

Bible Studies Notes and Questions on the Book of Jeremiah

Introduction: Jeremiah was called to be a prophet to the nations (1:10) when he was a young man in his early twenties. He heard the word of the Lord in the thirteenth year of Josiah, king of Judah (southern kingdom of Israel) in about **627 BC** and he became a prophet to Judah until **586 BC** when it fell to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Jerusalem was completely destroyed along with the temple and the golden vessels of the temple were all taken to Babylon (2Chronicles 36:7, 10, 18; Ezra 1:7-11; Daniel 5:3). Jeremiah was able to stay in the land of Israel with a Jewish remnant under the oversight of Gedaliah (2Kings 25:22-24) who was made governor by the king of Babylon (40:7).

Jeremiah was known as the “weeping prophet” (9:1) because he cared deeply for his people pleading with them to turn back to God and truly repent. His ministry took place through the rule of the last five kings of Judah as shown below.

1) JOSIAH: 639-608 BC (31 years). He was the only king who did what “*was right in the eyes of the LORD*” (2Kings 22:1-23:30; 2Chronicles 34:1-35:27). All the remaining kings did “*evil in the sight of the LORD*” (2Kings 23:32, 37; 24:9, 19; 2Chronicles 36:5, 9, 12; Jeremiah 52:2).

2) JEHOAHAZ: 608 BC (3 months). He was the son of Josiah. He was taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Necho, the king, never to return (2Kings 23:31-33; 2Chronicles 36:1-4).

3) JEHOIAKIM (Eliakim): 608-597 BC (11 years). He was the son of Josiah. He was made king by Pharaoh Necho, king of Egypt (2Kings 23:34-37; 24:1-6; 2Chronicles 36:4-8).

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon came against him and had taken him captive to take to Babylon (2Chronicles 36:6). Jehoiakim may have died on the point of going to Babylon. The Jewish historian, Josephus, has taken a different view in saying that king Jehoiakim was put to death by king Nebuchadnezzar on an expedition to Jerusalem in **597 BC**.

4) JEHOIACHIN (Coniah): 597 BC (3 months + 10 days). He was the son of Jehoiakim. He surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon and was taken to Babylon. He was released from prison in the 37th year of his captivity by Evil-merodach, king of Babylon in the first year of his reign in **560 BC** (2Kings 25:27-30; Jeremiah 52: 31-34).

5) ZEDEKIAH (Mattaniah): 597-586 BC (11 years). He was the son of Josiah. He rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon in refusing to surrender in disobedience to God’s word through Jeremiah (38:17-23). In his attempt to escape when Jerusalem fell to the army of the Chaldees, he was captured, blinded and taken bound in fetters to Babylon where he remained in prison until he died (2Kings 24:17-20; 25:1-21; 2Chronicles 36:11-21; Jeremiah 52:1-11).

Most of the prophecies have not been dated except possibly in **chapters 1-6** being given in the reign of Josiah, king of Judah.

Summary Notes and Questions

Section 1: Chapter 1: The call of God to Jeremiah to be a prophet

Q.1) What was known of Jeremiah the prophet when he heard the word of God? Read **1:1-3**.

Q.2) What was Jeremiah called to do by God? See **1:4-10**.

Q.3) Why did Jeremiah feel so inadequate to speak the word of God? See **1:6**. Compare Jeremiah’s experience with other people. See **Exodus 4:10; Judges 6:12-15; Isaiah 6:5-7**. Have you known this experience of God’s word to your life?

Q.4) How did God reassure Jeremiah that he had called him to be a prophet? See **1:7-10**. Compare with **Exodus 4:11-12; Judges 6:16-24; Isaiah 6:8-13**. Have you known God’s reassurance in being called to this work? See **2Corinthians 2:16; 4:5-6**.

Section 1 continued

Q.5) Give the reasons why God had intended to bring judgment upon his people. See **1:10-19**.

Q.6) List the kings in which reign Jeremiah's ministry covered. Give possible dates of these kings. See **1:2-3**. It is helpful to read **2Kings 22:1-3** and **23:31:31-37**.

Q.7) Describe and explain carefully the meaning of the two visions Jeremiah saw in **1:11-16**.

Section 2: Chapters 2.1-19:13: There is a review of how God's people had backslidden (**3:12-14**) in rejecting God and turning to idol worship. They refused to repent when God continually pleaded with his people to return to him. They continued in great wickedness as shown amongst kings, princes, false prophets, priests and the people. God had to tell Jeremiah to cease praying for his people (**7:16; 11:14; 14:11**), because their sin had become so great. There was no alternative but to allow the complete destruction of Jerusalem and God's people to be removed from the land of Israel (**15:4**).

