

"If the presence of God is in the church, the church will draw the world in.
If the presence of God is not in the church, the world will draw the church out."

– Charles Finney (1792-1875)



Jeremiah = Jehovah lifts up, the weeping prophet

➤ The Call

Jeremiah 1:4-5

*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."

"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

Culture's vision for self = "You do you...and expect everyone else to deal with it."

Jesus' for self =

Matthew 16:24-25

24 "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

➤ The Setting

Jeremiah 1:9-10

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."

Three pairs of verbs in v. 10 – uproot/tear down, destroy/overthrow, build/plant

"We know that he often felt terrible and that he was treated terribly. He often felt weak; he often was near despair. In fact, he was always strong. His emotions often failed him; his faith always held fast." – Eugene Peterson

➤ The Plan

Jeremiah 1:17-19

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.



Themes of the prophets' messages:

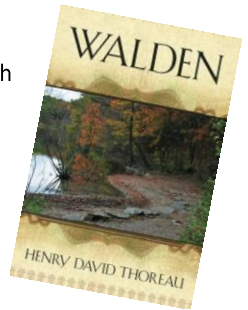
1. **Past sin** – here's how the nation/people has rebelled against God and His ways
2. **Present responsibility** – the people must take ownership for their actions and repent, trust God and turn back to Him
3. **Future hope** – the Lord has not given up on you, there are brighter days ahead, the ways things are is not the way they will always be

"Life is difficult, Jeremiah. Are you going to quit at the first wave of opposition? Are you going to retreat when you find that there is more to life than finding three meals a day and a dry place to sleep at night? Are you going to run home the minute you find that the mass of men and women are more interested in keeping their feet warm than in living at risk to the glory of God? Are you going to live cautiously or courageously? I call you to live at your best, to pursue righteousness, to sustain a drive toward excellence...it is easier to relax in the embracing arms of The Average. Easier, but not better...What is it you really want, Jeremiah, do you want to shuffle along with this crowd, or run with the horses?" – Eugene Peterson

Jeremiah 12:5

"If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the jungle of the Jordan?"

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away." – Henry David Thoreau



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