

# Jeremiah 45 - God's Message to Baruch

V. Present calamity of Judah (Jer 34:1–45:5)

(3) After the fall (Jer 40:1–45:5)

(C) Jeremiah's ministry to Baruch (45:1-5)

(a) Human discouragement (45:1-3)

(b) Divine encouragement (45:4-5)

## Message for Baruch and Us All

After Jer 44, we have this little five-verse appendage. Bear in mind that Jeremiah is not in chronological order; it is a compilation of his various writings. Jer 45 is a special message to Baruch. He was a grandson of Mahseiah who was the governor of Jerusalem, under Josiah the good king (2 Chr 34:8). His brother was the chief chamberlain in the court of Zedekiah (Jer 51:59). Baruch, while he was professionally a scribe, was apparently of noble birth.

## Jeremiah 45

(C) Jeremiah's ministry to Baruch (45:1-5)

(a) Human discouragement (45:1-3)

**1** *This is* the message which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at Jeremiah's dictation, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying:

**1** *This is* the message which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written down these words in a book at Jeremiah's dictation, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying:

**1** This is the message that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Neriah's son Baruch, when in the fourth year of the reign of Josiah's son King Jehoiakim of Judah had, at Jeremiah's dictation, written these words in a scroll:

**1** The word that Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,

- When Pharaoh Necho first asserted himself, he put Jehoahaz in charge, but only for 90 days, and then he put Jehoiakim in charge and he was bad news.

— A major duration of the rulership was under Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim was succeeded by Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) but only for a short time; he was subsequently replaced by Zedekiah and that displacement was by Nebuchadnezzar.

— This is the writings that Baruch did during the earlier king, Jehoiakim.

2 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says to you, Baruch:

2 "Thus says the LORD the God of Israel to you, O Baruch:

2 "This is what the LORD God of Israel says to you, Baruch:

2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch;

3 'You said, "Oh, woe to me! For the LORD has added grief to my pain; I am weary with my groaning and have found no rest."

3 'You said, "Ah, woe is me! For the LORD has added sorrow to my pain; I am weary with my groaning and have found no rest."

3 'You have said, "How terrible for me, for the LORD has added sorrow to my pain. I'm weary with my groaning, and I haven't found rest."

3 Thou didst say, Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest.

- Baruch is exhausted, he is anxious, worried and concerned

(b) Divine encouragement (45:4-5)

4 This is what you are to say to him: 'This is what the LORD says: "Behold, what I have built I am going to tear down, and what I have planted I am going to uproot, that is, all *the people of the land*."

4 Thus you are to say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Behold, what I have built I am about to tear down, and what I have planted I am about to uproot, that is, the whole land."

4 Say this to him: 'This is what the LORD says: "Look! What I've built I'm about to tear down, and what I've planted I'm about to pull up—and this will involve the entire land."

4 Thus shalt thou say unto him, The LORD saith thus; Behold, *that* which I have built will I break down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land.

5 But as for you, are you seeking great things for yourself? Do not seek *them*; for behold, I am going to bring disaster on all flesh,' declares the LORD, 'but I will give your life to you as plunder in all the places where you may go."

5 But you, are you seeking great things for yourself? Do not seek *them*; for behold, I am going to bring disaster on all flesh,' declares the LORD, 'but I will give your life to you as booty in all the places where you may go."

5 Are you seeking great things for yourself? Don't seek them. Indeed, I'm about to bring disaster on all flesh,' declares the LORD, 'but your life will be spared wherever you go."

5 And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek *them* not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places

whither thou goest.

A strange kind of encouragement: bear in mind that Baruch is faced with replacing the copy that the king burned. He apparently got very discouraged; the word of encouragement to him is out of order, it happens to be right here. He reminds him that God is in charge and He is going to put up and take down as He will. Exemplified in the next four to five chapters prophetically as far as the nations around Israel are concerned.

Wrong time for personal ambition. A crisis time, not the time to be making long-term plans. Parallel passages, the days of Elisha, Gehazi Elisha's servant deceived Namaan to his own advantage and Elisha scolds him. It was not the appropriate time for Gehazi to be looking out for himself (2 Kings 5:26). Similar passage in 1 Cor 7:29-31. Normal plans would be overshadowed by the crisis times in which they will live. He is also giving him along with this caution a word of encouragement. He says that his life is secure. That may not sound like much, but these are the days of the Babylonian captivity, the city under siege, he is essentially putting Baruch under God's special protection. So Baruch does not have to be concerned with his life, but it is not the time for other concerns because they are about to encounter the events that we talked about in the last chapter or two where Nebuchadnezzar does succeed and they are forced to go to Egypt.