Jeremiah experienced much grief and pain (**9:1**) in being an eyewitness to the decline of the kingdom of Judah and the ultimate destruction of Jerusalem in about **586 BC**. He had continually pleaded with his own people to obey the word of God (**7:23**) and return to him (**3:22**) but to no avail.

Q.1) What kind of relationship did God have with Israel whilst Israel was in the wilderness? See **2:1-3**.

Q.2) Why was it unreasonable for Israel to turn away from God? Read **2:4-8**.

Q.3) Read carefully **2:5-37; 3:1-2**. Compare with **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**. Show the ways Israel had turned away from God.

Q.4) How did God plead with his people to turn back to him and repent? Notice the use of questions. Read again **2:5-37** and **3:1-5**.

Q.5) What was meant by "*the fountain of living waters*" and "*broken cisterns*" in **2:13**? See also **2:14-19; 2:20-27** and compare with **Isaiah 5:1-7; John 4:10-14; 7:37-39**.

Q.6) Show the ways Israel had suffered as a result of rejecting God. See **2:9-37** and **3:3**.

Q.7) Show how Judah (the southern kingdom of Israel) had backslidden spiritually in the time of Josiah king of Judah. Read **3:6-13**. What is meant by backsliding? It is helpful to read **2:19; 3:6, 8, 11-12, 14, 22; 5:6; 8:5; 14:7; 49:4; Hosea 4:16; 11:7; 14:4; Matthew 26:41; Galatians 3:1-3; Revelation 2:4**.

Q.8) Is there evidence from reading **3:14-19** that these scriptures show God's plans for his people in the future millennium (1000 year reign of Jesus Christ from Jerusalem after he returns to earth)?

Q.9) Show the ways God had stressed repentance to his people in **3:20-4:4**. What did God require his people to do if they were to truly repent? See also **4:14**.

Q.10) What was known of an invader from the north? Show what this invader will do to Judah and what place he had in the purposes of God. Read **4:5-31**.

Q.11) How did Jeremiah respond to this word from God in **4:5-31** particularly in **4:10, 19-26**?

Q.12) Read carefully **5:1-31**. How far had the rebellion grown against God? Show the condition spiritually of the people of God.

Q.13) What was known of the false prophets in **5:13-14, 31; 6:13-15**?

Q.14) Look carefully at the statements God brought in the form of questions.

See **5:7, 9, 22, 29, 31**. Is it true to say God was warning his people of his judgments to come? Read again **5:7-31**.

Q.15) Make a list of the sins committed by God's people in **chapters 5&6**.

Q.16) Show God's love and mercy for his people in view of what was recorded in **6:16-17,26**.

Q.17) Show the ways God will bring judgment on his people in **6:1-30**.

Section 2 continued

Q.18) What did Jeremiah, whilst in the temple gate, plead for the people to do if they were to remain in Jerusalem? See **7:1-8, 21-23, 25**. Show in what ways the people trusted in the wrong things. See also **7:14; Psalm 20:7; 44:4-8; 52:7-8; 118:8-9 146:3-5; Proverbs 3:5-6; 28:26; Amos 6:1; Matthew 7:21-29**.

Q.19) Read **7:8-13, 17-19, 24, 26-28, 30-31**. Show the wickedness of God's people in these scriptures. See also **Matthew 21:12-13**.

Q.20) In what ways did God intend to bring judgment on his people?

See **7:14-16, 20, 29, 32-34; 8:1-3**.

Q.21) Show the moral and spiritual state of God's people in **8:4-22**? Consider carefully the four questions asked in **8:5; 8:14; 8:19; 8:22** and the answers given.

Q.22) Describe the coming judgments from God on Jerusalem in **8:4-9:22; 9:25-26**.

Q.23) Why was Jeremiah so full of anguish? Read **8:18-22; 9:1-8** and see also **4:19-21 & 14:17-18**. Compare David king of Israel in his moments of anguish as in **Psalm 55:4-8**. Is it true that Jeremiah and David cared deeply for their own people of Israel?

Q.24) What response does God require of us to do in view of what was written in **9:23-24**?

Q.25) Make a list of the characteristics of an idol in the passage of scripture **10:1-22** and then make a list of the characteristics of the living God revealed in these scriptures. Show how futile it is to serve idols. Consider the idols in today's world.

