

Dr. Gary Yates, Jeremiah, Session 1, Jeremiah as Prophet Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Yates, Jeremiah, Session 1, Jeremiah as Prophet, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. Gary Yates introduces the Book of Jeremiah by exploring the role of Old Testament prophets. He emphasizes three key aspects of their function: **watchmen** warning of impending judgment, **spokesmen** delivering God's message, and **covenantal messengers** reminding the people of their responsibilities and God's promises. Yates connects the prophets' pronouncements of judgment and restoration to the various covenants God established—Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic—ultimately showing how these point towards the new covenant fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The lecture provides a framework for understanding Jeremiah's prophecies within the broader context of Old Testament theology.

**2. 18 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Yates, Jeremiah, Session 1 – Double click icon to play in
Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL]
Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament →
Major Prophets → Jeremiah).**



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3. Yates, Jeremiah, Session 1, Jeremiah as Prophet

Jeremiah: An Old Testament Prophet - Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. How does Dr. Yates describe the role of prophets as "watchmen," and what was their primary function in this capacity?
2. What does it mean that the prophets are considered "spokesmen of God," and how does this differ from being merely political commentators?
3. How did Jeremiah embody the message of God, beyond just speaking it?
4. Explain the concept of prophets as "covenantal messengers" and their role in reminding the people of their covenant responsibilities.
5. What are the four main points that summarize the covenantal message of the prophets, according to Duvall and Hayes?
6. Briefly describe the covenants God made with Noah and Abraham and identify the key promises and responsibilities associated with each.
7. What was the purpose of the Mosaic/Sinaitic covenant, and what did it mean for Israel to be a "kingdom of priests"?
8. How did the Davidic covenant aim to address Israel's failures under the Mosaic covenant, and what specific promise did it make?
9. What is the significance of the "new covenant" promised by the prophets, and how does it address the shortcomings of previous covenants?
10. How are the messages of the prophets based on God's covenants of both judgment and promise, and how do those relate to Jesus?

Quiz - Answer Key

1. Prophets are described as "watchmen" who stood on city walls to warn of approaching enemies. Similarly, they warned Israel of impending judgment from God. Their role was to alert the people to coming crises due to their disobedience.
2. Prophets are "spokesmen of God," meaning they are messengers who deliver God's word. They are not merely insightful political commentators, but rather

deliver a divine message directly from God, as indicated by phrases like "Thus says the Lord."

3. Jeremiah embodied the message of God by internalizing and consuming God's words, making them a part of his life. His grief and weeping reflected God's own emotions, thus making him a living expression of God's message.
4. Prophets acted as covenantal messengers, like ambassadors of a king, to remind God's people of their obligations under the covenant. They held Israel accountable for their actions, making sure they understood their covenantal responsibilities.
5. The four main points are: (1) you have sinned and broken the covenant, (2) you need to repent and turn around, (3) if there is no repentance, then there will be judgment, and (4) after the judgment, there will be restoration.
6. In the Noahic covenant, God promised to never again destroy the earth by flood but required humanity to not consume blood and punish those who shed human blood. The Abrahamic covenant promised Abraham a great nation, land, and that all nations would be blessed through him; in turn, Abraham was to walk blamelessly and practice circumcision.
7. The Mosaic/Sinaitic covenant established Israel as a nation with a constitution and explained how they should live as God's chosen people. Being a "kingdom of priests" meant Israel would be a royal and priestly nation, mediating God's presence and blessings to other nations.
8. The Davidic covenant provided a leader (a king) who would be a model of following God, with the promise that if he obeyed, the entire nation would be blessed. This covenant aimed to rectify the failure of the people to follow the Mosaic covenant.
9. The "new covenant" is God's promise to forgive past sins and empower people to live according to His commands. God will write His law on people's hearts, giving them the desire and ability to follow them, overcoming the failures of past covenants.
10. The prophets based their messages on covenants of judgment (e.g., Noahic and Mosaic) by warning of consequences for disobedience and on covenants of promise by pointing toward a future restoration and the fulfillment of God's promises in the lineage of David which is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer the following essay questions in a clear and well-organized format. Essays should include an introduction, a body with supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.

