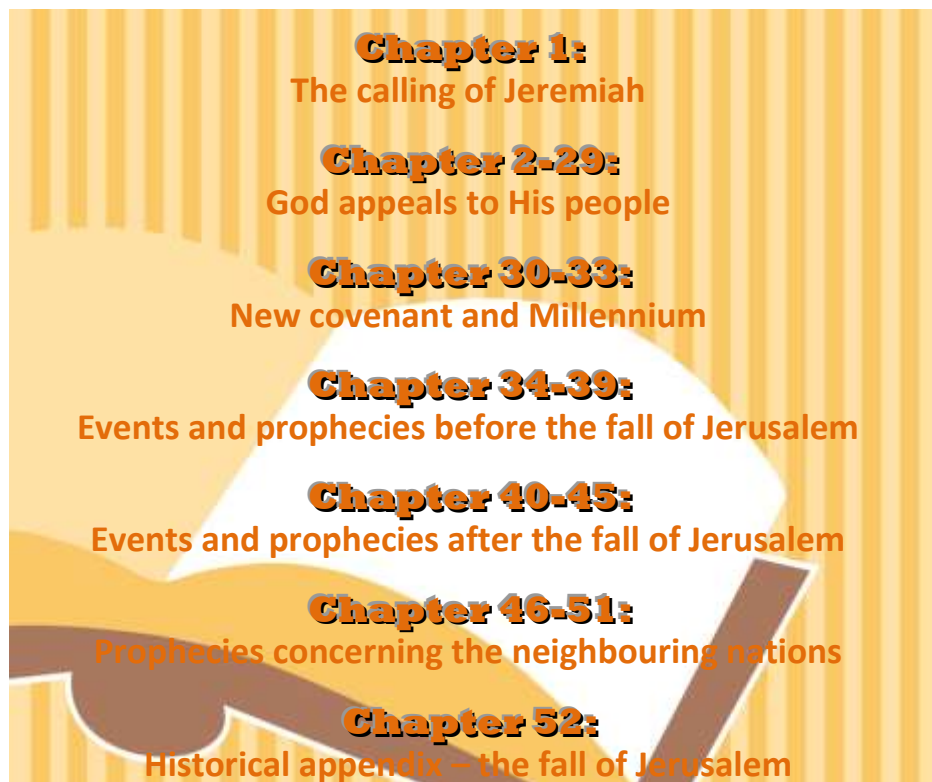


# The Prophet Jeremiah

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"O LORD, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in the day of affliction." Jeremiah 16:19



**How it started:** Jeremiah lived under the last seven kings of Judah. He was still very young when he was called to be a prophet under king Josiah. The prophets Zephaniah and Habakkuk were his contemporaries.

In the fourth year of king Jehoiakim, Jeremiah dictated the text of this book to his scribe Baruch. Baruch read the text to the people and to king Jehoiakim. The godless Jewish ruler dared to cut the scroll into strips and to throw it into the fire. After this, Jeremiah had

the God-inspired words written down again and added further messages from God.

Any attempts to eliminate the word of God have so far failed. God is watching over His word.

**What it is all about:** Jeremiah's task wasn't an easy one. His message was mainly one of judgment. Again and again he appealed to the people's conscience. He wanted them to recognize their low moral condition and to return from idol worship back to God. Jeremiah announced the threatened destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.

Despite all this, the prophet was also able to speak of the grace and mercy of God: God would in future again be merciful to His people.

**How about today?** Do you sometimes find it difficult to recognize the will of God for your life? Is it hard to follow the Lord Jesus in your day to day life? Jeremiah didn't always find his task easy either. And yet, when the Lord sent him, he was ready to go.

You learn more about Jeremiah's personal circumstances in this book than is the case with most other prophets. - Try to imagine this servant of God as you read his book!

This book also makes it clear: God takes it very seriously when people turn away from Him and worship idols.

But even where everything seems hopeless, God is ready to forgive and to bless, if people repent, i.e. confess their sins and return to God from their hearts. This was the case for the people of Judah as well as for you today.