

JEREMIAH, PART 1 (RETURN TO ME)
PROGRAM 1 (#912001)
WEEK 1 (912301)
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SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 1 (Return To Me)

TITLE: Program 1 – Prophecy – Always Ahead?

MONDAY

OPEN

When you can't get anyone's attention, you can always talk about the future. You can always talk about prophecy, and we love it. And we love to study it. The problem is we think it's always in the future, but what if it's not? What if the message is for today? 1 Thessalonians says, ["While they are saying, 'Peace and safety!' suddenly destruction will come."] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Thessalonians 5:3) We're going to look at that today as we look at Jeremiah the prophet.

PART ONE

You know, we think of prophecy as always future. In fact, we say, "Nah, not now!" And yet, what if it were now? Would you be ready? Would you be prepared? You know, [Jesus said that we are to be on the alert.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 25:13) And yet we keep thinking, as Peter says, ["The people come and the false prophets, and they say, 'Oh, where is the

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promise of His coming? Everything continues as it was from the beginning.”] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Peter 3:3-4) In other words, God is not active in history. O Beloved, yes He is. We are about to study the book of Jeremiah. And this book has a lot to say about what’s going on in the world today. And what this book is going to do is, this book is going to call forth a host of Jeremiahs. God is going to speak to your heart during this series. And God is going to say, “Hey, I’m raising up a host of Jeremiahs, a host of men and women that will speak for me in these days and say, ‘Hey, wake-up, wake-up!’” And you know, sometimes you go to a person and you pat them gently, and you say, “Wake-up, wake-up.” And you are stroking their face. And they just want to go to sleep because it feels so good. And yet, sometimes what happens is you go, “Wake-up! You got to get up!” And then you take a big glass of water, ice-cold water and you throw it on their face and you say, “Hey, wake-up!” Well, what God is bound to do is He is about to take a cup of cold water, the water of His Word, and splash it on our faces so that you and I might wake-up. Jeremiah is a wake-up call, and I am so excited about teaching this book to you. You know, with everything that is going on in our world today, with everything that’s going on in America, with everything that’s going on in Israel, with everything that’s going on in the Middle East and Europe, you and I can know hey, God has a message for us. He is going to prepare us, and He is going to call us to be Jeremiahs in the world today. Really, Jeremiahs are an elite force. And they are elite force because you know what? To be a Jeremiah is not easy. [And God is looking, His eyes are searching for men, for women whose hearts are fully His.] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Chronicles 16:9) [That He, God, might show Himself strong on our behalf.] (PARAPHRASE, Psalm 68:28) So I want us to open the book of Jeremiah, okay? And I want us to look at the first three verses because in Jeremiah chapter 1, verses 1- 3 what God does is, He takes us and He puts us into context. He wants us to understand what is happening historically. God is speaking through a prophet. The question is when is God

speaking? Well, Jeremiah chapter 1, verse 1. And let me read these first verses to you. **“The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, 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. It [also came] in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah...,”** now listen carefully, **“...until the...eleventh year of Zedekiah...son of Josiah....”** You’ve seen that both of these guys that followed Josiah are his sons. And it says, **“...king of Judah...”** And then it makes this awesome statement, **“...until the exile of Jerusalem in the fifth month.”(Jeremiah 1:1-3)** Now when he’s talking about the exile of Jerusalem in the fifth month, what he is doing at this stage is he is letting us know that God is going to take this, now listen, to the prophecy that has been spoken about since the days of Moses. So what I want us to do is I want us to go back to Deuteronomy chapter 28, and I want you to see that when people were thinking, “Uhn-uh, not now. Nah, it’s not going to happen now.” When we say, “Nah, it couldn’t happen now.” It’s either because we know the details and we know it’s not going to happen right now, but we know we are to get ready. Or we push it off because we think, “Hey! It’s not going to happen in my time. And if it’s not going to happen in my time, I don’t need to be concerned. I can live any way I want to live.” No you can’t because God is God. So in Deuteronomy, and if you want to go there it’s the last of the five books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. When my dad would get upset with me, he would start quoting the different books of the Bible starting at Genesis. If I got to Joshua, I was in really bad trouble! I think I’ve told you that before. But Deuteronomy chapter 28, and this is what He is saying in verse 49, he says, **““The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand, a nation of fierce countenance who will have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young. Moreover, it shall eat**

