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Jeremiah's Call and Commission

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **July 16, 2017**

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Introduction: 1. **Jeremiah** was by birth **a priest**, and dwelt at Anathoth, a village in the tribe of Benjamin, about three miles north of Jerusalem. The name is NOT found until the time of David, when, however, it seems to have become common (see 1 Chronicles 12:4, 1 Chron. 12:10, 1 Chron. 12:13), and most probably it signifies that **Yahweh shall exalt**. It is a subject of dispute **whether** or **not** **Hilkiah**, the **father** of **Jeremiah**, was the **high priest** of that name, who found the Book of the Law in the Temple 2 Kings 22:8. It is at least possible that he was. The more than ordinary respect felt for the prophet by Jehoiakim and Zedekiah, and other reasons support the supposition that **Jeremiah** was a **man of high birth**.

His call to the **prophetic office** came in the **13th year** of **Josiah**. It was a time when danger was once again gathering around the little kingdom of Judah, and to Jeremiah was assigned a more directly **political position** than to any other of "the goodly fellowship of the prophets;" as both the symbols shown to him and the very words of his institution prove.

...The **ministry** of **Jeremiah** really belonged to the **LAST 18 years** of **Josiah's reign**. Judah's probation was then going on, her salvation still possible; though each year Judah's **guilt** became **heavier**, her **condemnation** (act of dooming to punishment) became more certain. But to the eye of man, her punishment SEEMED more remote than ever.
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bnb/jeremiah-0.html>)

Jeremiah 1:1-3, The words of **Jeremiah** the **son of Hilkiah**, **of the priests** that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: To whom the **WORD** of the LORD (Yahweh) came in the days of **Josiah** the son of Amon king of Judah, in the **thirteenth year** of his reign. It came also in the days of **Jehoiakim** the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of **Zedekiah** the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the **carrying away** of **Jerusalem CAPTIVE** in the **FIFTH month**.

NOTE: There were **FIVE kings** of **Judah** during the time period mentioned here; but the names of Jehoahaz and Jeconiah are omitted because each of these kings **reigned only three months**. If we calculate the length of Jeremiah's ministry only from the data mentioned here, it was exactly **forty years** and **six months** (Under **Josiah**, 18 years;

2 Kings 22:1, Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned **thirty and one years** in Jerusalem.

under **Jehoahaz**, three months; under **Jehoiachim**, 11 years; under **Jeconiah**, three months; and under **Zedekiah**, 11 years). Jeremiah 40-41) record events that happened several years after the destruction of Jerusalem," [4] indicating that this summary occurs in Jeremiah before the book was completed, pertaining NOT to all of the book, to part of it.

This supports the view of some scholars that **Jeremiah's ministry lasted** perhaps as long as **fifty years**. (Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/bcc/jeremiah-1.html>)

Jeremiah 1:4-5, Then the word of the LORD (Yahweh) came unto me, saying, **Before I formed thee in the belly** I KNEW thee; and **BEFORE** thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and **I ordained thee a prophet** unto the nations.

NOTE: The word of the Lord came unto me - Then I first felt the inspiring influence of the Divine Spirit, NOT only revealing to me the subjects which he would have me to declare to the people, but also the WORDS which I should use in these declarations.

Before I formed thee - I had **destined thee** to the **prophetic office** before thou wert born: I had formed MY PLAN, and appointed thee to be my envoy (a messenger) to his people. St. Paul speaks of his own call to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles in similar terms, Gal. 1:15-16. (Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/acc/jeremiah-1.html>)

Galatians 1:15-16, But when it pleased God, who **separated me** from my mother's WOMB, and **called me** by **his grace**, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred NOT with flesh and blood...

Jeremiah 1:6, Then said I, **Ah**, Lord GOD! **behold, I cannot speak: for I am a CHILD (from the age of infancy to adolescence [in the male sex, from fourteen to twenty-one.])**.

