by Ishmael of “the royal seed” “Ishmael” = “may God listen” “remnant of Judah” (41:10, 16)	42 Remnant asks Jeremiah to intercede (42:2) Jeremiah rejected “you don’t listen” (42:21) “remnant of Judah” (42:2, 15, 19)	43 Jeremiah rejected Kidnapped & taken to Egypt “you don’t listen” (43:4, 7) “remnant of Judah” (43:5)	44 Jeremiah’s oracle of ruin on remnant in Egypt “you don’t listen” (44:5, 16, 23) “remnant of Judah” (44:7, 12, 14, 28)	45 Baruch spared (45:5)

These two [sections] have been designed as two parallel sequences, in which leaders of the remnant (Zedekiah // Gedaliah // Johanan) ask for Jeremiah to intercede, then reject his prophetic counsel, and then forcibly seize him leading to imprisonment and returning to Egypt. In both cases, it is depicted as an “anti-exodus” by depicting Jeremiah as a rejected Moses figure as well as a rejected Joseph figure.

– Tim Mackie

Jeremiah 45—51

Oracles Against the Nations

A	Oracle for Baruch, Son of Neriah, who went to Egypt			45
	¹ The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a book at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: ² “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: ³ You said, ‘Woe is me! For the LORD has added sorrow to my pain. I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.’ ⁴ Thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD: Behold, what I have built I am breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up—that is, the whole land. ⁵ And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the LORD. But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go.”			
B	Oracles against the Nations			46—49
	#1	Egypt	(46:2-28)	
B	#2	Philistia	(47:1-7)	
	#3	Moab	(48:1-47)	
B	#4	Ammon	(49:1-6)	
	#5	Edom	(49:7-22)	
B	#6	Damascus	(49:23-27)	
	#7	Kedar	(49:28-29)	
B	#8	Hazor	(49:30-33)	
	#9	Elam	(49:34-39)	
B	Oracles against Babylon			50—51a
	#10	Babylon	(50:1—51:58)	
A	Oracle for Seriah, Son of Neriah, who went to Babylon			51b
	⁵⁹ The word that Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah king of Judah to Babylon, in the fourth year of his reign. Seraiah was the quartermaster. ⁶⁰ Jeremiah wrote in a book all the disaster that should come upon Babylon, all these words that are written concerning Babylon. ⁶¹ And Jeremiah said to Seraiah: “When you come to Babylon, see that you read all these words, ⁶² and say, ‘O LORD, you have said concerning this place that you will cut it off, so that nothing shall dwell in it, neither man nor beast, and it shall be desolate forever.’ ⁶³ When you finish reading this book, tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates, ⁶⁴ and say, ‘Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her, and they shall become exhausted.’”			

Jeremiah 52
Epilogue

52:1-30
Destruction of Jerusalem Recounted
52:31-34
Jehoiachin Released from Babylonian Prison