

## Sermon series on the book of Jeremiah

*Jacob Haasnoot, 2017 (context: International Church in Kampala, Uganda)*

*Despite Israel's sin and rebellion, God does not give up on his people. He remembers his covenant with them. In this series we will learn more about ourselves and about who God is for us. We need to look in the mirror and see if we are serious about our faith in God. We will also be amazed about God's forgiveness and grace. God Himself shows us a new way: in sending his Son Jesus to us, God's Kingdom will become a reality.*

#	Reading	Topic	Notes
1	Jer. 1:1-19	When God calls you...	[Give short introduction into the book of Jeremiah.] Jeremiah's call (4-8) & message (9-16). God promises protection (17-19). What is your <b>calling</b> ? Our calling as a church? Do we feel inadequate?
2	Jer. 2:1-3 & 20-28	We become what we worship	Israel is like an unfaithful wife, running after other gods. What are our <b>gods</b> ? Our blind spots? God has given us everything but do we appreciate it or are we like Judah? It is easy to judge the world but what about us, the church?
3	Jer. 7:1-15, 20-23	Where do we put our trust?	Judah thinks they are okay because the temple is among them. They don't trust in God and they don't do his will. Where have we put our <b>trust</b> ? In good behaviour, in being a missionary, in doing stuff for God? God wants our heart, our love, our obedience. He loves us.
4	Jer. 9:7-9 & 12-16; 10:23-24	When God prunes you	God is purging, cleansing, correcting his people (9:7 & 10:24). Why? Have you been <b>purged</b> by God? Why would God do so? What difficult things have brought you closer to God? Cf. John 15.
5	Jer. 12:1-4 & 14-17	How do we live in the midst of injustice?	Jeremiah complains to God: Why do evil people prosper? When we look around in our region, we have the same questions. God answers Jeremiah: injustice will be punished. How do we live in the midst of so much <b>injustice</b> as Christians?
6	Jer. 13:1-11 & 15-18	From pride to humility	Judah's sin is pride, demonstrated by the story of the belt. Are we <b>proud</b> ? Do we live as if we are self-sufficient? Christ is our example. We need his <b>humility</b> . John Stott: "Pride is your greatest enemy, humility is your greatest friend".
7	Jer. 17:5-27	How do we worship God in truth?	Judah is not observing the Sabbath. The point is that they are not taking the covenant with God seriously. It is not about the rules but about the heart. This chapter tells us a lot about <b>true worship</b> . We can see several principles here: trusting in God (7), believing in what He does, praising Him (14), obedience, etc. You could talk about the importance of the principle of the Sabbath for Christians (pattern of rest) but don't make it a moralistic message.
8	Jer. 20:1-12	Are we passionate about the Gospel?	Jeremiah suffers because of his calling. We are allowed to <b>complain</b> to God if needed! We see the different parts of a <i>lament</i> in this chapter. Does God's word burn in our hearts that we have to <b>share</b> it with others (like Jeremiah in very difficult circumstances)? If so, how does that show? If not, why not?

9	Jer. 23:1-6 & 16-22	In need of servant leaders	Judgement on the bad shepherds of God's people. A clear message for <b>leaders</b> : are you caring for the flock? Are we passing on God's word or are we 'filling people with false hopes'? God Himself will bring a solution: He will raise up a righteous Descendant (5-6).
10	Jer. 29:1-13	God's heart for the city	Letter to the exiles in Babylon. How to live as a <b>minority</b> in a world that does not recognize God? We need to bless the community around us. Clear application for expats: put down roots & bless the city.
11	Jer. 31:27-34	Maranatha!	The Day is coming... a new covenant. God is restoring his creation. How will his <b>Kingdom</b> look like? How are we working <i>for</i> the Kingdom? Are we longing for that Day?
12	Jer. 32:6-27 & 36-41	Standing on the promises	Jeremiah buys a plot of land as a sign that God will keep his promise of restoration. God keeps his <b>promises!</b> What signs has he given you/us to know that He can be trusted? Why do we sometimes doubt His promises to us?
13	Jer. 36:1-32	God's compass	Baruch writes down God's messages to Jeremiah. King Jehoiakim burns the scroll. Baruch writes again and adds more. <b>God's Word</b> is eternal and brings life. It cannot be destroyed. God's mission in this world continues throughout history until Jesus returns. How do we value God's Word?