

The Captivity Cantor

Chapter 6

Audio Lesson: Old Testament #66



Objective: To understand the key messages of Jeremiah's preaching.



"This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name: 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'"

—Jeremiah 33:2-3

As the people of Jerusalem were about to be taken to Babylon in chains, Jeremiah gave them some words of hope to cope with their captivity. Though they had been stripped of all human strength and wealth, and though they were stunned with grief and horror, Jeremiah told them that God would still be with them. They could know Him in His love, His righteousness, and His justice. In fact, in Babylon they would have only Him to depend on, and they would come to know Him better there.

Jeremiah preached many messages, sometimes by acting them out as visual illustrations. Through his sermons, He taught God's people and his messages teach us how to trust in Him, how to still have hope in the midst of tragedy, and how their hearts and ours can be changed if we seek God and asked Him to change us.



1. True or false? Many of the messages of the prophets are in the form of a sermon.

2. True or false? Jeremiah did not preach only gloom and doom; he also delivered messages of hope.

3. True or false? After Jerusalem had been defeated and God's people had lost their wealth, their homes, their jobs, and their strength, they had no hope of fulfillment.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. According to Jeremiah, how can God be known on earth? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. Through His love
- b. Through His righteousness
- c. Through our education
- d. Through His justice
- e. Through our wealth

5. Which of the following was a common method of preaching for Jeremiah?

- a. Standing at a podium to deliver a message
- b. Writing letters to send all over the kingdom
- c. Acting out visual illustrations
- d. Singing his messages in the temple

6. Why did Jeremiah buy the farm of a relative?

- a. He wanted to demonstrate that the captives would return to the land.
- b. He wanted one last harvest before the captivity.
- c. He thought he could sell it for a profit.
- d. He wanted to be able to feed the Babylonians when they invaded.

7. In Jeremiah 33, what does God promise to do when we call on Him?

- a. Give us exactly what we ask for.
- b. Solve all of our problems.
- c. Consider whether He will answer us or not.
- d. Show us great and mighty things we have never seen before.

8. What does Jeremiah tell us about how to change our ways?

- a. We need to forget the past and make a new start on our own.
- b. If we really resolve to do better, we can.
- c. Only God can change us.
- d. With the right psychological help, we can improve ourselves.

9. What were the two sins that Jeremiah preached against in chapter 2? (*choose both that apply*)

- a. They were disobedient sheep wandering without a shepherd.
- b. They stopped drinking from the Spring of Living Water, forsaking God.
- c. They were proud and did not think God would allow His people to suffer.
- d. They dug their own wells that did not hold water, listening and believing their own human wisdom.

10. What did Jeremiah say about the human heart?
- a. In our own fallen nature, our heart is deceitful and desperately wicked.
 - b. Deep within us, everyone has a good heart.
 - c. There is no way for the heart to be changed.
 - d. The heart is much less significant than the mind of reason.

11. Who can really know what is in the human heart?
- a. Our self
 - b. Psychologists
 - c. Those with psychic gifts
 - d. God



In what ways have you tried to change in the past? How successful were your attempts? Have you ever experienced the power of God to change your heart? What is one thing that you want God to change in your heart?



Thank God for His promise to restore you when you fail and to change your heart as you submit to Him. Ask Him to show you great and mighty things you have never known, as He promised to do.



Going Deeper

1. What are two things Jeremiah tells us about the human heart and, above all things, what is true of the human heart according to Jeremiah? (Consider Jeremiah 17:9, 10) _____

2. In the verses above, what question does Jeremiah ask about the human heart, and how does he answer that question? _____

3. How does that relate to the great prayer of David in the last two verses of Psalm 139, and to the way you seek to understand yourself or other people? _____

4. "... Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." (Jeremiah 33:3 NIV) How can this verse relate to you when you are discouraged and burned out, with more of the same happening year after year in your life and ministry? _____

5. What this translation calls "unsearchable things," the Living Bible calls "spiritual secrets." What might those spiritual secrets be? _____

6. When he wrote in his second chapter that the people had forsaken the Spring of Living Water and built for themselves cisterns that could not hold water, give some examples of what Jeremiah meant by cisterns that could not hold water. _____

7. (Compare Jeremiah 2:36 with 13:23 NKJV. "Why do you gad about so much to change your way? Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? (*"Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil."*)) Was Jeremiah teaching that our situation is hopeless and that there is nothing we can do about the condition of our heart? Explain. _____
