

LESSON 19: Jeremiah, Lamentations

LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

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(REVISED) TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

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Lesson 19

JEREMIAH

- The book of Jeremiah does not follow a topical or chronological order.
- Jeremiah's message was to one of impending judgement because the people rebelled against God and refused to repent despite numerous warnings.
- Jeremiah is known as the "weeping prophet."

OUTLINE

- Introduction (1)
 - Jeremiah's background.
The words of Jeremiah... one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah... and through the reign of Jehoiakim... down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah... when the people of Jerusalem went into exile. (1:1-3)
*2 Kings 22-25; 2 Chronicles 22-36)
 - Jeremiah's call.
The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." (1:4-10)
- Prophecies concerning Judgement on Judah (chaps. 2–25)
 - *I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable. The priests did not ask, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols. (2:7-8)*
 - *They have forsaken me... why go to Egypt to drink water from the Nile? And why go to Assyria to drink water from the Euphrates? Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the LORD your God and have no awe of me... (2:13-19)*
 - *Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there. I thought that after she had done all this, she*

would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery. Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretense... (3:6-10)

- Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider... If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city... Why should I forgive you? Your children have forsaken me and sworn by gods that are not gods. I supplied all their needs, yet they committed adultery and thronged to the houses of prostitutes... Should I not punish them for this? declares the LORD. "Should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this? ...The people of Israel and the people of Judah have been utterly unfaithful to me... (5:1-11).
- Look, an army is coming from the land of the north... They are armed with bow and spear; they are cruel and show no mercy... they come like men in battle formation to attack you... Do not go out to the fields or walk on the roads, for the enemy has a sword, and there is terror on every side. Put on sackcloth, my people, and roll in ashes; mourn with bitter wailing... for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us. (6:22-26)
- Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD... Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place... If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods... then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors... But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods... and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, "We are safe"—safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? ...I have been watching! declares the LORD. (7:2-11)
- I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals; and I will lay waste the towns of Judah so no one can live there. (9:11)
- Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for the well-being of this people. Although they fast, I will not listen to their cry; though they offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Instead, I will destroy them with the sword, famine and plague." But I said, "Alas, Sovereign LORD! The prophets keep telling them, 'You will not see the sword or suffer famine. In-

deed, I will give you lasting peace in this place.’” Then the LORD said to me, “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them... those same prophets will perish by sword and famine. And the people they are prophesying to will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem... There will be no one to bury them, their wives, their sons and their daughters. I will pour out on them the calamity they deserve. (14:11-16)

- Then the LORD said to me: “Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people. Send them away from my presence! Let them go! And if they ask you, ‘Where shall we go?’ tell them, ‘Those destined for death, to death; those for the sword, to the sword; those for starvation, to starvation; those for captivity, to captivity.’ I will send four kinds of destroyers against them... the sword to kill and the dogs to drag away and the birds and the wild animals to devour and destroy. I will make them abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth...(15:1-4)
- Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take along some of the elders of the people and of the priests and go out to the Valley of Ben Hinnom, near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. There proclaim... This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says... I am going to bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle. For they have forsaken me and made this a place of foreign gods... and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent. They have built the high places of Baal to burn their children in the fire as offerings to Baal... I will devastate this city and make it an object of horror and scorn... Then break the jar while those who go with you are watching, and say to them, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I will smash this nation and this city just as this potter’s jar is smashed and cannot be repaired... Jeremiah then returned from Topheth... and stood in the court of the LORD’s temple and said to all the people, This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says... When the priest Pashhur... the official in charge of the temple of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, he had Jeremiah... beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin... The next day, when Pashhur released him from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him... this is what the LORD says: ‘I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends; with your own eyes you will see them fall by the sword of their enemies. I will give all Judah into the hands of the king of Babylon, who will carry them away to Babylon or put them to the sword. I will deliver all the wealth of this city into the hands of their enemies... And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house will go into exile to Babylon. There you will die and be buried, you and all your friends to whom you have prophesied lies.’” (19:1-20:6)

