

Jeremiah's Word Pictures Jeremiah 1:10-19

Jeremiah was a strong and faithful prophet of God.

By Holy Spirit he painted many graphic word pictures for God's people.

The mission of Jeremiah's work was to testify to a sinful and stubborn people who were misled by false prophets.

He encouraged the people to turn from their wickedness and idolatry and return to the true and living God.

Jeremiah was a good man

He cared deeply for the ways of God and the welfare of the people. He possessed Great courage.

Began to preach in the 13th year of King Josiah (627-587 BC - fall of Judah)

Some 40 years - he saw Jerusalem destroyed

The "weeping prophet." Lamented over the people of God and Jerusalem

Against great odds he continued to encourage people to return to God!

Jeremiah 4:14 Wash your heart from evil, O Jerusalem, That you may be saved. How long will your wicked thoughts Lodge within you?

Though Jeremiah lived ~2600 years ago, his word pictures will help all of us today to be able to live closer to God.

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Visualize a tree or bush that is out in the desert, in salty, rocky soil. This is like those who do not serve the Lord.

On the other hand, a tree or bush that is on the river bank thrives because it has plenty of water.

This is like the person who serves the Lord.

The Psalmist made the contrast in the first Psalm. **Psalm 1:1-6**

Notice the four tree-like characteristics of a godly life.

Planted - fortified, stable, rooted, solid, strong

Fruitful - productive (follows planted & growing)

Unwithered - even during days of difficulty the tree-like soul is untouched and undaunted

Prosperous - God blesses him in every good way

We delight ourselves in God's word, maintain a pure, uncompromising walk with God, and then grow into a stable, reliable "Spiritual Tree."

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Certainly should see picture here. They had persecuted & discouraged Jeremiah such that he said he was not going to say another word.

However, as he tried to hold back, the word became like a burning fire within him and he couldn't help but speak it.

We likewise need to share the good news of the gospel to others.

When God's word is within us like a burning fire, we cannot hold it back.

Like excitement of two on road to Emmaus who had to return to Jerusalem to tell the good news.

Luke 24:32-35

Jeremiah 44:2-5

The picture of God "rising early" to send His prophets shows that He was diligent in trying to persuade, warn, and encourage His people to return to Him.

At first it seemed the remnant wanted to do His will (Remnant meaning those who remained after Jerusalem was destroyed) **Jeremiah 42:5-6**

However, when Jeremiah tells them what to do, to stay in the land, they did not want it. **Jeremiah 42:9-12**

Hypocrites when they said they wanted to follow God. **Jeremiah 42:20; 43:4**

They didn't want to do what God required but wanted to do what they thought was best. **Jeremiah 44:16-18**

Thus they were hypocrites when they stated that they wanted to do the will of God!

The question is: Are we being hypocritical in our service to God? God cannot be deceived He knows who we are in word and deed.

***Colossians 3:17** Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

Jeremiah was God's prophet

Purpose to encourage the people of God to return to Him. **Jeremiah 6:16-17**

It is the very height of foolishness to turn away from God, the very fountain of living waters.

May we grow into stable, reliable, spiritual trees, and not be like unfruitful bushes in a dry and salty wilderness.

May the word of God be within us as a burning fire so that we can't possibly hold back.

Let's be determined this day to serve God with all of our being, for He knows our hearts, and He will punish and destroy all who live as hypocrites in their service to Him.

Finally, we will be on our way to perfection when we truly understand these words:

***Jeremiah 10:23** I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.*

Richard Thetford