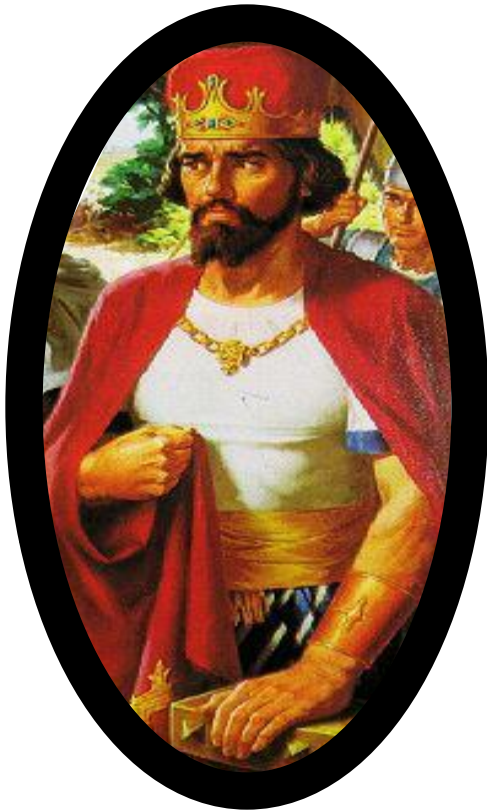


Jeremiah's Prophecies against the "Shepherds"



