

# JEREMIAH

## *Listening Ears*

Jeremiah 6:1 • 10:17 • 29:4–7 • 32:14–15

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### PART 1: WARNING — CHAPTERS 1–25

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*“Flee for safety, O people of Benjamin, from the midst of Jerusalem!” (6:1)*

*“Gather up your bundle from the ground, O you who dwell under siege.” (10:17)*

- 627 BC. Jeremiah stands up in Judah and says it is all going to end. Pack your bags. Get ready to be deported.
- Then Judah steps into its golden age. Josiah’s crews are repairing the temple, they find the Torah, they read it, and a national reformation follows.
- Jeremiah’s verdict on the revival is in chapter 3: it was not sincere. Josiah was a good king. The people’s hearts had not changed.

#### How to listen to God when the facts say otherwise.

##### THE HEART

**Conviction: King David was heart-struck.**

*“And afterward David’s heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.” (1 Samuel 24:5)*

*“But David’s heart struck him after he had numbered the people.” (2 Samuel 24:10)*

- Two moments in a whole life, and both come when things are going his way. Conviction still speaks in the golden age.
- But the heart is deceitful (17:9). Conviction shifts with mood and circumstance. It is one data point, not all of them.

##### THE WORD

- The Spirit convicts you through your heart, and the Spirit always agrees with His Word.

**Is this causing healing or harm?**

*“‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things are helpful... Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.” (1 Corinthians 10:23–24)*

**Are you betraying the trust of someone else?**

*“Speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” (Ephesians 4:25)*

**Can your time and personal wealth help a person you know?**

*“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?” (1 John 3:17)*

**Will someone like or hate Jesus more by your actions?**

*“The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” (Romans 2:24)*

*“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)*

## PART 2: IGNORE THE TRUTH — CHAPTERS 26–45

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- Episode after episode of people hearing the word and putting it down.

### 34 Accept God's Word, then reject it.

Under siege, Zedekiah and the people swear a covenant to free every Hebrew slave—and take them all back when it costs too much.

### 27–28 The lie people wanted.

Hananiah breaks a yoke in public and promises the exile will be over in two years. Jeremiah says seventy. Hananiah dies that year.

### 36 Outright rejection.

The scroll is read aloud in Jehoiakim's winter house, and he cuts off each column with a penknife and feeds it to the fire.

### 37–38 The Word is bad for my life, so I bury it.

The officials tell the king Jeremiah is destroying the soldiers' morale, and lower him by ropes into a cistern to sink in the mud.

### 44 Choose the truth of another over God's Word.

In Egypt the people tell Jeremiah to his face they will keep burning incense to the queen of heaven, because life was better when they did.

### 29 Accept the Word.

*"Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce... multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (29:5–7)*

- Accept where He is taking you, and flourish there. This is not the future you planned. It is where you are going to be for seventy years.

## PART 3: HOPE

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### Jeremiah 32:14–15

*"Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land."*

- Jeremiah is under guard in the court of the guard. Jerusalem is under Babylonian siege. Everyone in the city is weeks from deportation.
  - His cousin Hanamel shows up and asks him to exercise the right of redemption on family land. Jeremiah weighs out seventeen shekels of silver, signs and seals the deed before witnesses, and hands it to Baruch to store in a jar.
  - No one buys a field he will never see. The deed is the promise—dig it up in seventy years and take the land back.
  - Hope knows the desires of your heart. It does not promise everything desire wants. It leads to a life more flourishing than the one you had planned.
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