

Prepared

Jeff Rogers / Empty Nesters Bible Study
Jeremiah 1

There is no middle ground in the spiritual-Biblical world.

1. A person is either saved or lost.
2. A person is either living and striving for holiness or gratifying the flesh.
3. A person is either obedient or disobedient.
 - a. Husbands love your wives – no middle ground.
 - b. Wives respond to your husband's leadership and manage the home well – no middle ground.
 - c. Singles are called to purity – no middle ground.
 - d. Children are called to obey their parents.

I. Jeremiah's Situational Context (1:1-3)

II. A Divine Call (1:4-5)

- A. *God is the Lord of life* - God **knew** Jeremiah
 1. Telling children when they ask, "Where do babies come?" that they come from God is not bad theology.
- B. *A baby in the womb is a person* – God **formed** Jeremiah. Testifies to the personal relationship between God and His child, which occurs in the womb and arguably earlier.
 1. Birth is not the beginning, not even conception.
 2. *Before I formed you, I knew you* {*ginōskō* - know; to know or have knowledge about someone or something; acquired through observation or the senses.}
 - a) **Galatians 1:15**, *But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,*
 - b) **Psalm 71:6**, *Upon you I have leaned from before my birth; you are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.*
 - c) **Luke 1:15**, *For he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*
 - d) **Psalm 139:13–14**, *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*
- C. We do not choose God before God chooses us - God **consecrated** Jeremiah
 1. Consecrated - to render holy or set apart. (Pots and utensils were holy, consecrated; designated purpose) (Removed from common use)
 2. If you want to know **who** you are, you must know **whose** you are!
 - a) **John 15:16**, *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*
 - b) **Ephesians 1:3–4**, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*
 - c) Eugene Peterson offers these practical conclusions about God's choice of Jeremiah: *My identity does not begin when I begin to understand myself. There is something previous to what I think about myself, and it is what God thinks of me.*

That means that everything I think and feel is by nature a response, and the one to whom I respond is God. I never speak the first word. I never make the first move. Jeremiah's life didn't start with Jeremiah. Jeremiah's salvation didn't start with Jeremiah. Jeremiah's truth didn't start with Jeremiah. He entered the world in which the essential parts of his existence were already ancient history. So do we.

- D. Every Christian has a calling - God **appointed** Jeremiah
 - 1. *To Appoint* – to assign a duty, responsibility or obligation to someone.
 - 2. Jeremiah was appointed a prophet to the nations (God's choice, not Jeremiah's)

III. A Dubious Candidate (1:6-9)

- A. Two Objections
 - 1. I do not know how to speak (I have nothing to say)
 - a) **Jeremiah 1:9**, *Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. (cf. Isaiah 6:1)*
 - 2. I am too young (late teens)
 - a) **Jeremiah 1:7-8**, *But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord."*
- B. The Outcome
 - 1. **Jeremiah 20:9**, *If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.*
 - 2. Ultimately, God's call in our life is a call to obedience and our decision is deciding on obedience.
 - 3. What do our excuses tell us about our thoughts on God's preparation?

IV. A Dangerous Charge (1:10)

- A. Jeremiah's Job Description
 - 1. Pluck Up – uproot and turn-over.
 - 2. Break Down – toppling a tower or wall.
 - 3. Destroy – another word for knocking things down.
 - 4. Overthrow – to demolish completely
 - 5. Build – to put together the pieces.
 - 6. Plant – to set in the ground; anticipate a harvest.

V. A Decided Conclusion (Jeremiah 1:11-19)

- A. An Almond Tree (11-12) – His word will blossom forth. (Every promise is true)
- B. A Boiling Pot (13-16) – His judgment will be poured out
- C. An Iron Pillar (17-19) – His Prophet will stand firm.
 - 1. Jeremiah will be a fortified city (defender).
 - 2. Jeremiah will be an iron pillar (strength)
 - 3. Jeremiah will be a bronze wall (protector like no other)