Q.26) What is significant in Jeremiah's prayer in **10:23-25**?

Q.27) When did the Lord make a covenant with his people and what had he commanded them to do? Read **11:1-17**. Show how God's people rejected his covenant and show the judgments God intended to bring upon them.

Q.28) What did Jeremiah's own family and community in Anathoth intend to do to him? What was the response from God? Read **11:18-23; 12:6**.

Q.29) Read **12:1-13**. In what ways did Jeremiah complain to God (**12:1-4**) and show how God answered him in **12:5-13**? See also **Psalm 73:1-28 & Habakkuk 1:2-4, 12-13**.

Q.30) Read carefully **12:14-17**. Show the promises God has for the nations.

Q.31) What was the purpose of the linen girdle/sash/belt/waistband being left hidden for a time by the river Euphrates? Read carefully **13:1-11**.

Q.32) Show what God had intended to do to his people in **13:12-27** as a result of refusing to hear his word. What is meant by "*Give glory to the Lord your God...*" in **13:16**? See also **Joshua 7:19; Malachi 2:2; John 9:24**.

Q.33) Describe the state of Judah in **14:1-6**.

Q.34) Look carefully at the prayers of Jeremiah in **14:7-9, 13, 19-22**. What is the content of these prayers?

Q.35) Show how God answered the prayers of Jeremiah by reading **14:10-12, 14-18**. What did God expose of the false prophets in **14:14-15**? Can you see any specific judgments God will bring upon his people? See **14:12-16, 18**.

Q.36) Make a list of the judgments God will bring on his people especially on Jerusalem. Read **15:1-14**. Why was such destruction on Jerusalem allowed by God? See **15:4**.

Q.37) Read carefully **15:1-21**. Can you see several different roles in Jeremiah's ministry? There are at least four in reading **15:1-9; 15:10-14; 15:15-18; 15:19-21** and possibly more.

Q.38) What was known of Jeremiah in his prayer for himself in **15:15-18**? Consider carefully God's answer in **15:19-21**.

Q.39) Why did God tell Jeremiah not to marry? See **16:1-4**.

Q.40) Why did God forbid Jeremiah to go to the house of mourning and the house of feasting? Read **16:5-9**.

Section 2 continued

Q.41) Show the ways the people protest to Jeremiah in **16:10** and how God shows Jeremiah to answer the people in **16:11-13**.

Q.42) Read carefully **16:14-20**. Show the details of what God intended to do for his people Israel. Are there any prophetic words in this scriptural passage still to be fulfilled?

Q.43) What do we understand about the sin of Judah in **17:1-4** and how did God respond?

Q.44) Read **17:5-13**. Compare and contrast trust in man (**17:5-6**) and trust in God (**17:7-8**). How do these verses in **17:9-13** help us to show who will be cursed and who will be blessed? See also **Psalm 1:1-6**.

Q.45) Show the trials Jeremiah was experiencing in view of what has been written in **17:14-18**.

Q.46) Where was Jeremiah to proclaim the word in **17:19**? What did God plead for his people to do? Show the warnings if they disobeyed this word spoken through Jeremiah in **17:20-27**.

Q.47) Show the reasons why Jeremiah had to go to the potter's house. What had God revealed to Jeremiah? See **18:1-2**.

Q.48) How did God judge his people in **18:13-17** because of their unwillingness to respond to his word?

Q.49) Describe the ways many people had intended to persecute Jeremiah. See **18:18-23**.

Q.50) How did Jeremiah pray regarding this persecution that came against him in **18:18-23**?

Q.51) Read **19:1-13**. **A)** What was the significance of the potter's earthen vessel?

B) Where did Jeremiah proclaim the word of God?

C) What was known of the place of Tophet?

D) What were the judgments God would bring upon Judah?

E) Describe the state of Jerusalem from this passage of scripture after the judgments God will have brought upon his people.

Section 3: Chapters 19:14-29:32: Jeremiah was given God's word to a number of individual people such as Pashur a priest (**20:4-6**), Zedekiah king of Judah (**21:3-6**) and to false prophets such as Hananiah (**28:15-17**), Ahab and Zedekiah (**29:21-23**) and Shemaiah (**29:24-32**).

Secondly, God spoke to Jeremiah regarding the last five kings of Judah (**22:1-30**), false prophets (**23:9-32; 27:9-10, 14-17**), the distinction between good and bad people (**24:1-10**) and the nations (**25:15-33**).

