

Dr. Gary Yates, Jeremiah, Session 7, Jeremiah 1 – Call of Jeremiah

Resources from NotebookLM

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

1. Abstract of Yates, Jeremiah, Session 7, Jeremiah 1 – Call of Jeremiah, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. Gary Yates explores Jeremiah chapter one, focusing on Jeremiah's call to prophecy. It examines Jeremiah's personal characteristics and initial reluctance, contrasting his experience with other prophetic calls in the Old Testament. The lecture highlights four common elements in these calls: a divine vision or voice, a specific commission, an objection to unworthiness, and promises of divine protection and empowerment. Finally, Dr. Yates discusses how Jeremiah 1 serves as a programmatic introduction to the entire book, foreshadowing key themes that will be explored throughout Jeremiah's ministry.

2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Yates, Jeremiah, Session 7 – 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).



**Yates_Jeremiah_Ses
sion07.mp3**

3. Yates, Jeremiah, Session 7, Jeremiah 1 – Call of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1: The Call of Jeremiah - Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. Where was Jeremiah from, and what was his family background?
2. What was Jeremiah's initial reaction to God's call, and what does this reveal about him?
3. What unusual command did God give to Jeremiah concerning marriage and family?
4. How does the role of Jeremiah's scribe, Baruch, contribute to the book's composition and message?
5. What does it mean that God knew Jeremiah before he was formed in the womb?
6. What four elements are often present in Old Testament call narratives?
7. According to the lecture, what is the significance of the prophet's "objection of unworthiness" in a call narrative?
8. How did God address Jeremiah's objection to being too young to speak?
9. What was the significance of the vision of the almond branch, and what is the wordplay in Hebrew?
10. What was the significance of the vision of the boiling pot facing away from the north, and what did it symbolize?

Quiz - Answer Key

1. Jeremiah was from Anathoth, a small village near Jerusalem. He was from a priestly family; his father was Hilkiah, a priest, but Jeremiah never served as a priest.
2. Jeremiah responded to God's call by saying, "I am but a youth; I do not know how to speak." This demonstrates his humility and awareness of his limitations.
3. God commanded Jeremiah not to marry or have children. This was a sign to the people that they would be deprived of family.

4. Baruch was Jeremiah's scribe and assisted in the composition of the book of Jeremiah. He played a vital role in recording and preserving Jeremiah's prophecies.
5. This shows that God had a plan and purpose for Jeremiah's life before his birth, highlighting God's sovereignty in calling him to be a prophet.
6. The four elements are a vision or voice of God, a commission to a specific task, an objection of unworthiness, and promises of God's protection and enablement.
7. The objection of unworthiness is a proper response that acknowledges human limitation in the face of a divine calling and is pleasing to God as it recognizes dependence upon him.
8. God touched Jeremiah's mouth and put His words into it. The Lord promised to equip Jeremiah with the message he needed to speak, addressing his concerns about his youth and ability.
9. The almond branch signified the imminent judgment of God, as the Hebrew words for "almond branch" (*shakad*) and "watching over" (*shokad*) are very similar, creating a wordplay. It also symbolized that the time for judgment was ripe.
10. The boiling pot symbolized an enemy army coming from the north. It represented the impending invasion and judgment on Judah by the Babylonians, who would come from the north.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Please answer the following questions using a well-developed essay format. Be sure to include specific examples and insights from the source material.

1. Discuss the personal aspects of Jeremiah's calling and how they contribute to his unique prophetic ministry. Consider his background, his age, his family, and the challenges he faced.
2. Analyze the significance of the four elements commonly found in Old Testament call narratives as demonstrated in Jeremiah 1. How do these elements shape our understanding of Jeremiah's prophetic role and the divine nature of his calling?
3. Explore the idea of "divine compulsion" in the life of Jeremiah. What does this concept reveal about the prophet's personal commitment and the nature of prophetic ministry? How does this compare to the modern understanding of a call to ministry?
4. Compare and contrast the call of Jeremiah with the call of Isaiah as presented in the lecture. In what ways are their calls similar, and in what ways do they differ? What is the significance of these parallels and differences?
5. Assess the practical implications of Jeremiah's calling, particularly regarding the process of discovering God's will. How does the lecture challenge the concept of seeking a single "dot" in the will of God? What alternative framework is presented?

Glossary of Key Terms

Anathoth: A small village about three miles northeast of Jerusalem, Jeremiah's hometown.

Baruch: Jeremiah's scribe and assistant, who helped in the composition of the book of Jeremiah.

Divine Compulsion: The urgent, unavoidable feeling of needing to preach God's word, a sense that God compels action and speech.

Inclusio: A literary device where similar material appears at the beginning and the end of a section, often forming a structural bracket; the use of "womb" in Jeremiah.

