

Jeremiah 1:4 – 19

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~ If you are new to our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, this ministry is a collection of reports that teach the entire Bible. Every chapter has a full commentary and, sometimes, we slow down to just one verse per report. The commentary is available free of charge on our website, along with additional free content. We just give it all away to anyone and everyone who will avail themselves of sound doctrine. Our only desire is to see the Word of God taught properly, correctly and completely in a manner that is more than spoken. It must be lived. My teachings are recorded in plain, simple English — so there is no misunderstanding what was said later, or misinterpreting the context of the reports. In our previous report, we were introduced properly to the prophet Jeremiah. If you have not read our last introductory report, I can only suggest you go back and do so now.

There are two strong traits that characterize Jeremiah: loneliness and weeping – and tears and solitude are a bad mix, my beloved. Jeremiah was about twenty years old when he first began writing. He wanted to see revival in Israel again; and he knew it required the Word of the Lord to bring revival. Today, there has never been a revival in any church in which the sound doctrinal teaching of Scripture wasn't the main root growing said revival. Yes, God uses men to do the work, as we just finished learning all about in the epistles to the Thessalonians; but it is not the power of men – it is the Word of God that has the power – and which does the actual work of resuscitation in the body of believers – when and if it happens....

4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

~ If you read enough of my reports, sooner or later, you'll understand we're considering the Word of God on this safari. We're searching for the Lord Jesus Christ on every page. I cannot emphasize that enough. Jeremiah is, likewise, talking about the Word of the Lord that had been lost in the temple. I would never propose to speculate about how God communicated with Jeremiah – but He did. Specifically, our safari is looking for our Blessed

Hope. I cannot promise that I can point Jesus out on every page, but I can promise you that He is on every page of Scripture. I do not write these reports for my wealth or my health, either, by the way. If you study the chronological timeline of Jeremiah, you will see that most of his preliminary writing was done before his father, Hilkiyah, had found the lost book of the law of the Lord which had been either misplaced or intentionally hidden away in the temple, you will recall. The worst possible place for the Word of God to become unlocatable is in a church, my friends; but I digress....

5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

~ The scientific question today is: when does an embryo or fetus become a viable human-child? The answer is: at the moment of conception. I have always believed that. It should be the premise for any believer's conversation when speaking about the subject of abortion. David said he was formed in the lower parts of the earth. That was his description for his mother's womb. Tremendous and rapid development occurs almost immediately at conception. God told Jeremiah that He knew him before that. God drew close to Jeremiah and revealed these things because Jeremiah drew close to the Lord.

The message God gave Jeremiah to deliver to His chosen people would be flatly rejected and bitterly despised by Israel. Giving the message is going to cause him to be imprisoned, beaten, outcast, thrown in the dungeon, and accused of national treason. Jeremiah is going to be forced to make a stand for God with a message that was desperately breaking his heart. He took no satisfaction or pleasure in telling Israel that they were going into Babylonian captivity. He wasn't trying to pick a fight with anyone – he was simply accurately conveying to them what God had told him to tell them. God wants them to understand that He still loves them and He wants to save them. But God had made a promise that included the caveat they were to obey — or they would be displaced from the land. God also promised to deliver those who would turn and call upon Him as this transpired; and He picked Jeremiah to give the invitations....

6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

~ Jeremiah didn't think he could do this job correctly. See, modern-day philosophy says, "... if you can dream it you can do it." Gods uses men who pray, "... Father, it is impossible for me – You have the wrong man." That's what the Bible teaches, my beloved readers. God chooses the weak things of the world to confound the mighty. God uses the despised things to discompose the proud. That's true of every man and woman of God in the Word of God. Many people think they are better speakers and preachers and teachers than some poorly spoken, soft-hearted man, like Jeremiah – but they're wrong. Again, God isn't using strong men. In fact, most men in the ministry are too strong to be used by God; and they will remain that way until they undertake a competent Bible education.

If you highlight a trait or talent in your life that hasn't been given directly to you by the Lord Himself from the Word of God for His glory, then you are usurping said glory. Worshiping Baal easily begins without awareness; by exhibiting and promoting our "*talent*." Those who do typically fare extremely well, materially and financially speaking; but they aren't glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ. No, they're glorifying themselves. Everyone around them knows they only love themselves. Take away their prosperity, and they'll curse God to His face. We went over all of that in our last report. Again, I highly suggest you go back and read it – or read it again....

