

The Call to Be

Jeremiah 1: 1- 19

JER 1:1 The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. 2 The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, 3 and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

JER 1:4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

6 "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." 7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

JER 1:9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

11 The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?"

"I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied. 12 The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."

13 The word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?"

"I see a boiling pot, tilting away from the north," I answered.

JER 1:14 The LORD said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land. 15 I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the LORD.

"Their kings will come and set up their thrones in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem; they will come against all her surrounding walls and against all the towns of Judah.

16 I will pronounce my judgments on my people because of their wickedness in forsaking me, in burning incense to other gods and in worshiping what their hands have made.

JER 1:17 "Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. 18 Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land--against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. 19 They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. (NIV)

The Call to Be



Jeremiah by Michelangelo

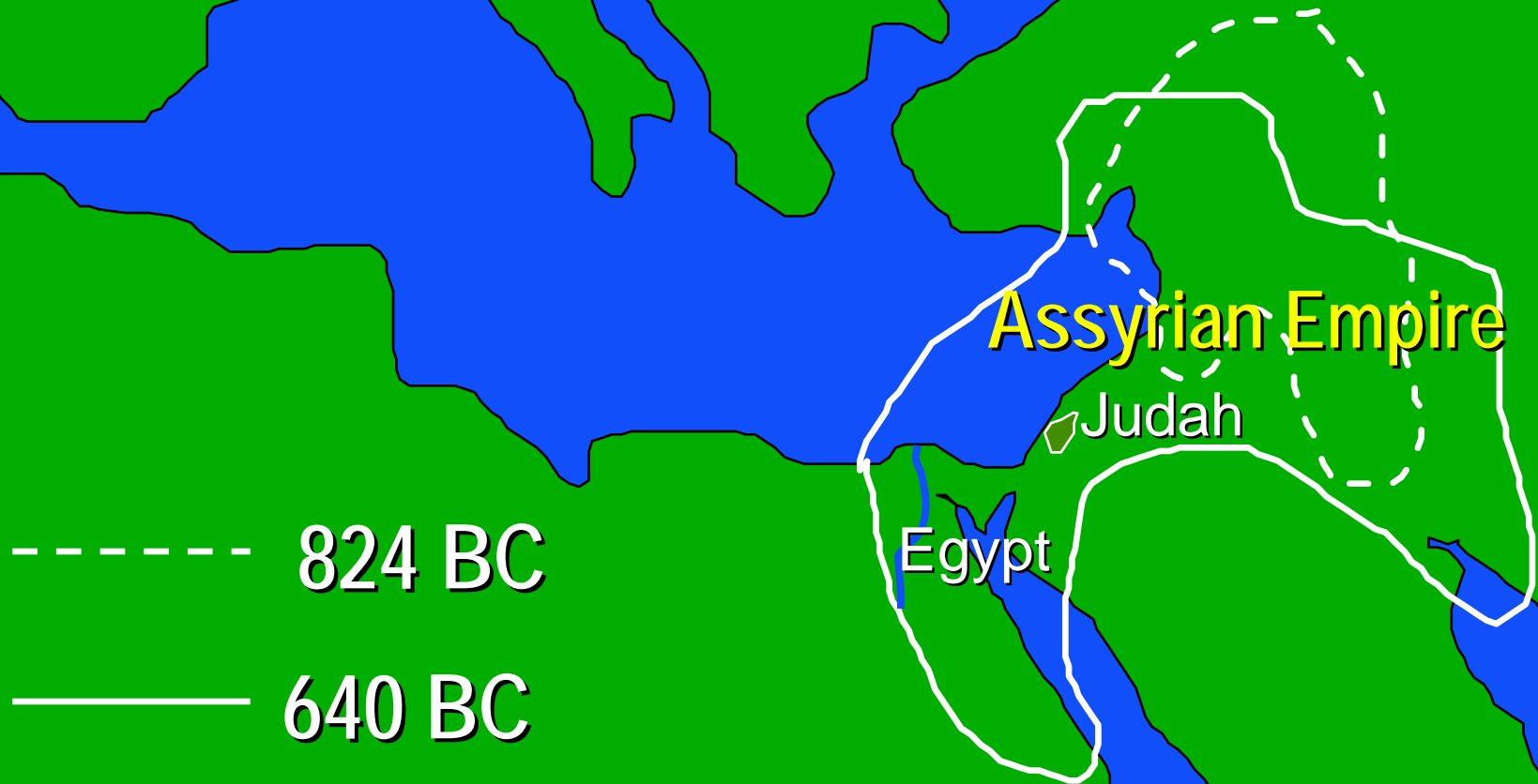
- Background (1:1-3)
- God's calling (1:4-5)
- Jeremiah response (1:6)
- God's confirmation (1:7-14)
- God's plan (1:15-16)
- God's empowerment (1:17-19)

