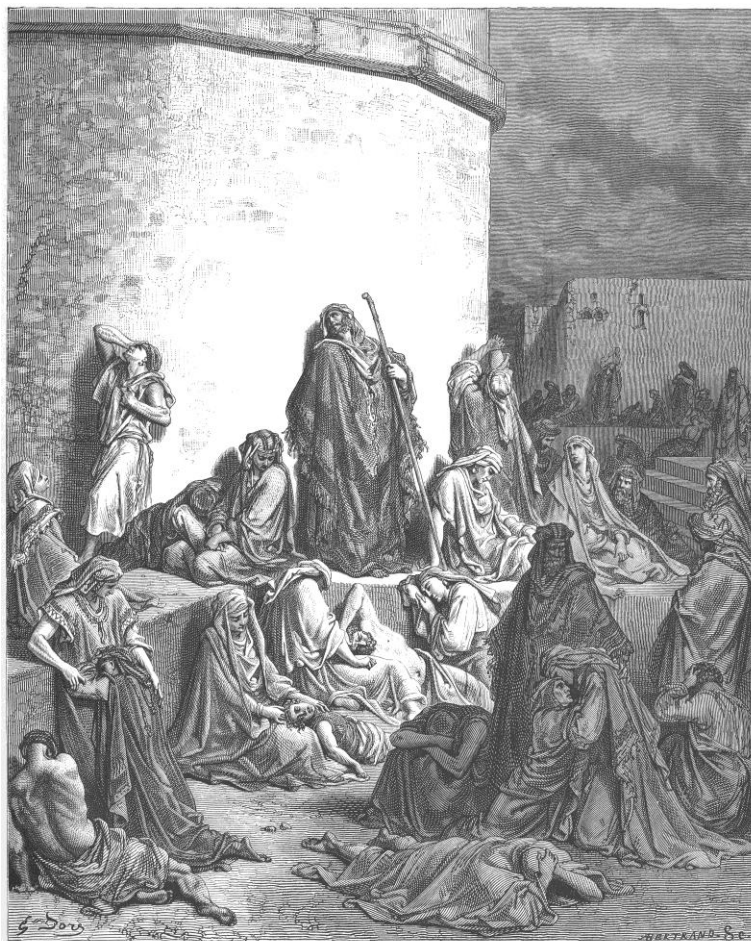


Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

## Course Text: Jeremiah

Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah from the priest city of Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. Jeremiah dictated his prophecies to Baruch, his secretary. Jeremiah is often called the "weeping prophet." He proclaimed God's judgments on the sinful nation of Judah even though he experienced opposition, beatings, and imprisonment. He correctly predicted the downfall of Jerusalem, the captivity, and the return to the land. His ministry began about 625 and ended about 580 BC. He lived at the same time as other the Old Testament prophets Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, and Ezekiel. How and when Jeremiah died is unknown but Jewish tradition says that Jeremiah was put to death in Egypt. The meaning of his name, Jeremiah, is uncertain but it probably means "The Lord establishes."



THE PEOPLE MOURNING OVER THE RUINS OF JERUSALEM  
How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations... (Lamentations 1:1)  
(Jer. 39 :g)

### Suggested methodology:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on the page 9. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Jeremiah.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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**Read Jeremiah Chapters 1 to 18 and answer these questions.**

**[1] Jeremiah's Call and Commission** Please read Jeremiah 1:1-19 and answer the following question:  
When did God decide to make Jeremiah a prophet?

\_\_\_\_\_

**[2] Judah's Willful Sin** Please read Jeremiah 2:1-3:5 and answer the following question:  
Who is the "fountain of living waters?"

\_\_\_\_\_

**[3] Judah's Chastening** Please read Jeremiah 3:6-6:30 and answer the following question:  
What did Israel need to do to get the Lord to stop being angry with them?

\_\_\_\_\_

**[4] Judah's Wrong Religion** Please read Jeremiah 7:1-10:25 and answer the following question:  
Jeremiah 10:1-7 lists 5 things idols can not do. What are they?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**[5] Judah's Breaking of God's Covenant** Please read Jeremiah 11:1-13:27 and answer the following question: Where was Jeremiah to proclaim God's words?

\_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

**[6] Judah's Coming Drought** Please read Jeremiah 14:1-15:9 and answer the following question: What was Jeremiah NOT to pray for? \_\_\_\_\_

**[7] Judah's Prophet Recommissioned** Please read Jeremiah 15:10-16:17 and answer the following question:

God promised to restore them to the land using two kinds of people. Who?

