

"Here is a very honest, very revealing book of the Bible. Rather than polite, superficial speech, everyone smiling, everyone positive, upbeat, happy, and content, Jeremiah provides us with a wonderful invitation to passionate, honest relationship with the God who has called our faith community to be a community not only of love and hope but also of truth and realism. This is at the heart of any true spiritual formation work." – William Willamon

Jeremiah 1:1

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin.

Jeremiah = Jehovah lifts up

God says...Jeremiah, I pick you.

Jeremiah says...I think you got the wrong number.

God says...I've always had your number.

Jeremiah says...I think you got the wrong number.

God says...I'm getting ready to revolutionize and reorient the whole world, and guess who's going to help me?

Jeremiah 1:4-10

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. 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."

I knew you...

"We are known before we know...no longer do we need to run here and there, panicked and anxious, searching for answers to life. Our lives are not puzzles to be figured out. Rather, we come to God, who knows us and reveals to us the truths of our lives. The fundamental mistake is to begin with ourselves and not God. God is the center from which all life develops. If we use our ego as the center from which to plot the geometry of our lives, we will live eccentrically." – Eugene Peterson

I set you apart...

God and anybody is a majority.

The general pattern with God is that He calls us to assignments that are beyond our wisdom and strength to accomplish—a vision beyond our resources.

Jeremiah 1:11-12

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."

almond = shaqed

watching = shoqed

Jeremiah 1:13-14

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

boiling pot = the future invasion, defeat and exile of the southern kingdom of Judah.

"I believe in getting into hot water, it keeps you clean." – G.K. Chesterton

almond tree (the Word) + boiling pot (the world)

Have the perspective of God's word as we look over the landscape of our world.