Naar: Hebrew word used by Jeremiah, translated as "youth," that can refer to a wide range of ages, from a child to a young adult.

Programmatic Introduction: A literary technique where key themes of a book are introduced at the beginning, providing a framework for understanding the entire work.

Prophet to the Nations: Jeremiah's ministry extends beyond Judah, as he is called to speak judgment and salvation to other nations as well.

Shakad: The Hebrew word for "almond branch."

Shokad: The Hebrew verb "to watch over."

Sovereignty of God: The idea that God has ultimate control and authority, including the calling and purpose of individuals.

4. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided lecture excerpts on Jeremiah 1 by Dr. Gary Yates:

Briefing Document: Dr. Gary Yates on Jeremiah 1 - The Call of Jeremiah

Introduction:

This document summarizes Dr. Gary Yates' lecture on Jeremiah chapter 1, focusing on the call of Jeremiah and its significance as an introduction to the book's overall message. The lecture explores Jeremiah's personal background, the nature of his prophetic calling, and the key themes established in the first chapter that resonate throughout the book.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. Jeremiah's Background and Personal Life:

- **Hometown and Lineage:** Jeremiah was from Anathoth, a small village near Jerusalem, and was from a priestly family. His father was Hilkiah. It's speculated he might have initially planned to serve as a priest himself, but was called to be a prophet instead.
- *Quote:* "...the words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin."
- **Young Age:** Jeremiah was called to be a prophet at a young age, likely in his late teens or early twenties. He expresses his youth and lack of experience when called. The word "naar" is used to describe him.
- *Quote:* "Ah, Lord God, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."
- **Unmarried and Childless:** God commanded Jeremiah not to marry or have children. This was to serve as a sign to the people of Israel, reflecting their coming deprivation of family due to judgment. This demonstrates the hardships faced by prophets
- *Quote:* "You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place."
- **Assisted by Scribe:** Jeremiah was assisted by his scribe, Baruch, who played a significant role in the book's composition. Baruch was crucial to the preservation of Jeremiah's words.

- **Death as a Refugee:** Jeremiah's ministry concluded in Egypt, where he possibly died as a refugee. A Jewish tradition claims he was stoned to death there for his confrontational preaching.

1. The Divine Call of the Prophet:

- **Sovereign Choice:** God's calling of a prophet is an act of divine sovereignty, established before their birth, and not based on personal ambition or aptitude. The calling is not something that the individual has much say over.
- *Quote:* "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
- **Urgency and Compulsion:** The call creates a divine compulsion and an urgency to preach God's word. It is like a "fire shut up in my bones," an inner drive that cannot be ignored. The prophet cannot help but speak the message given.
- *Quote:* "If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot."
- **Not a Personal Choice:** Prophets do not volunteer, but are chosen by God and compelled to deliver His message, regardless of their personal feelings. They cannot say no to God's call.
- **The Prophet as Watchman:** Prophets are like watchmen, tasked with warning the people of impending judgment. If they fail to warn, they are accountable for the people's fate.
- **Elements of Prophetic Call:** The call usually includes: a vision or voice of God, a specific task or commission, an objection of unworthiness, and promises of divine protection and enablement.
- Vision/Voice: direct communication from God, like the burning bush for Moses or the heavenly throne for Isaiah.
- Commission: specific task given by God, often involving announcing judgment.
- Objection: The prophet's immediate reaction of inadequacy and feeling unqualified for the task.
- Enablement: God's divine empowerment and promise of protection and success.

1. Jeremiah's Specific Commission and Prophetic Ministry:

- **Prophet to the Nations:** Jeremiah was not just a prophet to Judah but also to other nations. He had a universal message of judgment and salvation.
- **Judgment and Salvation:** Jeremiah's ministry was marked by both judgment ("pluck up," "break down," "destroy," "overthrow") and salvation ("build," "plant"). Judgment would come first, then the hope for restoration.
- **Symbolic Visions:** Jeremiah was given symbolic visions, such as the almond branch representing God's watching over his word to perform it, and the boiling pot from the north representing an invading army, specifically the Babylonians.
- *Quote:* "I see an almond branch...you have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it" and "I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north."

1. **Practical Application for Today:**

- **Divine Calling for All Believers:** All Christians experience a call to salvation, and all have a unique calling and vocation from God, regardless of profession. No job is "more holy" than another.
- **Special Calling to Ministry:** God calls certain individuals to preach and teach His word, accompanied by an overwhelming sense of urgency. It is not just a career, but a calling.
- **The Will of God as a 'Box':** God's will is not a single "dot" that must be found, but rather a "box" of revealed instructions in Scripture that Christians are to live within. Within the guidelines of God's will, believers have freedom to make decisions and follow their unique calling.
- **Obedience and Trust:** God leads and directs as we are obedient to Him, rather than looking for signs or visions. He creates opportunities for service through faithful obedience.

