

Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 118.1)

LESSON 41 (CORE)

“I Have Made Thee This Day ... an Iron Pillar”

Hook	Not only did Jeremiah prophecy during the most pivotal time of Israelite history, but he provides an unparalleled, poignant window into his thoughts and feelings
Goal	
Overview	
Conclusion	

Lesson 41: “Enlarge the place of thy tent”

Reading: Jeremiah 1; 2; 15; 20; 26; 36; 37; 38

Additional Reading: Jeremiah 3; 9; 13; 30; 32:37-42; 33; 35

Other Reading: Lamentations

1: Call of Jeremiah; “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you”

2: Calling Israel to repentance

15: Punishment on Jerusalem inevitable; Jeremiah complains/is reassured

20: Jeremiah is punished; his ambivalence toward his calling, “fire in my bones”

26: Jeremiah prophesies Babylon will conquer Jerusalem (being on the right and wrong side of history)

36: Make backup copies (Baruch writes scroll, reads in temple, reads in palace, king has scroll burned, Jeremiah dictates another)

37: Zedekiah asks Jeremiah to talk to God then puts him in prison (Jeremiah, not God)

38: Officials put Jeremiah in a cistern, king has him rescued, Jeremiah schools Zedekiah (Jerusalem falls in 39)

3: God condemns Israel and calls her to repentance

9: Jeremiah weeps for the people; God says everyone else should join in

13: The undies object lesson (which is assigned... why??), symbol of wine jars, Exile threatened/predicted

30: Tough love but promise of restoration

32:37-42: Promise of gathering/restoration

33: More restoration promises (is this later Dtr editing?)

35: Rechabites follow the Word of Wisdom?

Manual Goal: To encourage class members to remain faithful in times of opposition and adversity.

EGD Goal: Class members should appreciate the humanity and ambivalence of Jeremiah, and allow themselves to be human and struggle as well, but in the midst of that vulnerability, be strong and faithful in their vocation.

I. Sunday School

- a. Example of Jeremiah as prophet
- b. Jeremiah's faithfulness (Talk about what a pivotal and important figure Jeremiah was, at the most agonizing, important time of biblical history)
- c. Jeremiah's humanity and ambivalence (He lets us into his internal life more than any other prophet)
- d. Jeremiah remaining firm when opposed by those in power
- e. Application to ourselves:
 - i. Faithfulness with honesty in struggle
 - ii. Feeling of vocation
 - iii. Following what we feel is/know to be right
 - iv. Our lives in the context of history (being on the right side of history)
- f. Conclusion I

I was touched by this statement from the Jewish Study Bible (p. 918): "He was repeatedly imprisoned and castigated as a traitor for his views. When the Babylonians offered him a comfortable life in exile in recognition for his efforts, he refused it in order to remain with his people and begin the process of rebuilding even though the exile had just begun."