

Jeremiah – A Sensitive Lad

Jeremiah 1:7, 8

Introduction:

In the two books penned by the Holy Spirit using the hand of Jeremiah (Jeremiah and Lamentations), we see a young man called from the obscurity of his native town, Anathoth, only 3 to 5 miles from Jerusalem, at a critical time in the nation's life to the overwhelming responsibilities of a prophet.

His dad, Hilkiah, was a priest, who could have been the priest of [II Kings 22](#) who brought the Book of the Law to the observance of King Josiah, which started a great revival in the kingdom.

No doubt, Jeremiah's early life reveals that he had a strong religious impact.

Our text presents the fact that so often God chooses unlikely instruments to do His work. Many times he will take the bashful, shrinking, quiet, sensitive type individual to accomplish what seems to be an impossible, hopeless mission.

God said: *"Do not say, 'I am a child'"*.

God said: *"You will go where I will send you"*.

God said: *"Whatever I say to you to say, you are to say"*.

God said: *"Don't be afraid of their hardened faces; for I am with you to deliver you"*. **WOW!**

THIS IS WHAT A PROPHET IS! – ONE WHO TELLS WHAT GOD SAYS. JEREMIAH WAS THE 9TH PROPHET WHO PROPHESED TO THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH before the exile, and during the trying days of the captivity. He saw five Kings upon the throne of Judah: Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah.

Please note: Jeremiah's dad was a priest, but God had something better for him than to spend his life as a priest serving altars; he was to be a prophet of the Lord, in this most trying hour in the history of God's chosen people.

Jeremiah – A Sensitive Lad (Continued)

This man, unlike many of the prophets, had much to say about himself:

1. He tells us that he was a priest by birth – (1:5); The Hebrew means “*Not Yet*”.
2. Called of the Lord to be a prophet at a very young age – (1:6)
3. He referred to himself as young, inexperienced and had a lack of eloquence – (1:6), is this any reason for not obeying God’s call?
4. He was assured that the calling was from God and that it came before he was even born – (1:5).
5. [Ephesians 2:10](#) “*we are created unto good works before God even laid the foundation of the world*”, which means that He has a PLAN for each one of our lives (Read again [Jeremiah 1:1-8](#)).
6. Jeremiah was not allowed to marry because of God’s specific plan – (16:1,2)
7. Jeremiah prophesied during the time when Israel had been taken into captivity and Judah was in her declining days.
8. He was called to be a prophet in the 13th year of the reign of King Josiah (1:2).
9. No doubt his early ministry and that of the prophet Zephaniah were among the influences that led to the reforms under the young King Josiah.
10. Jeremiah prophesied for more than 40 years. He began his ministry 60 years after the death of Isaiah, the great evangelical prophet.
11. Jeremiah was contemporary with the prophetess Huldah, and Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Ezekiel and Daniel and perhaps even Nahum.
12. His message was never a popular one, even endangering his very life (26:7-16).