Background (1:1-3)

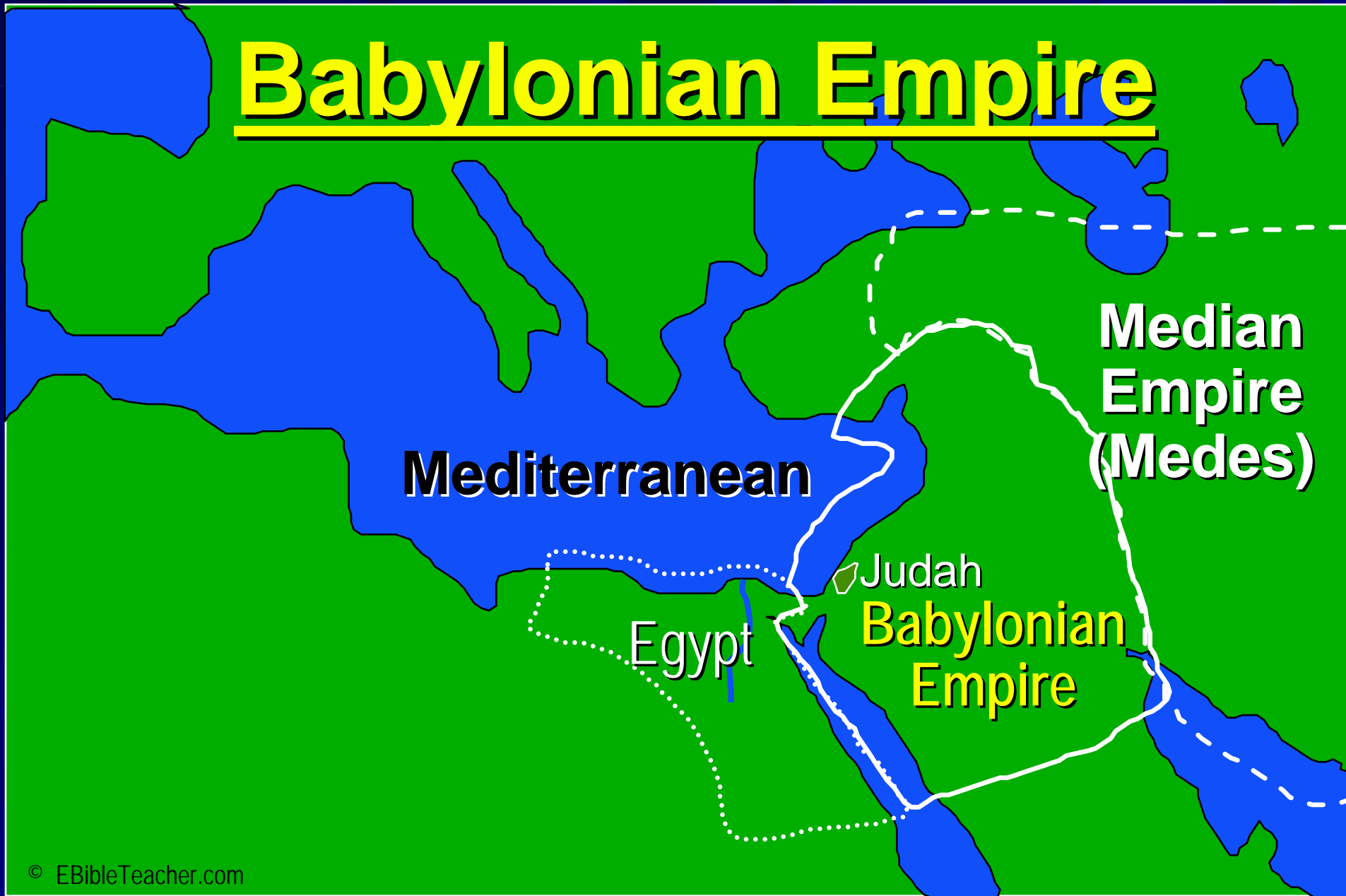
JER 1:1 The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. 2 The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, 3 and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

