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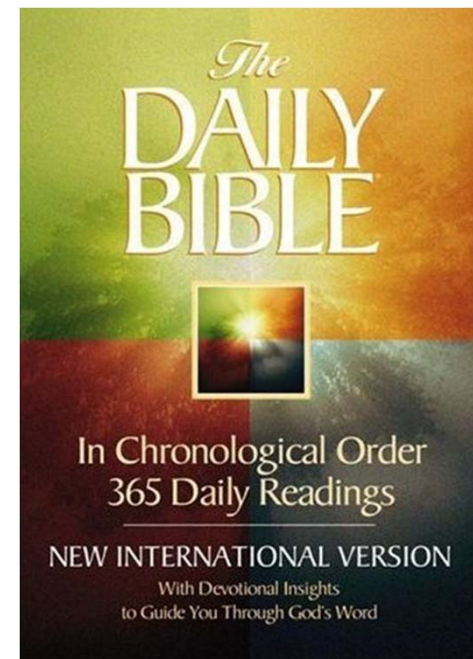
one year one bible one church one lord

Jeremiah Takes his Stand Lesson 31

August 1, 2010

This Week

- ▶ We'll cover readings for July 25-31
- ▶ Jeremiah 1-15
 - ▶ Jeremiah's Calling
 - ▶ Judah's Unfaithfulness
 - ▶ Coming of Judgment
 - ▶ Time for Repentance is Past



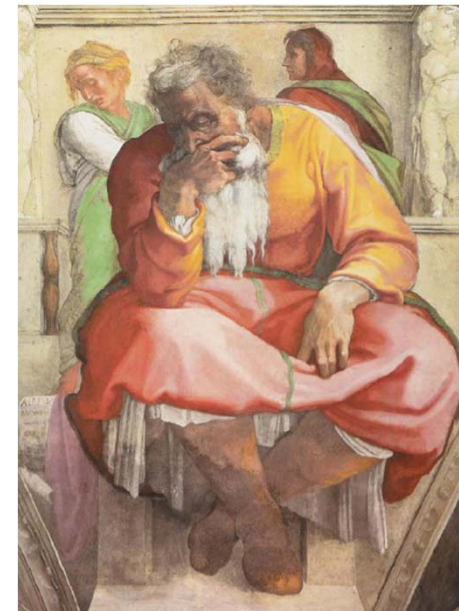
Opening Thoughts ...

- ▶ What ran through your mind as you read the writings of Jeremiah this week?
- ▶ What characteristics of Jeremiah did you notice?
 - ▶ What sort of man was he?
- ▶ What was his message?
 - ▶ How does it compare with other prophets to date?
- ▶ What about Jeremiah the prophet?
 - ▶ What is his role in the story, not just as mouthpiece but as a person?
 - ▶ What is Jeremiah feeling?
 - ▶ How can you identify with him, or what keeps you from identifying with him?



Jeremiah's Background

- ▶ His name means “Yahweh exalts”
- ▶ Born into a priestly family
 - ▶ the son of Hilkiah, a priest
 - ▶ From Anathoth, a village 2-3 miles north of Jerusalem
- ▶ Called to prophesy in 626 BC, during the reign of Josiah
 - ▶ Continued until destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC



Timeline of Jeremiah's Life



Jeremiah's Call

▶ Jeremiah 1:4-8

- ▶ ⁴The word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵“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.”
- ▶ ⁶“Ah, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.”
- ▶ ⁷But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.



For Discussion

- ▶ Has God ever called you to a mission or some particular work?
 - ▶ How did you know?
 - ▶ How did you respond?
- ▶ Were you gung ho about the calling, or were you hesitant to ?
- ▶ God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called



A Lustful Nation

- ▶ Jeremiah 5:7-9

- ▶ ⁷“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. ⁸They are well-fed, lusty stallions, each neighing for another man’s wife. ⁹Should I not punish them for this?” declares the LORD. “Should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this?”

- ▶ How do the actions of Judah compare with prostitution or adultery?



False Religion

▶ Jeremiah 7:1-6a

- ▶ ¹This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
²“Stand at the gate of the LORD’S house and there proclaim this message:““Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. ³This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. ⁴Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!” ⁵If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, ⁶if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place,



False Religion (cont)

▶ Jeremiah 7:6b-11

- ▶ and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, ⁷then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers for ever and ever. ⁸But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. ⁹“Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, ¹⁰and 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? ¹¹Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD.

- ▶ What is the message for us in this passage?



A Warning to the Scribes

- ▶ Jeremiah 8:8-9

- ▶ ⁸“How can you say, “We are wise, for we have the law of the LORD,” when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely? ⁹The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the LORD, what kind of wisdom do they have?

- ▶ What is the message in this for us today?



Jeremiah's Plea

▶ Jeremiah 14:19-22

- ▶ ¹⁹Have you rejected Judah completely? Do you despise Zion? Why have you afflicted us so that we cannot be healed? We hoped for peace but no good has come, for a time of healing but there is only terror. ²⁰O LORD, we acknowledge our wickedness and the guilt of our fathers; we have indeed sinned against you. ²¹For the sake of your name do not despise us; do not dishonor your glorious throne. Remember your covenant with us and do not break it. ²²Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is you, O LORD our God. Therefore our hope is in you, for you are the one who does all this.



God's Answer

▶ Jeremiah 15:1-4

- ▶ ¹Then 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!
²And if they ask you, ‘Where shall we go?’ tell them, ‘This is what the LORD says: “Those destined for death, to death; those for the sword, to the sword; those for starvation, to starvation; those for captivity, to captivity.’ ³“I will send four kinds of destroyers against them,” declares the LORD, “the sword to kill and the dogs to drag away and the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy. ⁴I will make them abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh son of Hezekiah king of Judah did in Jerusalem.



For Discussion

- ▶ Why is God so determined to fulfill his plan of destruction and discipline?
- ▶ What is at stake for God and his people?
- ▶ Does it seem like God is being stubborn?



False Prophets

▶ Jeremiah 14:11-14

- ▶ ¹¹Then the LORD said to me, “Do not pray for the well-being of this people. ¹²Although 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.” ¹³But I said, “Ah, Sovereign LORD, the prophets keep telling them, ‘You will not see the sword or suffer famine. Indeed, I will give you lasting peace in this place.’” ¹⁴Then 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. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds.”



The Litmus Test

▶ Deuteronomy 18:14-18

- ▶ ¹⁴The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. ¹⁶For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.” ¹⁷The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.



Litmus Test (cont.)

▶ Deuteronomy 18:19-22

- ▶ ¹⁹If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. ²⁰But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.” ²¹You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?” **²²If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken.** That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.



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- ▶ Jeremiah rebukes Judah for putting their trust in a lot of other things besides the Lord. What sorts of things does Judah depend on? What sorts of things do we depend on?
 - ▶ It's easy to shake our heads at Judah's unfaithfulness, but in reality, is our society any better? Are we ourselves any better?
 - ▶ What does Jeremiah express about the heart of God in these passages? What does it seem like God is *feeling*? Which of those feelings have you ever shared with God?
 - ▶ What is the cry of the righteous in these passages? Is their plea answered?



Your Turn ...

- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



Next Week

- ▶ Readings for <Next Date Range Here>
 - ▶ <Brief Summary>

Questions?