The only way of survival for God's people Israel and for other nations was to submit to the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. If not, as shown for God's people in Jerusalem, they would die by the sword, famine or pestilence (**27:7-8, 11-17**). Opposition from the priests, false prophets, princes and the people had threatened to put Jeremiah to death, but the prophet was saved by Ahikam one of the elders (**26:1-24**). God's people were sent in to exile for seventy years (**25:11-14 & 29:10-14**).

Q.1) Read **19:14-15; 20:1-6**. **A)** Where did Jeremiah declare the word of God?

B) Show the response of Pashur the priest to the word Jeremiah gave in **19:15**.

C) What was the content of Jeremiah's message to Pashur in **20:4-6**?

Q.2) Read **20:7-18**. **A)** Show the evidence of Jeremiah's sorrow and anguish particularly in **20:7-10 & 20:14-18**. **B)** Show the assurance Jeremiah had in God's protection in **20:11-13**.

Q.3) Read carefully **21:1-14**. **A)** What did king Zedekiah hope God would do for his kingdom? See **21:1-2**.

B) Show the severity of God's judgment to come on the house of Judah. See **21:3-7, 11-14**.

C) What choice did the inhabitants of Jerusalem have to make because of the impending capture of the city by the king of Babylon? See **21:8-10**. In view of Jeremiah's answer to king Zedekiah in **21:3-7, 11-14**, can you see some understanding to unanswered prayer? See **7:16; 11:14; 14:11-12; Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18**.

Section 3 continued

Q.4) What did God require the king of Judah to do for the kingdom to continue in **22:1-4**?

Q.5) What would happen if the king of Judah refused to hear this word from the Lord in **22:1-4**?
See also **22:5-9**.

Q.6) Read **22:10-19 & 22:24-30**. Show the judgments God will bring on the following kings of Judah. **A)** Jehoahaz or Shallum, **22:10-12**, see also **2Kings 23:31-34**. **B)** Jehoiakim, **22:13-19**, see also **2Kings 24:5-6; 2Chronicles 36:5-6**. **C)** Jehoiachin or Coniah, **22:24-30**. Show God's approval of Josiah, Jehoiakim's father in **22:15-16**.

Q.7) Read **22:20-23**. Show how the northern kingdom of Israel responded in the same way as the southern of Judah towards the word of the Lord.

Q.8) Show how the pastors had been irresponsible to the flock in **23:1-2**.

See also **Ezekiel 34:1-16 & John 1-18**.

Q.9) Read **23: 3-8**. Is it true to say this prophecy has yet to be fulfilled? Who is the king referred to here and is there a future for the children of Israel? See also **Luke 1:31-33, 68-70**.

Q.10) What is known of the false prophets in **23:9-32**?

A) Show their character and conduct. **B)** The evidence that they are false prophets.

C) Their influence on the people. What is essential for anyone who is called to bring the word of the Lord?

Q.11) How did God want Jeremiah to speak to the people or a prophet or a priest when he was asked "*What is the burden of the LORD?*" (**23:33**)? What is meant by the word "*burden*" or "*oracle*"? It is helpful, if you can, to look up the Hebrew word from concordance and compare other versions of the scriptures. See **23:33-40**.

Q.12) Read **24:1-10**. **A)** What did the basket of very good figs represent and the future for them? **B)** What did the basket of very evil figs represent and the future for them?

Compare with **Ezekiel 11:14-21**.

Q.13) Consider carefully the words of God had given Jeremiah in **25:1-11**. Show the fulfilment of the vision of **1:13-15** and any additional words God had spoken in these scriptures.

Q.14) Read **25:8-33**. What did Jeremiah prophesy regarding Babylon and all the other nations? How did God show his displeasure to all the other nations? Is there some future fulfilment to come in this prophecy in **25:8-33**?

Q.15) How will the shepherds respond when God has shown his anger throughout the earth in **25:33**? See also **25:34-38**.

Q.16) Consider carefully the warnings Jeremiah gave in his word from the Lord in **26:1-16** and the reaction of those who heard the word.

Q.17) How did some of the elders of the land rescue Jeremiah from certain death?

See **26:17-24**.

Q.18) Who was Ahikam? Is there evidence that he could have been a God-fearing man?

See **26:14 & 40:5-6; 2Kings 22:8-13; 2Chronicles 34:15-21**.

Q.19) Why did Jeremiah send a message to the five kings of the surrounding nations (**27:3**) and to Zedekiah king of Judah to serve the king Babylon? See **27:1-17**.

Q.20) Show why Jeremiah spoke against the false prophets in **27:9-10, 14-17**.

