

BIBLE SYNTHESIS IV

(Bible Survey)

Introduction to Jeremiah

1. Author:

- Jeremiah the prophet — 1:1, 11; 7:1; 11:1; 14:1; 46:1; Dan. 9:2; Matt. 2:17

(1) Son of Hilkiah — 1:1

[This must have been the Hilkiah of the revival of Josiah — II Kings 22:4, 8–14. Though, the place of Jeremiah's birth casts some doubt as to this. See I Kings 2:26–27 and I Samuel 2:27–36. Abiathar was a descendant of Eli, who was rejected. Anathoth was the home of Abiathar, and of Jeremiah.]

(2) Priest of Anathoth in Benjamin — 1:1 (cf. I Kings. 2:26)

- ##### (3) Jeremiah was contemporary with Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, Ezekiel, and possibly Obadiah. He also prophesied during the very last days of Nahum.

2. Addressees:

- ##### (1) Kings of Judah to whom he prophesied (Jehoiakim, Jeconiah, Zedekiah) — 1:3, 18; 19:3; 36:29; 22:24; 21:3

(2) Princes of Judah — 1:18; 26:12

(3) Priests of Judah — 1:18; 27:16

(4) People of Judah and Jerusalem — 1:18; 35:13

(5) Gentile nations — 1:5; 46:1; etc.

(6) Various others — 28:15; 29:1; 45:1; etc.

3. Date of prophecy:

- ##### (1) Date of the events and the prophecy : From about 627 B.C. (the 13th. year of Josiah) to about 586 B.C. or later (in Egypt). It covers a period of 41 years or more — 1:2–3; 43:8 (about 561 B.C., see also 52:31)

- ##### (2) Time of writing: Jeremiah wrote *as* the events and warnings took place — E.g., Jer. 36

4. Purpose and Circumstances of Jeremiah's Prophecy:

- ##### (1) To reprove Judah for backsliding and idolatry — 2:19–20, 27–28

- ##### (2) To appeal to them to return to the LORD — 3:22; 7:3, 7

- ##### (3) To proclaim judgment on them when they refused — 24:8–10; 25:11

- ##### (4) To proclaim judgment on Gentile nations — 25:12; 46:1; etc.

- ##### (5) To proclaim the regathering of Israel and Judah in the land — 33:7–8, 15–17

5. Relationship to Other Books:

(1) Prophecies of the Babylonian Period (Pre-exile and Exile)

- 1. Jeremiah: Foretells judgment on Judah (25:11) and on Babylon (25:12), and eventual regathering of Israel (33:7–8).
- 2. Ezekiel: Foretells eventual reunion of all Israel in the land under Christ in Millennial blessing (37:21–24).
- 3. Daniel: Foretells the Times of the Gentiles and the establishment of Christ's Kingdom (2:37–45).
- 4. Obadiah: Foretells Judgment on Edom for disloyalty to Judah (10–11). [Though, there is some difference of opinion as to the date of Obadiah. Some have it written during the Assyrian Period (from about 840 B.C. to about 690 B.C.), others during the Exile Period (which would be during the 70 years of Babylonian captivity).]
- 5. Habakkuk: Foretells Chaldaean scourge (1:6), and the evident universal knowledge of the glory of God (2:14).
- 6. Zephaniah: Foretells judgment on Judah and Jerusalem (1:4), and on the nations (3:8), and the ultimate Kingdom blessing (3:15).

(2) Prophecies Relating to the Fall of Babylon

- 1. Isaiah: Foretells the fall of ancient Babylon, as well as that of the Babylon of the future — Isaiah 13 — 14 and through Isaiah 40 — 66
- 2. Jeremiah: Foretells the fall of ancient Babylon — 25:12; 51:37
- 3. Revelation: Foretells the fall of future Babylon — 18:1–2, 21

6. Theme of Jeremiah:

Sin and its consequences — 2:19; 13:9–10; 30:15

“The certainty of God’s judgment because of sin, yet the tenderness and eternity of the love of God.” — *The Outlined Bible*, Robert Lee, London

7. Key Thought:

The need to root out, to pull down, to destroy and to throw down; and to build and to plant — 1:10; 12:14–17; 18:7–9; 24:6; 31:28; 42:10; 45:4; etc.

Certain words:

- “forsake” and “forsaken” (24 times)
- “backsliding” and “backslidings” (13 times)
- “return” (47 times)

8. Key Passages:

Jer. 17:9–10; 21:7, 14

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Life of Jeremiah

We know much about Jeremiah because of his confession and autobiographical remarks.