- *The word came to Jeremiah from the LORD when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur... and the priest Zephaniah... They said: "Inquire now of the LORD for us because Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is attacking us... But Jeremiah answered them, "Tell Zedekiah, 'This is what the LORD... says: I am about to turn against you the weapons of war that are in your hands, which you are using to fight the king of Babylon... I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm in furious anger and in great wrath... After that... I will give Zedekiah... his officials and the people in this city... into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar... He will put them to the sword; he will show them no mercy or pity or compassion... I have determined to do this city harm and not good... It will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will destroy it with fire.' (22:1-10)*
- *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety... the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when people will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' but they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north... Then they will live in their own land.'" (23:5-8)*
- *The word came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah... So, Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people of Judah and to all those living in Jerusalem: For twenty-three years... I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened... But you did not listen to me," declares the LORD, "and you have aroused my anger with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves." Therefore... I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon... and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants... I will completely destroy them... and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation... for their guilt... I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands." (25:1-14)*
- *A plot against Jeremiah (chaps. 26–29)*
 - *...as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, "You must die! Why do you prophesy in the LORD's name that this house... and this city will be desolate and deserted?" And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD... Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, "This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against*

this city... ” Then Jeremiah said... “The LORD sent me to prophecy against this house and this city... Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you. As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.” Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, “This man should not be sentenced to death! He has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God.”(26:7-16)

- *Early in the reign of Zedekiah... this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD... “Make a yoke out of straps and crossbars and put it on your neck. Then send word to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon... and say, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ...I will give all your countries into the hands of my servant Nebuchadnezzar... All nations will serve him and his son and his grandson until the time for his land comes; then many nations and great kings will subjugate him. If, however, any nation or kingdom will not serve Nebuchadnezzar... or bow its neck under his yoke, I will punish that nation with the sword, famine and plague... So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your interpreters of dreams, your mediums or your sorcerers who tell you, ‘You will not serve the king of Babylon.’ They prophesy lies to you that will only serve to remove you far from your lands... But if any nation will bow its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will let that nation remain in its own land... declares the LORD.’” (27:1-11)*
- *In the fifth month of that same year... the prophet Hananiah... said to me in the house of the LORD in the presence of the priests and all the people: “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two years I will bring back to this place all the articles of the LORD’s house that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon removed from here and took to Babylon. I will also bring back to this place Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and all the other exiles from Judah who went to Babylon... for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.’”*

Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah before the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD... “Amen! May the LORD do so! May the LORD fulfill the words you have prophesied... From early times the prophets who preceded you and me have prophesied war, disaster and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the LORD only if his prediction comes true.” Then the prophet

Hananiah took the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah and broke it, and he said before all the people, “This is what the LORD says: ‘In the same way I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon off the neck of all the nations within two years.’” At this, the prophet Jeremiah went on his way. (28:1-11)

- *After the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: “Go and tell Hananiah, ‘...You have broken a wooden yoke, but in its place you will get a yoke of iron... I will put an iron yoke on the necks of all these nations to make them serve Nebuchadnezzar... and they will serve him... Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, “...The LORD has not sent you, yet you have persuaded this nation to trust in lies. Therefore, this is what the LORD says: ‘I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you are going to die, because you have preached rebellion against the LORD.’” In the seventh month of that same year, Hananiah the prophet died. (28:12-17)*
- *Prophecies of the Restoration (chaps. 29–33)*
 - *This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon... “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters... Increase in number there... Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city... Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper... Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you... They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD... “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you... and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you... and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile... Therefore, hear the word of the LORD, all you exiles whom I have sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon...” This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says about Ahab son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, who are prophesying lies to you in my name: “I will deliver them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he will put them to death before your very eyes. Because of them, all the exiles from Judah who are in Babylon will use this curse: ‘May the LORD treat you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon burned in the fire.’ For they have done outrageous things*

in Israel; they have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and in my name they have uttered lies—which I did not authorize. I know it and am a witness to it," declares the LORD. (29:1-23)

- *This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: 'The LORD bless you, you prosperous city, you sacred mountain.' People will live together in Judah and all its towns—farmers and those who move about with their flocks. I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint... The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah... The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah... I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (31:23-24)*
- The fall of Jerusalem (32-45)

**To help make sense of this section it has been placed in chronological order.*

- *In the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now. Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster, I plan to inflict on them, they will each turn from their wicked ways; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin." So, Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the LORD had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll. (36:1-4)*
- *Baruch... read to all the people at the LORD's temple the words of Jeremiah from the scroll. When Micaiah... heard all the words of the LORD from the scroll, he went down to the secretary's room in the royal palace, where all the officials were sitting... [and] told them everything he had heard Baruch read to the people from the scroll... the officials sent Jehudi... to say to Baruch, "Bring the scroll from which you have read to the people and come." So, Baruch... went to them... When they heard all these words, they looked at each other in fear and said to Baruch, "We must report all these words to the king." ...You and Jeremiah, go and hide. Don't let anyone know where you are." After they put the scroll in the room of Elishama the secretary, they went to the king in the courtyard and reported everything to him. The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and Jehudi... read it to the king...*

