



## Part 2 of 5

Jeremiah's nickname is "the Weeping Prophet" with good reason. He is not only an eyewitness account of the siege and destruction of Judah and God's Temple in Jerusalem, but also credited with writing Lamentations, the saddest in book in Bible.

Knowing what lies ahead for Judah, Jeremiah cries out to God. But there is no point in praying for deliverance... the nation has chosen its fate by ignoring God's messengers calling for the people to repent.

Jeremiah lambastes the people of Judah, accusing them of idolatry and of abandoning God. Over and over God calls on His people to repent and turn back to Him (3:12, 14, 22 & 4:1). But the people no longer even acknowledge their sin, much less return to God. Jeremiah moves the image of Judah beyond that of an adulterous wife to that of a harlot, for a harlot no longer even blushes in the shame of her sin.

Despite Jeremiah's call to repentance, the people continue to refuse to turn away from idolatry and social injustice. The prophet also pronounces judgment on the Temple, calling the place a "den of robbers" (7:11) – recall during Jesus' ministry, He also evoked judgment to the market sellers in the Temple. Jeremiah condemns what the people have been listening to... the lies and deceit of their false prophets, priests, and other leaders. Furthermore, God underscores their foolishness of believing in the lies of idolatry, ridiculing the idols and those people who worship them (10:1-16).

God tells Jeremiah not to intercede for now is the time for judgment (14:1-15:9). Since judgment is coming, God tells Jeremiah not to marry for there be will be no rejoicing in coming days (16).

Jeremiah experiences persecution but continues to deliver God's message, even when it is unpopular (20)... *We have much to learn from Jeremiah's unwavering ministry.*