

# Jeremiah

**One Story that  
Leads to Jesus**



# The Prophet Jeremiah

- Jeremiah of Jerusalem – his prophetic ministry
- Historical setting is clear:
  - from the reign of King Josiah (good, reforming king)
  - up to the time of Exile
- 20-year period of independence of Israel
  - Not vassal of Assyrians, Egyptians, or Babylon
  - But not free of threats - even from minor kingdoms
- Period of great religious reforms
- ...as long as Josiah was king

# The Book of Jeremiah

Apart from the Psalms, the longest book in the Bible

Basic structure of **collections** within the book

- Chapters 1-25: Divine Judgment upon Judah and Jerusalem
- Chapters 30-33: The Book of Consolation
- Chapters 46-51: Oracles against the Nations

Four Major Themes

- God
- Israel, the nation and the Individual
- Sin and Repentance
- The future Hope

# God

- Yahweh was the “**fountain of living water**” – the source and sustenance of his people Israel.
- He is the **Potter**, the **Creator of the world** who set up the natural order of things.
- The **Lord of History** who directed Israel and controlled the nations.
- The **One who knows** the hearts of men.
- The source of **Mercy** and steadfast **Loyal Love**.
- The one asked, not sacrifice and ritual observance, but **repentance and obedience**.



# Israel

- **Metaphors:** vineyard, first fruits, beloved, and flock – at least during the Exodus
- In the promised land – **different metaphors:**
  - Restive young she-camel
  - Wild ass used to the wilderness
  - Adulterer and harlot
- Speaking of **Individual People**
  - Speaking of the heart of people – the source of evil
  - “*deceitful above all things and desperately wicked*” (17:9)
  - In the days of restoration, people given a new heart so that they hear and obey the Word of God.

# Sin and Repentance

- **People**: stubborn and rebellious hearts (4:14, 5:23, 17:1, 17:9)
- The **evil** of the people:
  - Worship of false gods
  - Personal sin – ethical and moral
  - Corporate sin
  - All represented a breach of the Covenant
- **Sin was a basic attitude** of the people towards God
  - Only hope was a complete turning towards God
  - *“Fools people are, they know me not. Senseless children they are, having no understanding. They are wise in evil, but know not how to do good.”*

# Future Hope

*The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD.*

*But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more. (Jer 31:31-34)*



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