

JEREMIAH 1 vs 1

¹ The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiyah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin / 3 miles north of Jerusalem:

² To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign / 170 years earlier the 10 northern tribes of the House of Israel were already taken to Assyria and resettled at the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains... between the capital of Assyria and their enemy to the east: the Medes; the 10 tribes of Israel carried with them... ALL the nationalistic birthright promises... first given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The LORD said to David... *My people Israel will go to a place of their own...* not to be molested by their ancient enemies; not to move again.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were NOT Jewish; they were **Hebrew**.

The **House of Israel**... led by **Ephraim** and Manasseh (1/2 Egyptian) were 10/12ths **Hebrew**, NOT Jewish.

Some prophets occasionally speak of: *the whole House of Israel*; or *both Houses of Israel*... which then includes: **Ephraim** the primary caretaker of the birthright promises to the 10 northern tribes of **Israel**... and the 2 southern tribes of **Judah**.

³ It ...the word of the LORD

It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month ...Zedekiah was the last king of the House of Judah -- where comes the name: **Jewish, the 2 southern tribes... who were taken in captivity to Babylon beginning around July or August... of that year; and with all this information, like site-lines on a target... archaeologists can confidently determine when many of these events occurred -- Jeremiah's work recorded here being around 625 through 575BC.**

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

⁵ Before I formed you in the belly / in the womb,

I knew you / I chose you, and had plans for you;

and before you came forth out of the womb

I sanctified you / I set you apart; to hallow; to dedicate; to consecrate; to appoint as special. In the gospel of John, chapter 17... in Jesus' own prayer we read: *Father, sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth.* In every generation, that is how God our Father sets apart and sanctifies His people. You know, when you read the word of God... when you pay attention to the word of God... we discover the LORD is a good Teacher; He keeps things simple. For being so creative, HE works with and leads His people in each generation; so we ought to pay closer attention to what HE says; do you think?

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To Jeremiah, the Lord said,

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you;

and before you came forth out of the womb,

I sanctified you / I set you apart;

and I ordained you / I appointed you...

a prophet to the nations (which is what Isaiah also said; so, did you hear that?)

to the nations / plural! Let's say that together: **NATIONS**! The 2 nations; and, who are those 2 nations?

the **House of little Judah**; and **the House of greater Israel**. The 2 tribes; the 10 tribes... they are separate; they are distinct. Right?! The Lord said...

I ordained you ...Jeremiah

I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

6 Then said I, Ah,

Lord GOD! behold / pay attention! Now that is sort of gutsy for someone to say to the Eternal Father, don't you think?

Telling God...

behold / pay attention,

I cannot speak / well?! Jeremiah is doing an excellent job talking back to God.

I cannot speak: for I am a child / well it sounds like... a child who wants to correct and enlighten God the Father. But it also sounds a little like Moses, doesn't it? *I am slow to speech...* but whom God guides... He provides.

When Jesus asked, *Who do they say... the Son of man is?* The disciples answered: *Some say Elijah... others say Jeremiah.*

Verse 7 But the LORD said to me,

Say not, I am a child:

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for you shall go to all that I shall send you / and ALL means: everywhere... and every place... and every people... the Lord sends him, right? No place... not even one; no person... not even one; no people... not even one; no nation... not even one omitted.

for you shall go to all... that I shall send you,

and all I command

you shall speak.

⁸ **Be not afraid of their faces** / here we learn: God, who commissions Jeremiah... forewarns Jeremiah: there will be some ugly people coming his direction.

Be not afraid of their faces / Isaiah 8 says, *Make the Lord GOD our fear; make the Lord GOD our dread.* Dread Him; fear Him! Be afraid of His face... *and He shall be our sanctuary*; our place of safety. This is exactly what the Lord GOD want Jeremiah to know. If you are going to be afraid of someone... be afraid of Me! Be afraid of My face.

Be not afraid of their faces:

for I am with you to deliver you / to save and to rescue you speedily,

says the LORD.

Verse ⁹ **Then the LORD put forth his hand,**

and touched my mouth.