[who] was sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning... Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire. The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes. Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them. Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel... Seraiah... Shelemiah... arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the LORD had hidden them. (36:8-26)

- *After the king burned the scroll... the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: "Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll... Also tell Jehoiakim... 'This is what the LORD says: You burned that scroll and said, "Why did you write on it that the king of Babylon would certainly come and destroy this land... Therefore... this is what the LORD says about Jehoiakim... He will have no one to sit on the throne of David; his body will be thrown out and exposed... I will punish him and his children and his attendants for their wickedness... because they have not listened.'" So Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch... and as Jeremiah dictated, Baruch wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim... had burned in the fire. And many similar words were added to them. (36:27-32)*
- *Zedekiah son of Josiah was made king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; he reigned in place of Jehoiachin... Neither he nor his attendants nor the people of the land paid any attention to the words the LORD had spoken through Jeremiah the prophet. King Zedekiah, however, sent Jehukal... with the priest Zephaniah... to Jeremiah... with this message: "Please pray to the LORD our God for us." ...Pharaoh's army had marched out of Egypt, and when the Babylonians who were besieging Jerusalem heard the report about them, they withdrew from Jerusalem. Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet: "Pharaoh's army, which has marched out to support you, will go back to its own land... Then the Babylonians will return and attack this city; they will capture it and burn it down..." (37:1-10)*
- *After the Babylonian army had withdrawn from Jerusalem because of Pharaoh's army, Jeremiah started to leave the city to go to the territory of Benjamin to get his share of the property among the people there. But when he reached the Benjamin Gate, the captain of the guard... arrested him and said, "You are deserting to the Babylonians!" ...[he] brought him to the officials. They were angry with Jeremiah and had him beaten and imprisoned in the house of Jonathan the secretary... Jeremiah was put into a vaulted cell in a dungeon, where he remained a long time. Then King Zedekiah sent for him and had him brought to the palace, where he asked him privately, "Is there any word from the*

LORD?” “Yes,” Jeremiah replied, “you will be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon.” Then Jeremiah said to King Zedekiah, “What crime have I committed against you... that you have put me in prison? ...Do not send me back to the house of Jonathan... or I will die there.” King Zedekiah then gave orders for Jeremiah to be placed in the courtyard of the guard and given a loaf of bread from the street of the bakers each day... So, Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard. (37:11-21)

- Then the officials said to the king, “This man should be put to death. He is discouraging the soldiers who are left in this city, as well as all the people, by the things he is saying to them...” “He is in your hands,” King Zedekiah answered... So, they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern of Malkijah, the king’s son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud. But Ebed-Melek, a Cushite, an official in the royal palace, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern. While the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate, Ebed-Melek... said to him, “...these men have acted wickedly in all they have done to Jeremiah... They have thrown him into a cistern, where he will starve to death when there is no longer any bread in the city.” Then the king commanded Ebed-Melek... “Take thirty men from here with you and lift Jeremiah... out of the cistern before he dies.” So Ebed-Melek took the men with him and... they pulled him up with the ropes and lifted him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard. (38:6-13)
- ...in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah... The army of... Babylon was... besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah... was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace of Judah... Zedekiah... had imprisoned him there, saying, “Why do you prophesy as you do? You say, ‘This is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it. Zedekiah king of Judah will not escape the Babylonians but will certainly be given into the hands of the king of Babylon... He will take Zedekiah to Babylon, where he will remain until I deal with him... If you fight against the Babylonians, you will not succeed.’” (32:1-5)
- Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: “...I am about to give this city into the hands of the Babylonians... The Babylonians who are attacking this city will come in and set it on fire; they will burn it down... The people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight... but this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. They will be my people, and I will be their God... I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them... I will re-

store their fortunes, declares the LORD.” (32:26-44)