NOTE: The word אהא, "Ah", or "Ahah", is used in **distress** and **grief**, as Kimchi observes; and is expressive of mourning and complaint, as Jarchi notes; and shows that the **prophet was troubled and uneasy at his call**, and would gladly have been excused on the following account:

behold, I cannot speak; or, "I know NOT how to SPEAK", V. L. Munster, Vatablus, Junius & Tremellius; "non novi loqui", Pagninus, Montanus. ; **properly and pertinently, politely and eloquently**, especially before great personages, kings and princes, and the citizens of Jerusalem, being brought up in a rustic manner in the country. A like excuse Moses made, Exodus 4:10. The Targum is, "I know NOT to prophesy: for **I am a child**"; meaning either in **knowledge and understanding**, or in years; NOT a mere child, but a **"junior"**, as the Septuagint version renders the word; or a **"young man"**, as the Arabic version; so Samuel and Zechariah were young men, when they first ministered in their office, 1 Sam. 3:1. Abarbinel supposes that Jeremiah was now **twelve or fifteen years** of age; but it should seem rather that he was more, perhaps **TWENTY years of age;** since he seems to have prophesied to the men of Anathoth before he was sent to Jerusalem, Jeremiah 11:21. (Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/geb/jeremiah-1.html>)

Jeremiah 1:7, But the LORD (Yahweh) said unto me, **Say NOT**, I am a child: **for thou shalt go to ALL that I shall SEND thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt SPEAK.**

NOTE: "Say no any more, I am a child. It is true thou art but," **(1.)** "Thou hast God's precept, and let NOT thy being young hinder thee from obeying it. Go to all to whom I shall send thee and speak whatsoever I command thee." Note, Though a sense of our own weakness and insufficiency should make us **go humbly** about our work, yet it **should NOT make us draw back** from it when God calls us to it. God was **angry** with Moses even for his modest excuses, Exodus 4:14. **(2.)** "Thou hast God's presence, and let NOT thy being young **discourage** thee from depending upon it. Though thou art a child, thou shalt **be enabled to go** to all to whom I shall send thee, though they are ever so great and ever so many. And whatsoever I command thee thou shalt have **judgment, memory, and language**, wherewith to speak it as it should be spoken." Samuel delivered a message from God to Eli, when he was a little child. Note, God can, when he pleases, **make children prophets, and ordain strength** out of the mouth of BABES and SUCKLINGS. (Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/mhm/jeremiah-1.html>)

Thought 1. Scripture tells us the SECRET to obedience is having a “good understanding of the FEAR (reverence) of the Lord (Yahweh).” With it, anyone WILL obey, regardless of their age! Samuel, as a young prophet, is a great example of this spiritual truth.

Psalm 111:10, The **FEAR OF** the LORD (Yahweh) is the **beginning of wisdom:** a **good UNDERSTANDING** have all they that **DO** his commandments....

Fear defined 3374, fear; morally, REVERENCE (profound [deep-down] RESPECT [APPRECIATION, estimation {value} or honor] and esteem (high value) mingled with FEAR and affection (LOVE), as for a holy being or place; the disposition (inclination; frame of MIND) to revere.

The FEAR acceptable to God, is a filial [child in relation to his parents] fear, an **AWFUL** reverence of the divine nature, proceeding from a just esteem [high value] of his PERFECTIONS [infinite power, holiness, justice, benevolence and wisdom], which produces **IN us** an inclination (LEANING of the MIND or WILL) TO his service and an UNWILLINGNESS to offend him.

AWFUL, inspiring AWE (DREAD, **1.** Great fear, or apprehension of evil or danger. It expresses more than fear, and less than terror or fright. It is an uneasiness or alarm excited by expected pain, loss or other evil. We speak of the *dread* of evil; the *dread* of suffering; the **dread of the divine displeasure.** It differs from terror also in being less sudden or more continued.

2. FEAR UNITED with RESPECT.)

Of, *prep.* In a general sense, FROM, or OUT FROM; proceeding from; belonging to; RELATING to; **1.** Denoting that from which anything proceeds; indicating ORIGIN, **SOURCE**, DESCENT, and the LIKE.