Jeremiah prophesied during the darkest days of the southern kingdom Judah's history, beginning in the 13th year of Josiah (627 BC) and extending past the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC) and the exile.

Assyrian Empire



Babylonian Empire



Jeremiah ministered under eight rulers

- Josiah (Judah's last Godly king)
- Jehoahaz
- Jehoiakim (ungodly, scripture burning king)
- Jehoiachin (a ninety-day wonder judged by God)
- Zedekiah (Judah's last king)
- Nebuchanezzar (Babylon conqueror)
- Gedaliah (Babylonian appointed governor of occupied Jerusalem)
- Johanan (successor of Gedaliah who was assassinated)

King Josiah

- Josiah means 'the Lord heals.'
- Josiah was 8 years old when he became king.
- At 16 he began to seek God
- by 20 Josiah initiated a vigorous religious revival by destroying altars in high places
- Discovered lost books of Moses in temple
- Killed by Pharaoh Neco in 609 BC



Jeremiah ministered under eight rulers

- Josiah (Judah's last Godly king)
- Jehoahaz
- Jehoiakim (ungodly, scripture burning king)
- Jehoiachin (a ninety-day wonder judged by God)
- Zedekiah (Judah's last king)
- Nebuchanezzar (Babylon conqueror)
- Gedaliah (Babylonian appointed governor of occupied Jerusalem)
- Johanan (successor of Gedaliah who was assassinated)

God's calling (1:4-5)

The word of the LORD came to me, saying,
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."



Jeremiah the Prophet and the King

Jeremiah response (1:6)

"Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

God's confirmation (1:7-14)

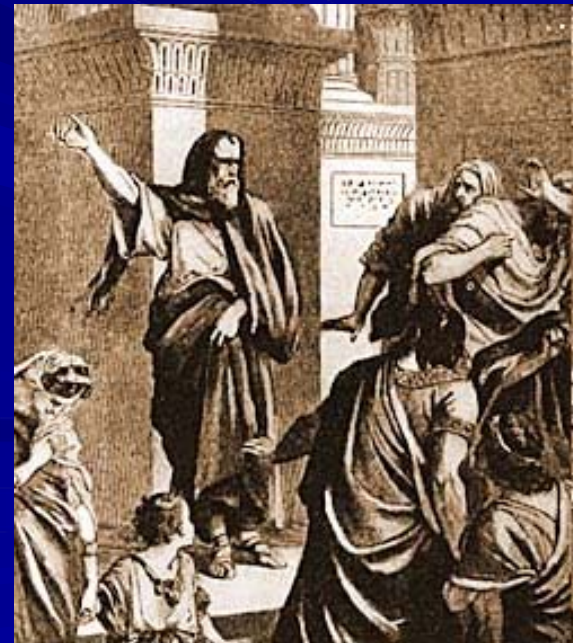
JER 1:7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

JER 1:9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

(a) Word

A Messenger

What to say



God's confirmation (1:7-14)

JER 1:11 The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?"

"I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied.

JER 1:12 The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."



(b) almond

“In response to the initial question, Jeremiah says he sees a shaged (almond); God responds that he is shaged (watching). In other words, the word play indicates that the tree and the divine watching are intimately interrelated “

God's confirmation (1:7-14)

JER 1:13 The word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?"
"I see a boiling pot, tilting away from the north," I answered.

JER 1:14 The LORD said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on
all who live in the land.



(c) Boiling pot

God's plan (1:15-16)

15 I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the LORD.

"Their kings will come and set up their thrones in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem; they will come against all her surrounding walls and against all the towns of Judah.

JER 1:16 I will pronounce my judgments on my people because of their wickedness in forsaking me, in burning incense to other gods and in worshiping what their hands have made.

