

Outline

- ****Big Idea Statement****

- God sovereignly forms and sends His servants into a drifting culture to speak His Word, expose empty cisterns, and call His people back to Himself

- ****Why Jeremiah Is Relevant Today****

- A book for people who still had religion but had drifted from the living God
- Parallels to 21st century Christianity
 - Churches preserving religious forms
 - Adopting cultural language and lifestyle
 - Lost tenderness of heart and covenant loyalty

- ****Background on Jeremiah the Man****

- Called around 627 BC during the reign of Josiah
- Ministered over forty years through the fall of Judah and Babylonian crisis
- Son of a priest from Anathoth
- Marked by hardship, opposition, rejection, and sorrow
- Not the kind of preacher modern culture would celebrate

- ****Jeremiah Chapter 1: The Call of Jeremiah****

- ****God's Sovereign Formation (Jeremiah 1:5)****

- God knew and consecrated Jeremiah before birth
- The Hebrew word yatsar: potter language, intimate and deliberate shaping
- Application: God forms each of us personally and sovereignly for a specific calling
- God is not caught off guard by our cultural moment

- ****Jeremiah's Objection and God's Response****

- Jeremiah protests his youth and inadequacy
- God responds with divine authority, not self-esteem inflation
- Obedience to God's command, not personal confidence, is the foundation
- Too many churches have grounded mission in personality instead of the Gospel
- God sends on the basis of His Word and His presence, not charisma

- ****God's Promise of Presence****

- "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you"
- Covenant language, battle language, sustaining language
- The answer to fear is walking in the presence of God

- ****God Places His Words in Jeremiah's Mouth****

- Jeremiah called to faithfulness, not originality
- The unchanging Word of God, not religious opinions or modern adaptations
- When the Word is truly spoken, heaven is involved and eternity embraces the moment

- ****The Commission of Verse 10****

- Six verbs: to pluck up, break down, destroy, overthrow, build, and plant
- Four tearing-down verbs precede two rebuilding verbs
- God must expose before He restores, uproot before He plants
- Warning against wanting encouragement without conviction

- ****The Two Visions****

- The Almond Branch
 - Hebrew wordplay: shaqed (almond) and shoqed (watching)
 - God is watching over His Word to perform it
 - Comforting: every promise of God is secure
 - Terrifying: every warning of God is also secure
- God does not revise His holiness based on cultural trends

- The Boiling Pot from the North
 - Judgment coming on Judah because of idolatry
 - Babylon is the instrument but God is the hand behind it
 - Judah's crisis is theological, not merely geopolitical
 - Real issue is treason against the covenant
- **God's Promise of Strength to Jeremiah**
 - Made a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls
 - Kings, priests, princes, and people will fight him but not prevail
 - Application: Faithfulness to God's Word will cost approval and influence
 - Our sustaining power comes through the divine presence of a living God
- **Jeremiah Chapter 2: God's Lawsuit Against His People**
 - **God Remembers Early Devotion**
 - God recalls the devotion of Israel's youth, her love as a bride
 - Even imperfect early devotion looked faithful compared to present drift
 - Application: America in 2026, 250 years from its founding
 - The Mayflower Compact of 1620 undertaken for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith
 - The Continental Congress called the nation to fasting, prayer, and repentance
 - Influenced by Reformation covenant theology
 - King George III called the Revolution a "black-robe" rebellion
 - Benjamin Franklin signed Pennsylvania's 1787 constitution requiring a Christian declaration for assembly members
 - The American church made mistakes, especially in racial equality and equality of women
 - Decline can become so severe that former immaturity looks like former faithfulness
 - A church can drift so far it congratulates itself for not being worse

- ****God Presses Charges****
 - "What wrong did your fathers find in Me?"
 - No defect in God's character, provision, or promise
 - Their drift can only be explained by the treachery of the human heart
- ****Becoming Like What We Worship (Jeremiah 2:5)****
 - They went after worthlessness and became worthless
 - Worshiping the living God conforms us to His truth and purity
 - Worshiping idols makes us hollow, unstable, and spiritually thin
 - An always principle, not just an Old Testament principle
- ****The Two Evils: The Broken Cisterns (Jeremiah 2:13)****
 - They forsook the fountain of living waters
 - They hewed out broken cisterns that cannot hold water
 - The essence of idolatry: leaving the living God as the source of life, satisfaction, security, and identity
 - Modern broken cisterns
 - Political certainty
 - Consumer Christianity
 - Performance and appearance
 - Sexual autonomy
 - Comfort, entertainment, and self-definition
 - The tragedy: broken cisterns do not work
- ****Spiritual Adultery****
 - Idolatry likened to a bride prostituting herself
 - Covenant betrayal: wanting Yahweh's protection without His exclusive claim
 - Wanting God as helper and savior but not as Lord
 - The modern church in many places mirrors this arrangement

- ****Looking to Egypt and Assyria****
 - Judah seeks salvation horizontally instead of vertically
 - Warning: relying on anything man-made for hope, survival, or future
 - We must engage culture but must never look to "Egypt" as savior

- ****Conclusion: Four Takeaways from Jeremiah 1-2****
 - God is still the potter, shaping men and women for faithfulness in difficult days
 - God still watches over His Word; what He has spoken will stand
 - Spiritual drift is never harmless; it ends in thirst, shame, and bondage
 - The deepest question of every age: will God's people remain loyal to the living God or trade Him for cisterns

- ****The Call to Return****
 - The text does not merely call us to feel bad but to return
 - God tears down to build, uproots to plant, wounds to heal
 - He exposes broken cisterns to bring us back to the fountain

- ****Christ as the Fulfillment****
 - Jesus is the fountain of living water
 - He satisfies the thirsty soul
 - He bears the judgment our covenant treason deserves
 - He is the faithful Bridegroom for an unfaithful people

- ****Salvation****