

WHY THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH IS SO IMPORTANT

There are many similarities between Jesus Christ and Jeremiah.

1. What are some of those similarities?
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Jeremiah establishes that the Word of God will always be fulfilled. His Book shows us that God deeply loves His people and promises to bless them because of the covenant they have made together. But, it is because of the covenant they have made that God must hold Israel more accountable. As such, Jeremiah shows us that God was prepared to even use ungodly people to discipline His people.

2. Jeremiah records the destruction of what sacred building? (refer to Jer. 7:4)
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What Jeremiah says about the destruction of this building gives great insight into what we read in Matthew 24 and Luke 21. Jesus predicted what Jeremiah had predicted. They both predicted this for same reason: *God's people had rejected God*. This happened in Jeremiah's day, and Christ's day.

WHO WAS JEREMIAH?

3. How does Matthew 16:14 reveal that people thought Jesus and Jeremiah were similar?
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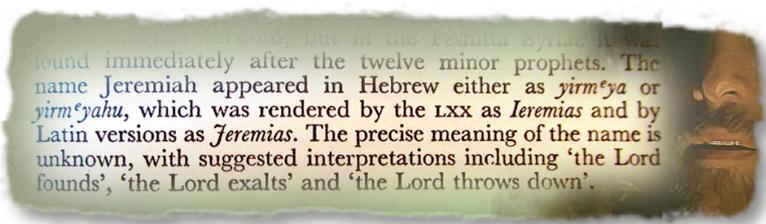
Therefore, if we as Christians want to become increasingly familiar with Jesus, we should also learn about Jeremiah.

4. In Jeremiah 1:1, we learn at least 3 things about Jeremiah. We learn that he was the son of Hilkiah, and that he lived in the land of Benjamin. What else do we learn about him from this opening verse?
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Jeremiah was born around 639BC. He would have been called to be a prophet around the age of 13. He ministered before 3 kings and saw the downfall of one world empire (Assyria) and the rise of another (Babylon). Because he was so passionately involved with his message and his audience, he would frequently weep because of what God was showing and saying to him. For this reason he became known as *the Weeping Prophet* (refer to Jer. 9:1).

Throughout the Book of Jeremiah there are continual word-plays where words that sound like something are deliberately used to make a surprising point. For example, in Jeremiah 6:1 the words "blow" and "Tekoa" almost sound identical in Hebrew. There are several of these word-plays in the opening chapter of

Jeremiah. This occurs with the very name of *Jeremiah* which means *God tears down, founds, and builds*.



found immediately after the twelve minor prophets. The name Jeremiah appeared in Hebrew either as *yirm'ya* or *yirm'yahu*, which was rendered by the LXX as *Ieremias* and by Latin versions as *Jeremias*. The precise meaning of the name is unknown, with suggested interpretations including 'the Lord founds', 'the Lord exalts' and 'the Lord throws down'.

BACKGROUND TO THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

5. Who were the three Kings of Judah before whom Jeremiah ministered? (Jer. 1:2-3)
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Jeremiah was born when King Josiah coronated, sometime around 639BC. It was during the reign of King Josiah that the Law of Moses was rediscovered (2Kings 22:8ff). It was about this time that Jeremiah received his call as a prophet. Jeremiah would have written his Book around 605BC to 570BC.

6. What are at least 3 lessons for today that we can draw from Jeremiah 1?
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Amen.