Jeremiah 23:1-11
Jeremiah 25:34-38

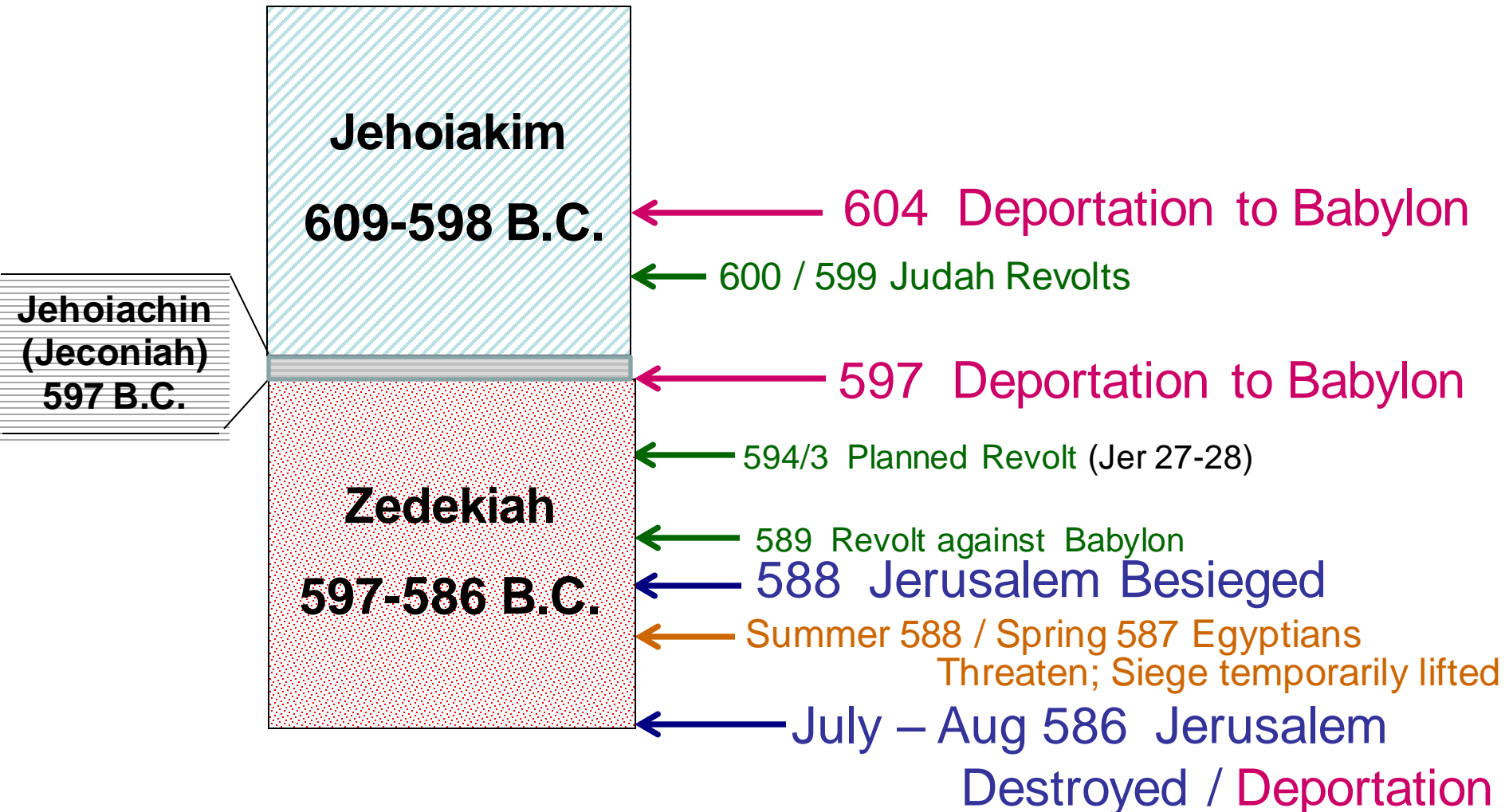
**King
& Royal Officials**

The Book of Jeremiah

1	Jeremiah's Call
2 - 25	Oracles of Judgment
26-29	Biographical: Controversy with Officials & Prophets
30-33	Oracles of Hope: "Book of Consolation"
34 - 45	Biographical: chs. 34-39 Reigns of Jehoiakim & Zedekiah chs. 40-45 After Fall of Jerusalem
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Jeremiah chs. 34-38:

Kings' Responses to Jeremiah's Prophetic Messages Dated from 605 – 587 B.C.



Jeremiah chs. 34-38:

Kings' Responses to Jeremiah's Prophetic Messages

Ch. 34:1-7	588 B.C.	Zedekiah
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Ch. 34:8-22	Summer 588 / Spring 587 B.C.	597-586 B.C.
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Ch. 35	After 605 B.C.	Jehoiakim
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Ch. 36:1-26	Dec 604 B.C.	
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Ch. 36:27-32	604 B.C.	609 – 598 B.C.
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Ch. 37:1-10	Summer 588 / Spring 587 B.C.	
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Ch. 37:11-16	Summer 588 / Spring 587 B.C.	Zedekiah
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Ch. 37:17-21	587 B.C.	597-586 B.C.
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Ch. 38:1-13	587 B.C.	
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Ch. 38:14-28	587 B.C.	
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Jeremiah chs. 34-38:

Kings' Responses to Jeremiah's Prophetic Messages

Jehoiakim

Jer 26 (WEB) **–609 B.C.**

¹ In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah...

²⁰ There was also a man who prophesied in Yahweh's name, Uriah . . . ;
and he prophesied against this city and against this land
according to all the words of Jeremiah.

²¹ When Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men
and all the princes heard his words, t
he king sought to put him to death;
but when Uriah heard it, he was afraid, and fled, and went into Egypt.

²² Then Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt . . . ;

²³ and they fetched Uriah out of Egypt,
and brought him to Jehoiakim the king, who killed him with the sword,
and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.

²⁴ But the hand of Ahikam . . . was with Jeremiah,
so that they didn't give him into the hand of the people to put him to death.

Jehoiakim

Jer 36 (WEB) --604 B.C.

²¹ So the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll; . . .

Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king,
and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king.

²² Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month;
and there was a fire in the brazier burning before him.

²³ When Jehudi had read three or four leaves,
the king cut it with the penknife,
and cast it into the fire that was in the brazier,
until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier.

²⁴ The king and his servants who heard all these words were not afraid,
and didn't tear their garments.

²⁵ Moreover Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession
to the king that he would not burn the scroll;
but he would not listen to them.

²⁶ The king commanded ... to arrest
Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet;
but Yahweh hid them.

Jeremiah chs. 34-38:

Kings' Responses to Jeremiah's Prophetic Messages

Zedekiah

Jer 37 (WEB) -- **Summer 588 / Spring 587 B.C.**

¹ Zedekiah . . . reigned as king

² But neither he, nor his servants, nor the people of the land,
listened to Yahweh's words, which he spoke by the prophet Jeremiah.

³ Zedekiah the king sent . . . to the prophet Jeremiah, saying,
"Pray now to Yahweh our God for us." . . .

¹⁶ When Jeremiah had come into the dungeon house, and into the cells,
and Jeremiah had remained there many days,

¹⁷ then Zedekiah the king sent, and had him brought out.

The king asked him secretly in his house,

"Is there any word from Yahweh?"

Jeremiah said, "There is."

He also said, "You will be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon."

Zedekiah

Jer 37 (WEB) -- 587 B.C.

- ¹⁸ Moreover Jeremiah said to king Zedekiah,
“How have I sinned against you,
against your servants, or against this people,
that you have put me in prison?
- ²⁰ Now please hear, my lord the king:
please let my supplication be presented before you,
that you not cause me to return to the house of Jonathan the scribe,
lest I die there.”
- ²¹ Then Zedekiah the king commanded,
and they committed Jeremiah into the court of the guard.
They gave him daily a loaf of bread out of the bakers’ street,
until all the bread in the city was gone.
Thus Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

Zedekiah

Jer 38 (WEB) -- **587 B.C.**

⁴ Then the princes said to the king,

“Please let this man be put to death;
because he weakens the hands of the men of war who remain in this city,
and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words to them:
for this man doesn’t seek the welfare of this people, but harm.”

⁵ Zedekiah the king said,

“Behold, he is in your hand; for the king can’t do anything to oppose you.”

⁶ Then they took Jeremiah and threw him

into the dungeon of Malchijah the king’s son,
that was in the court of the guard.

⁸ Ebedmelech went out of the king’s house, and spoke to the king, saying,

⁹ “My lord the king, these men have done evil
in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet,
who they have cast into the dungeon.

