

**It's Personal**  
**Overview of Jeremiah**  
**Series: The Weeping Prophet**  
**The Village Church at Shell Point**  
**Evening Service**  
**January 23, 2022**

I. Lamentations

- A. **Lamentations 1:11–13** (ESV) — 11 ... “Look, O LORD, and see, for I am despised.” 12 “Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the LORD inflicted on the day of his fierce anger. 13 “From on high he sent fire; into my bones he made it descend; he spread a net for my feet; he turned me back; he has left me stunned, faint all the day long.
- B. **Lamentations 1:14** (ESV) — 14 “My transgressions were bound into a yoke; by his hand they were fastened together; they were set upon my neck; he caused my strength to fail; the Lord gave me into the hands of those whom I cannot withstand.
- C. **Lamentations 1:16** (ESV) — 16 “For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my spirit; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.”
- D. **Lamentations 2:11** (ESV) — 11 My eyes are spent with weeping; my stomach churns; my bile is poured out to the ground because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, because infants and babies faint in the streets of the city.

II. **Jeremiah's context**

- A. Lived during Josiah
  - 1. Last of the great reformations
- B. Also during the systematic collapse of Judah
  - 1. Staged exile
  - 2. 609 BC – Josiah was killed in battle with the Egyptians
  - 3. 605 – Egyptians defeated by the Babylonians at Carchemish
    - a. Jehoiakim began paying tribute to Nebuchadnezzar
    - b. Some young nobility taken to Babylon (including Daniel)
  - 4. 601 – Nebuchadnezzar defeated in battle by Egypt
    - a. Judah took that occasion to rebel against Babylon
    - b. Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem
    - c. Jehoiakim was captured and killed in 598
    - d. Son Jehoiachin (18) succeeded for 3 months; captured, taken to Babylon
    - e. Others of the best and brightest were taken as well
    - f. Jehoiakim's uncle Zedekiah became puppet ruler
  - 5. Zedekiah eventually allied with Egypt, rebelled
    - a. Jerusalem again besieged
    - b. Fell in 587/86
    - c. Temple, walls destroyed

- d. Many others exiled
- 6. Jeremiah witnessed all of this
  - a. From one of the greatest periods of reform
  - b. To the most colossal collapse
- C. Took all of this personally
  - 1. You and I might be able to dissociate ourselves from political events of our times
    - a. Though it's increasingly difficult to do so
  - 2. Jeremiah could not
    - a. He took it all personally
  - 3. Let's see in what ways Jeremiah was personally affected
    - a. Serves as an overview of the book

### III. Call was personal

- A. **Jeremiah 1:4–10** (ESV) —
  - 1. 4 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
  - 2. 6 Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.”
  - 3. 7 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.
  - 4. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.”
  - 5. 9 Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.
  - 6. 10 See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”
- B. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...”
  - 1. **Know = yada**
    - a. Relational kind of knowing
    - b. Hebrew idiom for sexual relations – “Adam knew his wife and she conceived...”
    - c. God had a personal relationship with Jeremiah even before he was born
  - 2. Jeremiah's objection
    - a. “I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth”
    - b. God said, “Be quiet Jeremiah. Shut up! You will go to whomever I send you. And you'll say whatever I want you to say”
    - c. “I've not chosen anybody else to do this; I've chosen you!”
  - 3. Touched mouth – most personal of gestures
    - a. “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth”
- C. Jeremiah's call was personal
  - 1. Is your call personal?

### IV. **Personally invested in his prophecy**

A. **Jeremiah 32:6–15** (ESV) —

1. 6 Jeremiah said, “The word of the LORD came to me: 7 Behold, Hanamel the son of Shallum your uncle will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’
2. 8 Then Hanamel my cousin came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.’ Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.
3. 9 “And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver.
4. 10 I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales.
5. 11 Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions and the open copy.
6. 12 And I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard.
7. 13 I charged Baruch in their presence, saying, 14 ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time.
8. 15 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.’

