

Jeremiah

Making The Bible Come Alive

The Determined One

Who was this person?

- Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah, who was a Jewish priest from a Benjamite village.
- Jeremiah is the man who wrote Lamentations and the book that bears his name: Jeremiah (which is also the longest book in the entire Bible!).
- He was born around 627 BC (627 years before Jesus was born) and died 585 BC.

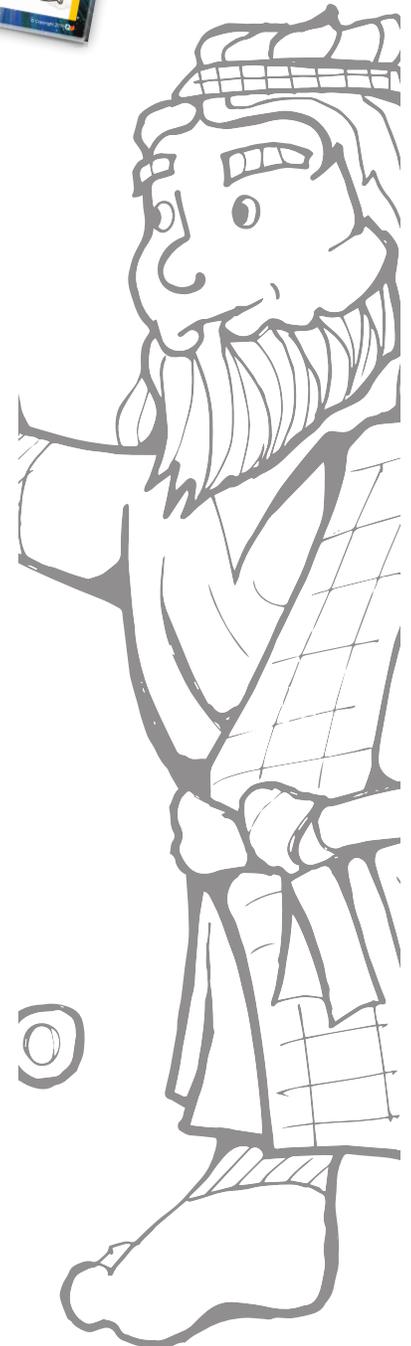


What is this person known for?

- Jeremiah was an Old Testament prophet.
- Jeremiah was known as the “weeping (crying) prophet. Jeremiah was directed by God to warn the leaders and people of Israel how they had fallen away from God’s teaching and standards (law). The basic theme of Jeremiah’s message is simple: Repent and turn to God, or He will punish you.
- Jeremiah was not very popular among the leaders and people of his time because he told them, God was going to bring judgement to their nation but that didn’t stop him from giving this warning/ message. When God brought punishment upon this nation many people died and were taken captive into other countries and that broke Jeremiah’s heart.
- Jeremiah demonstrated a life of courage, faithfulness and obedience to God. Before he was born God chose Jeremiah to be a prophet, and that He would be with him and tell Jeremiah everything he needed to say and do.

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **To remind us that God honours faithfulness.** By human standards the book of Jeremiah tells the story of failure. By God’s standards Jeremiah was a shining example of success. Regardless of opposition and personal costs Jeremiah faithfully proclaimed the word of God (1 Samuel 16:7; James 1:12).
- **To remind us that God honours obedience.** To show us how God can use someone when they are obedient. There were times when Jeremiah didn’t want to share this ‘tough news’ with the





people however he knew that he must be obedient to God. Even though the people didn't listen and God's punishment/judgement fell upon them Jeremiah wept for the people but He didn't waiver. Regardless of what society and the people around do, it is important for us to remain steadfast in our belief and choices to follow God. (Lamentations 2:11; Isaiah 1:19; Deuteronomy 11:1)

- **To remind us that God is patient.** We can read so many stories in the Bible of how people were disobedient towards God and God showed mercy. We read about Moses, Abraham, Joshua, Yet there were those leaders who pleaded with God that He would be patient and lenient. (Abraham, Moses, Joshua on behalf of the people). To remember that God is very patient, but He will not put up with sin forever. There are consequences to our sin unless we ask for forgiveness and change our ways. (Jeremiah 15:7; Ezekiel 7:7-8; 2 Peter 3:9)
- **To remind us to be compassionate.** We need to be more like Jeremiah, filled with compassion and concern. We need to cry out to God and confess our own sin toward Him. We also need to minister to others and lovingly tell them about God's love and forgiveness. God showed the Israelites his love by telling them many times that needed to be sorry for their sins and turn back to Him. (Jeremiah 11:1-5; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Colossians 3:12-13)
- **To remind us God always has a plan.** Even though things might look uncertain and hopeless when we listen, obey and trust Him He will work out the details of our life. He knows best what we need and promises us hope and a bright future. (Jeremiah 29:11-12; Lamentations 3:22-23; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Job 42:2; Proverbs 16:9)
- **To remind us that God keeps His promises.** When he warns us about bad things, we must take him seriously. When he says that good will happen, we can be happy because we know it is true. (Jeremiah 30:20-21; 33:6-14; Galatians 6:7-8; Numbers 23:19)
- **To remind us that sin has bad consequences.** Sin is massive and it brings death. God's mercy and love are even bigger, and they bring life. That is the message of the gospel and it's one of the themes of the book of Lamentations. Jeremiah knew that because of their disobedience the Israelites deserved their punishment. Jeremiah believed that only God could bring the people out of the terrible problems that sin caused. We need to remember that God

is the only one who can bring us out of our problem with sin.
(John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:12; Isaiah 59:2)

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

MORE IN GOD'S WORD

Jeremiah chapter 9 gives great detail to why Jeremiah was referred to as the “Weeping Prophet”. Read the chapter aloud with the children and note/talk about the numerous times that crying, weeping, wailing is referred to. Lastly, focus on chapter 9:12-14 and why Jeremiah was crying so much (because the people had forsaken the law God had sent out before them, and they followed the stubbornness that was in their hearts instead). Talk with the children about times when they have been stubborn or disobedient, not wanting to listen to and obey rules that were set out for them to follow. What are the consequences of disobedience? How does that make their parents, teachers or others who oversee them feel when they choose to not listen? How might God feel when His children do not listen to Him and will not obey the rules He has set out for them to live by?

Ask the children to repent of the sins in their lives they would recognize. Lead them in a time of prayer where they can ask God for His forgiveness.