God's judgment on the Israelites (Judeans)

- Ungodly kings
- False prophets, priests and wise men
- Idolatry of the people (return to worship of Baal)
- Refusal to listen to God

Biblical Covenants

ABRAHAMIC
Genesis 12:1-3

LAND

SEED

BLESSING

MOSAIC/LAW

DAVIDIC

NEW

Deuteronomy 30:1-10

2 Samuel 7:12-16

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Mosaic/Law Covenant

He promised to bless His people if they obeyed Him. And He promised to punish His people if they disobeyed.

Deuteronomy 30:1-10

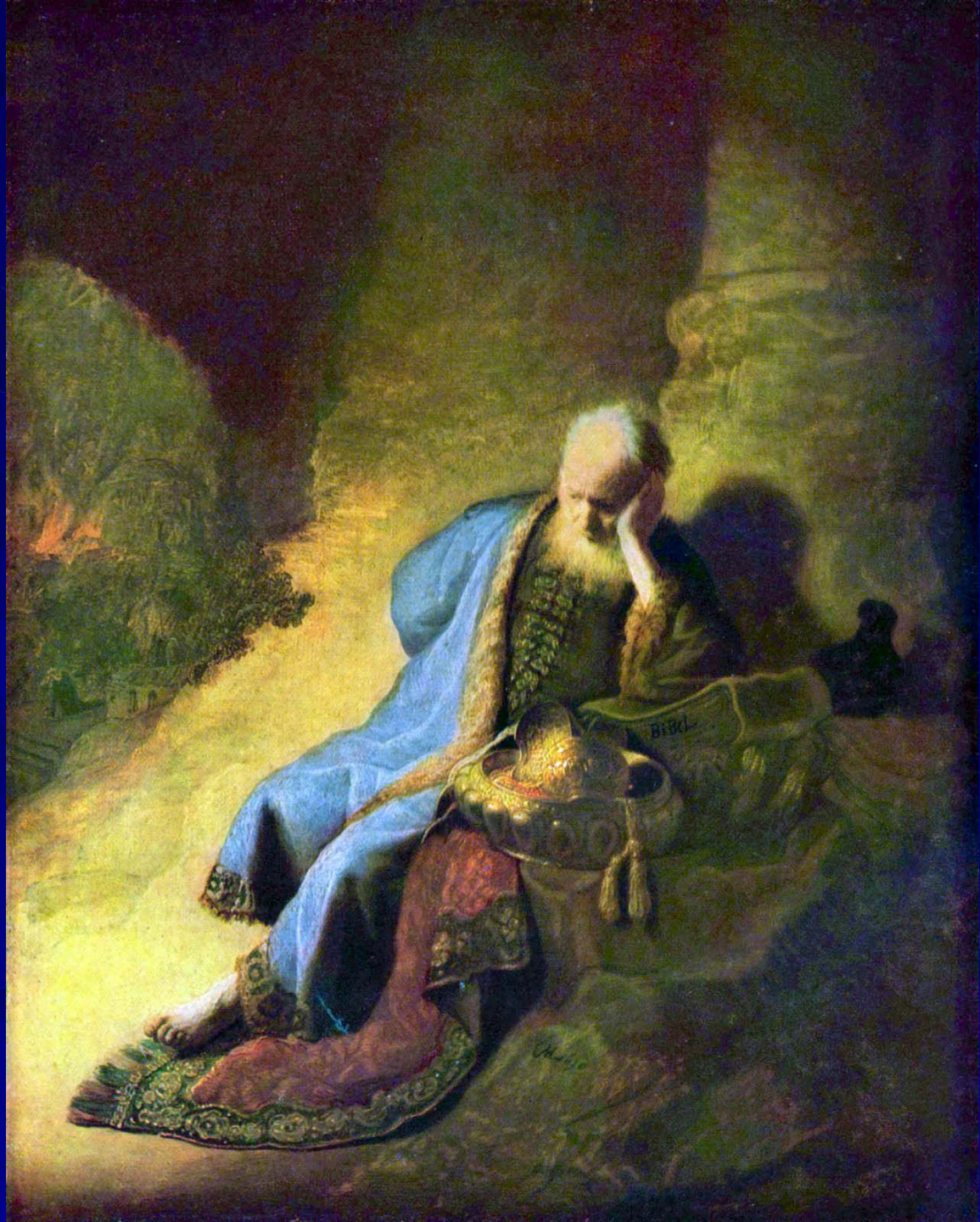
The Fall of Jerusalem

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 BC

- Wholesale devastation and slaughter of kings, princes, elders, priests, prophets and people
- Starving mothers are reduced to cannibalism
- Judah's people are dragged into exile
- Elaborate ceremony and worship rituals came to an end