He is likely to die in the place where he is, because of the famine;
for there is no more bread in the city.”

¹⁰ Then the king commanded Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying,

“ . . . take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he dies.”

¹³ So they drew up Jeremiah with the cords, and took him up out of the dungeon;
and Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

Zedekiah

Jer 38 (WEB) -- **587 B.C.**

¹⁴ Then Zedekiah the king sent and took Jeremiah the prophet to himself into the third entry that is in Yahweh's house.

Then the king said to Jeremiah, "I will ask you something. Hide nothing from me."

¹⁵ Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah,

"If I declare it to you, will you not surely put me to death?

If I give you counsel, you will not listen to me."

¹⁶ So Zedekiah the king swore secretly to Jeremiah, saying,

"As Yahweh lives,. . . I will not put you to death,

neither will I give you into the hand of these men who seek your life."

¹⁷ Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Yahweh, the God of Armies, the God of Israel, says:

'If you will go out to the king of Babylon's princes,

then your soul will live, and this city will not be burned with fire.

You will live, along with your house.

¹⁸ But if you will not go out to the king of Babylon's princes, then this city will be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they will burn it with fire, and you won't escape out of their hand.'"

Zedekiah

Jer 38 (WEB) -- **587 B.C.**

¹⁹ Zedekiah the king said to Jeremiah,

“I am afraid of the Jews who have defected to the Chaldeans,
lest they deliver me into their hand,
and they mock me.”

²⁰ But Jeremiah said,

“They won’t deliver you.

Obey, I beg you, Yahweh’s voice, in that which I speak to you;
so it will be well with you, and your soul will live.

²⁴ Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah,

“Let no man know of these words, and you won’t die.

²⁵ But if the princes hear that I have talked with you, and they come to you,
and tell you, ‘Declare to us now what you have said to the king;
do not hide it from us, and we will not put you to death;
also tell us what the king said to you;’

²⁶ then you shall tell them,

‘I presented my supplication before the king,
that he would not cause me to return to Jonathan’s house, to die there.’”

²⁷ Then all the princes came to Jeremiah, and asked him;

and he told them according to all these words that the king had commanded.

So they stopped speaking with him;

for the matter was not perceived.

Jeremiah chs. 34-38:

Kings' Responses to Jeremiah's Prophetic Messages

Jehoiakim	Zedekiah
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● openly & actively defiant● disdains prophetic word● hardened stance against● disrespectful● reaction of opposition & persecution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ receptive (somewhat open) & interested◆ respectful toward & concerned about Jeremiah◆ helpful to Jeremiah◆ fears others more than heeding God's word

■ But neither heeded Yahweh's word

□ So even Zedekiah's "openness" to hearing was not enough

Jeremiah chs. 34-38:

Judgment based on Kings' Responses to Jeremiah's Prophetic Messages

Jehoiakim

36:

²⁹ Concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah you shall say,
'Yahweh says:

"You have burned this scroll, . . .

³⁰ Therefore Yahweh says concerning Jehoiakim
king of Judah:

"He will have no one to sit on David's throne.

His dead body will be cast out
in the day to the heat,
and in the night to the frost.

³¹ I will punish him, his offspring, and his servants
for their iniquity.

I will bring on them,
on the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
and on the men of Judah,
all the evil that I have pronounced against them,
but they did not listen.'""

Zedekiah

34:

² "Yahweh, the God of Israel, says,
'Go, and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah,
and tell him, Yahweh says,
"Behold, I will give this city
into the hand of the king of Babylon
and he will burn it with fire.

³ You won't escape out of his hand,
but will surely be taken and delivered into his hand.
Your eyes will see the eyes of the king of Babylon,
and he will speak with you mouth to mouth.
You will go to Babylon.'"

⁴ Yet hear Yahweh's word, O Zedekiah king of Judah:
Yahweh says concerning you,
'You won't die by the sword.

⁵ You will die in peace;
and with the (mourning ritual of) burnings
of your fathers,
the former kings who were before you,
so they will make a burning for you.
They will lament you, saying, "Ah Lord!"
For I have spoken the word,' says Yahweh."

Jeremiah chs. 42-44: Survivors' Responses to Jeremiah's Prophetic Messages

Ch. 39:1-10 Historical Account: Fall of Jerusalem July-Aug 586 B.C.

39:11-14 Jeremiah spared by Babylonians

Ch. 39:15-18 Re: Ebedmelech → 38:7-13 587 B.C.

40:1-6 Jeremiah spared by Babylonians

Ch. 40:7 – 41:18 Historical Account: Assassination of Gedaliah

Ch. 42:1 – 43:7 Prophecy to Survivors re: Going to Egypt

Ch. 43:8-13 Prophecy to Survivors in Egypt.

Ch. 44 Prophecy to Survivors in Egypt.

Ch. 45 Re: Baruch 604 B.C.

