

Five Key Themes in...

THE BOOK OF
JEREMIAH



1. The theme of sin...

- Israel (Judah) had violated the Law of Moses
- Sin had entered into every corner of Israel's society (5:1) and the surrounding nations (46-51)
- Typical sins: idolatry (2:27-28), social injustice (2:34), adultery – spiritual (3:6-10) and physical (5:7-8)
- Refusal to think (4:22; 5:21-25; 8:7)

1. The theme of sin...

- Refusal to listen (6:10; 7:28)
- Infatuation (in love) with worldliness (2:24-25; 5:31; 6:16-17; 8:6; 14:10)
- Deep-seated evil (2:22; 6:7, 15; 13:23; 17:1, 9)

2. The theme of judgment...

- Divine judgment, via natural calamities, then foreign invasion (25:9), would be retributive (50:29; 51:56) and potentially corrective (10:24; 30:11)
- Judgment is a moral necessity (5:7, 9, 29)
- Judgment is a logical necessity (2:17; 4:18; 5:25, 31; 6:19; 8:20)

2. The theme of judgment...

- Judgment is a controlled operation – God will correct “in measure” and save a remnant (5:10; 10:24; 23:3; 24:4-7; 29:11; 30:11; 31:7; 46:26; 48:27)

3. The theme of grace...

- God extends his grace (favor) now to the sinful people who will be judged (18:1ff; 23:1-4; 30:12-13, 17; 31:3; 33:19ff): an offended wife (2:2; 3:12); a wayward daughter (31:22); and, a rebellious son (3:22; 31:20)
- God extends his grace (favor) in the future to the remnant who will be saved (31:2)

4. The theme of repentance...

- God pleads sinful Israel to repent and return to him (3:7)
- Israel needs to stop and think (2:23, 36; 8:6; 31:19)
- Israel needs to admit her guilt (2:34-35; 3:3, 12-13)
- Israel needs to prove her sincerity (3:4-11; 4:3-4)

4. The theme of repentance...

- Israel needs to “return” (found many times in Jeremiah) and come home to God (3:1, 7, 12, 14, 22; 4:1; 31:18; 25:25)

5. The theme of salvation...

- False gods do not save (2:27-28)
- God will save faithful individuals like Jeremiah (15:20; 17:14), Ebed-melech (39:18), and Baruch (45:5)
- God will not save the unfaithful majority within Israel (4:14; 8:20)

5. The theme of salvation...

- God will save the faithful minority within Israel (17:7; 30:10-11; 33:6) – he will “cause their captivity to return” (29:14; 30:3, 18; 31:23; 32:44; 33:7, 11, 26)
- God will give the saved peace (33:8), unity (32:29), a land (31:8), a city (30:18; 31:38-40), a temple (33:11), a king (30:9; 33:15), priest (33:18ff), festivals and offerings (33:10-11, 18), and delights (30:19; 31:4, 13; 33:11)

5. The theme of salvation...

- God will give the saved a “righteous Branch” – the son of David (30:9), the Messiah Jesus (23:5; 33:15)
- God will give the saved a new heart and a new law (3:15-18; 31:31ff)