Q.21) What did God reveal would be right for men who were true prophets in **27:18**?

Q.22) Show what would happen to the remaining vessels of the temple in **27:19-22**.

Q.23) What do we know of Hananiah in **28:1-17**?

Show how Jeremiah exposed him as a false prophet.

Q.24) What was the message Jeremiah gave in a letter to the Jewish captives in Babylon?

Why did he warn them against false prophets? Read **29:1-9**.

Q.25) What did God promise to do after seventy years of exile? See **29:10-14**.

Section 3 continued

Q.26) What did Jeremiah foretell of the future of his brethren that had not gone in to captivity?

See **29:15-19**.

Q.27) Read **29:20-32**. Name the three mentioned that proved to be false prophets. Show why Jeremiah exposed them in being false prophets and the judgment declared against them.

Section 4: Chapters 30-33: Whilst judgment was coming on the city of Jerusalem (**32:3-4, 36**)

Much of the scriptures record the restoration of the whole house of Israel after a time of trouble (**30:1-11; 31:10-11; 32:37-38; 33:12-16**) which this writer believes is still future. There was the promise of a new covenant with the whole house of Israel (The southern kingdom of the house of Judah and the northern kingdom of the house of Israel). See **31:31-34 & Hebrew 8:8-13**.

Q.1) Show the future of Israel according to **30:1-11**? Is this prophecy still to be fulfilled?

Q.2) Show how God had to bring discipline on his people in **30:11-15**.

Q.3) In what ways will God's people be restored in **30:16-24**?

Q.4) What judgments will God bring on all nations that have in some way devoured Israel. Read again **30:16-24**.

Q.5) Read **31:1-30**. What do these verses tell us of the future for the whole house of Israel?

Q.6) What is known of the new covenant in **31:31-34**?

A) Who did God make this new covenant with?

B) What are the features of the new covenant as seen in **31:31-34**? Compare **31:33** with **Exodus 31:18 & 2Corinthians 3:16** and compare **31:34** with **Exodus 20:19**.

C) Is this covenant applicable to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? See also **Hebrews 8:1-13; 10:14-22; Matthew 26:27-28; Mark 14:23-24; Luke 22:19-20**.

Q.7) Show the certainty of the restoration of Israel in reading **31:35-40**.

Q.8) Read **32:1-5**. What was foretold for Zedekiah king of Judah?

Q.9) What was the purpose of Jeremiah purchasing a field from his cousin, Hanamel.

Read **32:1-5**. **A)** What is known of the purchase itself in **32:9-16, 25**?

B) Show the greatness of God in **32:17-22**.

C) Describe the evil that came upon Israel in **32:23-24**.

Q.10) Compare the evil that God would bring upon Israel in **32:26-35** and the blessing that God would bring upon Israel in **32:36-44**.

Q.11) Read **33:1-18**. **A)** What does **33:3** teach about prayer? **B)** Show the state of Jerusalem in the time of the captivity of many of God's people, Israel. See **33:4-5, 10-12**. **C)** How did God bring encouragement to Jeremiah regarding the future of Israel especially in **33:6-18**?

Q.12) Show in **33:19-26** that God will keep his promises to Israel.

Section 5: Chapter 34:1-40:6; 52:1-34: Jeremiah received further prophecies from the Lord to individuals such as Zedekiah king of Judah (**34:1-7; 37:16-21; 38:14-23**) and Ebedmelech (**39:15-18**). God's word had been given to tent dwellers known as the Rechabites (**35:1-19**). Jeremiah continued to warn his people to repent in the time of Jehoiakim king of Judah (**36:1-32**) and secondly to his people in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah to surrender to the king of Babylon.

Sadly, Zedekiah and the remaining people in Jerusalem refused to hear God's word and as a result the city including the temple were taken and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. Zedekiah in an attempt to escape was captured and brought to king Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah where he was blinded, bound in fetters and taken to Babylon where he remained until his death (**39:1-10 & 52:1-11**). Jeremiah was treated with respect by the king of Babylon (**39:11-14**) being allowed to remain in the land of Judah under the oversight of Gedaliah the governor (**40:1-6**).

Section 5 continued

The final chapter of this book has been shown here in giving more detail of the complete destruction of Jerusalem along with Zedekiah being taken to Babylon (**52:1-14**). Many Jews were taken into exile, possible dates being **597 BC, 586 BC** and **581 BC (52:17-23)** and the temple treasures were also taken to Babylon (**52:17-23**). There was a Jewish remnant of mainly poor people that were allowed to stay in the land of Judah (**52:15-16**). Jehoiachin was released from prison in Babylon by Evil-merodach king of Babylon in about **560 BC (52:31-34)**. In view of **51:64**, the last chapter does not appear to have been written by Jeremiah.

