

A Trek Through Jeremiah 2 - 1:4-19

Bruce Pike

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For today

Jeremiah's call 1:4-19

- Commission 1:4-5. As a prophet of Yahweh to speak His word to the nations.
- Objections 1:6-8. Jeremiah makes two objections and Yahweh answers them.
- Commission 1:9-10. To tear down and build up.
- Two visions 1:11-16. About the coming judgment on Judah.
- Divine charge 1:17-19. To go forth and speak what Yahweh commands.

Jeremiah's call 1:4-19

Commission 1:4-5

Jeremiah 1:4-5 (LSB)

4Now the word of Yahweh came to me saying,

5"Before I formed you in the innermost parts I knew you, And before you came out from the womb I set you apart; I have given you as a prophet to the nations."

- V4 Divine word
 - Phrase occurs 18x in the book.
 - Validates Jeremiah as a true prophet of Yahweh. Important because he will be opposed by false prophets.
 - Came to me.
 - Doesn't say how. No vision
 - Like Amos (Am 7:15 ...Yahweh said to me, 'Go prophesy to My people Israel)
 - Not like Isaiah (Is 6) or Ezekiel (Ezek 1-2) who had visions.
- Saying.
 - Same word used for Jeremiah speaking to Yahweh.
 - Jeremiah will have multiple conversations with Yahweh.

- V5 Commission
 - Four actions by Yahweh in order: I knew you, I set you apart, I formed you, I gave you
 - I knew you
 - Heb ye.da.ti.
 - To have knowledge of.
 - Ps 139:1-4 O Yahweh, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Yahweh, You know it all
 - To have a relationship with
 - Am 3:2 Yahweh to Israel: "You only have I known among all the families of the earth
 - To approve of
 - Ps 1:6 For Yahweh knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.
 - I set you apart
 - Consecrated to Yahweh's use
 - Ex 13:2 "Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me.
 - I formed you
 - Conception
 - Ps 139:13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.
 - I gave you
 - Heb ne.ta.ti
 - Assigned to the role.
 - Gen 41:41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.
 - Given as a gift
 - Gen 41:45 Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, as a wife.
 - As a prophet to the nations
 - Role: to speak Yahweh's word
 - Nations. Jew and Gentile. The gracious gift of Yahweh's word
 - Part of the foundation of the church. Eph 2:20 ...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets...

- Knowing and setting apart came before birth. According to God's eternal plan.
 - As the Servant. Is 49:1 Yahweh called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He made My name to be remembered.
 - As David. Ps 139:16 Your eyes have seen my unshaped substance; And in Your book all of them were written The days that were formed for me, When as yet there was not one of them.
 - As Paul. Gal 1:15 ...God, who had set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace...
- All done by Yahweh. Jeremiah did not seek to be a prophet.

Objections 1:6-8

Jeremiah 1:6–8 (LSB)

6Then I said, “Alas, Lord Yahweh! Behold, I do not know how to speak Because I am a youth.”

7But Yahweh said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all that I command you, you shall speak.

8“Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you,” declares Yahweh.

- Jeremiah interrupts his commission
- V6-7 First objection
 - Then I said, “Alas, Lord Yahweh!”
 - Jeremiah replies.
 - Alas. Expression of pain or distress. Not eager. As Moses (Ex 3-4)
 - Lord Yahweh. Acknowledging His supreme authority and power.
 - I do not know how to speak because I am a youth
 - First objection: does not know how to speak
 - Youth. Young man. Not trained or experienced.
 - But Yahweh said to me. Do not say, ‘I am a youth’.
 - Rebuking Jeremiah’s unbelief. Yahweh knew, set apart, formed, gave Jeremiah as His prophet. Jeremiah called Yahweh Lord but now is saying He is wrong about Jeremiah being His prophet.
 - Jeremiah is looking at things as they are outwardly (2 Cor 10:7)
 - As Israel when the spies returned from Canaan reporting how powerful the inhabitants were (Ex 14). They had seen Yahweh bring them out of Egypt but now did not believe that He could bring them into the promised land.
 - Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all that I command you, you shall speak.
 - Yahweh’s longsuffering.
 - Repeats Jeremiah’s role as prophet to the nations (v5b)
 - He would be sent
 - He would be told what to say
- V8 Second objection
 - Do not be afraid of them.
 - Second objection (unspoken): fear
 - Jeremiah knows he will be opposed
 - For I am with you to deliver you
 - Why Jeremiah is to not fear:
 - Yahweh has given him as prophet to speak His word (v5).
 - Yahweh is greater than any opponent.
 - declares Yahweh.
 - Reminding Jeremiah who is speaking

Commission 1:9-10

Jeremiah 1:9–10 (LSB)

9Then Yahweh sent forth His hand and touched my mouth, and Yahweh said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

10“See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, To uproot and to tear down, To cause to perish and to pull down, To build and to plant.”