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

**[8] Judah's Sins** Please read Jeremiah 16:18-17:27 and answer the following question:

What is the most deceitful thing? \_\_\_\_\_

**[9] Judah and the Sovereign Potter** Please read Jeremiah 18:1-23 and answer the following question:

Who decides what kind of pots to make out of the clay? \_\_\_\_\_

(Compare to Romans 9)

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON

What's the sense in getting up.. I will just be falling again some time.



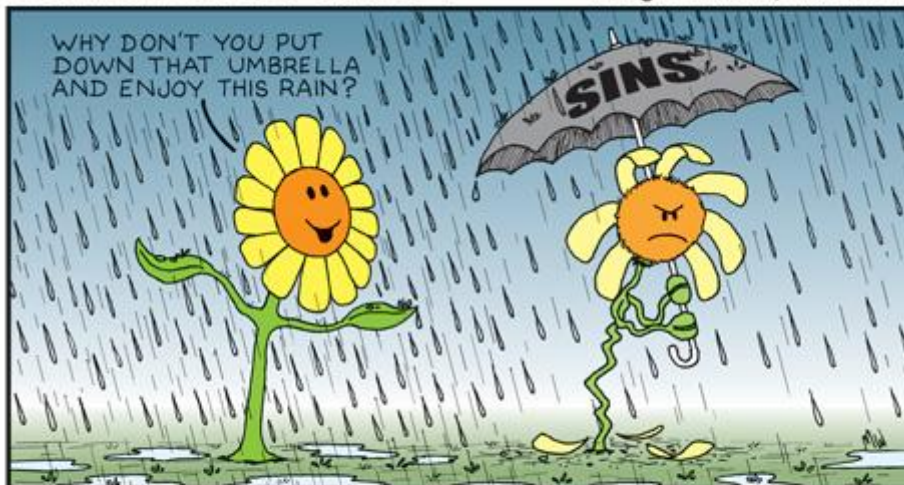
when people fall down, don't they get back up again? **Jeremiah 8:4**

----- ANSWERS -----

- [1] When did God decide to make Jeremiah a prophet? Before Jeremiah was born Jer 1:5
- [2] Who is the "fountain of living waters?" the Lord Jer 2:12-13
- [3] What did Israel need to do to get the Lord to stop being angry with them?  
Admit they were wrong and return to worshipping the Lord Jer 3:12-14
- [4] Jeremiah 10:1-7 lists 5 things idols can not do. What are they?  
Stand on their own Jer 10:4 speak walk do harm do good Jer 10:5
- [5] Where was Jeremiah to proclaim God's words? the cities of Judah & streets of Jerusalem Jer 11:6
- [6] What was Jeremiah NOT to pray for? The welfare of the people Jer 14:11
- [7] God promised to restore them to the land using two kinds of people. Who? fishermen & hunters Jer 16:16
- [8] What is the most deceitful thing? A person's own heart Jer 17:9
- [9] Who decides what kind of pots to make out of the clay? The potter Jer 18:4-6  
(Compare with Romans chapter 9)

**RAIN OF GOD'S GRACE**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



They do not say to themselves, 'Let us fear the LORD our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.' Your wrongdoings have kept these away; your sins have deprived you of good.

— JEREMIAH 5:24-25 NIV



**Read Jeremiah Chapters 19 to 33 and answer these questions.**

[10] **Judah as a Broken Jar** Please read Jeremiah 19:1-20:18 and answer the following question:  
Who was burned in the fire as a sacrifice to the false god, Baal? \_\_\_\_\_

[11] **Judah's Kings** Please read Jeremiah 21:1-23:8 and answer the following question: What two ways did God set before the people?

\_\_\_\_\_ &  
\_\_\_\_\_

[12] **Judah's False Prophets** Please read Jeremiah 23:9-40 and answer the following question:  
What two things does God compare to His word?

