

Character Study: Jeremiah

Part 1 – The Call

Jeremiah 1:1-19

What's happening?

- Jeremiah was born to a priest named Hilkiah, and grew up just north of Jerusalem in the small city of Anathoth. (1:1; note *1 Kings 2:26*)
- Jeremiah was born during the reign of King Josiah in the Southern Kingdom (Judah). Jeremiah's life would span the reign of five kings in Judah, but sadly, of those kings, Josiah was the only one who feared the Lord. The Northern Kingdom (Israel) had been taken captive to Assyria because of their rebellion against God, and the Southern Kingdom was heading down the same path. (1:2-3)
- God spoke to Jeremiah and revealed several things to him (1:5):
 - He knew Jeremiah before he was even conceived.
 - Before his birth, God had already set him apart for a special work.
 - God had appointed Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations.
- Jeremiah was hesitant and fearful, stating he lacked the necessary abilities and experience because he was so young. (1:6)
- God responded by assuring Jeremiah that He would empower him (1:7, 9), protect him (1:8), remain with him (1:8, 19), and accomplish His purpose through him (1:12), even though his task would not be easy (1:10, 14-18).

What's God doing?

> God's special plans and purposes for Jeremiah were in motion even before his birth. God is now showing Jeremiah that he can trust Him with the plans He desires to accomplish with his life.

What's to learn?

→ This passage should make us all think about God's sovereignty in relation to His plans for our lives. What special plans has God ordained for you? (Note *Phil. 1:6; Col. 1:9*)

→ Like Jeremiah, we may have good excuses on why we feel inadequate for the things God asks us to do, but God's sovereign plans far outweigh any of our excuses. God simply desires our obedience and faithfulness. His power more than compensates for our weaknesses (*II Cor. 12:9*).