Ch. 42:1 – 43:7 Prophecy to Survivors re: Going to Egypt

Jer 42 (WEB)

- ¹ Then all the captains of the forces, . . . and all the people
from the least even to the greatest,
came near, ² and said to Jeremiah the prophet,
“Please let our supplication be presented before you,
and pray for us to Yahweh your God, even for all this remnant . . .
³ that Yahweh your God may show us the way in which we should walk,
and the things that we should do.”
- ⁴ Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard you.
Behold, I will pray to Yahweh your God according to your words;
and it will happen that whatever thing Yahweh answers you,
I will declare it to you.
I will keep nothing back from you.”
- ⁵ Then they said to Jeremiah,
“May Yahweh be a true and faithful witness among us,
if we do not do according to all the word
with which Yahweh your God sends you to tell us.
- ⁶ Whether it is good, or whether it is bad,
we will obey the voice of Yahweh our God, to whom we send you;
that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of Yahweh our God.”

Jer 42 (WEB) (cont'd)

⁷ After ten days, Yahweh's word came to Jeremiah.

⁸ Then he called . . . all the captains of the forces . . . and all the people from the least even to the greatest, ⁹ and said to them,

“Yahweh, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your supplication before him, says:

¹⁰ 'If you will still live in this land,
then I will build you, and not pull you down,
and I will plant you, and not pluck you up

¹¹ Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid.
Do not be afraid of him,' says Yahweh:

'for I am with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand.

¹² I will grant you mercy, that he may have mercy on you,
and cause you to return to your own land.

Jer 42 (WEB) (cont'd)

- ¹³ But if you say, “We will not dwell in this land”;
so that you do not obey Yahweh your God’s voice, ¹⁴ saying,
“No; but we will go into the land of Egypt,
where we will see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet,
nor have hunger of bread; and there we will dwell:”
- ¹⁵ now therefore hear Yahweh’s word, O remnant of Judah:
Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says,
‘If you indeed set your faces to enter into Egypt, and go to live there;
- ¹⁶ then it will happen that the sword, which you fear,
will overtake you there in the land of Egypt;
and the famine, about which you are afraid,
will follow close behind you there in Egypt;
and you will die there.
- ¹⁷ So will it be with all the people who set their faces to go into Egypt to live there.
They will die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence.
None of them will remain or escape from the evil that I will bring on them.’
- ¹⁸ For Yahweh of Hosts, the God of Israel, says:
‘As my anger and my wrath has been poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
so my wrath will be poured out on you, when you enter into Egypt;
and you will be an object of horror, an astonishment, a curse, and a reproach;
and you will see this place no more.’
- ^{19a} Yahweh has spoken concerning you, remnant of Judah,
‘Do not go into Egypt!’

Jer 42 (WEB) (cont'd)

19^b Know certainly that I have testified to you today.

20 For you have dealt deceitfully against your own souls;
for you sent me to Yahweh your God, saying,

‘Pray for us to Yahweh our God;

and according to all that Yahweh our God says, so declare to us,
and we will do it.’

21 I have declared it to you today;

but you have not obeyed Yahweh your God’s voice
in anything for which he has sent me to you.

22 Now therefore know certainly that you will die

by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence

in the place where you desire to go to live there.”

Jer 43 (WEB)

¹ When Jeremiah had finished speaking to all the people all the words of Yahweh ...

² then . . . all the proud men spoke, saying to Jeremiah,

“You speak falsely. Yahweh our God has not sent you to say,

‘You shall not go into Egypt to live there;’ . . . “

⁴ So . . . all the captains of the forces, and all the people,

did not obey Yahweh’s voice, t
o dwell in the land of Judah.

⁵ But . . . all the captains of the forces,
took all the remnant of Judah. . .
and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch;

. . .

⁷ and they came into the land of Egypt;
for they did not obey Yahweh’s voice:
and they came to Tahpanhes.



Jer 44 (WEB)

- ¹ The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews
who lived in the land of Egypt,
who lived at Migdol, and at Tahpanhes, and at Memphis,
and in the country of Pathros, saying,
- ² “Yahweh of Hosts,, the God of Israel, says: ‘ . . .
- ⁸ “ . . . you provoke me to anger with the works of your hands,
burning incense to other gods in the land of Egypt,
where you have gone to live;
that you may be cut off,
and that you may be a curse and a reproach
among all the nations of the earth? . . . ”

Jer 44 (WEB) (cont'd)

10 They are not humbled even to this day, neither have they feared,
nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes,
that I set before you and before your fathers.'

11 "Therefore Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel, says:

'Behold, I will set my face against you for evil, even to cut off all Judah.

12 I will take the remnant of Judah,
that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to live there,
and they will all be consumed.

They will fall in the land of Egypt.

They will be consumed by the sword and by the famine.

They will die, from the least even to the greatest,
by the sword and by the famine.

They will be an object of horror, an astonishment,
and a curse, and a reproach.

13 For I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt,
as I have punished Jerusalem,

by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence;

14 so that none of the remnant of Judah,

who have gone into the land of Egypt to live there,
will escape or be left to return into the land of Judah, . . .