\_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_

[13] **Judah's Captivity** Please read Jeremiah 24:1-25:38 and answer the following question:  
How long was to pass before the Babylon would be judged. \_\_\_\_\_

[14] **Judah's Reaction to Jeremiah's Ministry** Please read Jeremiah 26:1-24 and answer the following question: Which of these four groups spoke in favor of killing Jeremiah? officials, priests, prophets, people

[15] **Judah's Advice from Jeremiah:** Please read Jeremiah 27:1-22 and answer the following question:  
What advice did Jeremiah give the King of Judah? \_\_\_\_\_

[16] **Hananiah the False Prophet:** Please read Jeremiah 28:1-17 and answer the following question:  
How long after Jeremiah prophesied Hananiah's death did he die? \_\_\_\_\_

[17] **A Letter to the Captives in Babylon** Please read 29:1-32 and answer the following question:  
How long were they going to be held there?

\_\_\_\_\_

[18] **Judah's Hope of Restoration** Please read Jeremiah 30:1-33:26 and answer the following question:  
Instead of putting it on stone tablets as in the days of Moses where is God going to write His New Covenant? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

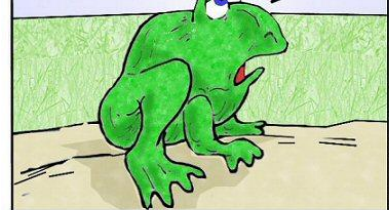
**THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON**



A man can't have a baby, so why does he hold his stomach in pain like he is having a baby? **Jeremiah 30:6**  
**Answer:** The big game is on TV

**THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON**

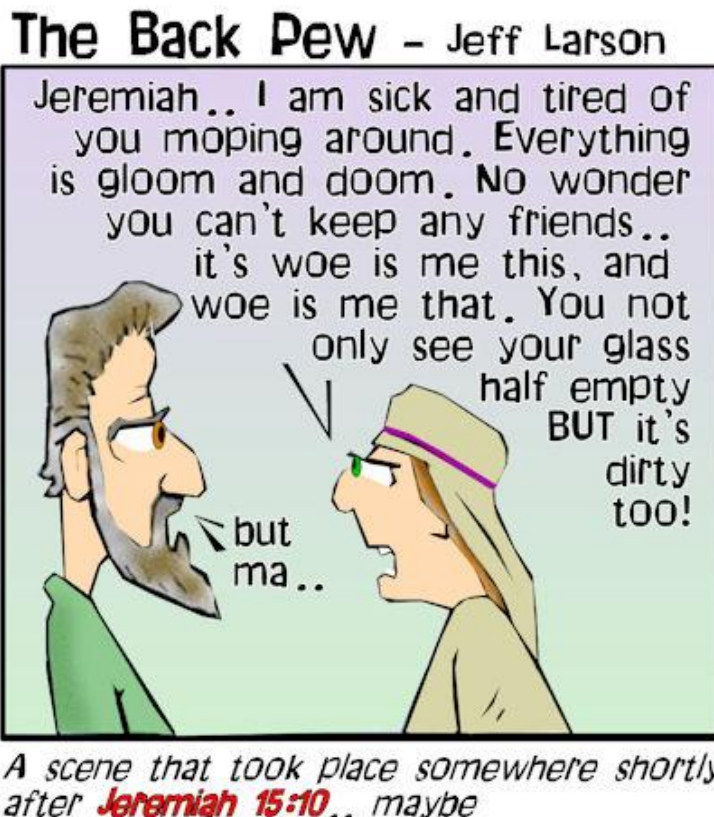
Why yes, my name is Jeremiah, but your'e lookin' for the prophet.. I'm the bullfrog. But since you are here, would you like to help me drink my wine? You know I really do make a mighty fine wine.



Though they looked nothing alike, Jeremiah the **bullfrog** was often confused with Jeremiah the **prophet**. The one was a great man of God, the other became a good friend of the rock group **3 DOG NIGHT**.

----- ANSWERS -----

- [10] Who was burned in the fire as a sacrifice to the false god, Baal? Their sons Jer 19:5
- [11] What two ways did God set before the people? Way of life & way of death Jer 21:8
- [12] What two things does God compare to His word? fire and a hammer Jer 23:29
- [13] How long was to pass before the Babylon would be judged. Seventy years Jer 25:12
- [14] Which of these four groups spoke in favor of killing Jeremiah? ~~officials~~ priests prophets ~~people~~ Jer 26:11
- [15] What advice did Jeremiah give the King of Judah? Serve the king of Babylon Jer 27:12-17.
- [16] How long after Jeremiah prophesied Hananiah's death did he die?  
About two months In Jer 28:1 it was the 5<sup>th</sup> month. In Jer 28:17 it was the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the same year.
- [17] How long were they going to be held there? Seventy years Jer 29:10
- [18] Instead of putting it on stone tablets as in the days of Moses where is God going to write His New Covenant?  
On our hearts Jer 31:33