**The Prophet
Jeremiah
Mourning over
the Destruction
of Jerusalem**

by Rembrandt
(1603)



Book of
Jeremiah



Fall of Jerusalem

Book of
Lamentations



Looking
ahead
(warning)

Looking
back
(mourning)



Parallels between Lamentations and Deuteronomy

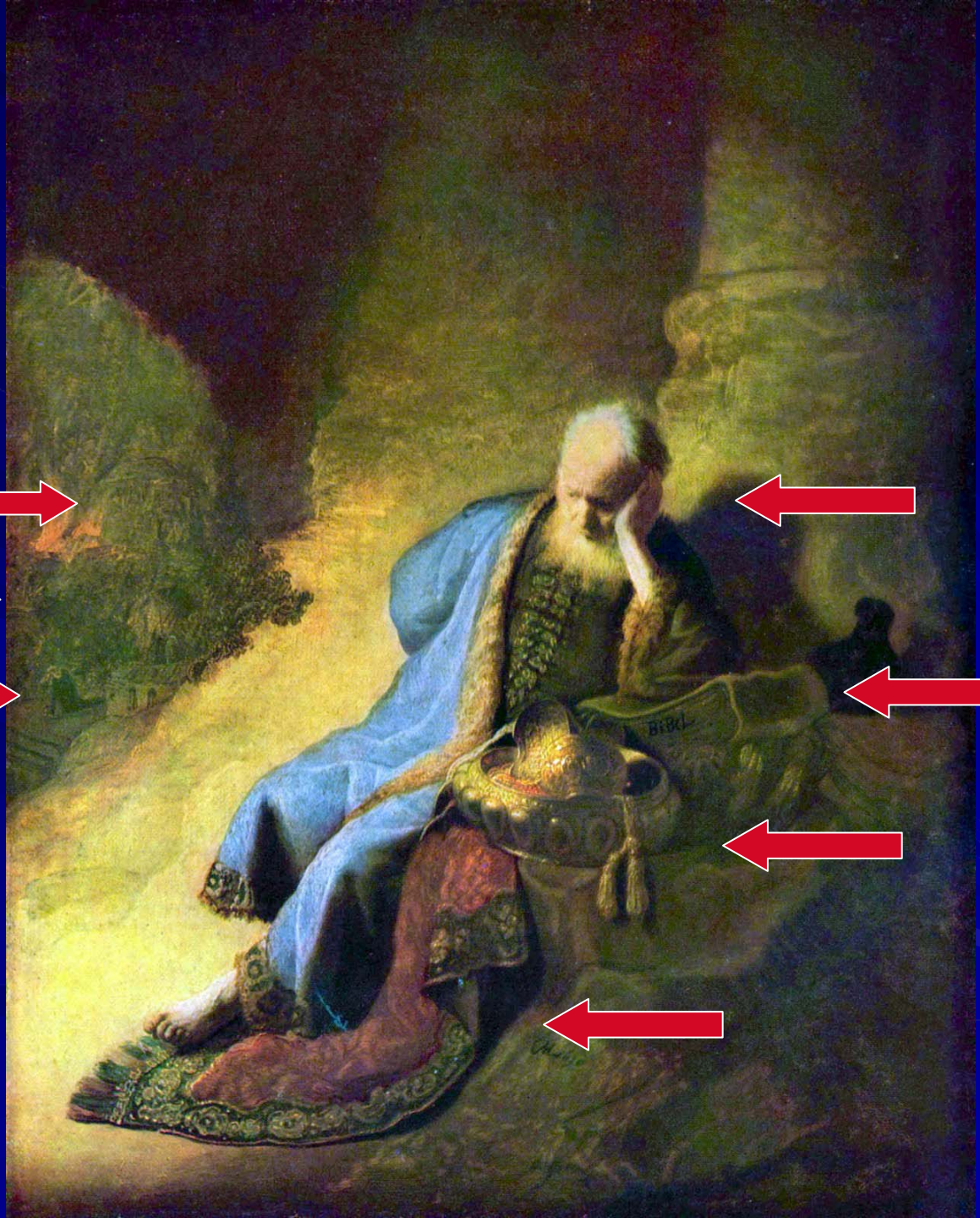
Lamentations

Deuteronomy

1:3	She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place.	28:65	Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. He will be the head, but you will be the tail.
1:5	Her foes have become her masters.	28:44	Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation.
1:5	Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.	28:32	The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven.
1:6	In weakness they have fled before the pursuer.	28:25	You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity.
1:18	My young men and maidens have gone into exile.	28:41	You will become a thing of horror and an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the Lord will drive you.
2:15	All who pass your way clap their hands at you; they scoff and shake their heads at the Daughter of Jerusalem.	28:37	Because of the suffering that your enemy will inflict on you during the siege, you will eat the fruit of the womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters the Lord your God has given you.
2:20	Should women eat their offspring, the children they have cared for?	28:53	... a fierce looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young.