B. Jeremiah was personally invested in the exile – and in its aftermath

1. He engages in what could be described as the worst real estate transaction in history
  - a. Like buying swamp land in Arizona
  - b. Doesn’t make any sense
2. Except in the long run – the really long run
  - a. The exile will eventually end
  - b. And Jeremiah’s family will own land
  - c. The family’s land in the Promised Land

C. Are you personally invested in your ministry?

V. **Jeremiah’s actions misunderstood**

A. **Jeremiah 37:11–21** (ESV) —

1. 11 Now when the Chaldean army had withdrawn from Jerusalem at the approach of Pharaoh’s army, 12 Jeremiah set out from Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin to receive his portion there among the people.
2. 13 When he was at the Benjamin Gate, a sentry there named Irijah the son of Shelemiah, son of Hananiah, seized Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “You are deserting to the Chaldeans.”

3. 14 And Jeremiah said, “It is a lie; I am not deserting to the Chaldeans.” But Irijah would not listen to him, and seized Jeremiah and brought him to the officials.
4. 15 And the officials were enraged at Jeremiah, and they beat him and imprisoned him in the house of Jonathan the secretary, for it had been made a prison.
5. 16 When Jeremiah had come to the dungeon cells and remained there many days, 17 King Zedekiah sent for him and received him. The king questioned him secretly in his house and said, “Is there any word from the LORD?” Jeremiah said, “There is.” Then he said, “You shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon.”
6. 18 Jeremiah also said to King Zedekiah, “What wrong have I done to you or your servants or this people, that you have put me in prison?”
7. 19 Where are your prophets who prophesied to you, saying, ‘The king of Babylon will not come against you and against this land’?
8. 20 Now hear, please, O my lord the king: let my humble plea come before you and do not send me back to the house of Jonathan the secretary, lest I die there.”
9. 21 So King Zedekiah gave orders, and they committed Jeremiah to the court of the guard. And a loaf of bread was given him daily from the bakers’ street, until all the bread of the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

- B. Jeremiah, going about his business, was arrested
  1. Put in the slammer
  2. Eventually, only by appealing to the king, was he consigned to house arrest in the courthouse of the guard
  3. All without warrant
- C. Jeremiah was misunderstood
  1. Will you fulfill your ministry if you are misunderstood?

VI. **Jeremiah was betrayed by his own family**

- A. Jeremiah 12:5–6 (ESV) —
  1. 5 “If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe land you are so trusting, what will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?”
  2. 6 For even your brothers and the house of your father, even they have dealt treacherously with you; they are in full cry after you; do not believe them, though they speak friendly words to you.”
- B. Even when we find ourselves in a difficult ministry, in a misunderstood ministry
  1. Most of us can call on a few friends and relatives who will support us
  2. Not Jeremiah
    - a. He had no one to support him
    - b. Even his own family was filled with backstabbing traitors
- C. Will you continue in ministry if your own flesh and blood turn against you?

VII. **Jeremiah contra mundum (against the world)**

- A. Contra mundum (against the world) – used in theological history describing Athanasius
  - 1. Bishop of Alexandria – dealing with the Arian heresy
    - a. Chief voice affirming the deity of the Son
    - b. Defended the Nicean Creed
    - c. Found himself being opposed by the religious hierarchy
    - d. Opposed by the Emperor
    - e. Exiled from Alexandria 5 times
    - f. Would not compromise that essential doctrine
  - 2. Athanasius contra mundum
- B. **Jeremiah 1:17–19** (ESV) —
  - 1. 17 But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them.
  - 2. 18 And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land.
  - 3. 19 They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you.”
  - 4. God puts him between rock and hard place
    - a. The whole land is against him
    - b. The kings
    - c. The officials
    - d. The priests
    - e. Even the people!
- C. **Jeremiah 18:18** (ESV) —
  - 1. 18 Then they said, “Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah, for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us strike him with the tongue, and let us not pay attention to any of his words.”
  - 2. Plot by men of Judah against Jeremiah
- D. **Jeremiah 20:1–2** (ESV) —
  - 1. 1 Now Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things.
  - 2. 2 Then Pashhur beat Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the LORD.
  - 3. Being against the world was no rhetorical contest
    - a. He was beaten
    - b. Put in the stocks
    - c. In the public square for all to see his humiliation
- E. **Jeremiah 26:7–9** (ESV) —
  - 1. 7 The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD.

