# Why Preach on Jeremiah?

On Sunday 8th July we're starting our Summer series in Jeremiah called "Faithful: Always Following Christ".

Jeremiah is a book about the challenges of staying the course when the society around you is abandoning the Lord. Much like our own day, Judah had been slowly and deliberately moving away from its biblical heritage. By the time Jeremiah's ministry is well underway the people find his calls to repentance and warnings of judgement through invasion laughable, offensive, or both. Throughout his ministry Jeremiah battles prophets (23:9-40), priests (6:13, 8:10), the people (18:18) and kings (36:1-32), all seeking to silence him and the word of the Lord. On top of it all, he often struggled with his own faith and emotional wellbeing too (20:1-18).

But it is not all doom and gloom, Jeremiah speaks hope to exiles unsure how to live in a foreign land (29:1-23), assuring them of a new and better covenant (31:1-39), and promises final judgement for God's enemies (50:1-46). Over it, all Jeremiah gives a picture of a God who is sovereign over his people and every event on the world stage (18:1-11). Ultimately, the message of Jeremiah is to put our trust in the Word of the Lord, the Word made flesh in the Lord Jesus (John 1:14).

Like Jeremiah, Jesus was mocked and opposed by sinful people and a corrupt religious establishment (Matthew 27:39-44). Yet not even death could silence him or his message. Instead, his death and resurrection purchased for us the guarantees of New Covenant salvation (Hebrews 8-10). Now, the Lord Jesus is enthroned at the Father's right hand (Hebrews 1:1-4), waiting for the appointed day when he will liberate his people from exile (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) and judge the nations in justice (Acts 17:31). It is a powerful message, and one that I trust will be a word in season for our church.

On a more practical point, there is no set series for the children over the summer. Therefore, those speaking to the children are welcome to use that day's 'main reading' or pick a complimentary passage from the New Testament that draws on a similar theme. The choice is yours. If you’d like any help finding a new Testament parallel, please don’t hesitate to get in touch. We’ll also be passing out a hand out on week one which includes a shorter intro, the outline (below), and some useful resources. The outline for series is included below, you’ll notice that I’ve given each week a title. Preachers are free to use these titles if they wish, or think of their own. Please see the preach and lead rota for dates of who is doing what and when.

At 50 chapters Jeremiah is a massive book, so we cannot cover everything in 10 weeks. However, can I encourage preachers and leaders to be reading through Jeremiah over the coming weeks to get the 'big picture' of the book and its message? I'm looking forward to starting this series and I hope you are too. I encourage you to join me in praying the Holy Spirit would be at work through God's Word in the lives of his people. It is my hope and prayer that this series will help us be better at living as God's people and God's ambassadors in a nation that is increasing apathetic and mocking of our message.

# Series Overview

**8th July** — The Reluctant Missionary (Jer. 1:1-19)

**15th July** — Drinking from the Toilet Bowl (2:1-19)

**22nd July** — The All-Powerful Potter (18:1-23)

**29th July** — The Burden of Faithfulness (20:1-18)

**5th August** — A Taste of Things to Come—Part 1 (25:1-38)

**12th August** — A Taste of Things to Come—Part 2 (31:1-40)

**19th August** — When the King Won’t Listen (36:1-32)

**28th August** — The Beginning of the End (39:1-18)

**4th June** — Babylon Has Fallen! (50:1-46)

**2nd July** — Too Late to Turn Back (52:1-34)