1A JEREMIAH'S CALL

1:1-19

The book begins with Jeremiah's call and appointment to the ministry. He is warned that although his message will involve both "plucking up" and "planting," the former will receive the greater proportion of attention. He is told at the outset that his words will be rejected but that God will fortify him against the opposition.

2A JEREMIAH'S PROPHECIES CONCERNING JUDAH

2:1--45:5

Although God will also prophesy against the nations, the bulk of Jeremiah's work is found in these forty-four chapters of condemnation against Judah. As judgment comes, it begins at the house of God.

1B The Fate of Jerus alem Ann ounced

2:1--25:38

At this point Jeremiah announces the judgment of Jerusalem with the hope that Judah might repent. Later, because of the lack of response on the part of the people, his messages announce the inevitability of the coming judgment.

1C General Messages of Indictment and Judgment

2:1--20:18

1D In the time of Jehoiakim

26:1-24

The temple sermon of Jeremiah which was recorded previously (7-10) is again here in abbreviated form. The emphasis here however is not upon the content of the message (26:1-2) but rather upon the people's response (26:7-24). Although Jeremiah is preserved in accordance with God's promise of chapter 1, the significant fact is their imprisonment and desire to kill the man of God rather than to submit to and obey him.

2D In the time of Zedekiah

27:1--29:32

In the time of Zedekiah the responses to Jeremiah are most clearly seen in his conflicts with false prophets.

- 1E conflict with false prophets in Judah 27:1--28:17 Jeremiah's conflict with the prophets of the country (the last group which should have given him trouble) demonstrates the moral decay of the nation. His conflicts with them occur collectively and individually.
- 2E conflict with false prophets in Babylon: Jeremiah's letter 29:1-32 Chapter 27 is a general address to false prophets as a class, while chapter 28 is a specific instance of the opposition of one prophet. Chapter 29 teaches that even in Babylon false prophets rejected the ministry of Jeremiah.
- 2C The book of Consolation: hope amid despair

30:1--33:26

1D Section #1: the promise in poetry

30:1--31:40

This section contains one of the most eloquent promises of the new covenant

covenant obedience of the Rechabites.

2D Contempt for prophecy: Jehoiakim and the scroll 36:1-32
The final powerful story which demonstrates why the fate of Jerusalem is sealed is Jehoiakim's violent treatment of the written word.

3B The Fate of Jerus alem Accomplished

37:1-44:30

This section makes at least two contributions to the argument of the book. First, it confirms the validity of Jeremiah's warnings. Second, it further confirms the righteousness of God's judgment by demonstrating the incorrigible disobedience of the remnant which is left in the land after the fall of the city.

At the end of this section we see the words "Behold I am watching over them for harm and not for good" (44:27) which probably serve as an inclusio to the words of the introduction "I am watching over My word to per form it" (1:12). Perhaps more important are the words of 45:4 "Behold, what I have built I am about to tear down, and what I have planted I am about to uproot, that is, the whole land," and their connection with the introduction "To pluck up and to break down, To destroy and to overthrow, To build and to plant" (1:10). These two sets of bookends serve to tie this section together.

4B Message to Baruch

45:1-6

Baruch may serve as an example of God's ability to preserve the righteous.

3A JEREMIAH'S PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE NATIONS

46:1--51:64

This section demonstrates God's sovereignty over the nations. It also teaches that justice will be exacted from those nations which have unjustly treated Israel. This is a practical manifestation of the Abrahamic promise. Babylon, appropriately, is accorded longest section of judgment.

4A JEREMIAH'S VINDICATION

52:1-34

The final chapter serves as more than as a historical afterthought. It serves to vindicate the prophetic voice of Jeremiah ("I am watching over My word to perform it, 1:10) in two ways.

1B Things "Plucked Up"

52:1-27

First, Jeremiah's prophecies of judgment have obviously occurred against the king, the city, the temple and the leaders.

2B Things Preserved for Future "Planting"

52:28-34

And, second, God's hand is seen to be preserving his people and particularly the Davidic line for that day when He will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah (33:31-34).

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