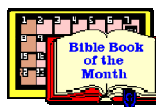


# JEREMIAH – Teacher's Notes



## Lesson # 4 - *The Fall of Jerusalem*

It may be good to put a chronology of the last days of Judah before the Babylonian Captivity on chalk board or draw a diagram of the three exile groups going to Babylon.

- 612 BC Nineveh (capital of the Assyrian Empire) fell to Babylon
- 605 BC Battle of final Assyrian defeat and supremacy of Babylon (Battle of Carchemish) Nebuchadnezzar succeeded his father as king.
- 605 BC Babylon captured Jerusalem and took away leading youth of the nation (Daniel was among them ) to train as government servants
- 597 BC Babylon returned to Jerusalem to put down a rebellion and took King Jehoiachin captive and about 10,000 others and installed Zedekiah as vassal king. (Ezekiel was among those taken captive to Babylon with this second group).
- 587/6 BC Babylon returned (for a third time) and put down Zedekiah's rebellion after a long siege. Destroyed the city and the temple and took another group of captives.

**Thought Question 1:** You will probably get several good answers.

**Question 2:** That Jeremiah was indeed the prophet of God. The fall of Jerusalem authenticated the work of Jeremiah. The people may have said, "Well, we were warned but didn't listen!"

**Question 3:** Some may not have even remembered what Jeremiah had preached, they had such closed minds.

### **The Collapse of the City – 39:1-3**

The starvation inside Jerusalem was so severe that some ate their own children. Dung and dog and horse bones sold for exorbitant prices.

Nebuchadnezzar didn't stay at the battle front for the long duration. Siege battles often were a waiting game.

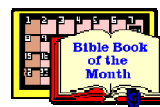
### **The Capture of the King – 30:4-10**

Don't confuse the name of the king, Nebuchadnezzar, and the name of his captain of the guard, Nebuzaradan ( Neb-u-ZAR-a-dan ).

**Question 4:** Ch. 26 when on trial Jeremiah was spared and the prophet Uriah was murdered by king Jehoiakim in his 1<sup>st</sup> year. He was saved from the cistern, and even Zedekiah seem to have saved him from some princes who wanted to kill him.

1. By repenting and returning to God.
2. About 18 months.
3. By slipping out at night down the southeastern slope and heading east toward the Jordan River.
5. Zedekiah should have been faithful to his oath to Nebuchadnezzar.
6. A priest and prophet taken captive to Babylon in 597 BC (see lesson)
7. He set fire to the city and broke down the walls.
11. He was appointed the governor and given custody of Jeremiah.

# JEREMIAH – Teacher's Notes



## Lesson # 1 - *The Weeping Prophet*

- #1 Preparation: Read the article on "Jeremiah" in a good Bible dictionary.

Remember that the book of Jeremiah is not in chronological order but the material is grouped according to subject matter. This lesson intends to give an overview of Jeremiah and his book. Other lessons will zero in on his themes.

Jeremiah says he was a "child" when called, which probably means he was around twenty.

READ the passages that help us remember him as a "weeping prophet," Jeremiah 4:19 and 9:1 mentioned in the lesson.

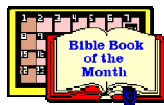
### **LESSONS:**

- 1) Jeremiah lived at a time when it was difficult to be faithful to God. (But isn't that anytime!) He is a good example of taking a stand for the truth.
- 2) This book speaks strongly for the inspiration of the Scriptures as being spoken and written by the direction of God. Not just the thoughts, but the "words", thus, verbal inspiration.
- 3) The book has a wonderfully clear revelation from God of a new covenant that God will make one day (31:31-34).

### **QUESTION (Answers):**

1. During the years of Josiah's reformation when a good king led the way.
3. He was from a priestly family three miles north of Jerusalem.
4. Jesus like Jeremiah used illustrations, he was an eloquent preacher, tears were one of his trademarks, both were opposed by the religious hierarchy.
5. The nation was threatened by Babylon. Many wanted a treaty with Egypt for protection. It was wicked, godless, and idolatrous.
7. Jeremiah 31:31-34.
11. Biographical, historical, and prophetic.

# JEREMIAH – Teacher's Notes



## Lesson # 2 - *The Potter's Wheel*

The text is Jeremiah 18:1-10, but in reality much of the lessons come from chapters 19 and 20:1-6 as well, so the teachers need to be familiar with all three chapters.

Question 1: Have someone to read these verses in class. Some may want to comment upon them.

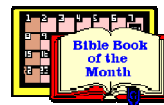
Question 2: No. It asserts that God can do as He pleases. He had made man a free-moral agent with the power to make choices. God has the right to lay down the conditions for salvation, and man has the power to choose to follow God's will or to go against it.

Question 3: This lesson refutes the doctrine of "once-saved, always-saved" and the doctrine of individual predestination.

### SUPPLEMENT QUESTION ANSWERS:

1. Illustrations or object lessons.
2. To receive a message from God.
3. Clay
4. It was marred, and so the potter remade it.
5. That a marred material may turn out well when re-worked.
6. By doing right; by turning back to God.
7. It may have been the potter that made the mistake with the clay vessel, but the point is not true that God is responsible for making mistakes with Israel.
8. Prayer can and should bring our requests (supplications) before the Lord, but it's not a debate to convince God to do "our" will instead of His. Prayer should indicate our resignation to doing the Lord's will. (Consider the Lord's prayer in Gethesamane.)
9. He does so by obeying or disobeying the Lord's will. God is the one who sets the criteria for who will be with Him in eternity in heaven.
10. A lesson of God's wrath and judgment.
11. Persecution is short term in comparison to all that the faithful has to gain. It reveals God's consistent truth that evil doers will suffer.

# JEREMIAH – Teacher's Notes



## Lesson # 3 - *A New Covenant*

**Teacher** – Read ahead and make your own questions you think would be profitable and interesting and help your class to understand the lesson.

In this lesson you may want to make a list of a few "Lessons to be learned." Most of this lesson is theological or doctrinal.

Q-1: We see something of the positive side of Jeremiah's call being fulfilled, that he (1:10) would "build and plant."

Q-2: Both the Old and New Covenants were sealed with blood. Moses sprinkled the people and the book with the blood of an animal. The New was "sealed" with the blood of Christ. Read Hebrews 9:18-20.

(When we obey the gospel to become God's people the New Covenant writer in Heb. 10:22 speaks of us having our "hearts sprinkled" and "our bodies washed with pure water.")

(Also 1Peter 1:2 speaks of the "sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" when we obey the gospel thereby pledging ourselves to keep the new covenant of the Lord.)

[Teachers – these are good points but deep, if your class enjoys such deep things they will get a new insight into the importance of Jesus' blood and the communion service they perhaps never saw before. Decide yourself how much time to spend on this point.]

Q-3: Spiritual fornication or adultery was idolatry. Israel was unfaithful to her vows and went after other gods.

Teacher – you might make your own questions on vs. 33-34.

Q-4: Today, faithful Christians, the church, is the true Israel.

Questions:

- #6 The Hebrew writer quotes it at length and applies it to what Christ did at Calvary (Heb. 8)
- #7 His death provided the blood of ratification.
- #8 It would be written on the heart, not stones, men would respond to God from inward motivation and not because they were Jews.
- #10 Explained in vs. 35-37.