



The Honest Stories of Men from the Bible

Jeremiah - Jeremiah 20

1. When God called Jeremiah into the ministry, Jeremiah was not interested at all. What did Jeremiah say to God? (Jer. 1:6)

2. When Jeremiah was freaking out, what did God do? (Jer. 1:9)

3. What had the Jewish nation been doing? (Jer. 1:16)

4. What did God tell Jeremiah he must do? (Jer. 1:7)

5. Then, God told Jeremiah that He would punish the nation of Israel by sending an enemy from where? East West North South. (Jer. 1:14)

So, here we have a 20-year-old man appointed by God to preach to his own wicked country that a foreign nation will conquer them because of their sin. Isn't that enough to make you run? Or even want to stop living?

6. As you may know, there were two kingdoms in Israel: Israel (the Northern Kingdom) & Judah (the Southern Kingdom). By the time Jeremiah started preaching (626 BC), who had already conquered the Northern Kingdom 96 years earlier? (2 Kings 17:5) _____

7. The Southern Kingdom (where Jeremiah lived) still existed but was still living in the same idolatry that the Northern Kingdom had practiced.

___Y___N Do you think the Jewish nation was afraid of coming doom?

___Y___N OR, were they thinking, "It can't happen to us"?

THESE WERE THE SAME PEOPLE JEREMIAH HAD TO PREACH TO.

8. ___Y___N Could Jeremiah have been fearful that he was not up to this Job, and that it would be impossible to succeed?

9. There was one bright spot in this messed-up Southern Kingdom. Who was the king when Jeremiah started ministry? (2 Kings 22:1) _____

10. What kind of a leader was this king? With what values did he reign the nation of Israel (Southern Kingdom)? (2 Kings 22:2)
-

That could have really encouraged Jeremiah as he preached to the nation.

11. What happened to Jeremiah's king? (2 Kings 23:28-30) Pick one.
- Y N He (Josiah) conquered Egypt and took many prisoners.
- Y N He retired and his son, Jehoahaz, took over.
- Y N He was killed by the Egyptian pharaoh.
- Y N The king of Assyria was Josiah's friend.

*Now, we have another blow to Jeremiah's attitude in ministry. On top of Jeremiah's fear on preaching, and the evil ways of Israel, and the **destruction** of the Northern Kingdom, and the promise of a big enemy coming soon, his king is killed in battle.*

12. Y N Is it safe to assume that Jeremiah was not popular with leaders who followed the old sinful ways?
13. Y N When Josiah took the throne, he was eight. Could he do much to change things since he was a little kid, and since the evil government leaders from his evil father's reign were still in charge?

When Jeremiah started in ministry, he was probably 20 years old. King Josiah was 22 years old. They probably met often because Josiah turned to the Lord when he was 16 and had been running the government in a godly way for 6 years. Josiah and Jeremiah would have both been working toward a godly country.

14. All the progress Jeremiah thought he might be making was abruptly interrupted when King Josiah (his friend) was killed in battle. How would he get past this? _____
-

15. Who became king after Josiah? (2 Kings 23:31) _____

16. Y N Did he reign in a way that pleased God?

17. Who was now in charge of the Jewish nation? (2 Kings 23:33) _____

So, for 11 more years, Jeremiah had to watch the nation of Israel living in sin with lousy leadership and being controlled by a foreign nation (Egypt).

18. Jeremiah continued preaching against the sin of the people. What was happening behind his back? (Jer. 11:19)

19. How was Jeremiah feeling? (Jer. 15:10)

20. What was the attitude of the people toward Jeremiah? (Jer. 18:18)

a. "Come, let us _____ plans _____ Jeremiah."

b. "Come, let us _____ him with the _____."

c. "Let us not give _____ to any of his _____."

21. What happens to Jeremiah next? (Jer. 20:1-2)

a. "Chief governor Pashhur _____ Jeremiah."

b. "Chief governor Pashhur put Jeremiah in _____."

Jeremiah might be sick and tired of this whole nightmare.

22. What did Jeremiah say to God in a prayer? (Jer. 20:14)

a. "_____ be the day I was _____."

23. Could he be saying:

a. Y N Am I accomplishing anything here?

b. Y N I am going to give up; I can't take anymore.

c. Y N Lord, are you sure these people are worth all this?

d. Y N Certainly, Lord, You don't want me to continue?

e. Y N I just want to die; I want to die; what's there to live for."

f. Y N Lord, this is too hard ..too hard.. too hard

24. The Lord kept talking to Jeremiah, despite how Jeremiah felt.

There's still more to do, Jeremiah. Write "ok" after you read it.

a. Jer. 21:1 Jeremiah, go down and pray with the king.

b. Jer. 21:7 Jeremiah, tell the king the truth; he's doomed.

c. Jer. 25:7 Jeremiah, tell them that they did not listen.

d. Jer. 29:1 Jeremiah, write letters to the exiled Jews.

NO, IT DIDN'T TURN OUT LIKE JEREMIAH HAD HOPED. HE WANTED TO GIVE UP. HE GOT PAST THE HOPELESSNESS. HE TRUSTED GOD THROUGH IT ALL. HE KEPT MOVING AHEAD. GOD HELD HIM UP THE WHOLE WAY.