2:21	Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets.	28:50	The most gentle and sensitive woman among you ... will begrudge the husband she loves and her own son or daughter the afterbirth from her womb and the children she bears. For she intends to eat them secretly during the siege.
4:10	With their own hands compassionate women have cooked their own children.	28:56-57	You will build a house, but you will not live in it.
5:2	Our inheritance has been turned over to aliens, our homes to foreigners.	28:30	Among those nations you will find no repose.
5:5	We are weary and find no rest.	28:65	In hunger and thirst ... you will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you.
5:10	Our skin is as hot as an oven, feverish from hunger.	28:48	You will be pledged to be married to a woman, but another will take her and ravish her.
5:11	Women have been ravished in Zion, and virgins in the towns of Judah.	28:30	... a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old ...
5:12	Elders are shown no respect.	28:50	Your carcasses will be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away.
5:18	Mount Zion ... lies desolate, with jackals prowling over it.	28:26	

**The Prophet
Jeremiah
Mourning over
the Destruction
of Jerusalem**

**By Rembrandt
(1603)**









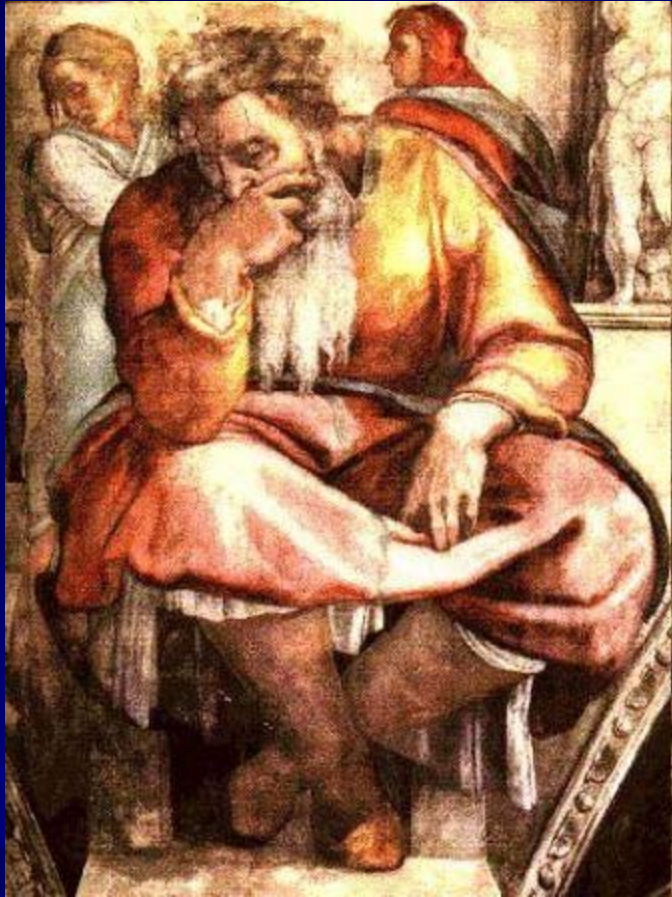
God's empowerment (1:17-19)

JER 1:17 "Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. 18 Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land--against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. 19 They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.