Jer 44 (WEB) (cont'd)

- 15 Then all the men who knew that their wives burned incense to other gods,
and all the women who stood by, a great assembly,
even all the people who lived in the land of Egypt, in Pathros,
answered Jeremiah, saying,
- 16 “As for the word that you have spoken to us in Yahweh’s name,
we will not listen to you.
- 17 But we will certainly perform every word that has gone out of our mouth,
to burn incense to the queen of the sky,
and to pour out drink offerings to her,
as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes,
in the cities of Judah,
and in the streets of Jerusalem;

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE by Dik Browne



3 Kinds of Responses to Persuasive Messages that are attempting to change a person's behavior (Cognitive Dissonance & Psychological Reactance)

1) Audience ***Adopts*** the Speaker's Position
by Altering their Previous Behavior or Attitude

2) Audience ***Minimizes*** the Speaker's Position
with Respect to Applicability to themselves,
or by Rationalizing that Continued Behavior Outweighs
any Potential Threats

3) Audience ***Rejects*** the Speaker's Position,
by Refusing, Counter-Arguing, or Attacking
(a) the Message
(b) the Speaker

3 Kinds of Responses to Persuasive Messages that are attempting to change a person's behavior (Cognitive Dissonance & Psychological Reactance)

1) Audience ***Adopts*** the Speaker's Position

Audience accepts both:

(a) the truthfulness of the message
and (b) the immediate applicability of it to them
AND thereby, alters
their previous behaviour and attitude
so as to conform to this new viewpoint

Some did accept Jeremiah's prophecies as true:

- Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe
- those who preserved Jeremiah's prophecies,
such that they became canonical scripture

3 Kinds of Responses to Persuasive Messages

2) Audience ***Minimizes*** the Speaker's Position
with Respect to Applicability to themselves,
or by Rationalizing that Continued Behavior Outweighs
any Potential Threats

"It will never happen to me."

"It's not as bad as they say."

"It won't happen for a long time."

"I can't change."

Audience partially accepts:

▶ the truthfulness of the message

BUT rejects

▶ any immediate applicability of it to them

AND thereby, does not alter

their behaviour &/or attitude

2) Audience *Minimizes* the Speaker's Position

- Threat is not Happening

Jeremiah 12 (WEB)

⁴ How long will the land mourn,
and the herbs of the whole country wither?
Because of the wickedness of those who dwell therein,
the animals and birds are consumed;
because they said,
“He won’t see our latter end.”

Jeremiah 17 (WEB)

¹⁵ Behold, they ask me,
“Where is Yahweh’s word?
Let it be fulfilled now.”

2) Audience ***Minimizes*** the Message

- Inability to change, even if it is true

Jeremiah 18:11-12 (KGF)

- ¹¹ So now, speak to the people of Judah,
and against the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying,
‘Thus says Yahweh,
“Behold, I am fashioning against you evil {disaster},
and planning against you a plan.
Turn, each from their evil way,
and make good your ways and your deed.”
- ¹² And they said, ‘(We are) despairing {i.e., There is no hope} !
Rather after our plans we will go.
And each in the stubbornness of their heart,
the evil we will (continue to) do.”

3 Kinds of Responses to Persuasive Messages

- 3) Audience ***Rejects*** the Speaker's Position,
by Refusing, Counter-Arguing against, or Attacking
(a) the Message, and/or
(b) the Speaker

Audience rejects both:

(a) the truthfulness of the message
and also (b) any applicability of it to them

AND so does not alter their behaviour &/or attitude,
but rather counter attacks

3) Audience ***Rejects*** the Speaker's Position, by Refusing, Counter-Arguing, or Attacking (a) the Message

● ***Refusing to Accept the Message:***

Jer 44 (WEB): *Survivors who went to Egypt*

¹⁵ Then all the men who knew that their wives burned incense to other gods,
and all the women who stood by, a great assembly,
even all the people who lived in the land of Egypt, in Pathros,
answered Jeremiah, saying,

¹⁶ “As for the word that you have spoken to us in Yahweh’s name,
we will not listen to you.

¹⁷ But we will certainly perform every word that has gone out of our mouth,
to burn incense to the queen of the sky,
and to pour out drink offerings to her,
as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes,
in the cities of Judah,
and in the streets of Jerusalem;

for then had we plenty of food, and were well, and saw no evil.
¹⁸ But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of the sky,
and pouring out drink offerings to her,
we have lacked all things,
and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.”

3) Audience ***Rejects*** the Speaker's Position,
by Refusing, Counter-Arguing, or Attacking
(a) the Message

- ***Counter-Arguing with Different Message:***

Jer 28: Hananiah's counter-message

3) Audience ***Rejects*** the Speaker's Position, by Refusing, Counter-Arguing, or Attacking (a) the Message

- ***Attacking the Validity of the Message:***

Jer 43 (WEB): *Survivors after Jerusalem's Destruction, re: Going to Egypt*

¹ When Jeremiah had finished speaking to all the people
all the words of Yahweh their God,
with which Yahweh their God had sent him to them, . . . ,
² then . . . all the proud men spoke, saying to Jeremiah,
“You speak falsely.
Yahweh our God has not sent you to say,
‘You shall not go into Egypt to live there;’
³ but Baruch [Jeremiah's scribe] . . . has turned you against us,
to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans,
that they may put us to death,
and carry us away captive to Babylon.”