**Read Jeremiah Chapters 34 to 52 and answer these questions.**

**[19] Events Before the Fall of Jerusalem** Please read Jeremiah 34:1 - 38:28 and answer the following questions: **[a]** What did the Rechabites do that pleased God? \_\_\_\_\_

**[b]** Why couldn't Jeremiah read his scroll in the temple? \_\_\_\_\_

**[c]** How did Jeremiah say that King Zedekiah was to die? \_\_\_\_\_

**[20] The Fall of Jerusalem** Please read Jeremiah 39:1-18 and answer the following question:  
How long was Jerusalem under siege by the Babylonians?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**[21] Events After the Fall of Jerusalem** Please read Jeremiah 40:1-45:5 and answer the following questions:

**[a]** Why did the Babylonian captain, Nebuzaradan, believe Jerusalem fell? \_\_\_\_\_

**[b]** What did Jeremiah predict would happen to the surviving Jewish people who went to Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_

**[22] Prophecies Against the Nations** Please read Jeremiah 46:1-51:64 and match each these nations with what was going to happen to it:

Ammon - Babylon - Damascus - Edom - Egypt - Elam - Kedar - Moab - Philistines

A:	conquered by Nebuchadnezzar when the mercenaries run instead of fight
B:	destroyed by an army from the North when their allies desert them
C:	destroyed forever when the king loses his nerve
D:	destroyed when they panic
E:	scattered to the four winds, not to be restored until the last days
F:	will be conquered when they become disheartened over some bad news
G:	will be conquered while trusting their own strength, but will be restored
H:	will be conquered while trusting their own wisdom never to be restored
I:	will be conquered while trusting their wealth but will be restored

*Be sure to read the notes following the answer key for this question.*

**[23] The Fate of Jerusalem and of Certain People** Please read Jeremiah 52:1-34 and answer the following question: How did King Zedekiah die? \_\_\_\_\_



----- ANSWERS -----

[19a] What did the Rechabites do that pleased God? They obeyed their ancestor Jonadab's command Jer 35:18-19

[19b] Why couldn't Jeremiah read his scroll in the temple? He was not allowed in Jer 36:5

[19c] How did Jeremiah say that King Zedekiah was to die?

Not by the sword, but of natural causes in captivity Jer 34:4-5, Jer 38:17-24

[20] How long was Jerusalem under siege by the Babylonians? Approximately a year and a half Jer 39:1-2

(From the tenth month of Zedekiah's ninth year of rule until the fourth month of the eleventh year of his rule.)

[21a] Why did the Babylonian captain, Nebuzaradan, believe Jerusalem fell? God did it Jer 40:1-3

[21b] What did Jeremiah predict would happen to the surviving Jewish people who went to Egypt?

They would die by the sword, famine, and pestilence. Jer 42:14-22

[22] **Prophecies Against the Nations** Please read Jeremiah 46:1-51:64 and match each nation with its fate:

A: Egypt .....conquered by Nebuchadnezzar when the mercenaries run instead of fight Jer 46:2 & 21

B: Philistines ..... destroyed by an army from the North when their allies desert them Jer 47:2-4

C: Babylon ..destroyed forever when the king loses his nerve Jer 50:3 & 43

D: Kedar .....destroyed when they panic Jer 49:28-30

E: Elam.....scattered to the four winds, not to be restored until the last days Jer 49:35-39

F: Damascus will be conquered when they become disheartened over some bad news Jer 49:23-24

G: Moab .....will be conquered while trusting their own strength, but will be restored Jer 48:14 & 47

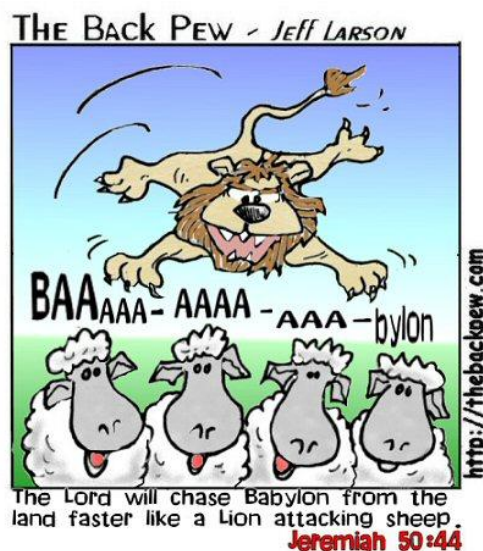
H: Edom .....will be conquered while trusting their own wisdom never to be restored Jer 49:7 & 18