the offspring of your herd and the produce of your ground until you are destroyed, who also leaves you no grain, new wine, or oil, nor the increase of your herd or the young of your flock until they have caused you to perish.” Now listen carefully, **“It shall besiege you in all your towns until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted come down throughout [the] land....”** When a city’s wall comes down then the enemy has come in. **“...It shall besiege you in all [the] towns throughout your land which the LORD your God has given you. Then you [will] eat the offspring of your...body....”** (Deuteronomy 28:49-53) You are going to be in such a state of famine, in such a state of hunger that you are going to kill your children and eat them. And he goes on, and he’s telling why this is coming. It is a curse for disobeying God. It is a curse for disobedience. (See Deuteronomy 28:58-59) Now that prophecy has been around since the days of Moses and here it is now the days of Josiah. What year of Josiah? He told us, his prophecy starts in the thirteenth year of Josiah the King. His prophecy goes all the way till the exile, till the actual fulfillment of this. If you were to go to Jeremiah 52, which is the last chapter of Jeremiah, and if you were to go to that chapter and read it you would read about the exile. You would read about what happens to Zedekiah. You would read that God fulfills His Word. And while they were thinking, “Nah, not now,” God’s been talking about this since Deuteronomy, since the days of Moses, since we came out of the land of Egypt, since before we crossed over the Jordan under Joshua. God has been talking about it. “Nah, it hasn’t happened,” all of a sudden, [when they are saying, “Peace and safety!” And that’s what 1 Thessalonians says, when they are saying, “Peace and safety!” know this, that sudden destruction will come upon them. (PARAPHRASE, 1Thessalonians 5:3) Where is that sudden destruction coming from? It’s the day of the Lord, Precious One. You and I have to remember this, that God will have His day, and God will have His way. So what are you and I to do? Well, literally you and I are to bow the knee. You and I are to get on our knees before God and

say to God, “God, you are God. You are the potter, I am the clay.” (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 64:8) And what you are going to see as we study the book of Jeremiah, you are going to see God talk, and take Jeremiah to the potter’s house because He has a lesson for them. Oh, I am excited about this study! Now, when does it begin? Well, it begins in the thirteenth of Josiah. And to whom is God speaking? Now listen very carefully, He is speaking to Jeremiah. Who is Jeremiah? Jeremiah is a priest that is turned into a prophet. Do you know what you are if you belong to Jesus Christ? Revelation 1 tells us this, [We are a kingdom of priests unto God.] (PARAPHRASE, Revelation 1:6) But God also tells us in Matthew, as Jesus turns and looks at His disciples, as He is getting ready to leave to go to Heaven, He says, “...‘**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** [And I want you to] **go therefore** [I want you to] **make disciples of all** [men]....’” (Matthew 28:18) Do you know what a disciple is? A disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ. He is the “I AM.” (See John 8:56) He is the One that always was, that always will be. (See Revelation 1:8) He is the One that left Heaven, came down and took upon Himself human flesh so that He might die to pay for our sins because [the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin.] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 10:4) So a body, God prepared for Him. He’s always been. He became man. He will always be man after this, but He will be the God man. And He gives us an order, even as God is going to give Jeremiah an order. And we will look at that in just a minute. And you want to have a heads up because God is speaking to you also.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. I told you that Jeremiah was a priest. And if you are not paying careful attention, if you haven’t read this, if you haven’t slowed down and looked at the text, then you could miss what God says about Jeremiah. Well, Jeremiah says, “**The words of Jeremiah...**” chapter

1 verse 1, “...the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin.”(Jeremiah 1:1) Now this is just north of Jerusalem. And by the way, if you are doing our study along with us, and I want you to do that because I want you to know Jeremiah. I want it to be in your heart. I want it to be in your mind. I want it to fill you up so that you, wherever you are, can share this. But if you have not gotten that study guide, then you need to go to preceptsforlife.com, preceptsforlife.com. And we have two options, we have ah a study guide that will take you deep, deep. And then we have another study guide that will just get you started. And I’m hoping and praying that you will go deep because when you go deep with us you get far more. But Anathoth is mentioned in Joshua chapter 21, in verses 13 to 18. And when you go to Joshua, remember Joshua is going in, he is taking the land. And then he divides the land to the tribes. Well, the tribe of Levi doesn’t get any land, but there are cities set aside for the priests. (See Joshua 21:13-18) And so Joshua 21 mentions Anathoth, so what I want you to see is, God wants us to understand who is Jeremiah. As a matter of fact, you know what? When we study this book, you are going to learn about the life of a prophet like no other prophetic book of the Old Testament. Do you know why? Because what God does is, through Jeremiah, He pulls back the veil and He shows us the heart of the prophet. He shows us the angst of delivering a message that has to do with judgment. He shows us Jeremiah is so, he is so honest that He is going to show us when he gets upset with God. When he just says to God, “Okay, alright I wish, I wish I had never been born.” (See Jeremiah 20:14) Have you ever felt that way? Yes, because life is difficult. Well, you know what? God is very honest to us about His prophets. God is very, very open. And so in this book He shows us what Jeremiah is like, what he goes through. And that’s why I said, I want you to understand, God is calling to you. And He put this on my heart as I read Jeremiah. And as I compared it with the New Testament, God is calling for a host of Jeremiahs, an elite force. And it’s an elite force because it entails

