

## Lessons From the Weeping Prophet

### Introduction.

#### A. Background.

1. From Anathoth in Benjamin.
2. Son of a priest, Hilkiah.
3. Began his ministry about 627 BC, as a young man in the reign of Josiah.
4. Prophesied during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoahaz (Shallum), Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin (Jeconiah, Coniah), & Zedekiah (last king of Judah – fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC).
5. Was kidnapped and taken to Egypt.
6. Stoned to death, approximately 570 BC.

#### B. Jeremiah's sorrow.

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|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| 1. 4:19-20.  | 2. 8:18-21.   | 3. 9:1.       | 4. 9:10. |
| 5. 13:17.    | 6. 14:17.     | 7. 20: 14-18. |          |
| 8. 31:15-17. | 9. Lam. 1:16. |               |          |

### I. A reluctant prophet (ch. 1).

- A. Young and inexperienced.
- B. Given a discouraging task.
- C. Compare with Moses (Ex. 3-4) and Isaiah( Is. 6:8-13).
- D. God is more concerned about faithfulness that results.

### II. What brought about Jeremiah's sorrow?

- A. Coming judgment (ch. 9).
  1. The sin of his people.
  2. They have forsaken the law.
  3. They have followed Baal.
  4. They have not obeyed God.
- B. Jeremiah loved his people and his country.
- C. Grief over sin.
- D. Do we grieve over the sin of our people?

### III. The loneliness of standing for the truth.

- A. He stood alone against kings, priests, and people (1:17; Ez. 22:30).
- B. Mocked, beaten, imprisoned (20:2ff.).
- C. Standing for truth is costly (Lk.14:26; Mt.10:37; Ps. 27:10; Mt. 19:29).

IV. The struggle within (20:7-9).

- A. Discouraged (cf. Elijah, 1 Kings 19).
- B. Felt deceived by God.
- C. Overwhelmed and ready to quit.
- D. It's not wrong to struggle; it's wrong to quit.

V. The message rejected (7:27-28).

- A. Call to repentance ignored.
- B. False prophets preach peace instead of truth (6:14; 8:11).
  - 1. Shalom = wholeness, justice, security.
  - 2. Quoted by Patrick Henry in 1775).
- C. People preferred comfort over truth (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

VI. Hope (Lamentations 3:19-23).

- A. God is faithful.
- B. God's mercy continues even in judgment.
- C. Hope is grounded in God's character.
- D. There is light at the end of the tunnel.