

Jeremiah & Lamentations

Breakdown

- The book of Jeremiah is named for the writer who was a prophet during the tumultuous times of Judah's exile to Babylon. Lamentations is a series of 5 poems or songs written by Jeremiah that lament or mourn the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians.
- Jeremiah prophesied from 627 B.C. through about 586 B.C. while Judah was caught up in the military conquests of the much larger nations of Babylon, Assyria and Egypt.
- Jeremiah is known as the "weeping prophet" because of his grief over the fall of Judah.

Main Points

- God's chosen people had long since been divided. The northern kingdom of Israel had already been defeated and captured by Assyria, and according to the prophet Jeremiah, the southern kingdom of Judah was about to be defeated and captured by Babylon. The people had repeatedly turned away from God, and they were about to experience the consequences of their idolatry.
- Exile was inevitable, but even after everything the people had done, God still loved them. Jeremiah talked about God's plan to make a new covenant with His people. He prophesied of a branch from the house of David, the true Messiah, who would provide salvation for God's people and would reign as the King of kings forever.

Did you know?

- God told Jeremiah he was not allowed to marry, have children, or go to parties, feasts, or funerals. What was God's reason for this?
- Pashhur the priest didn't like Jeremiah's message and had him beaten and put in stocks at the temple gate. When he was released, Jeremiah gave him a specific message from God. What was the message?
- God commanded Jeremiah to make a yoke that is typically worn by oxen and fasten it to his own neck. The false prophet, Hananiah later took the yoke and broke it in pieces, so God sent a very serious message to Hananiah through Jeremiah. What was the message?
- Even though the land was occupied by the enemy, God instructed Jeremiah to buy a field from his cousin. Why did God want him to buy the field?
- Babylon was attacking Jerusalem, so Jeremiah told the people that if they stayed in the city they would die, but if they surrendered to Babylon they would live. A group of furious men reported Jeremiah to the king who told them to do what they like. What did they do?

Further Thought

- At the beginning of the book God called Jeremiah saying, "*I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb.*" What did God mean by that, and how does that apply to us today?
- Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. God Himself said He will make a new covenant with His people. What is new covenant, and how can we participate in it?
- In Lamentations, Jeremiah writes "*The Lord is my inheritance; therefore I will hope in Him!*" How is God Jeremiah's inheritance, and what does that mean for us?