

Teaching notes, Jeremiah 1-29

Read **1 Nephi 5:13**. How did Jeremiah's words get on the plates (in 'real-time')?

More is known about Jeremiah than any other OT prophet—much biographical information and incidents. Discuss order of chapters (see notes).

Chalkboard (just the labels and first line to start):

Date	Babylon	Egypt	Judah	Jeremiah
640	(ruled by Assyria)	Psammetichos	Josiah	
627	Nabopolassar			Called
609		Necho II	Jehoahaz; Jehoiakim	Arrested
604	Nebuchadrezzar			Pashur
597			Jehoiachin; Zedekiah	(Lehi)
594		Psammetichos II (595)		Hananiah
588		Apries/Hophra (589)		
586			Jerusalem falls	
585			Gedaliah; Johanan	Egypt

627 (18—Jeremiah's age, assuming he was born 645)

1:1-3

- Came from Anathoth, about 3 miles northeast of Jerusalem
- Son of Hilkiah, a priest, of the tribe of Benjamin
- Heb *yirmeyahu*, a common name (10 people in OT), meaning either:
 - 'Whom Jehovah has appointed'
 - 'Jehovah establishes whom he appoints'
- Assurbanipal, king of Assyria, died, after a long reign—he conquered at first, then settled down and built a huge library. His death marks the beginning of the end of Assyria—in 20 years they would be completely gone, their capital of Nineveh an empty heap never to be lived in again.
- In Babylon, [Nabopolassar](#) took advantage of the turmoil and declared himself king.
- **Josiah**, king of Judah, seized the opportunity to expand his independence and broaden his purging the kingdom of Assyrian gods and practices.
- Jeremiah received his [call \(1:4-10\)](#).
- Jeremiah understood his mission ([1:11-19](#)) to warn of the destruction; *shaqed* (almond) and *shaqad* ('hasten' here but really watch or be awake) and the seething pot spilling from the north (toward the south).
- Jeremiah told not to marry ([16:1-4](#)) or mourn ([16:5-9](#)).
- Judah was condemned for their sins ([16:11-13](#)).
- Jeremiah supported Josiah's reforms with preaching ([2:26-28](#)).
- Jeremiah prophesied of a latter-day gathering ([3:14-18](#)) and ([16:14-16](#)).

609 (36)

- Egypt rushed to the aid of the nearly-defeated Assyria at Haran; Josiah, probably in league with Babylon, met the advancing Egyptian army under the new Pharaoh, [Necho II](#), at Megiddo; he slowed them enough to help the Babylonians win, but Josiah was tragically killed ([2 Chr. 35:20-25](#)).
- Josiah's oldest son, **Shallum**, was made king by the people, taking the throne name of [Jehoahaz](#) (*Jehovah grasps*), but was deposed in three months by Necho and carried to Egypt where he died.
- Another son of Josiah, **Eliakim**, was made king by Necho, and took the throne name [Jehoiakim](#) (*Jehovah raises up*); he was pro-Egyptian at first, but then rebelled and aligned himself with the victorious Babylonians (after Carchemish where the Babylonians defeated the last of the Assyrians and the Egyptians in 605 BC).
- Jeremiah preached in the temple that it would be destroyed if they didn't repent ([26:1-7](#); also [7:1-15](#), which is probably a second account); the people arrested him in anger ([26:8-11](#)); Jeremiah defended himself ([26:12-15](#)),

then **Ahikam**, the son of Shaphan (possibly Jeremiah's teacher as a young man) spoke up for him at his trial, citing **Micah's** case where that prophet spoke of the destruction of the temple but was not killed because the people repented and the temple was saved, and as a negative example, **Urijah** who was killed by the present king (**26:16-24**).

605 (40)

- Babylon defeated the final remnants of Assyria and their Egyptian supporters at the Battle of Carchemish, making them the dominant power in the Near East.
- Jeremiah and Baruch recorded his words (**36:1-4**).
- Baruch read Jeremiah's words in the temple and the leaders are humbled (**36:5-8; 15-19**).
- King Jehoiakim's reaction to Jeremiah's book (**36:22-26**).
- Jeremiah and Baruch rewrote the words—and more (**36:28-32**).

604 (41)

- The Babylonian general **Nebuchadrezzar** took the throne (in Akkadian: *Nabu-kudurri-usur*, or "Nabu guards the frontier") and continued securing Babylon's position of dominance in the region.
- **Pashur's** encounter with Jeremiah (**20:1-6**); Pashur means 'freedom'.
- Jeremiah tired of his calling (**20:7-9**).

598 (47)

- Jeremiah commanded to take a new loin cloth, wear it, then take it and bury it under a rock near the Euphrates River (a long walk!) (**13:1-5**). Later, he had to go back, dig it up and show it had rotted away (**13:6-10**). Imagine the group that went with him just to see and hear what he was going to do and say.

597 (48)

- 6 Dec 598, Jehoiakim died (unknown reasons) just before Nebuchadrezzar laid siege to Jerusalem (starting Jan 597, ending 16 Mar 597).
- Jehoiakim's son, **Jeconiah**, became king, throne name **Jehoiachin** (*Jehovah establishes*) but surrendered to Nebuchadrezzar and was taken captive to Babylon with thousands of others; he lived there the remainder of his life and was considered the true king by those in captivity and afterward (Jesus was from his line).
- **Mattaniah** became king, throne name **Zedekiah** (*Jehovah is my righteousness*).
- Vision of two baskets of figs; good figs are those carried away; bad figs are Zedekiah and those that will be carried away and killed later (**24:1-10**).
- The year of **Lehi's** vision.