His personal remarks:

- (1) His call — Jer. 1:1–10
- (2) Forbidden to marry — Jer. 16:1–4
- (3) The weeping prophet — Jer. 9:1; 13:17; 14:17; Lam. 1:16
- (4) He was rejected by his people. Though he preached for 40 years, he had no converts and few friends — 11:18–21; 12:6 (read 11:18 — 12:6); 18:18–23; 20:1–6 (hated, beaten, put in stocks); 37:11–16 (imprisoned and charged with being a traitor). [Read 20:7–18 and 38:1–28.] We can see from this that he was a prophet who suffered much for his faithfulness to the LORD.
- (5) He wanted to resign but could not — Jer. 20:7–18

His confessions show us outpourings of his spirit. They are some of the most touching and pathetic statements of the struggles of a man under Divine imperative to be found anywhere in the Bible. These show us a Jeremiah who is human in every whit.

Jeremiah's confessions:

Jer. 10:23–24	Jer. 15:10–21	Jer. 18:18–23
Jer. 11:18 — 12:6	Jer. 17:9–11, 14–18	Jer. 20:7–18

His Biographical Sketch:

Kings of Judah in the Time of Jeremiah

Manasseh (695 — 642 B.C.)	Jeremiah was born under the reign of this wicked king.
Amon (642 — 640 B.C.)	Also a wicked king
Josiah (640 — 608 B.C.)	He was godly, one of the best of Judah's kings. Began his reign in his 8th. year. A great revival took place during his reign (II Kings 22 — 23; II Chron. 34 — 35).
Jehoahaz (608 B.C.)	He was wicked — reigned 3 months — carried to Egypt.
Jehoiakim (608 — 597 B.C.)	A wicked idolater. Made king by Pharaoh-necho, king of Egypt.
Jehoiachin (597 B.C.)	Also a wicked king. Carried away to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar after reigning 3 months
Zedekiah (597 — 586 B.C.)	Reigned 11 years. Carried away to Babylon blind. Jerusalem and the Temple of God were destroyed in 586 B.C.

Most of the kings who ruled during Jeremiah's time were very wicked. He was constantly called upon by the LORD to speak out against their sins. The following will give a summary of this at different stages of his life and under different kings:

1. From Jeremiah's Birth to the Conquest of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar in 604 B.C. (The fourth year of Jehoiakim)

(1) During Josiah's reign — Jer. 1:2; 3:6

- 1. Born of a priestly family at Anathoth, a little more than three miles northeast of Jerusalem.

[Fausset says: "This shows that he belonged to the line of Abiathar, who was deposed from the high priesthood by Solomon (I Kings 2:26–35), after which the office remained in Zadok's line." (See note in the Introduction, page 45, which shows some disagreement with this).] Jeremiah is mentioned in II Chronicles 35:25; and 36:12, 21.

- 2. He began to prophesy while still a young man (1:5–6), in the thirteenth year of Josiah (627 B.C.). Notice his timidity and how God enabled him to speak the truth (1:6–10). Much of the material in Jeremiah 1 — 6 belongs to this period (Jer. 3:6). Jeremiah's zeal as a prophet is seen in Jer. 6:10–11.
- 3. He witnessed the great reformation in the eighteenth year of Josiah (622 B.C.). Jeremiah was familiar with the Pentateuch, especially the book of Deuteronomy, as evidenced by his writings.
- 4. Jeremiah was present at the funeral of the good king Josiah, and lamented over his death (II Chron. 35:25).

(2) Jehoahaz was king three months. Jeremiah does not mention his time.

(3) During the early years of Jehoiakim's reign — 22:18; 25:1; 26:1; 35:1; 36:1; 45:1

- 1. Jeremiah was in danger of losing his life in the beginning of Jehoiakim's reign on account of his faithful preaching. Read Jeremiah 26 in full. A large part of Jeremiah 7 — 20 belongs to the early part of this king's reign (see especially 7:1–20; 9:1–ff).
- 2. Jeremiah's life was threatened by the men of his home town, Anathoth (11:18–23). His own family was also against him (12:5–6). He was cursed by all (15:10): "yet every one of them doth curse me."
- 3. Jeremiah was forbidden to marry (16:2). [**Note:** Consider this in light of I Cor. 7:29, 26–27.]
- 4. He was put into the stocks by Pash'hur, the son of Immer the priest (20:1–3). An outburst of the prophet's lament is seen in Jer. 20:14–18.

2. From the Coming of Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C. to the Beginning of the Siege of Jerusalem in 589 B.C.

(1) During the remainder of Jehoiakim's reign:

- 1. The great victory of the Babylonians at Carchemish in 605 B.C. is mentioned by him in 46:1–2. Jeremiah preached submission to Babylon (Jer. 25).
- 2. There was an attempt to capture and kill Jeremiah in the fifth year of Jehoiakim (604 B.C.). The roll ("book") of his prophecies was cut into pieces and burned by Jehoiakim, but Jeremiah was commanded to reproduce it, and many other like words were added — Jer. 36:9–32.
- 3. Jehoiakim was rejected by the LORD — 36:30.

