

Lesson 1: Jeremiah 1:1-3:5

I. The LORD's call of Jeremiah (1:1-19)

A. Context of Jeremiah's Words (1-3):

1. Family in Anathoth:
2. Politics: Final kings of Judah prior to the exile:
Noted: Josiah (640-609 BC) Jehoiakim (609-597) Zedekiah (597-586)
Not noted: Jehoiahaz (609) Jehoiachin (597)
3. The word of the LORD:

B. The LORD's Initial Call of Jeremiah (4-10)

1. *Before* the LORD formed Jeremiah in the womb (4-5):
 - He knew him:
 - He consecrated him:
 - He appointed him a prophet to the nations:
 - Gal 1:15, Ps 139:13-16
2. Objections to the divine call raised and answered (6-9):
3. The LORD's encapsulated message for Jeremiah's ministry (10):
"To pluck up and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant"

C. Two symbols to assist Jeremiah's understanding (11-16)

1. Almond rod (11): heb. _____ ; 'I am watching' (12): heb. _____
2. Boiling pot tilting from the North (13-16):

D. The LORD's concluding charge and encouragement (17-19)

E. General observations from this chapter concerning:

1. The LORD:
2. The LORD's messenger:
3. The LORD's people:

F. For personal reflection:

1. Could it be possible that the LORD has a pre-determined plan for my life? What is it?
2. Do I have objections to His call upon my life? What does He say about them?
3. Is there a primary message or burden He is laying on my heart for the benefit of others?

II. Apostate Judah (2:1-3:10)

Apostasy (Webster): The renunciation of a religious faith; abandonment of a previous _____. It can happen consciously over a short time, as in a _____, or more unconsciously over a long time, as in _____. In Jeremiah's terms, it means to _____ (heb. 'shuv') away from the LORD as the one Source of life, in favor of _____ substitutes.

- A. Early love in the barren wilderness (2:1-3)
- B. Later evil in the fruitful Land (2:7-11)
- C. Exchanging the Spring for leaking cisterns (2:13)
- D. Blatant indications of Judah's apostasy:
 - 1. Purchasing military assistance through foreign alliances (2:14-19, 36-37)
 - 2. The prevalence of Baal worship from Ancient Canaan influencing the LORD's people (2:20-28)
 - Baal - the storm god with human vices (23):
 - Hilltop and valley shrines with stone and wooden idols (27):
 - Spiritual and physical prostitution (20):

Other information concerning early Canaanite religion/practice and its influence on Israel: Num 25:1-9, Lev 18:1-30, Dt 7:1-6, 12:1-5, 29-31, 18:9-15, Jud 2:11-13, 2 Kg 21:1-9, Jer 19:4-6, Ps 106:34-39, Hos 4:11-13. It was characterized primarily by idolatry, inappropriate sex, and occultism, with perhaps the crowning abomination being the sacrificial burning of children.

- 3. Hardness towards the LORD's correction (2:29-3:5)
- E. Central issues that any individual, group or nation must come to terms with:
 - 1. Who/what do we consider to be the _____, the _____ and the _____ of life?
 - 2. For what _____ do we exist? Who/what is the recipient/object of our deepest _____ and loyalties?
- F. New Testament considerations:
 - 1. Rev 2:4 (Christ to the church in Ephesus) "*You have left your first love...*"
 - 2. Matt 24:4-13 (Christ to his disciples) "*At that time many will fall away...*"
 - 3. Jude 24-25 (Christ's brother to an unnamed church) "*Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you blameless...*"