



Lesson 150

Jeremiah the Weeping Prophet

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: various passages in Jeremiah • Setting: circa 627 – 586 BC, in Jerusalem • Main Characters: God, Jeremiah, and Baruch • Plot: Jeremiah spends his life calling Judah to repent. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “_____ on every side” (Jer. 6:25; 20:3,10; 46:5; 49:29) • Climax: <i>Jeremiah 9:1 Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!</i> |
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His Personal Life

1. (1:1) Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, was a prophet and a priest who came from the little town called _____ (about 3 miles northeast of Jerusalem).
 - (a) Jeremiah began his ministry under the rule of Josiah, Judah's last godly king. He continued in prophetic ministry until after the fall of Judah. His ministry lasted over 5 _____.
 - (b) (1:5-10) When Jeremiah was initially called to prophetic ministry, he refused based on his _____, but God assured him that he had been chosen as a prophet even before he was born and that his words would be the very words of God, and that his divine mission would be accomplished.
 - (c) (16:1-4) Jeremiah was also called to a _____ life as a sign to Judah of impending judgment.

2. By today's standards of success, Jeremiah was a failure:
 - (a) He made few _____, he was rejected by those to whom he ministered (11:18-21; 12:6; 18:18), persecuted, imprisoned, and charged with treason (37:11-16).
 - (b) (9:1) He constantly ministered with a broken heart – not broken just for lack of success, but for the very message he preached.
 - (c) He even wanted to resign, but God's divine call wouldn't let him: *“Then I said, I will not make mention of him, Nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my _____, And I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.”* (20:9)

His Persecuted Ministry

3. (20:1-6) The persecution against Jeremiah began with Pashur, a false prophet and the deputy high priest. He smote Jeremiah and placed him in stocks. Jeremiah rebuked the wicked Pashur, and changed his name to Magor-missabib, which means, “_____ on every side.”

4. (36:1-8) During the reign of wicked Jehoiakim, Jeremiah's assistant Baruch recorded all the words of the prophet. Jeremiah directed Baruch to read the book to the people in the _____.

5. (36:9-24) The book was read later before the king's counselors and then later before the king himself.
 - (a) But instead of fear and trembling, the king _____ the book and burned it in the fire.
 - (b) (36:26) The king commanded that Jeremiah and Baruch be arrested, but the LORD _____ them.

6. (38:1-6) As Jeremiah's message became more and more unpopular, especially during the Babylonian siege, the prophet's enemies cast him into a dungeon, that is, a dried-up _____.

- (a) There, Jeremiah’s enemies hoped he would sink into the mud and slowly “die of thirst, hunger, _____, or suffocation if he sank too deeply into the bottom of the cistern.”¹
- (b) (38:7-13) Jeremiah was rescued from a muddy demise by a kind-hearted _____ named Ebed-melech. The prophet was lifted out of the cistern with a harness made of rope and old garments.
7. (43:1-7) Later, after the fall of Babylon and the murder of Gedaliah, the governor of Jerusalem, Jeremiah was forcibly taken to _____ with other Judaeans who fled from Chaldean reprisals.
8. (52:31-34) No one is certain where and when Jeremiah died. Most scholars think he died in Egypt, but some think it is possible that he was taken to _____ during the Babylonian invasion of Egypt in 586 BC.

Application

9. Jeremiah’s preaching focused much on sin and judgment. Notice Jeremiah 17:1 “*The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars.*” Matthew Henry notes, “The sin of sinners is never forgotten till it is _____. It is ever before God, till by repentance it comes to be ever before us.”²
10. Jeremiah's ministry is an illustration of _____. In a day and age when church growth experts and prosperity gospel preachers are telling God's people that they can have worldly success and monetary gain if they will trim the message or appeal to the world’s desires, Jeremiah is a sobering reminder of our duty to be faithful to God's message no matter the consequences.
11. And yet we must strike a balance between appreciating Jeremiah’s faithfulness despite his lack of success and understanding the guarantee we were given in the _____ – a promise that Jeremiah did not have but one for the New Testament Church. Jesus has all power in heaven and earth. His bodily resurrection has bound Satan and the Church has the liberty to preach God’s message like never before.

Matthew 28:18 *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “fear” • 1. Anathoth; a) decades; b) youth; c) celibate • 2. a) converts; c) bones • 3. fear • 4. temple • 5. a) cut; b) hid • 6. cistern; a) hypothermia; b) Ethiopian • 7. Egypt • 8. Babylon • 9. forgiven • 10. faithfulness • 11. Great Commission

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005) 872.

² Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994) Print.