- (2) Under the reign of Jehoiachin (Coniah, Jeconiah) (597 B.C. — for 3 months) — Jer. 22:20–30. He is rejected, his descendants are rejected, which includes all from Zerubabel through Joseph, husband of Mary. Mary’s, and Christ’s, genealogy does not include this man, as we shall cover in the overview of the book.
- (3) Under the reign of Zedekiah:
 - 1. Jeremiah preached submission to the king of Babylon throughout Zedekiah’s reign. He announced to the surrounding heathen kings and to Zedekiah that Nebuchadnezzar was to rule over the nations — Jer. 27.
 - 2. Jeremiah’s contest with Hananiah (594 B.C.) is seen in Jer. 28.
 - 3. His contest by letter with the false prophets in Babylon is recorded in Jer. 29.
 - 4. As the Babylonians drew near to attack Judah, Jeremiah advised Zedekiah to submit to Nebuchadnezzar — Jer. 21 (especially notice vv. 8–10).

3. Experiences During the Siege of Jerusalem, 589 — 587 B.C.

- (1) During the first stage of the siege, Jeremiah announced to Zedekiah the certain fall of Jerusalem — 34:1–7.
- (2) When the Chaldeans left the siege of Jerusalem to meet the army of Pharaoh-hophra, Jeremiah predicted their return to capture the city. The prophet was arrested in the gate of the city, as he was about to leave for Anathoth, and was confined in a dungeon in the house of Jonathan the scribe — 37:3–15.
- (3) At his own request, the prophet was transferred to the court of the guard — 37:16–21. [This court was in the king’s house.]
- (4) Jeremiah showed faith in a return from exile by purchasing a field at Anathoth — 32:6–15. Notice his prayer following this purchase — Jer. 32:16–25.
- (5) Jeremiah was accused of treason and cast into a pit to die. But he was delivered by an Ethiopian and restored to the court of the guard — 38:1–13.
- (6) His private interview with Zedekiah in the Temple is found in 38:14–28.

4. Jeremiah’s Experiences Following the Capture of Jerusalem

- (1) He was taken in chains by the Babylonians as far as Ramah — Jer. 40:1. [For a brief statement of the attitude of Nebuchadnezzar toward Jeremiah, see 39:11–14.]
- (2) He was then released by Nebuchadnezzar’s general and encouraged to remain in Judah — 40:2–5
- (3) He dwelt with the new governor, Gedaliah — 40:6.
- (4) Following the assassination of Gedaliah, Jeremiah went with Johanan to Bethlehem — 41:16–18.
- (5) Jeremiah was then carried into Egypt by force — 42:1 — 43:7.
- (6) He predicted distress to the Jews in Egypt with the coming of Nebuchadnezzar to Egypt — 43:8–13.
- (7) The earnest but futile effort of the aged prophet to wean the Jews from Idolatry is recorded in Jeremiah 44. [Babylonian captivity taught them!]

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Outline of Jeremiah

Jeremiah, the book of sin and its consequences (2:19; 13:9–10; 30:15). That the Babylonian captivity took place because of Judah's sin is emphasized in 25:8–9. He speaks of their return from that captivity (29:10), and the eventual establishment of God's new covenant with them (31:31–34).

1. Jeremiah's Call and Commission **—Jer. 1**

- (1) The man Jeremiah and his period —1:1–3
- (2) His reluctance and God's reassurance —1:4–10
(1:6, 7–10)
- (3) Prepared through visions —1:11–19
(1:11–12, 13–16, 17–19)

2. Early Messages and Signs in the Land **—Jer. 2 — 20**

- (1) Message of strong reproof to idolatrous Judah —2:1 — 3:5
(2:5, 13, 26–28)
- (2) Message of appeal to Israel and warning to Judah —3:6 — 6:30
(3:6–7, 11–12, 22; 4:4, 6, 26–27; 5:14–15; 6:22–24)
- (3) Message in the Temple gate —Jer. 7 — 10
(7:3–4, 23–27; 8:11–12; 9:5, 15–16; 10:3–7, 25)
- (4) Message on the LORD's covenant —Jer. 11 — 12
(11:2–4, 8, 17, 21–23; 12:1–2, 14–17)
- (5) Sign of the linen girdle —Jer. 13
(13:9–11, 13–14, 18–19)
- (6) Message on the drought —Jer. 14 — 15
(14:4, 7–9, 11, 13–14, 18–19)
- (7) Sign of Jeremiah's bachelorhood —16:1 — 17:18
(16:2, 6, 13–15; 17:1, 9–10)
- (8) Message concerning the Sabbath —17:19–27
(17:19–21, 27)
- (9) Signs of the potter —18:1 — 19:13
(18:4–6, 23; 19:10–11)
- (10) Jeremiah's first persecution —19:14 — 20:18
(19:14–15; 20:2–3, 9, 18)

