

**Jeremiah's Name:** The meaning of the name "Jeremiah" is uncertain.

Some suggestions that have been made include:

"The Lord Exalts"  
"The Lord Establishes"  
"The Lord Throws"  
or "The Lord Appoints"

Often Called the "Weeping" Prophet

(see **9:11; 13:17; 14:17**; and **Lamentations 1:2; 2:11; 18**)

He was also called a traitor and persecuted by his own people.

(see **1: 21-33; 20; 26; 28-29; 38**)

**Outline:** Although Jeremiah moves around subject-wise, his book falls into three major parts:

1. (**1-25**) His Call, and His message to Judah and Jerusalem
2. (**26-45**) Mainly, events in his life. One section (**30-33**) has been called his "Little Book of Comfort" for it talks about the return from captivity and God's coming new covenant.
3. (**46-51**) Prophecies of judgements on the nations all around.

**Chapter 52** is like a conclusion, recounting the destruction of Jerusalem.

Or, a simpler outline could be:

1. Before the fall of Jerusalem (**1-39**)

His ministry during the times of the last kings.

## 2. After the Fall (**40-52**)

- Those in Judah
- Those who go to Egypt
- The nations all around.

Some things to Note in Jeremiah:

### His Prayers:

Then there is his personal life of prayer. The passages about this have a name. They are "The Confessions of Jeremiah (what he confessed)." These passages need special study. They are: **Jeremiah 11:18-23; 12:1-6; 15:10-21; 17:9-10, 14-18; 18:18-23 and 20:7-18**

### His Complaints

We get the English word "jeremiad" from Jeremiah. It means a "denunciation," or a "complaint." Jeremiah often complained bitterly about his enemies

(see **12:1-3; 15:15; 17:18; 18:19-23**)

### His predictions

He predicted some things that were fulfilled "short term:"

**16:15** Israel would be returned to the Land God gave their forefathers

**20:4** Judah would be carried off to Babylon

**25:11** 14-70 years of captivity

**27:19-22** Articles that would be taken to Babylon

**29:10** return after 70 years

**34:4,5** How Zedekiah would die

**43:10,11** Nebuchadnezzar would place a throne in Egypt

**44:30** Pharaoh would be handed over to his enemies

**46:13** Nebuchadnezzar would attack Egypt



### Some “Long Term” predictions:

**23:5-6** The Righteous Branch

**30:8-9** Judah will one day serve the Lord

**31:31-34** The New Covenant

**33: 15-16** The Righteous Branch and Jerusalem’s future

### His Visuals

Jeremiah was often instructed to use symbolism to highlight his message:

- A ruined and useless belt (**13:1-11**)
- A smashed clay jar (**19:1-12**)
- A yoke of straps and crossbars (**ch. 27**)
- Large stones in a brick pavement (**43:8-13**).

The Lord used visual aids in conveying his message to Jeremiah:

- Potter’s clay (**18:1-10**)
- Two baskets of figs (**ch. 24**)
- He was told to buy a field just as the Babylonians were about to overrun the country (**ch. 32**).

### Some “Jewels” from Jeremiah:

These are verses you might recognize. They are quoted frequently. Look them up and see how many you recognize:

**2:13** Making broken cisterns instead of going for living water

**7:11** God’s house a den of thieves (remember anyone else in the Bible saying this? **Mark 11:17**)

**8:23** Balm in Gilead?

**9:23-24** What to boast about

**13:23** Can the leopard change his spots?

**29:11** The plans I have for you...a future and a hope

**29:13** How to find the Lord

**31:3** God’s everlasting love

**31:31f** God’s coming new covenant

**33:3** Call Unto Me

### One thing to Notice in Lamentations:

Lamentations is basically a funeral song for a destroyed city: Jerusalem.

Notice that chapters 1, 2 and 4 all have 22 verses. This is because in these chapters each verse starts with a letter from the Hebrew alphabet. This is called an acrostic. You don’t see this in an English Bible, but you might try to look Lamentations up in Hebrew (remember, Hebrew reads from right to left). If you have internet access, just go to “Lamentations in the Hebrew Bible.”

### Two well known memory verses:

**29:11** “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

**33:3** “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”