



# I FEEL YOUR PAIN

Studies in Jeremiah & Lamentations

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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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## The Way We Were

### Introduction to Jeremiah 1-6

#### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

The 1973 movie, *The Way We Were*, depicts an unlikely romance and its tragic demise due to the diverse convictions and political viewpoints of the two lead characters. In many ways this parallels the message of Jeremiah in the Old Testament. God was the unlikely suitor for the nation Israel; however, instead of cherishing this unexpected gift, Israel, and their southern counterpart, Judah, chose to do things their own way. They pursued other nations and their gods and selfishly rebelled against the only One who truly loved them—God. The book of Jeremiah records the words God spoke to Judah to draw them back to Him—words of encouragement, rebuke and judgment. Throughout the book there is an undercurrent of how God’s heart hurts when His people reject Him; the book also re-

veals that God’s prophet, Jeremiah, hurt as well because of their sin. That is why he is known as “the weeping prophet”, and he could easily say to God, “I feel your pain”. The book opens with the record of God’s call on Jeremiah’s life to speak His mind to His wayward people. Jeremiah would not be successful in turning Judah back to God, but he would be faithful to God through all of his difficulties. At the beginning God showed him two pictures that defined his mission. One was a picture of an almond rod that showed the certainty of the fulfillment of God’s Word; the other was that of a boiling pot of impending judgment from the north –which would be Babylon’s invasion of Judah in the late seventh century BC. This was not God’s original purpose for Judah; this



**Our hearts should break with God’s over our sin.**

nation was special to Him and He had treated her like a wife. But sadly, Judah went away from God—their fountain of living waters—and had turned to a stagnant reservoir for the satisfaction of their thirst. This would result in God’s promise of judgment, and His offer to relent if they would turn back to Him. However, if they did not repent, He would certainly fulfill His threats of destruction and exile. The choice was Judah’s—to continue on their path of sin and experience judgment or to return to the way they were with God.

## Daily Study Questions for Jeremiah 1-6

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com](http://www.celebrationnet.com), small groups, abf)

<p>1. Read Jer 1:1-10. When did God select Jeremiah (v5), when did He call him (v2, 6), and what was His calling (v5, 9-10)? What was his reaction (v6) and God’s answer (v7-9)? Apply this.</p>	
<p>2. In 1:11-19 what two images did Jeremiah see (v11-12, 13-) and what did they mean (v12, 14-16)? How would the people respond to Jeremiah (v19), and how did God equip him (v18)?</p>	
<p>3. From 2:1-13 how had things been between God and Israel at first (v2-3, 6-7)? What did two things did Israel do wrong (v13)? How does that apply to us?</p>	

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## Jeremiah 1-6 Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. Using 2:14-37 pick out some other things Israel did wrong (v18, 20, 23-24, 27, 33, 34). How did they respond to God's correction (v35), and what would result (v35-37)?</p>	
<p>5. Based on 3:1-10 how had Judah sinned (v2, 9) and why was this shocking (v6-8)? What was Judah's attitude about her sin (v1, 3-5, 8, 10)? How are we like this sometimes?</p>	
<p>6. According to 3:11-25 what does God want us to do (v12-14) and why (v12, 14)? What else does He promise to do if we repent (v15-19, 22)?</p>	
<p>7. In 4:1-18 what did God call Judah to do (v1, 3-4, 14) and what would result if they did (v2)? Apply to your life.</p>	
<p>8. Looking at 4:19-31 what was God about to do (v23-27, 29, 30)? How did Jeremiah feel about this (v19)?</p>	
<p>9. Based on 5:1-19 what could not be found in the nation (v1-2, 3, 4-6)? What would God do (v9, 10-13, 14, 15-17, 18-19)?</p>	
<p>10. From 5:20-31 what further problems did Judah exhibit (v21, 22, 23, 26-27, 28, 30-31)? What would result (v24-25, 29)?</p>	
<p>11. Using 6:1-30 what was about to happen to Judah (v1-6, 9, 11-12, 15, 19, 22-26)? How did they try to fix this (v20), and what should they have done (v16-17)?</p>	
<p>12. Look back over Jer 1-6. Where did Judah go wrong, and what was God going to do about it? How should Judah have responded?</p>	

### Scripture to Remember

*"For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water."*

**Jeremiah 2:13 (NAS)**

### Life Group Questions—It's All About Jesus—The Gospel (Col 1:3-8)

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Share with the group some of the ways you believe your life would be different if you didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus.
2. Someone read Col 1:3-8. What keeps us from being right with God? How do most people try to correct this and why? What is God's approach and why?
3. How would you define the kind of "faith" that makes you right with God? How is this different from the view of faith that many have?
4. From v5 what is the "hope" that is "laid up in heaven" for us (see also Col 1:27 and John 14:2-3)? How does this kind of hope make our lives better?
5. What "proves" that a person has personally received the "good news" or gospel of Jesus (v4, 8)? Why is our love for one another proof of our relationship with Christ?
6. Talk about why both the grace and truth of the gospel make it worth sharing with others. Everyone mention someone they would like to share the gospel with and pray together for an opportunity to do that.

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

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