



JEREMIAH a prophet for the city

While not many people have experienced being exiled from their country and carried into captivity, most of us have had to leave places we didn't want to leave to go to places we didn't want to go. Circumstances may have forced you to change jobs, relocate, change schools, and leave people you love to be with people you don't even like! How should we respond to being exiled? Is it possible that God uses times of exile to draw us closer to Himself? Join us for part 7 of **Jeremiah: A Prophet for the City** as Pastor Gary looks at Jeremiah's letter to the exiles and explores what it means to live in exile with God.

PASSAGE (READ):

Jeremiah 29

PRINCIPLE (KNOW):

God is Lord of the _____.

God invites exiled people to be _____.

God is found in the _____.

PRACTICE (DO):

Take time to prayerfully answer the following questions:

1. Where do you most feel like an exile?
2. What would it look like to live incarnationally in that place?
3. Are you looking for God in the place of your exile or have you assumed He is only present in the places of your personal preference and comfort?

DAILY READINGS:

Day 1: Jeremiah 28

Day 2: Jeremiah 29

Day 3: Jeremiah 38

Day 4: Jeremiah 39

Day 5: Jeremiah 40

Day 6: Jeremiah 41

Day 7: Jeremiah 42

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

BOOKS:

Run with the Horses, by Eugene Peterson
Eat This Book, by Eugene Peterson
The Connecting Church 2.0, Randy Frazee

OTHER SERMON SERIES

(AVAILABLE AT SSBC.ORG/SERMON-ARCHIVES/SERIES):

For the City (2019)

U R the Church (2014)

Built to Last (2015)

Boundaries (2019)

Precepts for Life: Jeremiah, Part 1 and 2, by Kay Arthur

Worldview: Thinking and Living Biblically, by Greg Laurie and others

Intro to the Major Prophets, by J. B. Nicholson

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS



HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. In today's message, Gary described "exile" as being any place you do not want to be and/or with people you don't want to be with. When have you felt exiled?

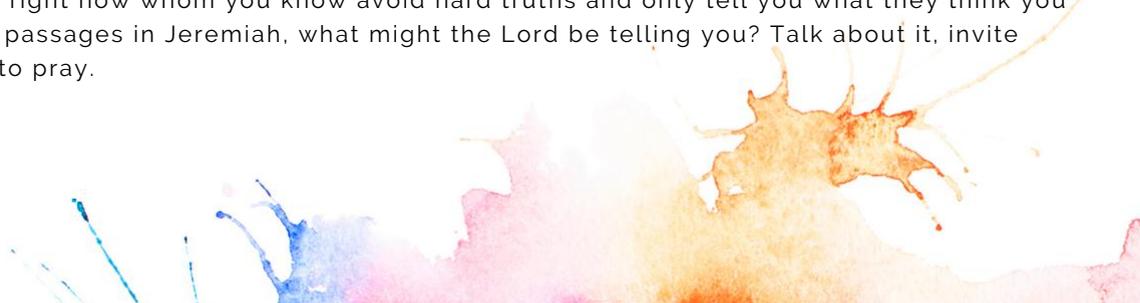
HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

As we have already seen, Jeremiah was not the only prophet/preacher ministering in Judah at this time. Many other people were peddling feel-good messages that drew bigger crowds and didn't inspire the persecution Jeremiah suffered. Today we will compare the words of another prophet who had a very different message for the exiles in Babylon. First, let's review what Jeremiah said to the exiles:

3. Read Jeremiah 29:4-14.
 - What part of Jeremiah's message would the exiles have found hopeful?
 - What part of Jeremiah's message would the exiles have found discouraging?
 - What do you think the overall final perception of Jeremiah's message would have been?
4. Read Jeremiah 28:1-7.
 - What was the difference between the message of Hananiah and the message of Jeremiah?
 - What was Jeremiah's immediate response to Hananiah's message?
 - Why would Hananiah's message have been more popular?
 - Everyone wants good news to be true, but why is false hope so dangerous?
5. Read Jeremiah 28:8-11.
 - What was Jeremiah's point in giving a brief history of prophets (verses 8-9)?
 - Read Jeremiah 27:1-2. How did Hananiah respond to Jeremiah? What was the significance of his action?
 - Do you think Jeremiah was relieved? Why or why not?
6. Read Jeremiah 28:12-17.
 - What is the significance of Jeremiah's delayed response to Hananiah?
 - How did God distinguish between the two messages and their messengers?
 - Read Proverbs 27:5-6. How do these verses relate to Jeremiah and Hananiah?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

7. Have you had a trusted friend share a hard truth with you? What was it and how did you respond? Are there people speaking into your life right now whom you know avoid hard truths and only tell you what they think you want to hear? Based on these passages in Jeremiah, what might the Lord be telling you? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.



JEREMIAH

