



## *Jeremiah – Part 1*

### **Jesus Christ, the Righteous Branch**

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December 18, 2019

## **Meaning of the Name**

The name *Jeremiah* (Heb. *YirmeYahu*) means “Yahweh establishes” or “established by Yahweh.” The name is certainly characteristic of the man. Jeremiah was an anchor in turbulent waters.

Another possibility, involving vowel point change, is *YarimYahu*, meaning “he exalts Yahweh” or “Yahweh exalts.”

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## **F-L-I-G-H-T**

**F** – The prophet Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiyah, wrote the book. He was raised in a small town outside of Jerusalem called Anathoth and composed most of his book with the help of his secretary, Baruch.

Jeremiah wrote his book between 625 and 580 BC. This era in Israel’s history, which spanned the reigns of Josiah to Zedekiah, is covered in 2 Kings 22-25. Jeremiah continued to prophecy after the destruction of Jerusalem and subsequent to Babylonian captivity in 586 BC.

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## **F-L-I-G-H-T**

**L** – The book of Jeremiah takes us from the heights of God’s divine perspective on his people and their enemies to the figurative – and literal – bottom of a well. Jeremiah comprises a series of oracles – prophetic writings – transcribed over a period of more than 40 years during the reigns of several kings in the southern kingdom of Judah.

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**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**L** – Jeremiah had the unsavory assignment of declaring to the nation of Judah that the sky was falling. Judgment was coming, but just like Chicken Little, he got little to no response. The Babylonians were coming, but Jeremiah was up against a group of false prophets who were saying that everything was just fine, that there was nothing to worry about.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**L** – We can divide Jeremiah into 3 sections, bookended on one end by the story of the prophet's calling and on the other by an appendix reviewing the history of Jerusalem's fall and exile. In between are various proclamations, both of God's impending judgment and of his promises of restoration and renewal.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

- I** –
- Preparation of Jeremiah Formulated (1)
  - Proclamations of Jeremiah Foretold (2-51)
  - Predictions of Jeremiah Fulfilled (52)

**Proclamations of Jeremiah Foretold**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Concerned Criticism (2-4)</li><li>▪ Counterfeit Counsel (5-6)</li><li>▪ Consternation with the Congregation (7-10)</li><li>▪ Colorful Case Studies (11-20)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Certainty of Conquest (21-29)</li><li>▪ Change of Covenant (30-33)</li><li>▪ Cost of Consistency (34-38)</li><li>▪ Care after the Captivity (39-51)</li></ul> |
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**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – Jesus and Jeremiah shared a lot of character traits. When Jesus asked his disciples who people were saying he was, they mentioned Jeremiah as a possibility (Matt. 16:14). Like Jeremiah, Jesus could be tough; both confronted their enemies over and over again for their hypocrisy. On the other hand, both were tenderhearted and deeply loved Israel, weeping over her sin.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – Jeremiah is called the weeping prophet because of his sorrow and frustration over the conduct and eventual fate of God’s people. He didn’t just prophecy judgment on them; he felt every high and low with them. He wept over their sin and its consequences. But he also never failed to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Despite rightly predicting the captivity and desolation of his people, Jeremiah also predicted that they would be gathered to the land again 70 years later and in the final messianic age of this world.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – Jesus was similarly brokenhearted over sin. He didn’t come solely to declare God’s judgment and the repentance of sins; he came as a man, experiencing everything we do and then willingly giving his life to pay the penalty for our sin. He wept over Jerusalem with compassion when he saw it for the last time before his crucifixion (Matt. 23:37; Luke 19:41-44). Both hearts broke for sin’s cost, but Jeremiah pointed to a day when God would restore Israel’s homeland and renew her heart during Christ’s reign on earth.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**H** – Jeremiah’s ministry lasted through the reigns of Josiah (640-609 BC), Jehoahaz (609 BC), Jehoiakim (609-598 BC), Jehoiachin (598-597 BC), and Zedekiah (597-586 BC). His call to ministry came in approximately 627 BC, the 13<sup>th</sup> year of Josiah’s reign. That same year, Assyria’s last great king, Ashurbanipal, died, leading to the establishment of an independent Babylonian state.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**H** – It was during Jehoiachin’s reign that the king of this state, Nebuchadnezzar, rose to power and attacked Jerusalem, sending Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar set up Zedekiah as a figurehead over Judah and eventually laid siege to and destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 586 BC.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**T** – **Jeremiah’s example is a reminder to stick to the ministry God has called you to no matter the challenges and hardships.** Resistance from others shouldn’t surprise you – in fact, you should expect it. As the cultural climate grows increasingly hostile to God’s truth and the gospel, you need to rely on God more than ever, seeking the right balance of love and truth the world needs to hear.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**T** – **God views life as sacred.** He told Jeremiah his plans for him began before he was even born (1:5). God knows each of us from the moment of conception (and before!) and has a meaningful plan for our lives (29:11).

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**T** – **Only the living water Jesus offers can quench your spiritual thirst.** Through Jeremiah, God mentioned two evils his people had committed: leaving him and trying to dig their own broken cisterns (2:13) – a metaphor for trying to find satisfaction in something other than God. But only the Lord, the “fountain of living waters” (2:13), can truly satisfy.