

I. Created - Jer. 1:4-10

1. Lived among priests but became a prophet (**verse 4**)
 - from Anathoth
2. The times
 - the Assyrian empire was declining
 - the Babylonians defeated Judah and took the residents into exile
3. The “Word of the Lord” is a common expression to declare God’s call
 - not told if it was audible or in his mind
4. God had big plans for Jeremiah (**verse 5**)
 - before you were born - before your conception
 - I “sanctified thee” - set apart for this work
 - I “ordained” thee a prophet unto the nations
- Rea -God also has big plans for you and your life - do you believe it?
5. I’m a child (**verse 6**)
 - Bible scholars believe he was about twenty years old
 - a lack of experience
- Rea -for me at this point in my life that “is” a child
- Rea -discuss the idea that God often calls youth to His work/ ministry
- Rea -Timothy was young - “let no man despise your youth...”
6. God’s response - don’t say you’re just a child (**verse 7**)
 - you will go where I send you and say what I tell you
- Rea -God is direct!
7. Don’t be afraid (**verse 8**)
 - I will be there to deliver you - when you face opposition
- Rea -not sure I’ve ever known a true man of God who did not face opposition - and if we don’t face opposition (for me) that shouts this is not a man of God
- Rea -the natural reaction is fear
8. God touched his mouth (**verse 9**) - I have put my words in your mouth
 - compare with Ezekiel - Ezek. 2:8-3:3
9. His mission - to be set over the nations and kingdoms (**verse 10**)
 - to set up and to pull down
 - to build and plant
10. God’s destiny for his life
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Discuss the fading idea of ministers being “called” - versus - a profession
 2. Youth are more responsive to God
 3. From the beginning Jeremiah is facing his fears

II. Watched - Jeremiah 1:11-16

1. What do you see? - a rod (**verse 11**)
 - almonds were the first to bloom - God would “hasten” to perform His word (**verse 12**)
2. God is not watching from heaven, but appears to be intimately involved in what He is doing through Jeremiah

3. Then he sees a seething pot (**verse 13**)
 - tilted toward the north - so contents would pour out on the south
 - the direction from which evil often came
4. **Verse 14** is clear - out of the north an evil will break forth
 - Jeremiah's message was bad news
5. God is calling the peoples of the north to come upon them (**verse 15**)
 - at the gates
 - against the walls
 - against all the cities
6. God will tell them of His judgments (**verse 16**)
 - forsaken God
 - burned incense to false gods
 - worshiped the works of their hands (idols)
- Rea 7. Judgment is coming and here is why - verse 16

Rea - **Ideas and Questions:**

1. How long can we avoid the judgment of God?
2. Why send Jeremiah - sounds as if its going to happen no matter what
3. Because God cares - He judges

III. Charged - Jeremiah 1:17-19

1. Gird up your loins (**verse 17**)
 - Rea -meaning - tighten your belt, get ready for this task
2. Arise and speak
 - don't be "dismayed" lest I confound thee
3. I have made you (Like) a defenced city (**verse 18**)
 - Rea -as you deliver this message from God
 - you will be like an iron pillar
 - like brass walls
4. God warned him what would happen - they will fight against you (**verse 19**)
 - God would deliver them - they will not prevail
 - Rea -how? - for I am with you

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Often what God wants from us is not easy
2. This is his role/ job - to be a messenger from God
3. Often messages from our pulpit are "peace, peace when there is no peace"
4. God would "deliver" Jeremiah in his task

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