2. 8 And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die!
3. 9 Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.
4. The mob – alive and well – couldn’t stand it when Jeremiah spoke the truth of God to them

F. **Jeremiah 28:1–11** (ESV) —

1. 1 In that same year, at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, Hananiah the son of Azzur, the prophet from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying, 2 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.
2. 3 Within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD’s house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon.
3. 4 I will also bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, declares the LORD, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.”
4. 5 Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, 6 and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles.
5. 7 Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people.
6. 8 The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms.
7. 9 As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”
8. 10 Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke-bars from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and broke them.
9. 11 And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, “Thus says the LORD: Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years.” But Jeremiah the prophet went his way.
10. The false prophet is against Jeremiah

G. **Jeremiah 32:1–5** (ESV) —

1. 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.

2. 2 At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah.
3. 3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him, saying, “Why do you prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the LORD: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall capture it;
4. 4 Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face and see him eye to eye.
5. 5 And he shall take Zedekiah to Babylon, and there he shall remain until I visit him, declares the LORD. Though you fight against the Chaldeans, you shall not succeed’?”
6. The king is against Jeremiah

H. **Jeremiah 36:20–26** (ESV) —

1. 20 So they went into the court to the king, having put the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the secretary, and they reported all the words to the king.
2. 21 Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary. And Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king.
3. 22 It was the ninth month, and the king was sitting in the winter house, and there was a fire burning in the fire pot before him.
4. 23 As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a knife and throw them into the fire in the fire pot, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the fire pot.
5. 24 Yet neither the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words was afraid, nor did they tear their garments.
6. 25 Even when Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.
7. 26 And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king’s son and Seraiah the son of Azriel and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel to seize Baruch the secretary and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD hid them.
8. Jeremiah’s words – dictated to his scribe Baruch – burned in the fire
  - a. Not as if Jeremiah had it all saved on his hard drive
  - b. Or even backed up in the cloud

I. **Jeremiah 38:1–13** (ESV) —

1. 1 Now Shephatiah the son of Mattan, Gedaliah the son of Pashhur, Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur the son of Malchiah heard the words that Jeremiah was saying to all the people:
2. 2 “Thus says the LORD: He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out to the Chaldeans shall live. He shall have his life as a prize of war, and live.
3. 3 Thus says the LORD: This city shall surely be given into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon and be taken.”

4. 4 Then the officials said to the king, “Let this man be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.”
5. 5 King Zedekiah said, “Behold, he is in your hands, for the king can do nothing against you.”
6. 6 So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king’s son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.
7. 7 When Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a eunuch who was in the king’s house, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern—the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate— 8 Ebed-melech went from the king’s house and said to the king,
8. 9 “My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they did to Jeremiah the prophet by casting him into the cistern, and he will die there of hunger, for there is no bread left in the city.”
9. 10 Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, “Take thirty men with you from here, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.”
10. 11 So Ebed-melech took the men with him and went to the house of the king, to a wardrobe in the storehouse, and took from there old rags and worn-out clothes, which he let down to Jeremiah in the cistern by ropes.
11. 12 Then Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, “Put the rags and clothes between your armpits and the ropes.” Jeremiah did so.
12. 13 Then they drew Jeremiah up with ropes and lifted him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.
13. Zedekiah was a weak king; the officials were running the show
  - a. And they tried to get rid of him by throwing him in a cistern to die
14. Jeremiah contra mundum

J. Are you willing to go against everyone for the sake of your call?

VIII. **Distraught over devastation of Judah**

A. **Jeremiah 4:19–26 (ESV)** —

1. 19 My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! Oh the walls of my heart! My heart is beating wildly; I cannot keep silent, for I hear the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.
2. 20 Crash follows hard on crash; the whole land is laid waste. Suddenly my tents are laid waste, my curtains in a moment.
3. 21 How long must I see the standard and hear the sound of the trumpet?
4. 22 “For my people are foolish; they know me not; they are stupid children; they have no understanding. They are ‘wise’—in doing evil! But how to do good they know not.”
5. 23 I looked on the earth, and behold, it was without form and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.