3. Later Messages and Signs in the Land **—Jer. 21 — 29**

- (1) Message against Judah's last four kings —Jer. 21 — 22
(21:1–2, 4–7, 10–12; 22:3–5, 22:11–12, 22:18–19;
22:24, 26, 29–30)

- (2) Message against false pastors and prophets — Jer. 23
(23:1–6, 16, 31–34)
- (3) Sign of the two baskets of figs — Jer. 24
(24:1–2, 5–7, 8–10)
- (4) Prophecy of the seventy years — Jer. 25
 - Babylon’s dominion, and subsequent judgments upon Babylon and on the world.
(25:3–4, 8–11, 12–14, 29–33)
- (5) Message in the Temple court — attempt to kill him — Jer. 26
(26:1–2, 4–6, 8–9, 14–16)
- (6) Sign of the yokes — Jer. 27 — 28
(27:1–7, 12–13, 16; 28:1–4, 9–11, 13–17)
- (7) Message to leaders and people of the deportation — Jer. 29
(29:1–2, 4–10, 16–18)

4. Miscellaneous Messages and Signs in the Land — Jer. 30 — 36

- (1) Israel’s great Tribulation and restoration — Jer. 30 — 31
(30:7–9, 17–18; 31:20, 31–34)
- (2) Sign of the field of Hanameel — Jer. 32
(32:1–2, 6–7, 25–29, 36–38, 42–44)
- (3) The LORD’s guarantee of ultimate restoration — Jer. 33
 - This will include all Israel.
(33:1, 7, 14–17, 25–26)
- (4) Prophecy of Zedekiah’s captivity — Jer. 34
(34:1–4, 21–22)
- (5) Sign of the Rechabites — Jer. 35
(35:1–2, 6, 16–17)
- (6) Jehoiakim’s defiant unbelief — Jer. 36
(36:1–3, 5, 10, 22–24, 30–32)

5. Imprisonment until the Fall of Jerusalem — Jer. 37 — 39

- (1) Put in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe — Jer. 37:1–15
(37:3, 7–8, 13–15)
- (2) Removed to the court of the prison — Jer. 37:16–21
(37:17, 20–21)
- (3) Put in the miry dungeon — Jer. 38:1–6
(38:5–6)
- (4) Brought up again to the court of the prison — Jer. 38:7–28
(38:10, 13, 28)
- (5) Released when the Chaldeans take the city — Jer. 39
(39:1–2, 7–10, 14)

6. Events in the Land after the Final Deportation	— Jer. 40 — 42
(1) Jeremiah and others gather to Gedaliah	— Jer. 40
• Included Jews from Moab, Ammon, Edom, etc. (40:1, 6, 11–12)	
(2) Ishmael murders Gedaliah and many others	— Jer. 41
(41:2–3, 7, 10, 15)	
(3) Remnant asks God, through Jeremiah, what to do	— 42:1–6
(42:3, 6)	
(4) God answers them through Jeremiah	— 42:7–22
• Remain in the land and I will bless you. If you go down to Egypt, you shall die. (42:10–12, 13–14, 17, 19)	
 7. Jeremiah’s Ministry in Egypt	 — Jer. 43 — 44
(1) People go down into Egypt taking Jeremiah along	— 43:1–7
(43:2, 5–7)	
(2) Jeremiah prophesies concerning Egypt	— 43:8–13
• They will be in subjection of Nebuchadnezzar. (43:10–11)	
(3) He rebukes the people for their idolatry	— Jer. 44
• He prophesies their destruction, with the exception of a small remnant. (44:7–8, 16–17, 27–30)	
 8. More Miscellaneous Prophecies and Events	 — Jer. 45 — 52
(1) Reassurance to Baruch	— Jer. 45
(45:1, 5)	
(2) Prophecies against Gentile nations	— Jer. 46 — 51
–1. Egypt	— Jer. 46
(46:1–2, 13)	
–2. Philistia	— Jer. 47
(47:1, 4)	
–3. Moab	— Jer. 48
(48:1, 4, 16, 46–47)	
–4. Ammon, Edom, etc.	— Jer. 49
(49:1–2, 7–8, 23, etc.)	
–5. Babylon and Chaldæa	— Jer. 50 — 51
(50:1–3, 18–19, 23, 39; 51:5–8, 11, 64)	
(3) Historical items	— Jer. 52
(52:27–31)	