

11/2/2025

**GABC Ames, Foundations
Jeremiah**

INTRODUCTION

Historical Context - 627 BC to 582 BC; Babylonian exile: 586 BC

Big Ideas

- Healed the Wound of my people **lightly**
 - Jeremiah 6:14, “For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.”
 - Jeremiah 8:8-12, “from the least to the greatest everyone is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.”
- The coming new **covenant** - Rebuilding through destruction
 - Jeremiah 1:9-10, “See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

STRUCTURE (Rooker, *The World and the Word*, 387-88)

- I. Judgement on Judah and Jerusalem (1-25)
- II. Biographical Narratives Connected with Jerusalem (26-45)
 - a. "Book of Comfort" 30-33
 - b. Emphasizes hope of a coming new covenant - chapter 31
- III. Oracles against Foreign Nations (46-51)
- IV. Historical Appendix on the Fall of Jerusalem (52)

MAJOR THEMES

Covenant

- **Broken** Covenant
 - 2:11-13, “Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? ... my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”
 - 5:5, “But they all alike had broken the yoke; they had burst the bonds.”
 - 7:5-10, “and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.”
 - See also, Jeremiah 2:20-21; 4:3-4.
- **New** Covenant
 - 30:8-9, “they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.”
 - 31:31-34, “I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people... For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”
 - 32:37-41, “And they shall be my people, and I will be their God... I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.”
 - Cf. Deuteronomy 30:4-6, “And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”
 - Jeremiah 33:20-22, “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to me.”
 - 52:31-34, “graciously freed Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison. And he spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat above the seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin put off his prison garments.”

God always relates to man in terms of covenant. The great failure of Israel was the failure to **believe**.

They turned to broken **cisterns**, therefore they refused to walk in God's ancient **paths**.
First, he causes us to **drink** from the Fountain of Living Water, then we **walk** the ancient paths.

The **Sovereignty** of God

- 5:23-24, "Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest."
- 10:12-16, "It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens."
- 14:22, "Are you not he, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things."
- 18:6-10, "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."
- 23:24, "Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD."
- 27:5-7, "It is I who by my great power and my outstretched arm have made the earth, with the men and animals that are on the earth, and I give it to whomever it seems right to me."

God is **comprehensively** sovereign.

God is not a **participant** in history - God is the sovereign Lord of history.

The **Word** of God

- 1:12, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."
- 3:15, "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."
- 6:16, "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."
- 8:9, "The wise men shall be put to shame; they shall be dismayed and taken; behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD, so what wisdom is in them?"
- 23:28-32, "Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? ... Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So, they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD."

God's Word rebukes, corrects, revives, plants and **builds**. It is the access to the Living Waters, and it is the guide to the ancient paths.

APPLICATION

- I. Points us to the New **Covenant** in Christ.
- II. Illustrates the Relationship of **Faith**, Worship, and Obedience
- III. Holds out the **Word** as the key to covenant faith and obedience

DISCUSSION

- I. Jeremiah 2:11-13. What does this passage teach about Israel's basic problem? What were they doing wrong? What does it mean for you to not forsake the fountain of living waters?
- II. Jeremiah 6:16-19. What are the ancient paths? How can you find them? What will it cost for you to walk in them?
- III. Jeremiah 31:33-34 (cf. 32:40). What New Covenant promises do you see here? What does it mean that God will write the Law on their hearts? How does that relate to the previous two passages (The fountain and the path)?