6. 24 I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.
7. 25 I looked, and behold, there was no man, and all the birds of the air had fled.
8. 26 I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger.
9. He couldn't stand the thought that his city, his nation, was dissolving before his eyes

B. Are you distraught over the condition of the nation, church?

IX. **Jeremiah identifies with his people**

A. **Jeremiah 8:18–22** (ESV) —

1. 18 My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick within me.
2. 19 Behold, the cry of the daughter of my people from the length and breadth of the land: “Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?” “Why have they provoked me to anger with their carved images and with their foreign idols?”
3. 20 “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”
4. 21 For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded; I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me.
5. 22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?

B. **Jeremiah 10:19–20** (ESV) —

1. 19 Woe is me because of my hurt! My wound is grievous. But I said, “Truly this is an affliction, and I must bear it.”
2. 20 My tent is destroyed, and all my cords are broken; my children have gone from me, and they are not; there is no one to spread my tent again and to set up my curtains.

C. Jeremiah identifies with the people who are about to be destroyed, about to be carried into exile

1. Do you identify with the people to whom you minister?

X. **Jeremiah's pain was personal**

A. **Jeremiah 15:10–18** (ESV) —

1. 10 Woe is me, my mother, that you bore me, a man of strife and contention to the whole land! I have not lent, nor have I borrowed, yet all of them curse me.
2. 11 The LORD said, “Have I not set you free for their good? Have I not pleaded for you before the enemy in the time of trouble and in the time of distress?”
3. 12 Can one break iron, iron from the north, and bronze?
4. 13 “Your wealth and your treasures I will give as spoil, without price, for all your sins, throughout all your territory.
5. 14 I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know, for in my anger a fire is kindled that shall burn forever.”

6. 15 O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach.
  7. 16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.
  8. 17 I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation.
  9. 18 Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail?
  10. Ministry can be painful
- B. Will you continue even when your ministry hurts?

XI. **Jeremiah wrestles with the Lord**

A. **Jeremiah 12:1–4** (ESV) —

1. 1 Righteous are you, O LORD, when I complain to you; yet I would plead my case before you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive?
2. 2 You plant them, and they take root; they grow and produce fruit; you are near in their mouth and far from their heart.
3. 3 But you, O LORD, know me; you see me, and test my heart toward you. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and set them apart for the day of slaughter.
4. 4 How long will the land mourn and the grass of every field wither? For the evil of those who dwell in it the beasts and the birds are swept away, because they said, “He will not see our latter end.”

B. **Jeremiah 14:19–22** (ESV) —

1. 19 Have you utterly rejected Judah? Does your soul loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but no good came; for a time of healing, but behold, terror.
2. 20 We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against you.
3. 21 Do not spurn us, for your name’s sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us.
4. 22 Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things.

C. **Jeremiah 20:7–18** (ESV) —

1. 7 O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.
2. 8 For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

3. 9 If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.
4. 10 For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my close friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him."
5. 11 But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.
6. 12 O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.
7. 13 Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.
8. 14 Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed!
9. 15 Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, "A son is born to you," making him very glad.
10. 16 Let that man be like the cities that the LORD overthrew without pity; let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon, 17 because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great.
11. 18 Why did I come out from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?
12. Have you ever had a frank conversation like that with God?
  - a. Have you ever wrestled with God like that?

- D. Are you willing to wrestle with the Lord?
- XII. It's personal
- A. His call was personal
  - B. His investment was personal
  - C. His personal actions were misunderstood
  - D. His family betrayed him
  - E. The whole world was against him
  - F. No one understood his distress over the collapse of the land
  - G. He identified with the people who sinned; who were about to be judged
  - H. His pain was personal
  - I. And he wrestled with God about all of it