Q.1) What was God's word to Zedekiah king of Judah in **34:1-7, 21-22**. Show the people that were controlling the situation.

Q.2) What was the law God made regarding the liberty of the captives? See **34:8-10; Exodus 21:1-11; Deuteronomy 15:12-18**.

Q.3) What judgments did God intend to bring on the people who abused the freedom of the slaves? See **34:11-20**.

Q.4) What was known of the Rechabites in **35:1-11**?
See also **1Chronicles 2:55 & 2Kings 10:15-17, 23**.

Q.5) What was the test Jeremiah gave at God's command to the Rechabites in **35:1-8**?

Q.6) Show just how rebellious God's people had been in refusing to hear his word in **35:12-17**?

Q.7) What was God's blessing to the Rechabites? See **35:18-19**.

Q.8) What was the purpose of Jeremiah writing on a roll the message which he had received from the Lord? Read **36:1-8**.

Q.9) Show the response from the following people to the word of the Lord that was declared a year later by Baruch on behalf of Jeremiah in **36:9-26**. **A)** Michaiah, son of Gedaliah (**36:11-13**) **B)** The princes (**36:12-20, 25**). **C)** Jehoiakim king of Judah and his servants (**36:20-26**).

Q.10) Show how the Lord responded to what Jehoiakim had done with the roll in **36:27-32**.
See also **2Timothy 2:9**.

Q.11) What can be learnt from the character of Zedekiah? See **37:1-3, 17-21; 38:4-6, 14-28; 39:1-10**. See also **Numbers 32:23 & James 1:8**.

Q.12) Show clearly that Jeremiah was fully aware of the situation of Jerusalem when the Chaldeans had departed from the city (**37:5**). Read also **37:4-12; 38:14-23**.

Q.13) What opposition did Jeremiah experience in declaring God's word in **37:13-16 & 38:1-6**?

Q.14) How did Jeremiah feel in the dungeon of mire (**38:6**)? See also **Psalms 69:1-2, 14-19**.

Q.15) Show the courage of Ebedmelech. What can we learn from his example of rescuing Jeremiah? Read **38:7-13**.

Q.16) Look carefully at what happened to Jerusalem when it fell to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon in **39:1-14**. **A)** How long did Zedekiah king of Judah resist the king of Babylon? See **39:1-2**. **B)** What judgments came upon Jerusalem, Zedekiah and the people who remained in the city? See **39:3-9** and also **32:4; 34:3; Ezekiel 12:13**. **C)** How were the poor treated? See **39:10**. **D)** Show the attitude of the king of Babylon towards Jeremiah. See **39:11-14**.

Q.17) What was the message God gave Jeremiah to give to Ebedmelech and why?
See **39:15-18**. Consider also **Matthew 10:40-42 & James:14-26**.

Q.19) Read carefully **52:1-34**. **A)** What was known of Zedekiah in **52:1-11**? Compare with **39:1-7; 2Kings 25:1-7; 51:59**. See also **Q.11** in this section. **B)** The record of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jews taken to Babylon. See **52:12-15, 24-30**. Compare with **2Kings 25:8-10, 18-21**. **C)** The materials of the temple carried to Babylon in **52:17-23**. Compare with **2Kings 25:13-17 & Ezra 1:7-11**. **D)** The release of Jehoiachin from prison in Babylon. See **52:31-34 & 2Kings 25:27-30**. **E)** The Jews that remained in the land of Israel. See **52:16** and compare with **2Kings 25:12, 22-26**.

Section 6: Chapter 40:6-45:5: Gedaliah son of Ahikam had been made governor by the king of Babylon. Sadly, in a very short time he was murdered by Ishmael son of Nethaniah along with all the Jews that were with him. He had not believed the warning from Johanan son of Kareah (**40:13-16**). Ishmael had taken captive the remaining Jews in Mizpah but he was pursued by Johanan who rescued all the Jewish captives (**41:11-14**). Ishmael escaped with eight men to go to the Ammonites (**41:15**).

