

**I Need a Hero - Old Testament Characters
That Teach Us New Testament Truths (Part 11)
Jeremiah, a man who stood up alone
(Jer. 16:2)**

Introduction: As we conclude our sermon series today, I want to introduce us to one last hero, “*Jeremiah, a man who stood up alone.*” Jeremiah is known as “*The weeping prophet or the inconsolable prophet.*” He authored four books of the Old Testament, 1 & 2 Kings, the book that bears his name and Lamentations.

If you have ever felt like you have been thrown into something and you are all alone facing it. Jeremiah would say to you today, I have been where you are. Take my hand and I’ll show you how to deal with and get through this! With His help we can learn a great deal about how to handle the plans God has for us especially when we feel like they are too big for us to handle. We’ll learn this by examining four aspects of Jeremiah’s life.

I. The man and his times: (Jer. 1:1-3)

A. His name: means “*The Lord throws... the Lord throws down,*”

B. His roots: Jeremiah was born in “Anathoth” a village of priests located near Jerusalem. (1 Kings 2:26).

1. The Lord instructed Jeremiah to purchase a field here.
2. This field was to serve as a sign of God's promised redemption of Israel (Jer. 32:7-9). A time in which Israel would return home.

Jeremiah would learn to trust the Lord’s promises just we can (even when where we are or what we have been given to do doesn’t make sense to us.) Because Lord assures us: Jeremiah 29:11:

C. His ministry: Jeremiah was born a priest, in a city of priests, but he would become a prophet by divine call. (Jer. 1:1, 4-16)

1. Jeremiah was sent with a message to proclaim Jerusalem's coming destruction by invaders from the north.
2. The nation had deviated so far from God's laws that they had broken the covenant, causing God to withdraw his blessings. (Jer. 5:30-31)

Make no mistake, the people were responsible for their own destruction and captivity because they refused to listen to God’s message and heed His word.

II. The man and his task: (1:4-10)

Jeremiah would discover God has a plan for every life and before the prophet was born, God’s plans were laid out for him just as they are for us.

A. Before he was born God took this action (vv. 4-5)

B. After hearing God’s call, Jeremiah had this reaction (v.6)

Maybe Jeremiah thought, Now Lord, if you called me to be a priest (something I am familiar with, I could see that). But God doesn’t call us to be comfortable. He doesn’t call us to do the stuff (we think) we can handle in our own power. He calls us to do the things that demand a total reliance upon Him!

C. Notice Jehovah’s reply (vv. 7-9)

D. Jehovah’s conformation (v.10)

III. The man and his trials:

As faithful as Jeremiah was, he was also a man of great anguish and sorrow. (1:16-19) Persecution came from every direction.

A. He was a rejected prophet – (7:27; 13:10; 17:23; 18:12; 19:15)

B. He was a mistreated prophet – (20:1-2; 26:11; 36:23; 38:6; 43:2)

C. Reflecting on all of this and feeling (20:1-2, 7-8, 14-18)

He was all alone because the Lord had told him early on, (16:2) *and he expressed his feelings of sadness* (9:1; 14:17; 15:10)

We must bring the message of God to others even when we are rejected! We must do God’s work even if it means doing it alone and suffering for it! (That is exactly what Jeremiah faithfully did)

IV. The man and his testimony:

A. Jeremiah remained faithful to his call (Jer 20:9).

B. Jeremiah was determined to finish what God called him to. (Jer 32:17-20)

C. Judah is taken but Jeremiah is delivered by God

The message of the man and his book is, stay committed to the Lord in faithfulness at all costs! Even if you must do it alone – but remember, and be encouraged, you are never truly alone when the Lord is with you.