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suffering, but then following Jesus brings suffering. Paul says in Philippians chapter 1, ["It's given unto you, not only to believe on Jesus Christ."]
(PARAPHRASE, Philippians 1:29) Would you like to have Jesus? Would you like to have eternal life? Would you like to have the Messiah? Would you like to know the Son of God, who is **"...the Lamb of God [that] takes away the sin[s] of the world!"** (John 1:29) Would you like that? Would you like forgiveness of sins? Hey, that's mentioned in Jeremiah. Would you like that? And if you say, "Yes," He says, "Wa wa wait a minute, wait a minute," because with Jesus Christ comes suffering. So I open the Bible put suffering inside it. It represents Jesus Christ. And I say, "Now do you want it? Now are you willing to have eternal life even though it means suffering in this life?" So here is a priest that is called by God. And he is called by God not by a vision, but the Word of the Lord. It comes straight from the mouth of God, comes to Jeremiah. And one of the things that I've marked all the way through Jeremiah is the "Word of the Lord," "Thus says the Lord." I want to see it every time, and I want to be reminded that this Bible is the Word of God. So as we look at it, we go to the thirteenth year of Josiah, who was the king. So I want us to go to 2 Chronicles chapter 34. And remember that the prophets fit in, to the history of Israel. The history of Israel is laid out for us through the Scriptures all the way through Kings and Chronicles. And Chronicles and Kings ends with this of Zedekiah, just as Jeremiah ends with the year of Zedekiah. But when you study the prophets what you see is you see the messages that are coming to the people in that time of history. So in 2 Chronicles chapter 34 you have an interesting synopsis for us, of what is happening in the days of Josiah. So what we do is we let Scripture interpret Scripture. That's what this study is all about. Now I'm going to walk you through Jeremiah verse by verse, segment by segment, paragraph by paragraph, so that you study the book yourself. I want you to get the study guide, preceptsforlife.com. And I want you to study with me, so that you will know that you know truth because you've discovered it for

yourself. So 2 Chronicles chapter 34 opens up this way, **“Josiah was 8 years old when he became king...he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. He did right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David....” (2 Chronicles 34:1-2)** Now David was not his father, but what he is telling you is he was of the tribe of Judah. So he could put a picture back into his genealogy, he could put David there. **“...And [he] did not turn aside to the right or...the left....In the eight year of his reign while he was still a youth, he began to seek [God ah] the God of his father David and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem....” (2 Chronicles 34:2-3)** So here is a king that is raised up, comes to the throne when he is eight. At the time when he is in the eighth year of his reign, which makes him 16, he begins, as he’s a youth, to seek the Lord. When he is in the twelfth year of his reign and 12 and eight make him 20—then he begins to purge Judah and Jerusalem. When you come down in 2 Chronicles 34 you see in verse 8, **“Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house....” (2 Chronicles 34:8)** What happens? [He goes in to clean the temple of the Lord, the House of the Lord, and you know what happens? Ah, they find the Word of God that was lost in the House of God. And they bring it to Josiah, and they sit there, and they read it to him, and he begins to tear his clothes, he begins to humble himself before God, because he says, “Great is God’s wrath upon us because we and our fathers have not kept the Word of God.”]

(PARAPHRASE, 2 Chronicles 34:14-21) What happens between that twelfth year and that eighteenth year? The Word of the Lord comes to Jeremiah in the days of Josiah. That’s what we are going to be studying tomorrow. You’ve got the setting. Now we need to know what is happening and know this, you are teetering on the brink of the fulfillment of all the prophets since Moses prophesied about this enemy coming against us. O Beloved, take heed to the Word of God. It’s a light that shines in a dark place.