I: Ammon ...will be conquered while trusting their wealth but will be restored Jer 49:4-6

So where is your trust and hope? People you hire? (Did not work for Egypt) Your friends? (Did not work for the Philistines) Your own strength? (Did not work for Moab) Your wealth? (Did not work for Ammon) Your wisdom? (Did not work for Edom) Your self-confidence? (Did not work for Damascus) Your level headedness in an emergency? (Did not work for Kedar) Your leaders? (Did not work for Babylon) I trust in Jesus Christ and my hope is in His return.

[23] How did King Zedekiah die? Not by the sword, but of natural causes in captivity Jer 52:8-11

(Compare with 19a above)





(1) Compare **Jeremiah** 23:1-6, Psalm 23, and John 10:1-16. Are they talking about the same thing? Why or why not?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2) All of these verses mention "living water" or "water of life:" Psalm 36:9; **Jeremiah** 2:13; **Jeremiah** 17:13; Zechariah 14:8; John 4:10-14; John 7:38; Revelation 7:17; Revelation 21:6; Revelation 22:1 and Revelation 22:17. What are they talking about?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(3) What does **Jeremiah** 31:31-34 mean?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(4) Which verse or passage would you select to memorize from **Jeremiah**? Why?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(5) How can the lessons of **Jeremiah** be applied to our own life?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(6) If someone asked you what **Jeremiah** was about what would you say?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions about **Jeremiah**, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

**(1) Shepherd** I believe they are all talking about the Lord being our shepherd and caring for us like a flock of dumb sheep. The shepherd has a great responsibility over his flock. He will give his life for the sheep. (which is what Jesus did) All the scriptures are talking about the responsibility of the shepherd to keep his sheep safe. The shepherd feeds them (Jeremiah 23:4). He takes care of the takes great care of the sheep and keeps them from harm (Psalms 23). The sheep thus know his voice (John 10:3) and follow only him. They run from a strange voice (such as the Devil trying to sway us off into another path).

**(2) Living Water** represents spiritual life, which is eternal life. Water is necessary for life. We can't live very long without it. We can go for about 30 days without food but we can't go very long without water. "Living water" is necessary for eternal life. God has given us a choice to take the "living water" or live life our own way and die, never to reach eternal life with our Father. We take the "living water" freely as Revelations 22:17 says. God has laid the groundwork by giving His Son, Jesus Christ, for us. Now it is up to us to choose. He will not force us to choose but draws us to Him by Holy Spirit influence. I think John 7:37-38 explains it best. "... Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

**(3) Holy Spirit** I believe he is talking about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that begins when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. It is talking about the "new covenant" that Jesus Christ brought to us when he gave his life for us on the cross. This is the only time in the Hebrew Bible that the words "new covenant" are used. The Jews don't believe that it means a new covenant as it says but that it means a renewed national commitment to abide by God's law. But that is not what it says. Christians know that this is referring to the time when Jesus Christ comes and makes an end to the problem of sin and death for everyone who believes whether Jew or Gentile. Paul said in Romans 9:6-8 that "it is not the children of the flesh (descendants of Abraham) who are the children of God, but the children of the promise (spiritual ones) which is you and me and others who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and that he was crucified and raised the third day from the dead and is seated at the right hand of our Father.

**(4) A Verse to Remember** I like Jeremiah 31:34b "...they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,' declares the LORD, 'for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.'" I'll be glad when I can join the Lord in forgetting my iniquity.

**(5) Jeremiah Life Application** God can use you and I no matter who we are, how old we are, or what we have done, to witness to the lost and to go stand and speak God's Word. As said in Ephesians 2:6 "and has raised us up together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of His grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

**(6) Jeremiah Core Message** Jeremiah is telling about the fate of Judah and how God wants His people to listen and heed to His voice like the sheep to a shepherd. The shepherd would give his life for his sheep and God sent us His son to die for us even though He had no guarantee that we would accept it. Jeremiah felt that he was not qualified to speak God's Word to the people because of his age, but God's call was sure. Even today people think that God wouldn't use them because of their past mistakes but this is not true. We are God's best for this day and time and the place we are found in. God needs spokesman in every situation.