- fortified city
- iron pillar
- bronze wall

	Jeremiah	
Background (1:1-3)	Society in chaos	
God's calling (1:4-5)	Prophet to the nations	
Jeremiah response (1:6)	excuse	
God's confirmation (1:7-14)	(a) Word (b) Branch almond (c) Boiling pot	
God's plan (1:15-16)	Judgment	
God's empowerment (1:17-19)	(a) Fortified city (b) Iron pillar (c) Bronze wall	



What are the
lessons for us?

	Jeremiah	Us
Background (1:1-3)	Society in chaos	Society in chaos
God's calling (1:4-5)	Prophet to the nations	
Jeremiah response (1:6)	excuse	
God's confirmation (1:7-14)	(a) Word (b) Branch almond (c) Boiling pot	
God's plan (1:15-16)	Judgment	
God's empowerment (1:17-19)	(a) Fortified city (b) Iron pillar (c) Bronze wall	



GAS PRICE

Fuel price hike (2004-2008)



Since May 2004, diesel price has increased by 231%, petrol by 97.1%



	Jeremiah	Us
Background (1:1-3)	Society in chaos	Society in chaos
God's calling (1:4-5)	Prophet to the nations	People of God; sons and daughters
Jeremiah response (1:6)	excuse	
God's confirmation (1:7-14)	(a) Word (b) Branch almond (c) Boiling pot	
God's plan (1:15-16)	Judgment	
God's empowerment (1:17-19)	(a) Fortified city (b) Iron pillar (c) Bronze wall	

Our calling

- We are call to be someone
- That is why we have meaning and purpose in this life on earth
- As Jeremiah slowly be [become] the prophet to the nations
- we are called to be [become] someone special

	Jeremiah	Us
Background (1:1-3)	Society in chaos	Society in chaos
God's calling (1:4-5)	Prophet to the nations	People of God; sons and daughters
Jeremiah response (1:6)	excuse	?excuse
God's confirmation (1:7-14)	(a) Word (b) Branch almond (c) Boiling pot	(a) Bible (b) Jesus' death and resurrection (c) Sovereignty
God's plan (1:15-16)	Judgment	
God's empowerment (1:17-19)	(a) Fortified city (b) Iron pillar (c) Bronze wall	

	Jeremiah	Us
Background (1:1-3)	Society in chaos	Society in chaos
God's calling (1:4-5)	Prophet to the nations	People of God; sons and daughters
Jeremiah response (1:6)	excuse	?excuse
God's confirmation (1:7-14)	(a) Word (b) Branch almond (c) Boiling pot	(a) Bible (b) Jesus' death and resurrection (c) Sovereignty
God's plan (1:15-16)	Judgment	New Covenant
God's empowerment (1:17-19)	(a) Fortified city (b) Iron pillar (c) Bronze wall	

New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34)

31 “The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34)

33 “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

	Jeremiah	Us
Background (1:1-3)	Society in chaos	Society in chaos
God's calling (1:4-5)	Prophet to the nations	People of God; sons and daughters
Jeremiah response (1:6)	excuse	?excuse
God's confirmation (1:7-14)	(a) Word (b) Branch almond (c) Boiling pot	(a) Bible (b) Jesus' death and resurrection (c) Sovereignty
God's plan (1:15-16)	Judgment	New Covenant
God's empowerment (1:17-19)	(a) Fortified city (b) Iron pillar (c) Bronze wall	(a) New nature (b) Bible (c) Holy Spirit