And the LORD said to me,

Behold / pay attention,

I have put **My words in your mouth.**

¹⁰ **See, this day I set you over the **nations****

and over the **kingdoms**

The LORD is a good Teacher; He likes to keep things simple. Jeremiah was assigned by the LORD to be conservator, and caretaker... and reformer...over both... nations = 2 distinct peoples; and over both kingdoms = 2 distinct realms, 2 separate political centers -- the smaller kingdom of Judah... whose history includes Babylon; and the greater kingdom of Israel whose history includes Assyria... that carried with it the birthright promises of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

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And why did God set Jeremiah that day over these nations and these kingdoms?

to root out,

and to pull down,

and to destroy,

and to throw down

...a thorough cleaning was necessary; which is what we read about in this entire book of Jeremiah: rooting out and pulling down; destroying and throwing down. The apostle Paul says: *to the pulling down of strongholds...* and what are those strongholds? The alliances... the confidences... the people of God make in every generation with everyone in the world... but not with the LORD, who should be to each of us—sufficient!

Jeremiah was given a ministry of reformation... first bulldozing what was present: rooting out... and pulling down... and destroying and throwing down... which is the theme of the book of Jeremiah.

But the Lord GOD also said...

to build,

and to plant / so, here is the question of the millennia: Where was Jeremiah sent as prophet?

to build and to plant / the biblical scholars at best are speculative... and indefinite in their opinions. This book of Jeremiah does not tell us; and that is sort of interesting, isn't it? Because amid the rooting out and pulling down... and destroying and throwing down... amid those tensions and commotions... and obstructions, the prolific Jeremiah is able to record all these words pertaining to his life experiences as a prophet... written in greater detail than any other prophet of the OT;

but in a peaceful time of building and planting and prosperity... he's not able to write anything? What is that all about? It doesn't make sense, does it?

Verse ¹¹ Moreover **the word of the LORD** came to me, saying,

Jeremiah, what do you see?

And I said, I see a rod / Jeremiah saw the royal rod; the scepter; the club of authority... and the one with that club in hand... wields the power. I'm sure it is like the rod of iron Messiah will bring one day when He comes again. It's a correcting rod... to destroy any and all the strongholds of faithlessness; and to break apart the lifeless traditions of men... those petrifying traditions which produce only hard heads of religion... fossilizing and formalizing faith... turning it all into creed... and reading monotonous speeches at God -- nothing from the heart... and boring His people. Not producing deeds of love and grace.

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I see a rod... of an 'almond tree' / the word in Hebrew is: *saged*. The almond tree is the hasty tree: the first to blossom in springtime... while all the other trees lay dormant snoozing.

The Lord GOD says...

Jeremiah, what do you see?

And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree / a rod of correction... wide awake, quick and in a hurry.

¹² **Then said the LORD to me,**

You have seen well / nothing wrong with Jeremiah's eyes; he had good vision:

for I will hasten / I will be wide awake and quick... and in a hurry;

My word to perform it.

The LORD isn't chatty; but thankfully He does speak; and when He does, we see He is always concerned about His creation. He is actively engaged in teaching and correcting and saving those who turn to Him.

The LORD always speaks truth; and in this verse we learn He has a relationship with His word; ALL of it! Not only the **rooting out...** and **pulling down...** and **destroying...** and **throwing down;**

but also, the **building...** and **planting.**

Again, we read where the first part happened, but how about the last part?

This book tells us, Jeremiah, who was the custodian of the remnant of Judah which included the king's daughters... and Baruch fall off the radar as they go to Egypt -- **Jeremiah 43-45**. Irish history tells us, within 5 years, in Ireland / its name is from: new Eber-ain... colonized by the Eber's of Spain / those of the Iberian peninsula... within 5 years... the great Ollam Folha, Ireland's greatest prophet and law-maker, along with a royal daughter of a pharaoh, and Simon Brech suddenly appear in their ancient chronicles of history... to marry into the royal Irish family of the house of Zara... and bring order to that island nation; ruling from Tara Hill. Check out: **King Tutankhamun DNA** – 70% of British men carry his DNA; and less than 1% modern-Egyptians carry the same DNA.