

# JEREMIAH: Introduction

Jeremiah was a prophet in Judah for about the last 40 years before Babylonian exile. He began his ministry during the reign of Josiah, Judah's last good king, and then spoke to the nation in its final years of decline. God gave Jeremiah a message of judgment for His people, laying out a case against them for their rebellion and idolatry.

Unlike many other prophets, Jeremiah himself is a main character in his own book. He struggles with God's call on his life and the difficult message he is asked to deliver.

It might help to think of the book of Jeremiah as a scrapbook, piecing together bits of prophecy, narrative, prayers, sermons, and other writings.

The tone of most of the book is pretty bleak, as exile looms for Judah. There is only one small section in the center of the book that gives hope to God's people, but those brief chapters contain some of the most beautiful good news in the prophets.

**Jeremiah 1** – Introduction

**Jeremiah 2-29** – Sin

**Jeremiah 30-33** – Comfort

**Jeremiah 34-51** – Judgment

**Jeremiah 52** – Conclusion

Here are some things to keep in mind as you read:

- Much of Jeremiah feels like reading a long suit for **divorce**. The sin of Judah is compared to **adultery**. How do you notice this metaphor? Why is it effective? Is it convicting to you?
- Chapters 30-33 have been called **The Book of Consolation**. Pay close attention to the promises in these chapters. How do they give you hope? How do they make you think of Jesus?
- Jeremiah has lots to say about **false prophets**, especially those who gave people false hope about the future. Watch for this theme, and look for parallels to our world today.