

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF MESSAGE ONE

Jeremiah, the Tenderhearted Prophet of the Tenderhearted God

I. Jeremiah was a priest-prophet.

Jer.1:1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin.

4 Now the word of Jehovah came to me, saying.

II. Jehovah appointed Jeremiah to be over the nations and over the kingdoms.

Jer. 1:10 See, I have appointed you this day Over the nations and over the kingdoms To pluck up and to break down, To destroy and to tear down, To build up and to plant.

B This corresponds to the two meanings of the name Jeremiah—"Jehovah exalts" and "Jehovah tears down."

III. Jehovah made Jeremiah into a fortified city, into an iron pillar, and into bronze walls against the whole land.

Jer. 1:18 And I am now making you today into a fortified city and into an iron pillar and into bronze walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against its princes, against its priests, and against the people of the land.

C God sent His army—a young man named Jeremiah—to fight those who opposed Him.

IV. Jeremiah was an overcomer speaking for God.

Jer. 2:1-2 And the word of Jehovah came to me, saying, Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus says Jehovah: I remember concerning you the kindness of your youth, The love of your bridal days, When you followed after Me in the wilderness, In a land that was not sown.

V. The book of Jeremiah has God's tenderheartedness plus God's righteousness.

Jer. 9:18 Let them hasten and take up a wailing for _1 us, that _1 our eyes may shed tears And _1 our eyelids may pour forth water.

Note1: The words us and our here indicate that Jehovah joined Himself to the suffering people and was one with them in their suffering. The sympathetic God who punished was also among His punished people. Eventually, those who wailed were wailing not only for Israel but also for Jehovah. Jehovah Himself was weeping in sympathy for His people.

VI. The book of Jeremiah is also an autobiography in which Jeremiah tells us of his situation, his person, and his feeling, revealing his tender heart.

Jer. 13:17 And if you will not hear it, My soul will weep in secret places for your pride; And my eye will weep bitterly and shed tears, Because the flock of Jehovah has been taken captive.

VII We need to be tenderhearted with one another, and be able to serve God with tears:

Eph. 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I did not cease admonishing each one with tears.

Psa. 84:6 Passing through the valley of Baca, They make it a spring; Indeed the early rain covers it with blessings.