3) Audience ***Rejects*** the Speaker's Position, by Attacking (b) the Speaker

Jer 11:21

20:1-2

26:8, 10-11

29:24-27

32:2-5

36:26

chs. 37-38 (esp. 38:1-6)

sought to put him to death

Pashur puts him in stocks

sought to put to death

advise to put Jer in stocks

under "house arrest"

Jehoiakim seeks to kill him

in jail, thrown in pit

see also Uriah in Jer 26:20-23

Opposition to Jeremiah's Prophetic Ministry

► Call Narrative:

Lack of Response & Opposition is expected

Jer 1:18-19 (WEB)

¹⁸ For, behold, I have made you today a fortified city,
an iron pillar, and bronze walls
against the whole land,
against the kings of Judah,
against its princes,
against its priests,
and against the people of the land.

¹⁹ They will fight against you,
but they will not prevail against you;
for I am with you", says Yahweh, "to rescue you."

Opposition to Jeremiah's Prophetic Ministry

► Biographical Narratives:

Opposition is recounted

Jehoiakim 609 – 597 B.C.	sometime during Jehoiakim's reign	Jer 19:14-20:6 Jeremiah beaten & placed in stocks by Pashur, the priest , overnight (20:2)
	c. 609/8	Jer ch. 26 Jeremiah seized & death sentenced called for (v. 8), but averted (v. 24)
	605	Jer 36:1-8 Jeremiah restricted from the Temple (v. 5)
	Dec 604	Jer 36:9-26 Attempt to seize Jeremiah Jeremiah goes into hiding (vv. 19, 26)

<p style="text-align: center;">Zedekiah 597 – 586 B.C.</p>	594/3	Jer chs. 27-28 (Sign-Action to Submit to Yoke of Babylon): Prophecy countered by Hananiah, the prophet
		Jer 29 (letter to the exiles): Shemaiah (in exile) exhorts priest in Jerusalem to place Jeremiah in stocks & iron collar (vv. 26-27)
	Summer 588 / Spring 587	Jer 37:11-20 (Jeremiah tries to leave city): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremiah arrested (v. 13) • Accused of defecting to Babylonians (v. 13) • Jeremiah is beaten (v. 15) • Put into jail (vv. 15-16) • Placed in the court of the guardhouse (v. 21) after appealing to Zedekiah (v. 20)
	587	Jer 38:1-13 (Prophecy to surrender to Babylonians): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officials sought Jeremiah's death (v. 4) • Jeremiah placed in muddy cistern (v. 6) • Removed from cistern, but remained under "house arrest" in the court of the guardhouse (v. 13)
		Jer 38:14-28 (Advice to Zedekiah to surrender): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremiah in court of guardhouse until Jerusalem captured (v. 28)
		Jer 32:1-5 (Prophecy of capture of Jerusalem); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremiah under "house arrest" in court of guardhouse (v. 2) (see also 33:1)

Opposition to Jeremiah's Prophetic Ministry

► “Laments”: (Undated)

11:18-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● devised plot to kill him (vv. 18-19)● seek to kill him / told not to prophesy (v. 21)
12:1-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● relatives betray him (v. 6)
15:15-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● persecuted, reproached (v. 15)● fight against him (v. 20)
17:14-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● question where word of Yahweh is (v. 15)
18:18-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● devise plans against him (v.. 18)● dug pit for him (vv. 20. 22)● laid snares for his feet (v. 22)● plotted to kill him (v. 23)
20:7-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● everyone mocks him (v. 7)● denounce him; watch for his fall (v. 10)

Jeremiah's "*Laments / Confessions*"

[11:18-23

12:1-6

[15:10-14

15:15-21

17:14-18

18:18-23

[20:7-13

20:14-18

*Literary Form is similar to
that of "Lament Psalms":*

3 Key Components:

1) Complaint

- emotional statements of the circumstances causing the distress

2) Petition

- asking God to take notice,
to intervene,
to vindicate –i.e., execute justice

3) Declaration of Faithfulness in Serving God

Jeremiah's "Laments / Confessions"

[11:18-23

12:1-6

2-Part Structure:

A) Jeremiah's Lament

[15:10-14

B) God's Response

15:15-21

17:14-18

18:18-23

1-Part Structure:

[20:7-13

A) Jeremiah's Lament

20:14-18

Jeremiah's "Laments / Confessions"

{ 11:18-23

{ 12:1-6

{ 15:10-14

{ 15:15-21

17:14-18

18:18-23

{ 20:7-13

{ 20:14-18

What "circumstances"
evoke the "laments"?

What is it about
Jeremiah's prophetic
ministry that produces
this "lamenting"
response by
Jeremiah?

Jeremiah 11:18-23 (WEB)

¹⁸ Yahweh gave me knowledge of it, and I knew it.

Then you showed me their doings.

