

Helpful Historical Dates

Years	Events or Subjects	References
640/39	Josiah becomes king, aged eight	2 Ch 34:1
628	Josiah begins his reforms	2 Ch 34:3
627	Jeremiah begins his ministry	Je 1:2; 25:3
626	Nabopolassar founds the neo-Babylonian empire	
622/1	The book of the law discovered	2 Ch 34:8,14
612	The fall of Nineveh, capital of Assyria	Cf Na 1:1ff
609	Josiah killed in battle	2 Ch 35:20-25
	Jehoahaz king for three months	2 Ch 36:1-3
	Jehoiakim made king by Pharaoh Neco	2 Ch 36:4
605	Nebuchadnezzar routs Egyptians at Carchemish	Je 46:2
	Daniel and a select few deported to Babylon	Dn 1:1-7
604	Jeremiah's scroll read out to Jehoiakim and burnt	Je 36
601	Jehoiakim rebels against Babylon	2 Ki 24:1
598	Jehoiakim is deposed, and dies	2 Ch 36:6
597	The first main captivity. Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) and the skilled men and the temple treasures deported	2 Ki 24:12-16
	Zedekiah made king	2 Ki 24:17
593	Zedekiah summoned to Babylon	Je 51:59
588	Zedekiah, for treachery, is besieged in Jerusalem	Je 52:3-4
587	Fall of Jerusalem. Second stage of captivity	Je 39
587 and after	Gedaliah appointed governor. Joined by Jeremiah	Je 40:5-6
	Gedaliah assassinated by Ishmael	Je 41:2
	Refugees flee to Egypt, taking Jeremiah with them	Je 42-43
582/1	A third deportation to Babylon	Je 52:30
561	Jehoiachin released from prison	Je 52:31-34
539	Fall of Babylon	Dn 5:30
539/8	Cyrus the Persian liberates the captives	Ezr 1:1-4

Source:

Kidner, Derek THE MESSAGE OF JEREMIAH: Against Wind & Tide.
The Bible Speaks Today series (ed. Motyer, J.A.) Leicester: IVP.1987. p176

JEREMIAH

AGAINST WIND AND TIDE

DIOCESAN BIBLE COURSE BY BISHOP RENNIS PONNIAH

Thursdays, 5, 12, 19, 26 April 2018 @ 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Saturday, 28 April 2018 @ 9am to 12noon
in the Bethel Hall

\$5/- For Course Book
(Please sign up at the Info. Desk)

Message from Bishop Rennis Ponniah

No book in the Bible has its message so intertwined with the biographical details of its author as the book of Jeremiah. This unique feature suggests that the life of Jeremiah is itself part of the message. That is what makes the book so gripping. Jeremiah exercised a faithful ministry ‘against wind and tide’. Through his courage and passion, Jeremiah exemplified how believers today can live for God in a world that either ignores Him or turns against Him.

I have no doubt that as we study the book, we will hear its ringing message for such a time as our own. In its flagrant rebellion against the living God, the world is hurtling towards self-destruction in so many ways.

What hope is there? How does God deal with a culture that spurns Him & His claims as Creator & Judge of the world? How do we as Christians respond to the moral apostasy of our times?

We live in times when there is also moral corruption in several parts of the Church itself. We see a distortion of the Gospel and Christians having to discern between true and false prophecy. The people of God need to ask ourselves honestly whether we are faithful to the God who has established a new covenant with us in Christ Jesus.

What is God saying to us through the book of Jeremiah? How can we tell what is a true message from God? What are the leadership pitfalls that today’s Church leaders must avoid?

I invite you to come with your friends and fellow-disciples to spend four Thursday evenings and one Saturday morning in April this year to study this weighty and intriguing book. It will certainly help if you can read the book through before the start of the Course on 5 April. An outline of the book together with some key historical dates is provided to assist you in reading the book of Jeremiah.

Please pray for me and for one another as we come to hear the word of the Lord in order that we may follow Him more faithfully and glorify Him more radiantly in a world needing His light, His beauty and His saving power.

+ Bishop Rennis

BACKGROUND INFO FOR PRE-CLASS READING

Outline of Jeremiah

1. **PROLOGUE: The Call of Jeremiah Ch 1**
2. **Book 1: Oracles of Judgment Concerning Judah/Israel Ch 2 – 25**
 - A. Sermons Warning of Disaster (Ch 2-10)
 - B. Stories about Wrestling with both People and God (Ch 11-20)
 - C. Disputations with Kings and Prophets (Ch 21-25)
3. **Biological Interlude: Deciding Between Prophetic Visions Ch 26-29**
 - A. Jeremiah Tried and Acquitted (Ch 26)
 - B. Jeremiah Predicts Long Captivity – contra Hananiah (Ch 27-28)
 - C. Jeremiah’s Letter to the Exiles (Ch 29)
4. **Book 2: Oracles of Consolation Ch 30-33**
 - A. Return from Captivity Promised (Ch 30)
 - B. A New Covenant (Ch 31)
 - C. Jeremiah Buys a Field (Ch 32)
 - D. Promise of Davidic Ruler (Ch 33)
5. **Biological Interlude: Narratives about Wicked Leaders Ch 34-45**
 - A. Zedekiah’s Treachery (Ch 34)
 - B. Recabites’ Faithfulness and Fruitfulness (Ch 35)
 - C. Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah’s Scroll (Ch 36)
 - D. Jeremiah in Prison and Cistern (Ch 37-38)
 - E. Fall of Jerusalem (Ch 39)
 - F. Jeremiah Released, Governor Assassinated, Baruch Warned (Ch 40-45)
6. **Book 3: Oracles Concerning the Nations Ch 46-51**
 - A. Woe to Egypt and Seven Nations (Ch 46-49)
 - B. Destruction for Babylon (Ch 50-51)
7. **EPILOGUE: Fall of Jerusalem Re-Told Ch 52**