Johanan took the Jewish remnant to Egypt having feared the king of Babylon (**41:17-18**) and in disobedience to God's word through Jeremiah to stay in the land of Judah (**42:1-22; 43:1-7**). Jeremiah warned the Jewish remnant in Egypt that the king of Babylon will invade Egypt and most of them will die leaving a small remnant to escape. The Jewish remnant continued to practise idolatry worshipping the queen of heaven (**43:8-13; 44:1-30**). Egypt was invaded by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon in about **568 BC**. According to Josephus, a Jewish historian, some Jews were taken to Babylon.

Finally there is a short word from the Lord through Jeremiah to Baruch (**45:1-5**).

Q.1) Show the characteristics of Gedaliah as a leader over the Jews left in the land of Israel by the king of Babylon. Read **40:6-16**. Can you see any weaknesses in Gedaliah in view of what was written in **40:13-16**?

Q.2) What was known of Ishmael, the son of Nethaniah? Why did he murder Gedaliah the governor in the land of Israel? Read **41:1-10**.

Q.3) Show the success of Johanan in defeating Ishmael. Why did Johanan want to enter Egypt? See **41:11-18**.

Q.4) What were the problems with the Jewish remnant even after requesting Jeremiah to pray for them and to give them God's word? Read **41:18; 42:1-8; 43:1-7**.

Q.5) What did God want his people to do in view of what was written in **42:9-12**?

Q.6) What did Jeremiah warn the people would happen to them if they went to Egypt? See **42:13-19, 22**.

Q.7) Can you see the problems spiritually in the Jewish remnant in why they failed to obey the word of the Lord? Read carefully **42:20-21**.

Q.8) Describe what Jeremiah foretold of the invasion of the king of Babylon in Egypt. See **43:8-13**.

Q.9) Read carefully the message Jeremiah gave to his people in Egypt in **44:1-14**. What were the warnings God had given to his people?

Q.10) Show why the people rejected the word from the Lord through Jeremiah in **44:15-19**.

Q.11) Who was given the final word from the Lord through Jeremiah? See **44:20-30**.

Q.12) What was known of Baruch in **45:1-5**? Can we see spiritual lessons in how we seek to serve the Lord? See also **43:3; 32:11-16; 36:4-19, 27-28, 32; 51:59; Matthew 20:20-28**.

Section 7: Chapters 46-51: Jeremiah has been given by the Lord prophecies to other nations amongst the Gentiles (non-Jews) namely Egypt (**46:1-26**), the Philistines (**47:1-7**) (Philistia), Moab (**48:1-47**), the Ammonites (Ammon) (**49:1-6**), Edom (**49:7-22**), Damascus (**49:23-27**), Kedar and Habor (**49:28-33**), Elam (**49:34-39**), Babylon (**50:1-3, 9-18, 21-46; 51:1-18, 24-64**).

There are some scriptures that show Israel has a future to being restored completely as a nation. See **46:27-28; 50:4-8, 19-20; 51:19-23**.

Q.1) Show what happened to the Egyptians at the battle of Carchemish against the king of Babylon. See **46:1-12**.

Q.2) What was known of the invasion of Egypt by the king of Babylon in **46:13-26**?

Q.3) Describe the message of comfort to Israel in **46:27-28**.

Q.4) Show the judgment of God upon the Philistines in **47:1-7**.

Section 7 continued

Q.5) Show the ways Moab was destroyed in **48:1-47**.

Q.6) Why did Moab suffer such a severe judgment from God? Read again **48:1-47** and consider carefully **48:7, 11, 26-27, 29-30, 35-36, 42**.

Q.7) Is there any future for Moab in view of what was written in **48:47**?

Q.8) Show God's dealings with Ammon in **49:1-6**. **A)** How will Ammon be judged?

B) What was Ammon's sin? **C)** Is there any future for Ammon?

Q.9) Describe the severity of God's judgment upon Edom in **49:7-22**. Why was Eden punished so severely? See also **Obadiah 10-14**.

Q.10) What was known of the judgments of God upon: **A)** Damascus, **49:23-27**. See also **Isaiah 17:1-11**. **B)** Kedar, **49:28-29**. **C)** Hazor, **49:30-33**. **D)** Elam, **49:34-39**. For more details of the judgments of God that concern these nations, read again **25:15-38**.

Q.11) Look carefully at why Babylon will be destroyed in **50:1-3, 9-16, 21-27, 29-46**. Describe in detail the destruction of Babylon.

Q.12) Show the message of comfort for Israel in **50:4-8, 17-20, 28, 34; 51:5-6, 10, 19-23, 45**.

Q.13) Describe in detail the judgments of God against Babylon in **51:1-4, 7-9, 11-18, 24-44, 46-64**. What is significant about **51:59-64**? Take note who Seraiah is and what he was commanded to do.

