



Jeremiah: Much More Than a Prophet

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How would you react if your friends, family, and rulers rejected you? What would you do if you were restricted to marry? More considerably, what would you do if a whole nation were against you?

The prophet Jeremiah stands alone in his duty from God to warn and judge the people of Judah for their idolatry and disobedience. It is through Jeremiah's faith, compassion, and hope in the Lord God that ranks him as one of the most admirable people in the Bible.

In a land of wickedness that "played the harlot with many lovers" (Jer. 3.1), which refers to Israel's worship of many other Gods, Jeremiah preaches about God's anger and punishment after saving them from the Egyptians. Jeremiah is probably most notable for his obedience and faith to God. Regardless of the many curses and threats the people of Judah plague him with, Jeremiah stands firm towards his God. In spite of being hated by all, Jeremiah still preaches for about forty years about God's justice. One of the simple acts of dedication to God occurs when the Lord instructs Jeremiah to buy and wear a belt. Then, he is supposed to bury it, and then unbury the ruined belt. To most, it may seem futile to do such a thing, but God uses Jeremiah as a vehicle to reveal His feelings on the Israelites. The mystery of the belt

refers to God and His people, where God is a person and Israel is symbolized as the belt. God chooses Israel as His belt, but when they refuse to cling to Him, God has no need of the belt anymore, because it's essence transforms.



Coupled with his faithfulness to God, Jeremiah also has compassion on Israel. In the midst of his ministry, Jeremiah is thrown in a well, beaten, cast into a dungeon, almost dies of starvation, sent to prison, and forced to go to Egypt, all because of his proclamation and loyalty to the truth, God. However, despite all this, Jeremiah

still mourns for his people! Early in his ministry he expresses, "Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people" (Jer. 9:1)! Known as the "weeping prophet," Jeremiah sympathizes with Israel's inevitable fate of God's punishment: death by the sword, famine, and pestilence, if their evil continues.

Along with his other commendable characteristics, Jeremiah's hope in God's grace and justice is also important to comment on. Despite Israel's infidelity to God, Jeremiah feels that they still prosper. Even though he was obeying God's word, the wicked people would not be punished. Due to this injustice and the



threats Jeremiah encounters, he loses some hope early in his ministry. Jeremiah questions God, “Will You surely be to me like an unreliable stream, as waters *that* fail” (Jer. 15:18)? Even though Jeremiah is God’s prophet at the time, he becomes dejected because he feels God has forsaken him. Nevertheless, God encourages his servant and reassures, “And they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you; for *I am* with you to save you” (Jer 15:20). This mode of confidence heartens Jeremiah. Although Jeremiah has doubts in the Lord in the beginning, it is through this hardship that gives Jeremiah hope and courage to proclaim God’s glory to the Israelites and even the king of Israel.

Not only did Jeremiah speak of the destruction of Israel, but also of the New Covenant which the Lord Jesus Christ would inaugurate. Because the Israelites’ continually broke the law and the old covenant numerous times, God desired to extend his mercy upon humanity and institute hope and salvation. Jeremiah, the only prophet in the Old Testament that introduces the New Covenant, recounts God’s promise: “I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people...For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (Jer. 31:33,34). God illustrates His new relationship toward His people that is fulfilled through the Lord Jesus’ words about His death on the Cross, “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26:28).

Jeremiah enlightens us with the determination to perform God’s will regardless of how great the circumstances are. His willpower and fortitude from God parallels St Paul’s words, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13). May Jeremiah’s exemplary servitude of faith, compassion, hope, and determination, exist in our lives always.



“Elijah the Prophet”

Elijah or El isha?

1. Poisonous pottage made edible
2. River Jordan divided
3. Sack of corn and 20 loaves fed 100 men
4. Life of a child restored
5. Caused fire to fall and consume an altar with its sacrifice, and evaporate water in a ditch
6. A man’s leprosy healed
7. Oil supply multiplied
8. The waters of Jericho purified with salt
9. Caused an axe head to “swim in water”
10. Called down fire that destroyed army captains and their men