- *“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.” (33:14-16)*
- *In the ninth year of Zedekiah... Nebuchadnezzar... marched against Jerusalem with his whole army... on the ninth day of the fourth month of Zedekiah’s eleventh year, the city wall was broken through. Then all the officials of the king of Babylon came and took seats in the Middle Gate... Zedekiah... and all the soldiers... fled... But the Babylonian army pursued them and overtook Zedekiah... They captured him and took him to Nebuchadnezzar... the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes and also killed all the nobles of Judah. Then he put out Zedekiah’s eyes and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon. The Babylonians set fire to the royal palace and the houses of the people and broke down the walls of Jerusalem... [they] carried into exile to Babylon the people who remained in the city... [but] left behind... some of the poor people, who owned nothing... Nebuchadnezzar... had given these orders about Jeremiah... “Take him and look after him; don’t harm him but do for him whatever he asks.” ...They turned him over to Gedaliah (appointed Governor by Nebuchadnezzar, cc. 40:7)... to take him back to his home. So, [Jeremiah] remained among his own people. (39:1-14)*
- *...Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard, who served the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. He set fire to the temple of the LORD, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every important building he burned down. The whole Babylonian army... broke down all the walls around Jerusalem... The Babylonians broke up the bronze pillars, the movable stands and the bronze Sea... and they carried all the bronze to Babylon. They also took away the pots, shovels, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and all the bronze articles used in the temple service... the basins, censers, sprinkling bowls, pots, lampstands, dishes and bowls used for drink offerings—all that were made of pure gold or silver... So, Judah went into captivity, away from her land. (52:12-27)*
**about 5,000 people were taken to Babylon (52:28-30)*
- *When all the army officers and their men who were still in the open country heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah... over the land and had put him in charge of the men, women and children... who had not been carried into exile... they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah—Ishmael... Johanan and Jonathan... Se-*

raiah... and Jaazaniah... and their men. Gedaliah... took an oath to reassure them... "Do not be afraid to serve the Babylonians," he said. "Settle down in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well with you. I... will stay at Mizpah to represent you before the Babylonians who come to us... When all the Jews in Moab, Ammon, Edom and all the other countries heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant in Judah and had appointed Gedaliah... as governor over them, they all came back to the land of Judah... And they harvested an abundance of wine and summer fruit. Johanan... came to Gedaliah at Mizpah and said to him, "Don't you know that Baalis king of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael... to take your life?" But Gedaliah... did not believe them... In the seventh month Ishmael... came with ten men to Gedaliah... While they were eating together... Ishmael... and the ten men who were with him got up and struck down Gedaliah... killing the one whom the king of Babylon had appointed as governor over the land. Ishmael also killed all the men of Judah who were with Gedaliah... as well as the Babylonian soldiers who were there. The day after Gedaliah's assassination, before anyone knew about it, eighty men who had shaved off their beards, torn their clothes and cut themselves came from Shechem, Shiloh and Samaria, bringing grain offerings and incense with them to the house of the LORD. Ishmael... son of Nethaniah went out from Mizpah to meet them, weeping as he went. When he met them, he said, "Come to Gedaliah... When they went into the city, Ishmael... and the men who were with him slaughtered them and threw them into a cistern... Ishmael made captives of all the rest of the people who were in Mizpah... (40:7-41:10)

- Then Johanan... and all the army officers who were with him led away all the people... who had survived... they went on, stopping... near Bethlehem on their way to Egypt to escape the Babylonians. ...Then all the army officers, including Johanan... approached Jeremiah... and said to him, "Please hear our petition and pray to the LORD your God for this ...remnant... Pray that the LORD your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do." "I have heard you," replied Jeremiah the prophet. "I will certainly pray to the LORD your God as you have requested..." Ten days later the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah. So, he called together... all the army officers... "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel... says: 'If you stay in this land, I will build you up and not tear you down... Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon... for I am with you and will save you... he will have compassion on you and restore you to your land. However, if you... disobey the LORD your God, and if you say, 'No, we will go and live in Egypt... then the sword you fear will overtake you there...' Remnant of Judah, the LORD has told you, 'Do not go to Egypt....'" (41:16-42:22)

