

Jeremiah 52

Read Jeremiah 52:1-11 We have come to an end of Jeremiah. It is good to go back to the beginning to re-review God's purpose for Jeremiah. For starters, his ministry spanned from the rule of good king Josiah up to the final King of Judah (Zedekiah).

The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, 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. ³ It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month. (Jeremiah 1:1-3)

Jeremiah was commissioned to take apart the nations that rebelled against God, including his own people.

Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant." (Jeremiah 1:9-10)

He also was commissioned to set the restoration of Judah. He seemed like a guy without power, and without an audience. In reality, he was given great power. Sometimes we just look like a tiny piece of ice, but we are the tip of a spiritual iceberg.

...whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven (Matthew 16)

It seems like chapter 52 is repetitive to what we have been reading over and over in Jeremiah. The difference is that it was previously being prophesied, but it is now happening. Again, prophecy is not always recorded in order. You can get really confused reading books such as Daniel if you forget that. Below is a suggested date different chapters in Jeremiah were penned:

Jeremiah in Chronological Order by Chapter

Jeremiah 1-20 Part 1

- **Chapters 1-20:** Years: 627-605 BC; undated, but probably oracles from Jeremiah's early ministry which likely comprised the scroll read to King Jehoiakim in 604 BC.

Jeremiah 21-45 Part 2

- Chapter: 21; Year: 588 BC; Event: The final siege of Jerusalem begins
- Chapter: 22; Year: 598 BC; Event: Oracles on kings from Josiah to Jeconiah
- Chapter 23; No date; Event: False shepherds; righteous branch; false prophets
- Chapter 24; Year: 597 BC or after; Event: Good figs and bad
- Chapter 25; Year: 605 BC; Event: 70 year exile predicted
- Chapter 26; Year: 609 or after BC; Event: The "Shiloh" sermon
- Chapter 27-28; Year: 594 BC; Event: The call to accept the yoke of Babylon
- Chapter 29; Year: After 597 BC; Event: The letter to the captives
- Chapter 30-31; Year: no date BC; Event: The "book of hope"
- Chapter 32-33; Year: 588/7 BC; Event: Jeremiah buys property while in prison as a sign
- Chapter 34; Year: 588 BC; Event: Temporary lifting of the siege; exploiting of slaves
- Chapter 35; Year: After 601 BC; Event: A lesson from the Rechabites
- Chapter 36; Year: 605-604 BC; Event: The scroll and its burning
- Chapter 37; Year: 588 BC; Event: Jeremiah arrested and imprisoned
- Chapter 38; Year: 588/7 BC; Event: The miry pit
- Chapter 39; Year: 587 BC; Event: The city falls

- Chapter 40; Year: 587 BC; Event: Jeremiah joins Gedaliah at Mizpah
- Chapter 41; Year: 587 or after BC; Event: Gedaliah assassinated
- Chapter 42-43; Year: 587 or after BC; Event: The emigration to Egypt, taking Jeremiah
- Chapter 44; Year 585? BC; Event: The émigrés defend their apostasy
- Chapter 45; Year 605 BC; Event: An early message to Baruch

Jeremiah 46-51 Part 3

- Chapter 46-51; Year: undated; Event: Oracles on the nation
- Chapter 52; Year: 588 BC; Event: Fall of Jerusalem

As part of this recap, the deportation of Jews to Babylon may have been as follows:

Jeremiah says 4,600 people between 597 BC and 586 BC were taken in two waves. Only men were counted, making it more like 14,000-18,000 people. It was bad enough that the people resisted God's offer to go peacefully and set up businesses in Babylon. Now the Jews are about to destroy the little that survived the siege and deportation. The small remnant in Jerusalem somehow thought that what they could not do under full power is now an option?

Nebuchadnezzar sent his Captain of the Guard back 12 years later knock down and burn the temple and all structures. The Jews literally forced Babylon to return and complete the demolition! All of the damage did not take place in the first siege. The survivors and the vassal King Zedekiah tried to break away from Babylonian control, along with the surrounding nations. That brought on more than conquering. It produced a 100% destruction. In other words, the Jews forced Babylon into a more and more severity in judgement.

You can come to multiple conclusions after reading the Old Testament. Mankind is almost impossible to save from himself. If we have messed up a little, we may end up doubling up on our losses.

It would be wrong to conclude that we are different than the Jews. These things are written for our learning; meaning that they are applicable to us too. It is just like erroneously thinking that we would have made better decisions than Adam.

We would not. There does not seem to be any scenario of good times or bad times that produces holy people, who cling to God. There are moments, under duress that create a contrite willingness to accept God's help. This is why the gospel is so critical. Otherwise, nobody could get saved.

Read Jeremiah 52:12-23: The Jews basically starved themselves, brought disease upon themselves, forced foreign invasion, and subsequently total destruction and death. God kept giving them a way out, but the false prophets told them to hang in there. The false prophets told the Jews they would prevail. They even beat and incarcerated Jeremiah for saying otherwise. This is how Satan works. He told them they could fight their way through it. That appeals to our sense of pride. He was essentially telling them to fight against God.

How do the Devil's inspirations ruin our lives too? Normally it is a notion of addition, and not substitution. The Jews kept the temple intact, along with all their idols and shrines and places of alternate worship. Over time, the interest in idols grew, and the obedience to God diminished. Eventually, idols were placed in the Holy of Holies, and on every street corner. There is a pattern seen in the demonic realm. It is like the inclusion of alternate lifestyles in our culture. It was sold as being merciful on the strange minority. Once society accepted it; it became a prescribed preference.

Another example of Satan's weakening tactics is seen in Israel's tolerance of the Palestinians in their land. The land given to homeless settlers from other nations is now a full-blown attempt to steal the land and launch attacks. You have to be hard core with compromise and sin. I have to be pretty legalistic with alcohol. I tried to be friends-with boundaries. That failed.

It took 7 years to build the temple, after 480 years of national preparation. Satan tore it down in one chapter. That is what he does with us all day long. It's OK to be ruthless with sin; as long as we love the sinner.

Read Jeremiah 52:24-30: These priests were idol worshippers, so it was fitting that their own idol-makers killed them. On the surface it seems like a tragedy. Most people do not have any idea how bad the idol worship was. There were altars, images, and paintings of idols all around the temple. The 70 elders were

worshipping the sun in unison. The women were worshipping Tamuz, the temple had bugs and abominable animals portrayed all over the walls to worship, and they had the guile to build statues to other gods right in the temple. That is crazy! No wonder they had to get killed. They were just awful people; and not real priests.

8 And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me there. 2 Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire—from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber. 3 He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes^[a] to jealousy. 4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain. 5 Then He said to me, “Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north.” So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate, was this image of jealousy in the entrance. 6 Furthermore He said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations.” 7 So He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, there was a hole in the wall. 8 Then He said to me, “Son of man, dig into the wall”; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door. 9 And He said to me, “Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there.” 10 So I went in and saw, and there—every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, ^[b]portrayed all around on the walls. 11 And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up. 12 Then He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, ‘The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.’ ”

13 And He said to me, “Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing.” 14 So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD’s house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz. 15 Then He said

to me, “Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these.” 16 So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD’s house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east. 17 And He said to me, “Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose. 18 Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them.” (Ezekiel 8)

Read Jeremiah 52: 31-34: Jehoiachin was eventually released from his Babylonian prison and found mercy with the subsequent king of Babylon. God allowed him to lead his country as a form of punishment for their sin. It was a taste of their own medicine. He had been an evil king in Jerusalem before. He did not escape for his evil doings. He was released in time to only be killed with everyone else in Babylon when Cyrus came in and sacked the capital.