1. Discuss the multifaceted role of the Old Testament prophets, highlighting their functions as watchmen, spokesmen, and covenant messengers. Explain how these roles intersect and contribute to their overall mission.
2. Analyze the progression of covenants in the Old Testament—from Noah to the New Covenant—and how each addresses the ongoing tension between God's promise and humanity's failure.
3. Explain the significance of the New Covenant, as highlighted in Jeremiah 31:31-34, and how it addresses the shortcomings of previous covenants. Consider the role of the law being written on the heart and the empowerment by the Holy Spirit in your answer.
4. Explore how the prophetic messages of judgment and salvation are rooted in the Old Testament covenants. Provide specific examples from the lecture and discuss how these messages ultimately point toward Jesus Christ.
5. Describe the importance of both obedience and disobedience in the context of the Old Testament covenants, as described in this lecture. Use examples of the Mosaic and Davidic covenants to illustrate the concepts.

Glossary of Key Terms

Covenant: A formal agreement or pact, often between God and his people, that establishes promises, responsibilities, and consequences.

Watchman: A figure who stands guard, especially to warn of danger; a metaphor for the role of prophets in alerting Israel to impending judgment.

Spokesman: One who delivers a message on behalf of another; in this context, prophets speak the word of God.

Covenantal Messenger: A prophet who acts as an ambassador, reminding the people of their responsibilities within their covenant relationship with God.

Repentance (shub): The act of turning away from sin and returning to God; a key theme in the message of the prophets.

Noahic Covenant: God's covenant with Noah after the flood, promising never again to destroy the earth by flood; includes obligations regarding violence and blood.

Abrahamic Covenant: God's covenant with Abraham, promising him a great nation, land, and blessing to all nations through his descendants.

Mosaic/Sinaitic Covenant: God's covenant with Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai, giving them the Law and establishing them as a nation of priests.

Davidic Covenant: God's covenant with King David, promising him a lasting dynasty, and that his kingdom will endure forever.

New Covenant: God's promise of a new relationship with his people where he will forgive their sins and write his law on their hearts, enabling obedience. |

Judgment: The act of God assessing and punishing sin and disobedience, often through historical events.

Restoration: The act of God renewing and bringing his people back into a right relationship with himself and the land after a period of judgment.

Messianic Prophecies: Prophecies in the Old Testament that speak of a future king or deliverer, ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

4. Briefing Document

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided lecture excerpt by Dr. Gary Yates on Jeremiah as an Old Testament prophet:

Briefing Document: Jeremiah as an Old Testament Prophet

Source: Excerpts from "Yates_Jer_En_Lecture01.pdf" - Lecture 1 by Dr. Gary Yates

Overall Theme: Dr. Yates introduces the book of Jeremiah by establishing the role and context of Old Testament prophets, using Jeremiah as a prime example. He emphasizes that the prophets were not merely astute political commentators, but rather divinely appointed messengers with a specific and multifaceted role in God's covenant relationship with Israel.

Key Concepts and Ideas:

1. Prophets as God's Watchmen:

- **Role:** The prophets acted as watchmen, warning the people of impending judgment, similar to a watchman on a city wall alerting to an approaching enemy.
- **Imminent Threat:** They specifically warned of near-future crises, primarily focusing on the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian threats.
- **Jeremiah's Context:** Jeremiah specifically warned of the Babylonian invasion and called the people to repent.
- **Biblical Support:** Dr. Yates cites Jeremiah 6:17: "I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not pay attention.'" He also mentions Ezekiel 3 where the prophet has done their job if they warn the people.
- **Modern Analogy:** The professor likens the prophets to a policeman warning of an approaching hurricane.

1. Prophets as God's Spokesmen:

- **Divine Messengers:** The prophets are not giving their own opinions but are delivering God's word directly. They are "called ones" speaking on behalf of God.
- **"Thus Says the Lord":** The phrase "Thus says the Lord" appears 350 times in the prophetic books, underscoring the divine origin of their message.

- **God-Breathed Scripture:** The message they conveyed was not merely cultural insight, but divinely inspired and in agreement with scriptures.
- "Second Timothy chapter three reminds us that all scripture is God-breathed. It's spoken by God."
- **Guided by the Spirit:** Dr. Yates uses the image of a sail being guided by the wind to describe how the prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit.
- "Second Peter chapter one says that no scripture or no prophecy ever came by private interpretation, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved along by the spirit of God."
- **Unified Word:** The words of the prophet and the words of God were considered one and the same.
- **Living Embodiment:** Jeremiah internalized God's words, becoming a living example of God's message. His emotional response (grief, weeping) was seen as a reflection of God's own feelings.
- "In one passage, he will say, I ate, I consumed the words of the Lord. I internalized them into my life, and they were my delight."
- "When they saw the grief or the weeping of Jeremiah, what they could literally see in Jeremiah's life was the weeping of God himself."