- *Azariah... and Johanan... and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, “You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you...” So Johanan... and all the people disobeyed the LORD’s command to stay in the land of Judah... And they took Jeremiah... Baruch... with them... they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD... (43:2-7)*
- *This word came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews living in... Egypt: “...You saw the great disaster I brought on Jerusalem... They aroused my anger by burning incense to and worshiping other gods that neither they nor you nor your ancestors ever knew... Why arouse my anger with what your hands have made, burning incense to other gods in Egypt, where you have come to live? You will destroy yourselves... I will take away the remnant of Judah who were determined to go to Egypt... From the least to the greatest, they will die by sword or famine...” Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, along with all the women who were present... and all the people living in ...Egypt, said to Jeremiah, “We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD! We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her...” Then Jeremiah said to all the people... “...You and your wives have done what you said you would do... ‘I will punish you in this place,’ declares the LORD... ‘I am going to deliver Pharaoh... into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar... king of Babylon, the enemy who wanted to kill him.’” (44)*
- Prophecies concerning the Nations (chaps. 46–51)
 - Prophecy against Egypt (chap. 46)
 - Prophecy against Philistia (chap. 47)
 - Prophecy against Moab (chap. 48)
 - Prophecy against Ammon (49:1–6)
 - Prophecy against Edom (49:7–22)
 - Prophecy against Damascus (49:23–27)
 - Prophecy against Kedar and Hazor (49:28–33)
 - Prophecy against Elam (49:34–39)
 - Prophecy against Babylon (chaps. 50–51)
 - The fate of Jerusalem (52:1–23)
 - The fall of Zedekiah (52:1–11)
 - The destruction of the city (52:12–16)
 - The destruction of the temple (52:17–23)
 - The fate of certain people (52:24–34)
 - The fate of those in the city during its fall (52:24–27)
 - The fate of the exiles (52:28–30)
 - The fate of Jehoiachin (52:31–34)

LAMENTATIONS

- This book, written by Jeremiah, looks back at the fall of Jerusalem.
- It is a book of mourning.

OUTLINE

- First Dirge: Jerusalem's Desolation (1)
 - *How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! ...Judah has gone into exile. She dwells among the nations... The LORD has brought her grief because of her many sins... When her people fell into enemy hands, there was no one to help her... Jerusalem has sinned greatly and so has become unclean... The enemy laid hands on all her treasures; she saw pagan nations enter her sanctuary... All her people groan as they search for bread; they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive... (1:1–11)*
 - *This is why I weep and my eyes overflow with tears. No one is near to comfort me, no one to restore my spirit... The LORD is righteous, yet I rebelled against his command... See, LORD, how distressed I am! I am in torment within, and in my heart, I am disturbed, for I have been most rebellious... May you bring the day you have announced so they may become like me... (1:12–22)*
- Second Dirge: God's Punishment (2)
 - *How the Lord has covered... Zion with the cloud of his anger! ... He has withdrawn his right hand at the approach of the enemy... Like an enemy he has strung his bow; his right hand is ready... Her king and her princes are exiled among the nations, the law is no more, and her prophets no longer find visions from the LORD... (2:1–10)*
 - *My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed... All who pass your way clap their hands at you; they scoff and shake their heads... The LORD has done what he planned; he has fulfilled his word... (2:11–19)*
- Third Dirge: Jeremiah's Response (3)
 - *I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the LORD's wrath. He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light... He has made... my flesh grow old and has broken my bones... He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead. He has walled me in so I cannot escape... Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer... Like a bear lying in wait, like a lion in hiding, he dragged me from the path and mangled me... He has broken my teeth with gravel; he has trampled me in the dust... I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me... (3:1–18)*
 - *Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions*

never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD... For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love... Let us examine our ways and test them and let us return to the LORD. (3:19–40)

- *Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven and say: "We have sinned and rebelled and you have not forgiven... You have made us scum and refuse among the nations... Streams of tears flow from my eyes because my people are destroyed. My eyes will flow unceasingly, without relief, until the LORD looks down from heaven and sees. What I see brings grief to my soul... I called on your name, LORD, from the depths of the pit. You heard my plea... You, Lord, took up my case; you redeemed my life. LORD, you have seen the wrong done to me... (3:41–66)*
- **Fourth Dirge: God's Anger (4)**
 - *The kings of the earth did not believe, nor did any of the peoples of the world... Now they grope through the streets as if they were blind... The LORD himself has scattered them; he no longer watches over them. The priests are shown no honor, the elders no favor... (4:12–20)*
 - *Your punishment will end, Daughter Zion; he will not prolong your exile. But he will punish your sin, Daughter Edom, and expose your wickedness. (4:21–22)*
- **Fifth Dirge: The Remnant's Response (5)**
 - *Remember, LORD, what has happened to us; look, and see our disgrace. Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners... we are weary and find no rest. We submitted to Egypt and Assyria... Joy is gone from our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning... Woe to us, for we have sinned! (5:1–18)*
 - *You, LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation... Restore us to yourself, LORD, that we may return... (5:19–22)*

Next week: Ezekiel