Q.14) Are there any parts of the prophecies regarding Babylon still to be fulfilled in **chapters 50 & 51**? It is helpful to read **Isaiah 13:1-22; 47:1-15; Revelation chapters 17 & 18; 19:1-3**.

Miscellaneous Questions

These questions encourage extensive study on the Book of Jeremiah. They may help bible students to write up notes on various topics that come out of this book e.g. idolatry, judgment of God, the wickedness of God's people. Scriptural references have been included but not exhaustive in helping to answer each question.

Q.1) Using the information from the **prophecy of Jeremiah** along with **2Kings chapters 22-25, 2Chronicles chapters 34-36** and the **Book of Lamentations**, write a biography of his life.

What lessons can Christians learn from Jeremiah's life?

Q.2) What does the Book of Jeremiah teach on who God is? Read **1:19; 2:13; 3:12-19; 9:23-25; 32:17-22**.

Q.3) Make a list of possible dates with the various events that took place during the time of Jeremiah being called to be a prophet in about **627 BC** to his death possibly in Egypt in **582 BC**. The dates of the reigns of the final five kings of Judah will be helpful in the list.

See **1:2-3; 28:1, 6, 7**.

Q.4) Show the evidence of Jeremiah being a man of prayer. It is helpful to read **1:4-10, 11-19; 4:10; 5:3; 7:16; 10:23-25; 11:14, 20; 12:1-4; 14:7-22; 15:15-18; 17:13-18; 18:19-23; 20:7-18; 32:16-25; 42:2-4, 19-22**. What can we learn from these prayers?

Q.5) Make a list of the various people Jeremiah encountered throughout his ministry e.g. Zedekiah, king of Judah, Baruch, Ebed-melech and Johanan, son of Kareah. What was known of their character? It is helpful where possible to find the meaning of their names. See for example **20:1-6; 37:1-21; 38:1-28; 39:1-18; 40:1-16**.

Q.6) Show the ways Jeremiah suffered in his ministry as a prophet. See **4:19-31; 8:21; 9:1; 11:18-23; 12:6; 15:10, 15, 18; 20:14-18; 23:9; 26:8-11**.

Is there real evidence that he cared for his own people?

Q.7) Make a list of the sins of the children of Israel that they had committed spiritually and morally in rejecting the word of God. See **2:13; 5:1-5, 7-13; 7:24-28; 8:5-12; 11:8-10; 17:19-27; 18:11-15; 19:4-5**.

Miscellaneous Questions continued

Q.8) Look carefully throughout the book of Jeremiah on what can be learnt about the emptiness of idolatry. You can name any gods worshipped. How did God respond to idolatry? Make a list of today's idols. It is helpful to read **2:28; 5:19; 7:17-19; 8:19; 10:1-5,10-15; 11:8-13,17; 16:11-13,19-21; 17:1-3; 19:3-8; 25:4-7; 32:28-35; 44:1-27; 50:35-40; 51:17-18,47-58.**

Q.9) What does the book of Jeremiah teach on the ways God pleaded with his people to return to him? See **3:12,22; 4:3-4; 7:3-7,23; 17:19-27; 18:11; 22:3-4; 25:4-7; 26:12-13.**

Q.10) Consider carefully the state of Judah, the southern kingdom of Israel, after Zedekiah the last king of Judah was taken to Babylon in about **586 BC**. See for example **4:19-31; 21:10; 23:39-40** and **2Chronicles 36:17-21**. It is also helpful to read the **Lamentations of Jeremiah** to receive more information on the poverty stricken state of Jerusalem.

Q.11) Read carefully through the Book of Jeremiah and try to list specific judgments God sent upon his people for refusing continually to obey His word. See **5:6,9; 8:1-3,13-22; 11:11; 13:8-14; 14:1-6,12; 18:15-17; 19:7-9,15; 20:1-6; 21:3-14; 22:5-9; 25:8-10; 38:6-13.**

Q.12) Make a list of the characteristics of the false prophets. See **14:12-16; 23:11-40; 27:8-10, 14-18; 28:1-17; 29:20-32**. It is helpful to consider the marks of a true prophet whilst reading the scriptural passages shown above.

Q.13) Are there any prophecies still to be fulfilled in this book of Jeremiah? Read **3:14-19; 4:27; 5:18; 16:14-21; 23:5-8; 24:4-7; 30:1-11,18-24; 31:1-40; 32:36-42; 33:14-16; 46:27-28.**

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