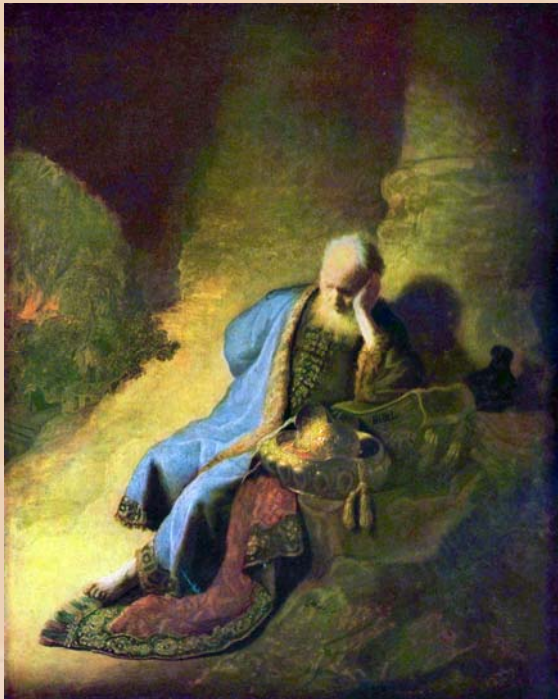
Jerusalem times

no.203.078

Keeping you up to date since the Garden of Eden

- Since creation-

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR DESTROYED JERUSALEM King Zedekiah blinded, family members killed. 586 BC

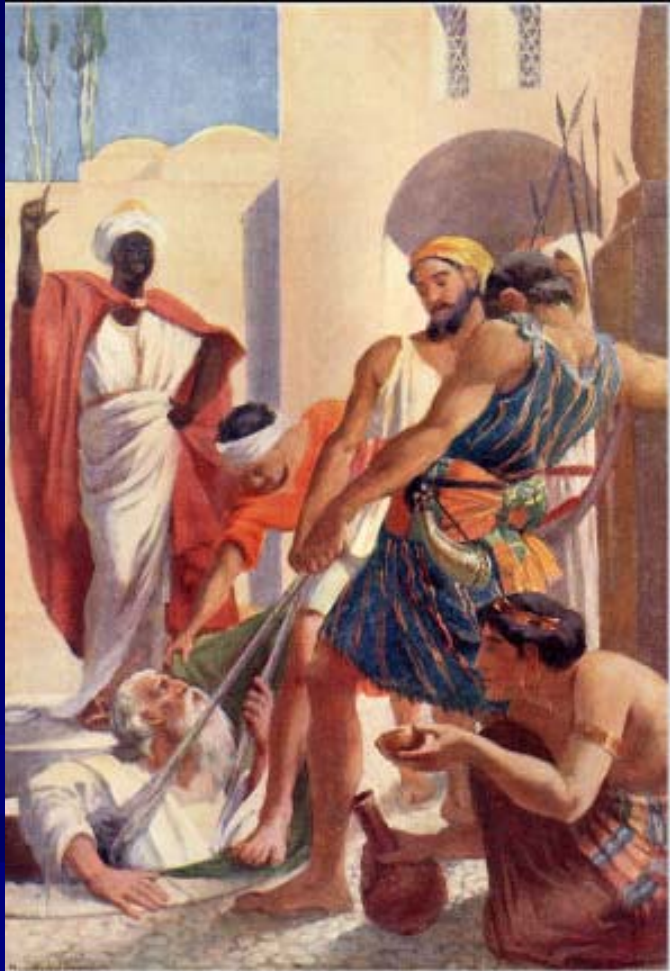


“The Prophet Jeremiah Mourning over the Destruction of Jerusalem” is among the early works of Rembrandt in which his *leitmotif* of conceptual structure was a single or totally dominant figure that is totally bound up in the course of an historical event. Rembrandt masterfully turns an individual person, their expressions and posture, into a history painting.

Alex Tang went to Amsterdam in 2006 which is the 400 year anniversary of Rembrandt's birth. Alex saw this painting of the prophet Jeremiah in the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam - Museum for Art and History and was immediately captivated.

Seated at the base of a large column, Jeremiah mourns the destruction of Jerusalem. It was an event he had prophesied. The light falls almost exclusively on the old man and his immediate surroundings.

God empowers us to **be**



- new nature because of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross
- the guidance of the word of God
- the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Be



Contact me

Dr Alex Tang

Email: draltang@yahoo.com

Website: www.kairos2.com

Blog: www.draltang01.blogspot.com

Facebook: www.facebook/dr.alex.tang

Tweet: www.twitter.com/alexthtang

SS: www.slideshare.net/draltang