

JEREMIAH 1:4-10

LESSON: JEREMIAH'S CALL AND COMMISSION —July 16, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

The United Kingdom of Israel had split into rival Northern and Southern kingdoms. The Northern Kingdom was called Israel. The Southern Kingdom was called Judah. Jeremiah lived and prophesied during the reigns of the last five kings of Judah. This was a chaotic time politically, morally, and spiritually. As Babylon, Egypt, and Assyria battled for world supremacy, Judah found herself caught in the middle of the triangle. Although Jeremiah prophesied for 40 years, he never saw his people repent.

1:1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin:—

Jeremiah introduces himself with *"the words of Jeremiah"*, instead of *"the Word of Lord came to Jeremiah."* We will see that in verse two. The place of where we begin is Jeremiah's birthplace Anathoth, in the land of Benjamin. **Anathoth** is the name of one of the Levitical cities given to *"the children of Aaron"* in the tribe of Benjamin. Jeremiah is the son of Hilkiah. **Hilkiah** was a high Priest during Josiah's reign as king of Judah, and while the repairing of Solomon's Temple was being done, he found the Book of the Law, and sent it to Josiah (2 Kings 22:8, 10; 2 Chronicles 34:14).

1:2 To 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.

Josiah was eight years old when his father Amon died. Josiah was one of Judah's best kings. He was about 21yrs. old when Jeremiah received his call. So, now we see that, *"the Word of the Lord"* came to Jeremiah in the days of Josiah in the thirteenth year of Josiah's reign. Josiah was the son of king Amon of Judah. **King Amon** succeeded Manasseh and he reigned two years. Jeremiah began his prophesy after Josiah's reformation (2 Chronicles 34:3) and about 66 years after Isaiah. Josiah led the nation in a reformation but not in a heart-changing revival; not like we had seen and studied in the Book of Jonah with the Ninevites when Jonah came to them.

1:3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.

Now it was the time for the son of Josiah that Johoiakim has taken reign and the Word of the Lord also came to Jeremiah. Three of Josiah's kids and one grandson ruled after his death. Jeremiah was able to prophesy during the reign of five kings:

1. Josiah (31years, 2 Kings 22:1).
2. Jehoahaz (3months, 2 Kings 23:31-33) - son.
3. Jehoiakim (11years, 2 Kings 23:36) - son.
4. Jehoiachin (3months, 2 Kings 24:6-16) - grandson.
5. Zedekiah (11years, 2 kings 24:18) - son.

Johoiakim completed 11years of reign until the downfall and exile of Jerusalem in Zedekiah's eleventh year of his fifth month of the, son of Josiah, king of Judah.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

LESSON:

I. THE LORD'S PRONOUNCEMENT Jeremiah 1:4-5

1:4 Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,—We will finally get to what the Lord has to say to Jeremiah.

1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. God allows Jeremiah to know that God Himself already knows him. He knew him before he was conceived in his mother's belly. God knew him before he even came into the womb. God lets him know that he was even sanctified and ordained to be a prophet unto the nations before he was even in the womb. When God wants you to know how special you are, He gives it point blank; He does not beat around the bush. Jeremiah should know by now how special he is, how important he is to God, how important he is to the nations, and that He and many are depending upon him to deliver the Word of the Lord. God has **chosen him, consecrated him, and commissioned him.** There is purpose for our living and it's not just for ourselves! We are **appointed, assigned, and anointed** to do the bidding of the Lord God Almighty! Just as Jesus was **appointed, assigned, and the Anointed One**—the Mighty Example, Jeremiah realizes the pronouncement of the Lord was called upon him by God before he was born! How awesome is that!

II. THE LORD'S ASSURANCE Jeremiah 1:6-8

1:6 Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. Well, Jeremiah will find out that this is a fight that he will not win. God said it, and that settles it! Didn't God just explain to him that He knew everything about him? But, yes Jeremiah felt inadequate at such a young age. We learned that Josiah was 8yrs old when he began as king. All it would say about Jeremiah was that he was a child. We don't know Jeremiah's age, but some commentators say it means a young man. But, who wouldn't be afraid, inadequate training experience at any age? It sounds like he was almost stuttering, **Ah, Lord--- Look, I can't speak— I'm a child.** Lord, don't you know that?

1:7 But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. But the Lord didn't want Jeremiah to put himself down as to what he couldn't do even as a child. The Lord refused to hear it. He said **Say not.** At that point, God gives Jeremiah a command: **"Thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak."** Again, it's not a matter of what Jeremiah wants; it's whatever God has commanded him to say and where he will go to say it.

1:8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. God's assurance to Jeremiah is that He will be with him. When the people's faces get sharp looking; not wanting to hear him, he is told not to be afraid. Why? - Because God is with him to deliver him. God is with him to give him the strength and ability to speak to the people. **Whomever God Calls, He Equips.** This kind of encouragement is just what Jeremiah needed when he looked into the other's faces.

III. THE LORD'S ENDOWMENT Jeremiah 1:9-10

1:9 Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. God had already assured Jeremiah by declaring to him that he would be with him when he speaks. Now God goes even further to give Jeremiah His touch, by putting His hand upon

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Jeremiah, and touching his mouth. And then, declaring that he has just put His Words into Jeremiah's mouth. By touching Jeremiah's mouth with his hand, it endowed him with authority, power, and boldness when he would speak. Wow, how great is that? As we look back at **Isaiah's situation**, we know that the Seraphim had laid a burning coal upon Isaiah's mouth which touched his lips taking away his iniquity, and his sin was purged. In **Jeremiah's situation**, God Himself touched Jeremiah's mouth with his hand, meaning whatever comes out of the mouth of Jeremiah will be the Lord's Words. God's Words have been placed into Jeremiah's mouth. It's no more Jeremiah speaking but God speaking through Jeremiah, since he said he couldn't speak; he was only a child. Wow! If we all look at it this way when we got up to speak, we wouldn't be so afraid. God tells us in **Psalm 32:8** *"I will instruct thee and teach thee the way which thou shall go: I will guide thee with mine eye."* Also in **Isaiah 50:4** *"The Lord God had given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned."* God has endowed us with power.

1:10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant. Now, God proclaimed to Jeremiah that He has endowed (*bestowed, given, granted*) and set him over the nations and over the kingdoms meaning God has given him authority not only over the Jews, but also over the kingdoms of the world for the purpose of rooting out, pulling down, destroying, throwing down, building, and planting when he speaks!

SUMMARY:

The Word of the Lord comes to Jeremiah for ¹God had known Jeremiah's role before he was born, had caused him to be born, and had separated him for a holy service. How could Jeremiah possibly avoid this moment of truth. God knew him before he was conceived in his mother's belly. He sanctified him and ordained him to be a prophet to the nations before he was even born (**1: 4-5**).

Jeremiah responded to God's appointment with a measure of self-doubt. Often people struggle with new challenges because they lack self-confidence. He said that he did not know how to speak. He does not plead inability like Moses (Ex. 4:10), but rather from the point of inexperience. The task would be difficult but since the prophet was called by God he would have divine enablement. He was told by God to not be afraid of their faces, for God would be with him to deliver him (**1: 6-8**).

God promised to deliver Jeremiah from trouble. God does not keep us from encountering life's storms but He will see us through. God is our Deliverer when trouble comes. He was not only called to the task but he was empowered as the Lord touched his mouth with His hand and put his Words in Jeremiah's mouth. God has endowed (*bestowed, given, granted*) and set Jeremiah over the nations and over the kingdoms meaning God has given him authority to root out, pull down, destroy, throw down, build, and to plant when he speaks! (**1: 9-10**).

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/jeremiah-11/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>