1. **Jeremiah 1 as a Programmatic Introduction:**

- **Themes Developed:** Chapter 1 introduces all the major themes that will be developed throughout the book of Jeremiah. These include: Jeremiah as a prophet to the nations, as a prophet of building up and tearing down, as one whose words are from God, his opposition from others, and the parallel between Jeremiah and Moses.
- **Living Word of God:** Jeremiah's words, actions and life all become the living word of God in the book.

- **Programmatic Introduction:** The chapter serves as a programmatic introduction, laying out the trajectory of the book and its key message.

Conclusion:

Dr. Yates' lecture emphasizes the divine and sovereign nature of Jeremiah's call, highlighting the urgency and compulsion that shaped his ministry. The themes established in Jeremiah 1 serve as a roadmap for understanding the book as a whole, connecting Jeremiah's personal experiences, calling, and message with the overarching purposes of God. The lecture also provides valuable insights into understanding God's calling for believers today.

5. FAQs on Yates, Jeremiah, Session 7, Jeremiah 1 – Call of Jeremiah, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions about Jeremiah's Calling and the Book of Jeremiah

1. **What was Jeremiah's background, and how did it influence his calling as a prophet?** Jeremiah was from the priestly family, the son of Hilkiah, and came from the town of Anathoth, a small village about three miles northeast of Jerusalem. While he might have initially expected to serve as a priest, God called him to be a prophet at a young age. This meant that his life took a different path, and he was called to a difficult ministry involving messages of judgement and salvation.
2. **How does Jeremiah describe his initial reaction to God's call?** Jeremiah's immediate reaction to God's call was one of inadequacy and youthfulness. He protested, saying "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth" (Jeremiah 1:6). This objection highlights his sense of being unprepared for the enormous task God had given him. It reflects a common response among those called by God in the Old Testament.
3. **What were some of the unique and difficult personal circumstances associated with Jeremiah's prophetic call?** Jeremiah was commanded by God not to marry or have children. This was a symbolic act, designed to show the people that they would lose their family structures because of their sins. This was a particularly painful component of his calling, as it meant he would be denied the blessings and support that a family can offer. He also faced immense hardship, persecution, and opposition throughout his ministry, even dying as a refugee in Egypt.
4. **What are the key elements that are present in Jeremiah's call, as well as other prophetic calls in the Old Testament?** Four key elements are commonly found in prophetic call narratives: first, there is a divine encounter which involves a vision or voice where God directly communicates; second, there's a commission to a specific task, usually involving delivering God's message; third, the prophet expresses an objection based on feelings of unworthiness or inadequacy; and finally, God gives promises of protection and enablement to fulfill the task. These elements demonstrate God's sovereign hand in selecting and empowering prophets.

5. **How did God's enablement address Jeremiah's objection that he did not know how to speak?** God directly addressed Jeremiah's objection by putting his words into his mouth, literally through a touch. This act symbolized God's provision of the very message that Jeremiah was to deliver. God's words became the basis of his ministry. God also promised to make him a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, assuring him of divine protection and strength in the face of opposition.
6. **What is the significance of the almond branch and the boiling pot in Jeremiah's commissioning?** The almond branch, *shakad* in Hebrew, is connected to the Hebrew verb to "watch over", *shokad*. This symbolized that God was watching over his word to perform it. It was also one of the first trees to bloom in the spring, suggesting that the time of judgment was ripe. The boiling pot facing away from the north symbolized the impending disaster coming from the north, specifically the Babylonian army. These images showed that God was actively at work in judgement.
7. **How does the call of Jeremiah relate to the idea of divine calling for believers today, especially regarding ministry?** While believers today may not receive visions or direct voices from God, there is a divine calling to salvation, and a sense of vocation that enables Christians to glorify God in all their life pursuits. For those called to ministry, this calling is not just a career choice, but an overwhelming sense of divine urgency and passion to preach and teach God's word, like a fire burning in their bones. Those in ministry should see it as a calling, not simply a job and are given opportunities as they are faithful and obedient to God's revealed will.
8. **How does Jeremiah chapter 1 serve as a programmatic introduction to the entire book of Jeremiah?** Jeremiah chapter 1 introduces the major themes that are developed in the rest of the book. It establishes Jeremiah as a prophet to the nations, a messenger of both judgment and salvation, the recipient of divine words, and someone facing opposition from his people. It also highlights the coming enemy from the north (Babylonians). Finally, themes parallel to Moses' calling are also introduced, creating parallels that then further develop through the book. All of the themes in the book are basically laid out in this first chapter.