1. **Prophets as God's Covenantal Messengers:**

- **Covenant Context:** The prophets acted as ambassadors, reminding Israel of their covenantal responsibilities to God, similar to how ancient kings sent messengers to vassal nations.
- **Four-Part Message:** The prophets' covenantal message consisted of four parts:
- **Covenant Broken:** "You have sinned and you have broken the covenant." They would highlight how the people had failed to live up to their covenantal obligations to God.
- **Call to Repentance:** "You need to change. You need to repent and turn around." The prophets urged the people to "turn" (shub) and return to God.
- **Consequences of Unrepentance:** "If there is no repentance, then there is going to be judgment." Warning of the impending "day of the Lord" and consequences.

- **Future Restoration:** "After the judgment occurs, there is going to be a restoration." Despite judgment, God would not abandon his people and would ultimately restore them, pointing to God's enduring covenant love.
- "And the prophets never speak of God's judgment without also speaking of God's restoration."

1. **Covenants in the Old Testament:**

- **God's Kingship:** God's rule is administered through covenants, which outline both promises and responsibilities.
- **Key Covenants:** The lecture identifies and discusses these important covenants:
- **Noahic Covenant (Genesis 6-9):** Promise: No more flood; Obligation: No blood consumption, punish murder.
- **Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12, 15, 17, 22):** Promises: Great nation, land, blessing to all; Obligation: Walk blamelessly, circumcision.
- Dr. Yates notes that when God originally calls Abraham the word to bless appears 5 times, emphasizing the blessing that will ultimately come through Abraham and his descendants.
- **Mosaic/Sinaitic Covenant (Exodus 19):** God established Israel as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
- Terms: Blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience. Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 outline these in detail.
- The purpose of keeping the law wasn't to earn salvation, but to live out the relationship they already had with God, and to show the other nations the greatness of God.
- Dr. Yates notes that through the blessing of God upon Israel, the nations would be drawn to them, which was God's missionary concern and emphasis in the Old Testament.
- **Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7):** Promise of a Davidic line of kings, emphasizing the promise that even one good king from this line would bring blessing upon the nation; this ultimately did not occur and the Davidic line failed.
- **Failure and Redemption:** The story of the Old Testament is a narrative of covenant failure, leading to the need for a new covenant.

1. The New Covenant:

- **Promise:** God will make a new covenant with his people because of their repeated failures.
- **Forgiveness:** God will forgive past sins and remember them no more.
- "And the Lord says, their sins and their iniquities, their transgressions, I will remember no more."
- **Empowerment:** God will write his law on their hearts, giving them the desire and ability to obey.
- "I'm going to take my law and I'm going to write it on the hearts of my people. And I'm going to give them the desire and the ability and the enablement to live by my commands so that they will never again have to experience my judgment."
- **Jeremiah's Role:** Jeremiah is presented as a prophet of this new covenant, found in Jeremiah 31:31-34, a key passage.
- **Fulfillment in Christ:** This new covenant is ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ.
- Jesus' sacrifice establishes the forgiveness and empowers believers.
- Paul's idea that Christians are an epistle written on his heart represents the law written on believers' hearts, a key component of the new covenant.

1. Prophetic Messages Based on Covenants:

- **Judgment:** Based on Noahic and Mosaic covenants, the prophets announced God's judgment.
- **Blessings:** Based on the Mosaic and Davidic covenants, God promised restoration and a future Davidic king.
- **New Covenant Fulfillment:** The New Covenant is the ultimate fulfillment of all other covenants.

Quotes:

- "The prophets were announcing that judgment was coming, that an enemy was about to invade and attack Israel. They were warning them about something that was coming in the near future, and that was their role and their mission."

- "So, we're going to be looking at Jeremiah as a spokesman of God. And in the book of Jeremiah, that's especially important in the way that the prophet is portrayed. Throughout the book of Jeremiah, the words of God and the words of the prophet are going to be identified as one and the same."
- "The terms and the agreement, the arrangements that we have made, you have not lived up to your covenant responsibilities."
- "The Lord says, their sins and their iniquities, their transgressions, I will remember no more."

Conclusion:

Dr. Yates establishes that the prophets, and Jeremiah in particular, were complex figures, operating as watchmen, spokesmen, and covenant messengers. Their messages were grounded in the historical covenants God made with humanity and Israel. The prophets ultimately pointed forward to a new covenant that would solve the problem of human sin and failure, a covenant ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The lecture positions the book of Jeremiah within this larger context, indicating that its study will illuminate the themes of judgment, repentance, covenant faithfulness, and ultimate hope of restoration through Christ.

