

Gather

Jeremiah

52 chapters; 2nd longest, to Isaiah.

Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah, the priest, from the tribe of Benjamin, in the land of Judah. He was a prophet and priest.

Time period: Jeremiah was written after the Israelites were set free of bondage in Egypt, and before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Then, 70 years after the exile, the Persian Empire will overtake Babylon and the Jewish people will return back to Jerusalem. Jeremiah's ministering is futile. The Jews are non-repentant people, living with false prophets and false gods and idols and wouldn't listen to Jeremiah. Many twists and turns ensue, he is imprisoned, and his life spared (twice), and ultimately dies in Egypt, and his scribe Baruch finishes the story.

Jeremiah was called the "weeping prophet" and "the doom prophet" He wore his heart on his sleeve, was sad for these non-repentant, ignorant people, and very faithful and close to God. No one listened to him. He was poetic and sensitive. Jeremiah began his ministry at around 20 years old; he was in ministry 40-50 years (626-580 BC)

52 Chapters:

1-24 Warning; before the Exile

25 King Nebuchadnezzar is coming!

26-45 Attack on Israel (but 30-33 Promises of Hope for a new future! A New Covenant!)

46-51 Attack on other nations. Jeremiah is kidnapped and taken to Egypt by Jewish rebels, and ultimately dies.

52 Jeremiah was right all along: the Babylonians cause their own demise. God gives them destruction. And yet the last chapter, the two Kings dine together! Choose hope, choose love. The New Covenant is coming.

FILL INS:

1. Youth

Do not say, "I am only a _____".

2. God's Faithfulness

For I know the _____ I have for you.

3. Idols, Complaints

"_____ " says the Lord

4. Trust

You will be my _____, and I will be your _____.

5. Hope, Choose Love

I have _____ you with an _____.

Small Group Questions

1 Youth:

In what ways can you esteem and mentor youth? Share ideas.

2 God's Faithfulness:

Do you recognize God's faithfulness in your life? Give examples of past or present signs of His faithfulness.

3 Idols and Complaints:

What are your idols and strongholds, and what can you do to annihilate them?

4 Trust:

Has God ever used unlikely people or circumstances in your life to get your attention or reveal something to you? Share with the group.

5 Hope, Choose Love:

Where is God challenging you to choose love or give hope? Is the Potter remolding you or reshaping your life in some way? Share with the group.