

# Week 28: Jeremiah - The Weeping Prophet: Speaking Truth in a Hard Time

*A Sabbath Family Bible Study*

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## Introduction

Jeremiah lived during Judah's final days, a nation collapsing under the weight of its rebellion. While others offered flattery, Jeremiah wept and warned. Called from youth, he was told that his message would be rejected, yet he obeyed. His tears were not weakness but love for a people too proud to repent. Through prisons, ridicule, and isolation, Jeremiah remained faithful to the Word of God. This study reminds us that truth must be spoken even when it breaks our hearts to speak it.

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## Scripture Reading: Selected Passages (KJV)

Jeremiah 1:4–10; Jeremiah 7:1–11; Jeremiah 20:7–11

(With commentary throughout)

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### **Jeremiah 1:4–10 - Called Before Birth**

**4** Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

**5** Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

**6** Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

**7** But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

**8** Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

**9** Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

**10** See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

**Commentary:**

God's call comes before our confidence. Jeremiah felt too young and unworthy, yet God had already equipped him. Divine purpose precedes human ability. Every generation needs men and women who will speak truth without fear of faces. God's touch on Jeremiah's mouth reminds us that the message belongs to God, not the messenger.

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**Jeremiah 7:1–11 - False Worship Exposed**

**1** The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

**2** Stand in the gate of the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.

**3** Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

**4** Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.

**5** For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;

**6** If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

**7** Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

**8** Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

**9** Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

**10** And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?

**11** Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.

**Commentary:**

Judah trusted in appearances instead of obedience. They thought temple attendance could cover sin. Jeremiah exposed hypocrisy that looked religious but lived rebellious. God's house is

not a refuge for the unrepentant. He desires justice, mercy, and truth, not ritual without righteousness. True worship reforms conduct, not just ceremony.

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### **Jeremiah 20:7–11 - Faithful Under Fire**

**7** O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived; thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

**8** For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.

**9** Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

**10** For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him.

**11** But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.

#### **Commentary:**

Jeremiah's honesty is raw and real. He felt trapped between calling and rejection. Yet the Word burned within him, he could not be silent. Obedience is not measured by ease but endurance. God's presence gave him strength to keep speaking when no one listened. The faithful must often weep before they see fruit.

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### **Discussion Questions for All Ages**

#### **Young Children:**

- Who chose Jeremiah to be a prophet?
- What did Jeremiah tell the people to stop doing?
- What did God promise when they obeyed?

#### **Older Children & Teens:**

- Why did Jeremiah say God's Word was like fire in his bones?

- How can we stay faithful when people mock or ignore truth?
- What does it mean to “amend your ways and your doings”?

**Adults:**

- Why does speaking truth often bring rejection?
- How can we prepare our families to stand firm in times of moral decline?
- In what ways must modern believers guard against empty religion like Judah's?

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 **Psalm Reading**

**Psalm 126:1–6 (KJV)**

1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

**Commentary:**

Psalm 126 remembers the joy of God's past deliverance while longing for His renewing touch again. It teaches that even when God's people walk through sorrow, their tears are not wasted. Like seeds sown in faith, they will one day bring a harvest of joy. The psalm mirrors Jeremiah's life, faithful obedience through weeping, trusting that God will restore what seems lost. Those who endure in hope will return rejoicing, carrying the fruit of their faith.

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 **Hymn: “Am I a Soldier of the Cross”**

By Isaac Watts (1724)

1.

Am I a soldier of the Cross,  
A follower of the Lamb,  
And shall I fear to own His cause,  
Or blush to speak His name?

2.

Must I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease,  
While others fought to win the prize,  
And sailed through bloody seas?

3.

Are there no foes for me to face?  
Must I not stem the flood?  
Is this vile world a friend to grace,  
To help me on to God?

4.

Sure I must fight if I would reign;  
Increase my courage, Lord;  
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,  
Supported by Thy Word.



## Family Application Points

1. **Stand for Truth:** Speak God's Word even when it's unpopular.
2. **Guard Your Heart:** Obedience matters more than acceptance.
3. **Worship in Spirit and Truth:** Faith without righteousness is empty ritual.
4. **Endure Hardship:** Faithfulness is proved when the crowd turns away.
5. **Sow in Tears:** Keep speaking, trusting that God will bring the harvest in His time.



## A Sabbath Feast Prayer

Lord of Truth, thank You for the courage of Jeremiah. Teach us to stand firm when truth is hated and to speak Your Word with humble hearts. As we gather around this table, may our home be

a sanctuary of truth and grace. Let our tears be sown in faith and our joy reaped in Your time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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### **Closing Prayer**

Father, make us faithful in our generation as Jeremiah was in his. Give us courage to speak truth with love, even when it costs us comfort or approval. Teach us to endure rejection with grace and to measure success by obedience, not by applause. Let Your Word burn within us until it shapes our speech, governs our homes, and shines through our lives. May our children learn steadfastness from our example, and may our families stand as beacons of truth in a dark world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.