7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

~ There is more liberalism in so-called conservative circles than many people might realize. Any liberal church must be "moving and shaking" today. They usually congregate on a political platform, claiming Jesus this and Jesus that – but the old boy saying those things doesn't believe any of it. The liberal Jesus they claim does not exist, friends. They're giving out religious theory that has just enough Bible lingo sprinkled in to make it sound plausible – but the doctrine are recipes for total and complete disaster, destruction and failure. Said failure only further hurts and more deeply oppresses one class: the poor. It's all an ideological concierge-style Jesus to which they cling. They typically form committees made of men

who, on their own, can do nothing; but, collectively, can decide nothing can be done. Don't kid yourself. That's what's real in politics on *THIS* day – world standard time....

8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

~ Well, Personal ordination by God is quite an encouragement. Jeremiah was ordained and sanctified by God with one sentence – nine words. *“behold, I have put My Words in thy mouth....”* Handling the Word of God sets us aside for the use of God – one way or another. You can just write all of this down, friends – Jeremiah did. God never even hinted at Jeremiah's concern for the content or effect of the message he was to give. I want to be very frank in this commentary, friends – because I always am honest with you – I am quite comfortable being the man behind the curtain writing these reports. I don't call anyone out specifically, but I'm not pulling any punches, either. Every safari reader knows who I am talking to in my reports. No one is going to accuse me of neglecting my responsibility – and, may I say this kindly? – I am not responsible to you. I report directly to my Father in Heaven. I turn my reports in to Him. And until God tells me to turn my report in elsewhere, then the Spiritual Safari will continue this way....

10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

~ Many people do not care for a ministry such as this safari. We present the Bible in much the same way Jeremiah did. It isn't popular. There's always dissidents within any group of genuine believers. They cause big divisions and irreparable damage to a church very quickly. They're always more political than anything else. It usually ends with mean and cantankerous trouble-making, simply for the sake of being unreasonable – and dishonesty is *ALWAYS* a key contributing ingredient. That's the way it is, friends. If you are giving out the Word of God, you are responsible

directly to our Father for your words, when we say them, how we say them, and to whom they are said. God's Word doesn't return to Him void. I can assure you, passing along sound doctrine will accomplish something. God said He ordained Jeremiah a prophet unto this nation to speak His Word to His chosen people *with authority* – and that's what Jeremiah is going to do....

11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree.

12 Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

13 And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north.

14 Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land.

15 For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah.

16 And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.

17 Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

18 For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.

19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

~ So our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God under the almond tree in Jeremiah's vision from the Lord. The sign of the rod of an almond tree is significant as it symbolizes being the first species to wake from the long night of winter. Jeremiah was the alarm clock wake-up call to the nation Israel from their current life of ease and luxury; and to a people who were as cold and indifferent to the Word of God as a people who professed to love God possibly could be – not to mention only dimly aware of the coming Babylonian danger. Their hearts and minds were wholly alienated from God.

Frankly, you're going to think this prophecy is an unmentionable and unthinkable nine-one-one emergency call before we're finished; because that's exactly what it is. Another false security Israel was clinging to was that Egypt, who had actually just killed Josiah in battle, and Assyria, who had recently taken the northern kingdom away captivity, were no longer a threat. While that was true, the problem was, the "boiling pot," was just getting cranked up over in Babylon. It was seething; and Jeremiah tells them that. They refused to believe Jeremiah or even acknowledge him on any level. Well, it's not good when a nation ignores God's man who has been sent to them by God Personally – as was Jeremiah to the nation Israel at the time in which we are studying.

Just one hundred years ago from this time in Israel's history, God had delivered them – in Isaiah's day – from the myriad nations that surrounded and threatened them. They were proclaiming God would deliver them again now – and again and again forever. They actually heard the parts of Jeremiah's message that they liked – such as chapter twenty-nine verse eleven; and I am sure they quoted that verse *ALL* the time. However, they were benighted by puerile darkness of understanding concerning what that verse really means in relation to the overall chapter's message. See, at the time in which we are studying, the prophets of the nation are almost all dead and gone. Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah, Nahum – all of those had all been contemporary with Isaiah – and they were history by this time. As far

as I can tell, Zephaniah and Habakkuk were still living; but their prophecies are very short. Ezekiel and Obadiah were also alive - but they both wrote as captives from the canals in Babylon. Daniel is another story – but the point is: Jeremiah, at this particular time in history, stands unequivocally and abjectly alone; giving a message of judgment and impending doom; all of which has been permitted by God. The reaction of Jewish society at large against Jeremiah in verse nineteen fits down on every area of Scripture and every word the Lord Jesus ever spoke. God told Jeremiah that he was to give the message even though they would not listen. That’s a tremendous comfort to me. I hope it is to you, too ~

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