Understanding defined 7922, INTELLIGENCE (The primary sense of understand is generally to TAKE or HOLD, as we say, to TAKE one's ideas or meaning).

1. UNDERSTANDING (Intelligence between two or more persons; **AGREEMENT of minds**; Union of sentiments (disposition [frame of mind] prompting to action or expression).

SKILL (Aptitude [readiness in learning; DOCILITY { 1. teachableness; aptness for being taught; 2. WILLINGNESS to be TAUGHT})).

2. GOOD INTELLIGENCE between MEN IS harmony (AGREEMENT). So we say, there is a GOOD UNDERSTANDING between persons, when they have the SAME VIEWS, OR are FREE from discord (DISAGREEMENT).

Amos 3:3, Can TWO WALK together, EXCEPT they be AGREED?

Psalm 34:11-19, Come, ye **children**, hearken unto me: **I will TEACH you** the **FEAR** of the **LORD**. What man is he that DESIRETH life, and LOVETH many days, that he may SEE good? **Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and DO good; SEEK peace, and pursue it.** The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The **face** of the LORD (Yahweh) is **against them** that **DO evil**, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD **heareth**, and **delivereth them** out of ALL their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and **saveth such** as be of a **CONTRITE** spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him OUT of them ALL.

CONTRITE, adj. [Latin, to break or bruise; to rub or wear. Literally, worn or bruised. Hence, broken-hearted for SIN; deeply affected with grief and sorrow for having offended God; **HUMBLE**; penitent; as a *contrite* sinner.

1 Samuel 3:16-18, Then **Eli called Samuel**, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I. And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it NOT from me: **God DO so to thee, and more also, IF thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.** And Samuel told him EVERY whit, and HID NOTHING from him.

Thought 2. Samuel obeyed Yahweh out of his good understanding of FEAR (reverence) for him. He didn't WANT the bad stuff that was going to happen to Eli to happen to him! He DESIRED life, and LOVED many days, that he might SEE good! So, that kept his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking guile. He avoided evil, DID good, SOUGHT peace, and pursued it!

Proverbs 14:2, He that **walketh** in HIS **uprightness FEARETH** (regard with REVERENCE) the Lord (Yahweh): but he that is **perverse (turn aside)** in his ways **DESPISETH him.**

Despised defined 959, to disesteem (to slight [to neglect: 1. to omit by carelessness or design {a scheme or plan in the MIND} 2. to forbear {stop, **PAUSE**, refuse} to treat with attention or **RESPECT**]).

Jeremiah 1:8, Be **NOT afraid** of their faces: for **I am WITH thee** to **deliver thee**, saith the LORD (Yahweh).

NOTE: Though they look angry, **be NOT afraid** of their **displeasure** nor **disturbed** with apprehensions of the consequences of it." Those that have messages to deliver from God must NOT be afraid of the face of man, Ezekiel 3:9. "And thou hast cause both to be bold and easy for I am with thee, not only to assist thee in thy work, but to **deliver thee OUT** of the hands of the persecutors and, **IF God be for thee**, who can be against thee?" (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/jeremiah-1.html>)

2 Timothy 3:10-12, But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of LIFE, purpose, FAITH, longsuffering, charity, patience, **PERSECUTIONS**, afflictions, which came unto **me** at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them ALL **the Lord delivered me.** Yea, and **ALL** that **WILL (desire) live godly** in Christ Jesus **SHALL** (he did NOT say must) suffer persecution.

Jeremiah 1:9, Then **the LORD** (Yahweh) put forth his hand, and **TOUCHED** my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, **I have put MY WORDS** in thy mouth.

NOTE: Touched my mouth - a symbolical act in supernatural VISION, implying that God would give him UTTERANCE, notwithstanding his inability to "speak" (Jeremiah 1:6). So Isaiah's lips were touched with a living coal (Isaiah 6:7; cf. Ezekiel 2:8-10; Daniel 10:16). (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/jeremiah-1.html>)

Ezekiel 2:6-10, And thou, son of man, **be NOT afraid** of them, **neither** be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: **be NOT afraid** of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious. But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; **Be NOT thou rebellious** like that rebellious house: **open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.** And when I looked, behold, an **HAND** was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.

