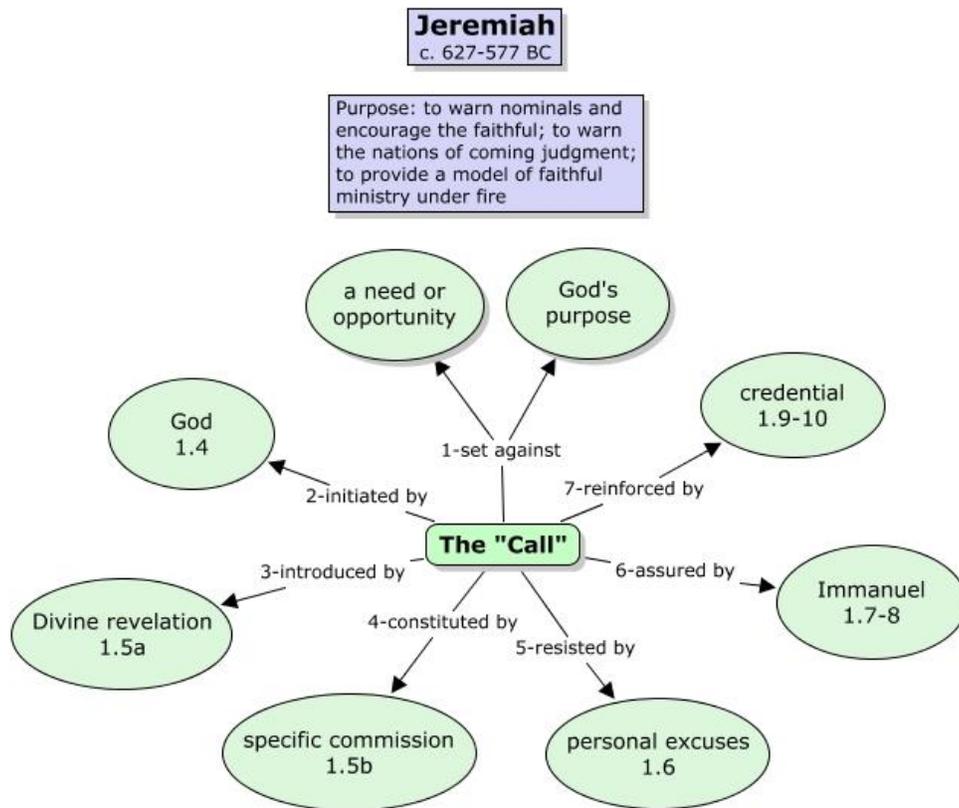


SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017
THEME – RESPONDING TO THE MASTER’S CALL AS A PROPHET
UNIT II – CALLING OF PROPHETS

**“JEREMIAH, A PROPHET CALLED TO DEFINE GODLY
 SUCCESS IN AN UNGODLY SOCIETY”**



Sunday School Lesson No. VII – July 16, 2017
Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III ~ Pastor-Teacher

- Lesson Text:** Jeremiah 1:1-10
- Required Reading:** Jeremiah 1:1-19
- Motto Text:** Jeremiah 1:8 (NLT), *“And don’t be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the LORD, have spoken!”*
- Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Logos Bible Software; Precepts for Living (UMI); Cruden’s Concordance; Life Application Bible Notes; Bible Exposition Commentary (OT); Bible Notes by H. L. Wilmington

Introduction

Beloved, the prophet we are called to meet this week is named Jeremiah. He was a member of the Levitical Priesthood of the family of Hilkiah. When one was a part of the Priesthood, their lives were centered around the teaching and practice of the Law. There was very little room for variance. Success was just a simple matter of learning and carrying out the basic practices of the Law and its ceremony. But God ventures into the life of Jeremiah to call him out as a prophet. Such a calling was not for the faint of heart.

Jeremiah, according to the records, was about to face some serious challenges that would seem very unsuccessful. According to the introductory notes of the Life Application Bible, page 1552, “For 40 years he served as God’s spokesman to Judah, but when Jeremiah spoke, nobody listened. Consistently and passionately, he urged them to act, but

nobody moved. And he certainly did not attain material success. He was poor and underwent severe deprivation to deliver his prophecies. He was thrown into prison (chapter 37), into a cistern (chapter 38), and he was taken to Egypt against his will (chapter 43). He was rejected by his neighbors (11:19-21), his family (12:6), the false prophets (20:1, 2; 28:1-17), friends (20:10), his audience (26:8), and the kings (36:23). Throughout his life, Jeremiah stood alone declaring God's messages of doom, announcing the New Covenant, and weeping over the fate of his beloved country. In the eyes of the world, Jeremiah was not a success!"

But beloved, in the spirit of God's perspective, Jeremiah was more than a conqueror, and was the epitome of obedience and faithfulness, which adds up in my book as a very successful man, in spite of fears and tears, because he turned his life's focus to do the Will of God!

Let us examine how God preset the life of Jeremiah. Note my **Anticipated Power Points**:

- **He was Pre-called. Jeremiah 1:1-3**
- **He was Pre-ordained. Jeremiah 1:4-5**
- **He was Pre-determined. Jeremiah 1:6**
- **He was Prepared. Jeremiah 1:7-9**
- **He was to Preach. Jeremiah 1:10**

OUTLINE

“JEREMIAH, A PROPHET CALLED TO DEFINE GODLY SUCCESS IN AN UNGODLY SOCIETY”

I. He (Jeremiah) was Pre-called. Jeremiah 1:1-3

In all of the anticipated power points, we note the prefix “Pre” meaning “Prior to,” “in advance of,” “beforehand,” “before,” or “in front of.”

Everything about Jeremiah as well as you and I, has been pre-ordained in the mind and purpose of God! In a time of chaos, God allowed Jeremiah to begin his prophetic work in the life of Josiah, a wonderful and Godly king. (Read II Kings 21:24 – 23:30).

II. He (Jeremiah) was Pre-ordained. Jeremiah 1:4-5

Beloved, Jeremiah could never fail in the eyes of God! Why not? Because of the Omnipotent, Omniscience, Omnipresence of Jehovah. Read Psalm 139 and shout! Every praise is to our God, who knows and controls all of our destinies of life and purpose. Not even a sparrow dies without God's knowledge (Matthew 10:29-31).

III. He (Jeremiah) was Pre-determined. Jeremiah 1:6

Therefore God reminds Jeremiah that there is no inadequacy to hinder him from completing his pre-determined cause in life, be it youth, education, distance or death. God is totally in control!

IV. He (Jeremiah) was Prepared. Jeremiah 1:7-9

Let's just take this passage literally and know that God is the Creator and He is able to do just what He has prepared us to do!

V. He (Jeremiah) was to Preach. Jeremiah 1:10

Preach and totally leave the results to God. Open his mouth and speak the Words that God pre-determined and pre-ordained! It's not “The Jeremiah Show” but it is the Lord's business and we, like Jeremiah, who are called by God, should remember the words spoken to Zerubbabel in Zechariah 4:6, “*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.*”

CLOSING

Beloved, like Jeremiah, we too are called to define Godly success in an ungodly society! Jesus said in Acts 1:8, “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”



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LOOKING AHEAD:

July 23, 2017

Ezekiel 3:1-11

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.