- Resuming from v5 after Jeremiah’s objections
- V9 Equipping
 - Then Yahweh sent forth His hand and touched my mouth
 - Object lesson. Seen and felt by Jeremiah. As Ezekiel given a scroll to eat (Ezek 2:8-3:4)
 - and Yahweh said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.”
 - Explanation
 - Have put. Completed action
 - My words in your mouth. When Jeremiah spoke he would speak the words of Yahweh.
- V10a Appointment
 - See. Understand
 - I have appointed you this day
 - Mustered for a purpose. As troops for a battle.
 - over the nations and the kingdoms
 - Sphere of authority: all nations and kingdoms
 - Nations. Peoples
 - Kingdoms. Political entities
- V10b Purpose
 - To uproot and to tear down, To cause to perish and to pull down
 - Destruction. Major part of his task.
 - Idolatry must first be destroyed before the true worship can be done.
 - To build and to plant.
 - Construction. Message of hope
- Jeremiah’s commission
 - A prophet to speak Yahweh’s words (v5, 7)
 - To all nations and all kingdoms (v10)
 - To destroy and to build (v10)

Two visions 1:11-16

- Two related visions of the coming judgment.
- Likely occurred together not long after the call.

First vision 1:11-12

Jeremiah 1:11–12 (LSB)

11Now the word of Yahweh came to me saying, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” And I said, “I see a rod of an almond tree.”

12Then Yahweh said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to do it.”

- V11 Vision
 - Rod. Branch.
 - Almond tree.
 - Anathoth a center of almond growing.
 - Almond tree blooms early indicating the beginning of the growing season.
- V12 Explanation
 - Watching over. Being alert. Wordplay: almond sa.qed watching so.qed
 - My word. Curses of the Sinai covenant
 - To do it. Season of judgment was about to begin.

Second vision 1:13-16

Jeremiah 1:13–16 (LSB)

13The word of Yahweh came to me a second time saying, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north.”

14Then Yahweh said to me, “From the north the evil will break open on all the inhabitants of the land.

15“For, behold, I am calling all the families of the kingdoms of the north,” declares Yahweh; “and they will come, and each one of them will put his throne at the opening of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all its walls round about and against all the cities of Judah.

16“I will speak My judgments on them concerning all their evil, whereby they have forsaken Me and have burned incense to other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands.

- V13 Vision
 - Boiling pot. Large vessel used for cooking or washing. Heated over the fire. Full of boiling water. Great distress when it spills.
 - Facing away from the north. Will spill to the south.
- V14-15 Explanation
 - From the north the evil will break open on all the inhabitants of the land.
 - Will come from the north.
 - Will not be good.
 - Will break open. Prepared and will come.
 - On all the inhabitants of the land. From king to beggar.
 - I am calling all the families of the kingdoms of the north,” declares Yahweh; “and they will come
 - Describing the evil: invasion by Babylon and its allies. They would come up the Euphrates and then south into Judah.
 - Summoned by the Lord of history
 - and each one of them will put his throne at the opening of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all its walls round about and against all the cities of Judah.
 - Outcome of the evil: Jerusalem and Judah conquered.
 - Described in 39:3
- V16 Verdict
 - I will speak My judgments on them
 - As a judge rendering a verdict
 - concerning all their evil, whereby they have forsaken Me and have burned incense to other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands.
 - How they broke the Sinai covenant
 - Left the God they were in covenant with.
 - Worshipped false gods.
 - Worshipped idols
 - Ro 1:21-23
 - Knew God
 - Did not glorify Him as God or give thanks
 - Exchanged His glory for an image

Divine charge 1:17-19

Jeremiah 1:17–19 (LSB)

17“Now, gird up your loins and arise and speak to them all which I command you. Do not be dismayed before them, lest I dismay you before them.

18“Now behold, I have given you today as a fortified city and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests, and to the people of the land.

19“And they will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you,” declares Yahweh.

- V17a Charge
 - Now, gird up your loins
 - Time for action
 - Military illustration: Belt up loose clothing and prepare for battle
 - Jeremiah is to prepare for action
 - and arise and speak to them all which I command you
 - Fulfill his commission as prophet to the nations.
- V17b Warning
 - Do not be dismayed before them, lest I dismay you before them.
 - Jeremiah will encounter opponents. Real temptation to be fear them (v8)
 - If Jeremiah disobeys because of fear then Yahweh will discipline him by shaming him.
 - As Ezek 2:6-8 “Now as for you, son of man, do not fear them and do not fear their words, though thistles and briers are with you and you sit on scorpions; neither fear their words nor be dismayed at their presence, for they are a rebellious house. “But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious. “Now as for you, son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house.
 - Disobeying because of fear is rebellion
- V18-19 Assurance
 - Now behold. Pay attention to the truth
 - I have given you today as a fortified city and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze
 - Three pictures of being impregnable
 - against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests, and to the people of the land.
 - Jeremiah would be opposed by all of Judah: king, civil and religious authorities, common people.
 - And they will fight against you, but they will not overcome you
 - Jeremiah will be invincible
 - for I am with you to deliver you,”
 - Repeating v8. Yahweh is Jeremiah’s security.
 - declares Yahweh.
 - Reminding Jeremiah who is speaking

Application: Fear is not an excuse

Jer 1:17 Do not be dismayed before them, lest I dismay you before them.

- Disobedience because of fear would bring discipline.

1 Pet 5:8-9 Be of sober spirit, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished among your brethren who are in the world.

- Addressed to believers undergoing trials
- Satan seeks to devour believers (render useless). They will become useless if they disobey the Lord because they fear suffering.
- They are to resist him
 - Be of sober spirit. Girded for action.
 - Be watchful. Alert for danger
 - Be firm in the faith. Stand in the truth of the gospel

What if we falter

- No condemnation (Ro 8:1)
- Confess our sin; be forgiven and cleansed. (1 Jn 1:9)
- Forget what lies behind; press on toward the goal. (Ph 3:13-14)

References

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