Jeremiah 1:10, **SEE**, I have this day **SET thee over** the **nations** and over the **kingdoms**, to

ROOT OUT, and to **pull down**, and to **destroy**, and to **throw down**, to **build**, and to **plant**.

NOTE: This sounds very great, and yet Jeremiah is a poor despicable priest still he is NOT set over the kingdoms as a prince to rule them by the sword, but as a **prophet** by the **power of the WORD of God**. Those that would hence prove the POPE'S supremacy over kings, and his authority to depose (dethrone) them and dispose (to use) of their kingdoms at his pleasure, must prove that he has the same extraordinary spirit of prophecy that Jeremiah had, else how can he have the power that Jeremiah had by virtue of that spirit? And yet the power that Jeremiah had (who, notwithstanding his power, **lived in meanness** (want of dignity and elevation) and **contempt** (state of being despised), and under **oppression**) would NOT content these proud men. Jeremiah was set over the NATIONS, the Jewish nation in the first place, and other nations, some great ones besides, against whom he prophesied he was set over them, NOT to demand tribute from them NOR to enrich himself with their spoils, but to **root out**, and **pull down**, and **destroy**, and yet withal to **build** and **plant**. [1.] He must attempt to REFORM the nations, to root out, and pull down, and destroy idolatry and other wickednesses among them, to extirpate (destroy totally) those **vicious habits** and **customs** which had long taken root, to throw down the kingdom of sin, that religion and VIRTUE (moral goodness) might be planted and built among them. And, to the introducing and establishing of that which is good, it is necessary that that which is evil be removed. [2.] He must tell them that it would be well or ill with them according as they were, or were NOT, reformed. He must **set before them** **LIFE** and **DEATH, good and evil**, according to God's declaration of the method he takes with kingdoms and nations, Jeremiah 18:9-10. He must assure those who persisted in their **wickedness** that they should be rooted out and destroyed, and those who **repented** that they should be built and planted. **He was authorized** to read the DOOM of nations, and God would ratify (confirm) it and fulfil it (Isaiah 44:26), would do it according to his word, and therefore is said to **do it by his word**. It is thus expressed partly to show how SURE the word of prophecy is--it will as certainly be accomplished as if it were done already, and partly to **put an honour upon the prophetic office** and **make it look truly great**, that others may NOT despise the prophets NOR they disparage themselves. And yet more honourable does the gospel ministry look, in that **declarative power** Christ gave his apostles to **remit** (forgive) and **retain** (not let go) sin (John 20:23), to bind and loose, Matthew 18:18. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/jeremiah-1.html>)

Jeremiah 1:11-19, Moreover the WORD of the LORD (Yahweh) came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what SEEST thou? And I said, **I see** a rod of an almond tree. Then said the LORD (Yahweh) unto me, Thou hast **well SEEN**: for I will **hasten (WATCH) my word to perform it**. And the **word of** the LORD (Yahweh) came unto me the **second time**, saying, What SEEST thou? And I said, **I SEE** a **seething (boiling) pot**; and the face (front) thereof is toward (from) the north.

Then the LORD (Yahweh) said unto me, **Out of the NORTH an evil** shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land. For, lo, I will CALL all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and **they shall come**, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah. And **I will utter MY judgments against them** touching ALL **their wickedness, who have forsaken me**, and have burned incense unto OTHER gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands. Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and **SPEAK unto them all** that I **command thee: be NOT dismayed (discouraged) at their faces**, lest I **confound** (disturb the apprehension by indistinctness of ideas or words) thee before them. For, behold, I have made thee this day a DEFENCED city, and an iron PILLAR, and brasen WALLS against the **WHOLE land**, against the **kings** of Judah, against the **princes** thereof, against the **priests** thereof, and against the **people** of the land.

And they shall FIGHT against thee; BUT **they shall NOT prevail** (overcome; to gain the victory) against thee; for **I am WITH thee**, saith the LORD (Yahweh), **to DELIVER thee**.