¹⁹ But I was like a gentle lamb that is led to the slaughter.

I did not know that they had devised plans against me, saying,

“Let’s destroy the tree with its fruit,
and let’s cut him off from the land of the living,
that his name may be no more remembered.”

Complaint

²⁰ But, Yahweh of Hosts, who judges righteously,
who tests the heart and the mind,

let me see your vengeance on them;
for to you I have revealed my cause.

Petition

Yahweh’s Response

► Judgment
against
attackers

²¹ “Therefore Yahweh says concerning the men of Anathoth,
who seek your life, saying,

‘You shall not prophesy in Yahweh’s name,
(so) that you do not die by our hand.’”

²² Therefore Yahweh of Hosts says,

‘Behold, I will punish them.

The young men will die by the sword.

Their sons and their daughters will die by famine.

²³ There will be no remnant to them,
for I will bring evil on the men of Anathoth,
even the year of their visitation.”

Jeremiah 12:1-6 (WEB)

¹ You are righteous, Yahweh,
when I contend with you;
yet I would like to reason the cause with you.
Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why are they all at ease who deal very treacherously?
² You have planted them. Yes, they have taken root.
They grow. Yes, they produce fruit.
You are near in their mouth,
and far from their heart.

Complaint

³ But you, Yahweh, know me.
You see me, and test my heart toward you.

Declaration of
Faithfulness

Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter,
and prepare them for the day of slaughter.

Petition

⁴ How long will the land mourn,
and the herbs of the whole country wither?
Because of the wickedness of those who dwell therein,
the animals and birds are consumed;
because they said,
“He won’t see our latter end.”

Complaint

Yahweh’s Response

- Reproaches
Jeremiah
- Admonishes
Not to Fear

⁵ “If you have run with the footmen,
and they have wearied you,
then how can you contend with horses?
Though in a land of peace you are secure,
yet how will you do in the pride of the Jordan?
⁶ For even your brothers, and the house of your father,
even they have dealt treacherously with you!
Even they have cried aloud after you!
Don’t believe them,
though they speak beautiful words to you.

Jeremiah 15:10-14 (WEB)

¹⁰ Woe is me, my mother, that you have borne me, a man of strife,
and a man of contention to the whole earth!

Complaint

I have not lent, neither have men lent to me;

Declaration of
Faithfulness

yet every one of them curses me.

Complaint

Yahweh's Response

► Will

Strengthen
Jeremiah

► Will bring
Judgment
on Judah

¹¹ Yahweh said,

“Most certainly I will strengthen you [= Jeremiah] for good.
Most certainly I will cause the enemy
to make supplication to you
in the time of evil and in the time of affliction.

¹² Can one break iron,
even iron from the north, and bronze?

¹³ I will give your [= people of Judah] substance and your treasures
for a plunder without price,
and that for all your sins,
even in all your borders.

¹⁴ I will make them to pass with your enemies
into a land which you don't know;
for a fire is kindled in my anger,
which will burn on you.”

Jeremiah 15:15-21 (WEB)

¹⁵ Yahweh, you know.
Remember me, visit me,
and avenge me of my persecutors.
You are patient, so don't take me away.

Petition

Know that for your sake I have suffered reproach.

Complaint

¹⁶ Your words were found,
and I ate them.
Your words were to me a joy and the rejoicing of my heart,
for I am called by your name, Yahweh, God of Hosts.
¹⁷ I didn't sit in the assembly of those who make merry and rejoice.
I sat alone because of your hand,

Declaration of
Faithfulness

for you have filled me with indignation.
¹⁸ Why is my pain perpetual,
and my wound incurable,
which refuses to be healed?
Will you indeed be to me as a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?

Complaint

Yahweh's Response

► Admonishing
Rebuke

19 Therefore Yahweh says,
“If you return, then I will bring you again,
that you may stand before me;
and if you take out the precious from the vile,
you will be as my mouth.

They will return to you,
but you will not return to them.

► Will Strengthen
& Deliver
Jeremiah

20 I will make you to this people a fortified bronze wall.
They will fight against you,
but they will not prevail against you;
for I am with you to save you
and to deliver you,” says Yahweh.

21 “I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and I will redeem you out of the hand of the terrible.”

Jeremiah 17:14-18 (WEB)

¹⁴ Heal me, O Yahweh, and I will be healed.
Save me, and I will be saved;
for you are my praise.

Petition

¹⁵ Behold, they ask me,
“Where is Yahweh’s word?
Let it be fulfilled now.”

Complaint

¹⁶ As for me, I have not hurried from being a shepherd after you.
I have not desired the woeful day.
You know.
That which came out of my lips was before your face.

Declaration of
Faithfulness

¹⁷ Do not be a terror to me.
You are my refuge in the day of evil.
¹⁸ Let them be disappointed who persecute me,
but let not me be disappointed.
Let them be dismayed,
but do not let me be dismayed.
Bring on them the day of evil,
and destroy them with double destruction.

