**Jeremiah 1:1-10**

***“Designed With You In Mind”***

Jeremiah is about the unraveling of a nation.

Introduction:

1. “Designed with **you** in mind”

2. *“I am here for a purpose...I am here by design...I am here for this time.”*

3. I have been designed for now!

4. How is a ‘now’ man or woman designed?

5. Jeremiah1:1-10 God does it!

How is a ‘now’ man or woman designed?

**I. GOD’S PLACEMENT 1:1-3**

God uses the circumstances of life. This intro deals with Jeremiah and ourselves.

 ***A. Our Parents*** *Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah of the priests…*He had a mom and a dad.

*Ah* on the end of a name meant they were godly. He was a preacher’s son (*priests*).

 He was raised around the things of God. We all have our roots which go to make up

 who we are. These parents had jobs. They worked somewhere which left an

 impression.

 ***B. Our Placement*** *in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin*…He was born in a village, 2 to 3

 miles NE of Jerusalem. He was close enough to Jerusalem to see the city walls, but at

 the edge of the wilderness that slopes down to the Dead Sea. We were all born some-

 where. It helped to impact who we are.

 ***C. Our Purpose*** *words of Jeremiah…the words of the LORD came (2) The words of the*

 *Lord came* and *thus saith the LORD* are key phrases in Jeremiah. It means more than

 the Word of God was spoken to him and heard by him. *“The term connotes an*

 *influence exercised, a taking possession of a placing under obligation.”* During

 Jeremiah prophet activity (2, 3) he was under obligation of the word of the LORD.

 Everyone of these words took hold of him, directing his views and emotions, his

 character, his life, **his whole self!** It was God’s word that sustained him. God’s word must be

 absolute truth. God is absolutely true. God has a purpose for us that in some way involves His

 word!

 ***D. Our Period 2b,3***Jeremiah prophesied at least 40 years. Little Israel was tossed

 around by 3 super powers: Assyria to the N. Egypt to the S. Babylon to the E.

 He served and suffered through 3 kings: Josiah, the reformer…Jehoiakim, the despot...

 Zedekiah, the puppet...with a couple of minor rulers that served such a short time they

 didn’t make the list between 627 B.C. and 586 B.C. We all live on a time line…with

 my dad it was 1922 to 2017…with me it is 1945 to today. This helps shape who we

 are.

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**II. GOD’S PREPARATION 1:4-6**

 ***A. The Call 4,5*** *the word of the LORD came unto me saying…*

**1. It Is Powerful** God designs it and God does it! We need to see the place God

 plays in our lives!

 **2. It is Personal** Note: *thee or you* God has something in mind for you!

 **3. It is Providential** Note: *I*  God did wonderful things for Jeremiah **before** he

 was born!! *I formed…I knew…I sanctified…I ordained* God is the Lord and

 Author of life. *“Where do babies come from?” God* A fetus is a person. Birth

 is not even the beginning. *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.*

 *“My identity does not begin when I begin to understand myself. There is something*

 *previous to what I think about myself, and it is what God thinks of me. That means*

 *everything. I think and feel is by nature a response, and the one to whom I respond is*

 *God. I never speak the 1st word, I never make the 1st move.”* Eugene Peterson

 Jeremiah’s life did not start with Jeremiah. Jeremiah’s salvation did not start with

 Jeremiah. Jeremiah’s truth did not start with Jeremiah. He entered the world in

 which the essential parts of his existence were already ancient history. **As do we!!**

Every Christian has a calling. There is a special call to believe Christ. Every believer

 has a definite purpose. Jeremiah: *prophet to the nations (Jews and Gentiles)* God

 had work for him to do. He had a mission and message to his generation! Jeremiah’s

 calling is for him. How to know our calling: 1) Availability 2) God plants a seed

 (the idea continues to surface) 3) Start moving…You nurture the seed. 4) Pray

 ***B. The Conflict 6*** *Then I said, “I do not know how to speak. I am a child.”*

**1. Inability** *Ah Sovereign Lord…*It happened to Moses (Ex 3:14ff) It happened to

 Isaiah (Is. 6)

 **2. Inadequacy** *I am a child.* We will have similar conflicts! J.R.R. Tolkien’s

 novel *The Fellowship Of The Ring* there is a hobbit named Frodo. He has been

 chosen to make a long and dangerous journey to destroy one of the rights of power,

 a quest he himself would not wish to choose: *“I am not made for perilous quests”*

cried Frodo *“I wish I had never seen the ring.” “Why did it come to me? "Why*

 *was I chosen?”* The answer given is the one similar to Jeremiah. *Such questions cannot*

 *be answered…You may be sure that it was not for any merit that others do not*

 *possess, not for power or wisdom at any rate. But you have been chosen and*

 *you must therefore use such strength and heart and wit as you have.*

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**III. GOD’S PROVISION 1:7, 8**

Jeremiah had forgotten that God is not limited by human weakness.

 ***A. A Divine Directive 7*** With God’s calling comes God’s gifting. *Go…Sent…*

 *Speak…*God Himself possesses everything. Jeremiah needs to answer His call. When

 God calls someone to a job, He gives him or her all the gifts needed to get the job done.

 If God calls you, God equips you!

 ***B. A Divine Deliverer 8*** It’s not you…ultimately God must do it!

 What if you heard what Jeremiah heard? *“Be not afraid”* **Of what?** “*I will rescue*

 *You”* **From what?** It won’t be easy. There is a human side that is prone to fear.

 There will be opposition. It is repeated in v. 19.

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**IV. GOD’S POWER 1:9, 10**

 ***A. Special Preparation 9*** This is to answer v. 6. It is much like Isaiah 6. *Touched*

 Hephil in the Hebrew stresses purpose, the deliberateness of an act. The meaning

 which is at once explained. *Behold, I have put my word in your mouth.* The perfect

 describes the putting of the word as an accomplished act. The action is presented in

 a condition of rest **no matter how often it may be repeated.** *“Throughout your life time*

 *I will put my words in your mouth.”* To resist Jeremiah’s words, they resist God’s

 Word. God wants willing servants. God demands unconditional surrender to His will, and

 works that by His word. By removing the fears and doubts, by convincing and

 convicting the man called…he is willing to go wherever the Lord sends him and speak

 whatever the Lord tells him.

 ***B. Special Purpose 10*** *I have set thee…set* means to seek, to visit, to make an inspector.

 Viewed from God’s side the prophet is a mere spokesman, speaking what he is told and

 doing what he is told. From man’s point of view, he is God’s vice regent..Given Power:

 *To root out…*like an obnoxious weed one digs up and turns under. *To pull down…*to tear

 down a standing structure. *To destroy…*cause to be ruined, to knock a thing down. *To*

 *build and to plant…*it takes the negative to make way for the positive. Once this is done,

 there is not much left. Then God can do a work!

***God destroys so He can rebuild!***

***God gives the assignment and God sets the parameters!***