



Prophets and Kings: An Old Testament Study

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | A 16-lesson study

Lesson #2: Jeremiah (Thursday, September 17, 2026)

This is the second lesson in our in-depth study of the Old Testament prophets and kings. In this lesson we're going to do a deep dive into the book, life, and ministry of **Jeremiah**. As we'll do throughout this series, we'll reference the two (2) resources¹ you've been given (please use these and bring them with you to our study).

The book of Jeremiah presents a powerful message of **judgment, repentance, and restoration**. Jeremiah ministered to Judah during its final decades before the Babylonian exile, a time marked by idolatry, injustice, corrupt leadership, and widespread rejection of God. Called by God while still a young man, Jeremiah served as a prophet for approximately 40 years (i.e., 626 to 586 B.C.), beginning during the reign of King Josiah and continuing through the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Often called the "**weeping prophet**," Jeremiah experienced rejection, ridicule, imprisonment, threats, and intense personal sorrow.

Yet Jeremiah's message was not simply one of destruction. He repeatedly called the people to **repent and return to God**, while assuring them that judgment would not be the end of their story. Jeremiah contains one of Scripture's great promises of restoration: God would establish a **new covenant**, writing His law on the hearts of His people, forgiving their sins, and restoring their relationship with Him (Jeremiah 31:31–34). Jeremiah's life demonstrates remarkable faithfulness and perseverance in the face of opposition, while his message emphasizes God's holiness, justice, compassion, and sovereignty. Ultimately, the book points beyond Judah's immediate exile toward God's promise of spiritual restoration and the coming "**righteous Branch**" from the line of David who would reign with wisdom, justice, and righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5–6).

Prophet:	Jeremiah
Years of Ministry:	626 to 582 B.C. (est. 44 years)
National Focus:	Judah
Concurrent Kings:	Josiah: 641 to 609 B.C. Johoahaz (Shallum): 609 B.C. Jehoiakim (Eliakim): 609 to 598 B.C. First exiles of Jews to Babylon in 605 B.C. Jehoaichin (Jeconiah): 597 B.C. Jedekiah (Mattaniah): 597 to 586 B.C.
Ket Points & Observations:	• The Weeping Prophet: Jeremiah deeply grieved Judah's sin and coming destruction. He is also credited as writing Lamentations. • Called by God: Appointed by God as a prophet while still young (Jeremiah 1:4–10). • Coming Judgment: Judah's persistent rebellion would result in Jerusalem's destruction and Babylonian exile in 586 B.C. • Call to Repentance: Jeremiah repeatedly urged Judah to repent and return to God. • Faithfulness: Jeremiah endured ridicule, threats, imprisonment, and rejection. • The New Covenant: God promised forgiveness and a transformed heart through a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31–34). • Hope Beyond Judgment: God promised restoration after exile and a future righteous King from David's line (Jeremiah 23:5–6).

¹ *Beginner's Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets of the Bible* and ROSE Publishing's *Kings & Prophet's Timeline*.

1. Read Jeremiah 1:1-10 that describes God calling Jeremiah to be a prophet. How did Jeremiah respond initially and what was God's counter-response? During our discussion we'll talk about our tendency to often respond as did Jeremiah when God asks us to do something.
2. Pages 18-21 in our book (*Beginner's Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets of the Bible*) highlights key themes in Jeremiah's ministry that included impending judgment, call to repentance, the New Covenant, and personal laments.
 - a. Read Jeremiah 1:13-16. **What** was the judgment that fell on Judah, from **where** did the invaders come, and **why** were the Jews being judged?
 - b. Read Jeremiah 25:1-14. This passage contains an amazing declaration on what you happen to the Jewish people after the fall in Jerusalem. How long was the captivity predicted to last and what would happen to the Babylonians? Read also Ezra 1:1 that describes the fulfillment of this passage and note the king and kingdom who wound up overthrowing the Babylonians.
3. Read Jeremiah 23:1-8 where God states, "I will raise up for David a righteous Branch." This passage discusses the coming Messiah (King) and His future reign.
 - a. List the attributes of this King.
 - b. According to verse 8, from where will the Israelites come?
4. Read Jeremiah 31 that discusses the New Covenant God will make with Israel. This question is multi-faceted in that it addresses us as followers of Jesus and our relationship with the New Covenant. Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow.

The **Old Covenant**, established between God and Israel through Moses, was based on God's law and Israel's commitment to obey Him. The Law revealed God's holiness, defined sin, and established requirements for worship, sacrifice, and righteous living. However, because people continually failed to obey, the Old Covenant also demonstrated humanity's inability to achieve righteousness through obedience to the Law alone (Exodus 19-24).

The **New Covenant**, promised in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and fulfilled through Jesus Christ, provides forgiveness of sin and a restored relationship with God. Rather than God's law being written only on tablets, He writes it on the hearts of His people. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, salvation is offered by grace through faith, and Believers receive the Holy Spirit, who transforms and empowers them to follow God (Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6-13).

- a. In your own words, provide a brief description of the difference between the Old and New Covenants.
- b. Look at verses 31 through 40. This passage makes a very bold claim about God's new relationship with the Jewish people. List some of the attributes of this relationship.
- c. Look at the end of verse 40. What is predicted about Jerusalem indicating it must be a future event?