Petition

Jeremiah 18:18-23 (WEB)

¹⁸ Then they said,
“Come! Let’s devise plans against Jeremiah;
for the law won’t perish from the priest,
nor counsel from the wise,
nor the word from the prophet.
Come, and let’s strike him with the tongue,
and let’s not give heed to any of his words.”

Complaint

¹⁹ Give heed to me, Yahweh,
and listen to the voice of those who contend with me.

Petition

²⁰ Should evil be recompensed for good?
For they have dug a pit for my soul.

Complaint

Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them,
to turn away your wrath from them.

Declaration of
Faithfulness

²¹ Therefore deliver up their children to the famine,
and give them over to the power of the sword.
Let their wives become childless and widows.
Let their men be killed
and their young men struck by the sword in battle.

Petition

²² Let a cry be heard from their houses
when you bring a troop suddenly on them.

For they have dug a pit to take me
and hidden snares for my feet.

Complaint

²³ Yet, Yahweh, you know all their counsel against me to kill me.

Don’t forgive their iniquity.
Don’t blot out their sin from your sight,
Let them be overthrown before you.
Deal with them in the time of your anger.

Petition

Jeremiah 20:1 (KGF)

- 1 And Pashur, the son of Immer, the priest
-- and he was the chief officer in the house of Yahweh—
heard Jeremiah prophesying these words.
- 2 And Pashur struck Jeremiah the prophet,
and he placed him in the stocks,
which were in the upper Benjamin Gate,
which was in the house of Yahweh.



Literarily
introduces
the
complaint in
vv. 7ff.

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah 20:7-13 (KGF)

- 7 You have enticed me, Yahweh,
 and I was enticed;
 you have overcome me and you have prevailed.
 I have become a laughingstock all day long;
 everyone mocks me.
- 8 For as often as I speak, I cry aloud;
 “Violence and destruction”, I proclaim,
 because for me the word of Yahweh has become
 a reproach and derision all day long.
- 9 And if I say, "I will not remember him,
 and I will no longer speak in his name,"
 then there is in my heart like a burning fire,
 shut up in my bones;
 And I am weary holding (it) in,
 and I cannot prevail.
- 10 For I have heard whispering of many,
 "Terror on every side!
 Denounce (him)! And let us denounce him!"
 All my close friends who are watching for my fall (say):
 "Perhaps he can be enticed,
 and (so) we will prevail against him,
 and we will take our revenge on him."

Complaint

Jeremiah 20:7-13 (KGF) (cont'd)

11	And Yahweh is with me like a mighty-warrior champion; therefore my pursuers will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be utterly ashamed, because they will not succeed, (with) an ongoing disgrace (that) will not be forgotten.	Assurance of an Answer
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12	And Yahweh (of) Hosts, --who tests the righteous, who sees the kidneys {feelings} and the heart {mind}-- let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have revealed my case.	Petition
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13	Sing to Yahweh! Praise Yahweh! For he has delivered the life of the needy-one from the hand of evildoers.	Praise for an Answer
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Jeremiah 20:14-18 (WEB)

¹⁴ Cursed is the day in which I was born.

Don't let the day in which my mother bore me be blessed.

¹⁵ Cursed is the man who brought news to my father, saying,
"A boy is born to you," making him very glad.

¹⁶ Let that man be as the cities which Yahweh overthrew,
and didn't repent.

Let him hear a cry in the morning,
and shouting at noontime;

¹⁷ because he didn't kill me from the womb.

So my mother would have been my grave,
and her womb always great.

Petition

¹⁸ Why did I come out of the womb to see labor and sorrow,
that my days should be consumed with shame?

Complaint

Jeremiah's "Laments / Confessions"

11:18-23

12:1-6

15:10-14

15:15-21

17:14-18

18:18-23

20:7-13

20:14-18

1) Prophetic Task

--difficulty of it


--persecution, opposition received

2) Prophetic Word

--seen as not coming true

--delay of the fulfillment

Jeremiah's Laments & the Prophetic Task

- ▶ The Prophetic Task, which is divinely commissioned, is not necessarily easy to carry out
- ▶ Can Involve for the Messenger (prophet) an Internal Struggle
 - Due to: (a) Nature & Kinds of Messages
 - (b) Opposition Received
 - (c) Lack of Fulfillment of the Predictions
 - (d) Seeming Lack of Supportive Presence of God
- ▶ God is the One to whom to Express the Struggles
 - ◆ Prayers of “Lament” are the Acceptable Means through which to voice the Depths of Feelings to God (both Complaints & Petitions)

“As concerning the meaning of prayer, this study of Jeremiah’s confessions leads to the following observations:

- 1) Jeremiah’s prayers are addressed to a God who hears,
before whom a {person} may state {their} plea
confident that justice will be done.
 - 2) In his prayers Jeremiah sets forth in plain words
those matters which trouble him,
listing his grievances and evaluating his conduct.
 - 3) In his prayers also he gives uninhibited verbal expression
to his desires.
 - 4) After thus stating his case and presenting his plea
he pauses for reflection
and this silence is fraught with heavy consequences.
- For 5) out of it there come . . . fortitude
and a purification of his own desires.”