Blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Welcome once again to our Bible study series as we continue to explore the books of the Bible.

Up to this point, we've covered the first 15 books. If you haven't yet gone through the previous lessons, I encourage you to review them first for better continuity. The last book we studied was the Book of Ezra, where we saw Ezra described in Scripture as a "skilled scribe" (Ezra 7:6).

Ezra ministered after the people of Israel had already been exiled to Babylon. Chronologically, books like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel should actually precede Ezra because their events occurred earlier in the timeline. However, the current arrangement of biblical books is ordered according to divine wisdom and not necessarily chronology.

The Books of Jeremiah and Lamentations

By God's grace, we'll now examine two books written by one prophet Jeremiah and Lamentations. These two books document events that preceded the time of Ezra.

Please note that we are skipping some books like Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, and Proverbs for now. We'll return to those later. For now, I encourage you to personally study Jeremiah and Lamentations after this summary. The Lord may reveal even more to you than is covered here.

Jeremiah's Calling

As many of us know, the Lord called Jeremiah from a very young age, appointing him as a prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:5):

> *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."* Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)

Though Jeremiah is often seen as a prophet to Israel, his ministry was international. God used him to pronounce judgment upon all the nations of the earth, including His own chosen people, Israel.

God was preparing to bring judgment on the nations because of their rebellion. He raised up the Babylonian Empire as an

instrument of His justice. Babylon became God’s rod of correction, and He gave its king, Nebuchadnezzar, authority to subdue the nations including Israel.

> *“Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant…”* Jeremiah 27:6 (ESV)

Babylon was not a holy nation it was merely God’s tool for judgment. After fulfilling its role, Babylon itself was judged for its wickedness.

Jeremiah’s Preaching and Rejection

Jeremiah was sent to warn the nations of God’s impending judgment. Sadly, most rejected him, mocking him as a false prophet, accusing him of being a Babylonian sympathizer, or dismissing him as delusional. Yet, Jeremiah remained faithful and obedient to God’s call.

He preached not only to Judah but even went as far as Egypt,

warning Pharaoh and the surrounding nations (Jeremiah 25:15–29). He told them to repent or face destruction.

He also warned Judah that if they did not humble themselves, they would go into 70 years of captivity in Babylon. But they did not listen.

The Fulfillment of Jeremiah’s Prophecies

Eventually, Jeremiah’s prophecies came to pass. Babylon invaded Judah. Many were killed, and the rest were taken into exile. The fall of Jerusalem was catastrophic.

Jeremiah was one of the few who witnessed the destruction firsthand. The suffering was unimaginable famine, disease, and the sword ravaged the people. Many starved because the city had been under siege for so long.

> *“One third of you shall die of pestilence and be consumed with famine in your midst; one third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds…”* Ezekiel 5:12 (ESV)

These were the four judgments that befell Israel:
Famine, Plague, the Sword, and Exile.

Jeremiah saw it all. This grief and pain led him to write the book of Lamentations a poetic mourning over what had befallen God’s chosen nation.

The Book of Lamentations

Once a great and feared kingdom, Israel was now humiliated and enslaved. The same people whom God had delivered from Pharaoh’s grip were now returning to bondage this time under Babylon.

Jeremiah compares Jerusalem to a widow, abandoned and disgraced:

> *“How lonely sits the city that was full of people! She who was great among the nations has become like a widow.”*
> Lamentations 1:1 (ESV)

He mourns the loss of Jerusalem’s children:

> *“My eyes flow with tears… my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.”* Lamentations 1:16 (ESV)

The suffering was a direct result of Israel’s sin and disobedience:

> *“The Lord is in the right, for I have rebelled against his word…”* Lamentations 1:18 (ESV)

He continues:

> *“The Lord has scorned his altar, disowned his sanctuary… the Lord determined to lay in ruins the wall of the daughter of Zion.”* Lamentations 2:7-8 (ESV)

Hope in the Midst of Grief

Despite the overwhelming sorrow, Jeremiah knew that God's anger would not last forever. God is just, but He is also full of compassion.

> *"For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love."* Lamentations 3:31–32 (ESV)

Jeremiah understood that the suffering of God's people was temporary and that restoration was possible if they repented.

Lessons for Today

The story of Jeremiah teaches us several crucial lessons:

1. Rejecting God's Warnings is Dangerous

Just like Israel, many today only want to hear pleasant prophecies messages about prosperity and blessings while rejecting

messages about sin, judgment, and repentance.

But as Paul wrote:

> *“For the wages of sin is death…”* Romans 6:23 (ESV)

Whether it’s sexual immorality, corruption, bitterness, or rebellion, all sin leads to judgment unless we turn to Christ.

2. True Prophets Warn with Tears

Jeremiah didn’t delight in declaring judgment. He wept for the people. Likewise, Jesus wept over Jerusalem, knowing the judgment that would come upon them for rejecting Him (Luke 19:41–44).

3. God’s Mercy is Greater Than His Anger

Though God punishes sin, He does not enjoy afflicting people. His mercy is always available to the truly repentant:

> *“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”* Psalm 103:8 (ESV)

Salvation is Now

If you have not yet surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, do not delay. No matter how morally upright you may be, without Christ you are in great danger.

> *“Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”* 2 Corinthians 6:2 (ESV)

Let us take the warnings of Jeremiah seriously. Let us not reject the truth in favor of comforting lies. Judgment is real but so is God’s mercy, offered freely through Jesus Christ.

May the Lord bless you and grant you the grace to walk in truth, repentance, and hope.

Amen.

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