5. FAQs on Yates, Jeremiah, Session 1, Jeremiah as Prophet, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions about the Old Testament Prophets, with a focus on Jeremiah

- 1. What was the primary role of the Old Testament prophets, and how does Jeremiah fit into this role?** Old Testament prophets primarily acted as God's watchmen, warning the people of Israel about impending judgment due to their disobedience. Like a watchman on a city wall, they would announce that danger was coming and urged the people to repent. Jeremiah specifically fits this mold by warning the people of Judah about the coming Babylonian invasion and urging them to change their ways to avoid God's judgment. He serves as a messenger of impending doom and a call to repentance.
- 2. How are the prophets more than just insightful political or religious commentators?** The prophets were not just astute observers of their times, but they were God's spokesmen. Their messages were not based on their own opinions or keen insight, but rather a direct word from God. The phrase "Thus says the Lord" is used frequently in the prophetic books of the Old Testament. They were considered divinely guided messengers who spoke the very words of God, with the Holy Spirit moving them to speak his message.
- 3. In what ways did Jeremiah embody God's message, beyond simply speaking it?** Jeremiah did not just deliver the word of God, he also embodied it. He internalized God's word, making it a part of his life, and he became a living expression of that word to the people. Jeremiah's own grief and weeping became a visible representation of God's sorrow over the people's sins. He became a living example of the message he was proclaiming.
- 4. How did the prophets function as covenantal messengers?** Prophets acted as God's ambassadors, reminding the people of their covenantal responsibilities. They pointed out how the people had broken the covenant they had made with God, called for repentance and warned of the consequences if they did not turn back to God. They also offered hope for restoration after judgment, highlighting the covenant faithfulness of God even when the people had been unfaithful. This four-part message included: 1) the people have sinned and broken the covenant,

2) the people need to repent, 3) if no repentance, there will be judgment, and 4) after judgment, there is restoration.

5. **What are the major covenants in the Old Testament and how do they relate to the prophetic messages?** There are five key covenants:

- **The Noahic Covenant:** God's promise not to destroy the world by flood again and the responsibility to punish those who shed human blood. The prophets use this covenant to highlight God's justice and his plan to eventually judge the nations who violated the covenant with violence and bloodshed.
- **The Abrahamic Covenant:** God's promises of a great nation, land, and blessing for all peoples through Abraham's descendants. The prophets saw Israel as the means through which God's blessing would be extended.
- **The Mosaic/Sinaitic Covenant:** God establishing Israel as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation who were meant to show the world the great things of God's law. This covenant outlined the terms of obedience and blessing and disobedience and curses. The prophets often accused Israel of breaking this covenant, resulting in judgment.
- **The Davidic Covenant:** God's promise of an everlasting kingdom through David's descendants. The prophets looked forward to a future Davidic king who would perfectly fulfill the covenant.
- **The New Covenant:** God's promise to forgive sins and write his law on the hearts of his people which will eventually enable them to fulfill his commands. The prophets spoke of a time where God would establish a new covenant for them. The prophetic messages are deeply rooted in these covenants, where judgment is often linked to the violation of a covenant and hope is rooted in a future covenant with God.

1. **How did the prophets use the curses of the Mosaic covenant in their messages?**

The prophets drew on the curses outlined in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 (exile, hardship, etc.) to demonstrate that God was faithful to his covenantal terms. They pointed out how the historical events of exile and hardships were a direct result of their disobedience to the Law and therefore a result of them experiencing those promised curses.

2. **What is the significance of the New Covenant, and how does Jeremiah relate to this concept?** The New Covenant, as prophesied by Jeremiah, is God's plan to forgive his people's failures and provide them with the desire and ability to follow His commands and laws, so that they would never experience judgement again. God promises to write his law on their hearts and empower them with his spirit. This concept is central to Jeremiah's message and is key to the fulfillment of all previous covenants in Jesus Christ. Jeremiah is considered a key prophet of the New Covenant.
3. **How does the message of the Old Testament prophets, particularly Jeremiah, point to Jesus?** The Old Testament covenants, and the prophecies concerning them, ultimately lead to Jesus. The promise of the Davidic king, the forgiveness of sins, the writing of God's law on hearts, and the pouring out of his spirit, are all fulfilled in Jesus Christ and in the establishment of the New Covenant through His blood. The messages of the prophets, therefore, have an eschatological element to them, pointing to a future time where the promises of the covenants are brought into full realization. They serve as an arrow leading to Christ.