

Fact Sheet for **“Take the Long View”**  
**Jeremiah 52**

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*Read Jeremiah 52*

After 6 months we have come to the end of the book of Jeremiah. Jerusalem is in ruins. Solomon’s temple is destroyed. Thousands have been taken to Babylon. Israel is no longer a nation.

**The book of Jeremiah ends here. 2 Kings ends here.** *In fact, much of 2 Kings 24:18-25:30 and Jeremiah 52 are word-for-word identical. (2 Kings 25:22-26 also records the murder of Gedaliah, the governor installed by Nebuchadnezzar, by members of the royal family. – cf. Jeremiah 40 & 41) 2 Chronicles also essentially ends here.*

We’ve seen a lot of ancient history. We’ve seen a lot of politics. But what has there been for us in this book? At first we are reminded of those two great verses from the NT.

**ESV 2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Does this ancient book have anything to say to us in the US... in Oregon... as Christians in a post-Christian world? You bet it does! Step back from this book for a moment and see the broader picture.

Jeremiah’s ministry began during the reign of one of the great kings of Judah.

**ESV Jeremiah 1:1-3** The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, <sup>2</sup> to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. <sup>3</sup> It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

And his ministry lasted for 41 years.

Josiah was indeed one of the great kings of Judah. Did you know that the LORD named him by name roughly 270 years before he became king and said what he would do (1 Kings 13:2)? And he was dedicated to the LORD.

**ESV 2 Kings 22:2** And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

He removed the high places. He removed the mediums and spiritists. The book of the Law was found in the temple during his reign, and a great Passover was observed. But, Josiah’s grandfather was Manasseh.

**ESV 2 Kings 23:25-27** Before him (*Josiah*) there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses,

nor did any like him arise after him. <sup>26</sup> Still the LORD did not turn from the burning of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him. <sup>27</sup> And the LORD said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there."

When Jeremiah began his ministry the destruction of Jerusalem was already assured. Jeremiah is called "The Weeping Prophet" because of his continual message of the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity in Babylon. And as far as we know Jeremiah would die in Egypt where he was taken by those who tried to escape Nebuchadnezzar's wrath.

Jeremiah had announced that there would be a return from Babylon after 70 years of captivity, something that he would not live to see.

**ESV Jeremiah 29:10** "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

But Daniel would live to see the return.

**ESV Daniel 9:2** in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

What have we seen in Jeremiah?

### **1 – God Is the One in Ultimate Control**

It was not the leaders, politicians, or lawmakers in Jeremiah's day. It was not their wishes that decided the ultimate direction things would go, it was the LORD's choices. The same is true for our world today.

### **2 – God Protects His Own**

God's message of protection in Jeremiah's day was "Surrender!" This was likely not their first choice, but this was really His path of blessing and protection. God also protects those who are His own today.

### **3 – God May Have a Different Time Frame Than We Do**

We often ask God to move in terms of minutes, hours, days, and possibly even months. God may be moving in terms of generations or centuries.

### **4 – God Continually Seeks People**

Judah as a whole did not listen to the Jeremiah's message, but some did throughout his ministry. Keep sharing the gospel. Keep inviting. You never know who will respond.

### **5 – The Time Will Come When God's Judgment Will Come**

**ESV 2 Peter 3:7** But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

Keep your focus on God. Take the long view, not the short one. The LORD in Jeremiah's day is the same LORD we worship. Keep your trust firm in Him.