**Jeremiah 1:11-19**

***When God Gives Us An Assignment***

Introduction

1. God has given Jeremiah an assignment. He has given you an assignment. When God gives an assignment, then God enables us.

2. Jeremiah 1:11-19 God has given Jeremiah an assignment. How does He enable him?

God has given you an assignment. How does God enable you?

**I. THE PROMISES OF GOD 1:11, 12**

 ***A. God Speaks 11a***

**1.** *The word of the Lord came to me…my word (12, 13, 14, 15)*

**2.** God does speak. It’s called revelation. We cannot know the mind and heart of God

 unless He reveals it to us. He has revealed His mind in what we call the Bible. The Bible

 is absolute truth and therefore absolutely trustworthy.

 **3.** In any assignment spend time in His Word and allow Him to speak to you.

 ***B. God Shows 11b***

**1.** *What do you see?* God is using a visual, an object lesson. *I see a branch of an almond*

 *tree.*

**2.** What is the sign that winter is over and spring is on the way? You may say, robin…

 daffodil…in Washington D.C. cherry blossoms mean spring. Judea is a center for almond

 growing. The almond tree is the first to blossom. Already in January in Anathoth the

 almond trees were covered with white blossoms. Warm weather is on the way.

 ***C. God’s Surety 12***

**1.** Everything God has promised will come to pass!

  **\***God used a play on words to teach Jeremiah the spiritual significance of the almond

 blossoms. The word for watching in Hebrew is ***shoqed***. It sounds very much like the

 the Hebrew word for almond ***shaqed.*** In fact these two words are different forms of

 word…*waking and watching.*

\*The almond tree was the waking tree. It was the first tree to wake up. It was the

 watching tree. It was watching for spring. **God is wide awake. God is on watch!**

\*I need to know that when I’m given an assignment.

 **2.** *For I will hasten my word to perform it.*

\*What God is watching for is to make sure that everything God has promised comes to

 pass.

 \*This is one of the main themes of Jeremiah: **God is going to do everything He**

 **promised to do.** Even when He seems to be doing nothing, a flower is about to

 burst forth. One can no more prevent God’s promise from being fulfilled than one can

 keep an almond tree from budding or spring from coming!

 \*Signs of spring are a reminder that everything God has promised will come to pass.

 Salvation…forgiveness…assurance…peace…supply your needs…His Presence…are

 but a few of the promises of God.

 \*What do you need to fulfill your assignment? Claim that promise that is needed for

 your assignment. *For all the promises of God in Him are yea and amen, unto the*

 *glory of God by us. (II Cor. 1:20)* **You can bank on it!**

God has given you an assignment. How does God enable you?

**II. THE PLAN OF GOD 1:13-16**

1. ***The Word of God 13***
2. This is so needed when facing the unknowns of an assignment.
3. God knows all about your tomorrows.
4. *What do you see?* God used something plain and ordinary, a plain old cooking pot. *I see a boiling pot tilting away from the north.* The prophet must have seen a pot on an open fire. It was *boiling*  lit. “blown upon”. The fire is being stoked. The flames are fanned. The pot resettles in the fire and tips to one side. The boiling water bubbles over the side.
5. ***The Way of God 14, 15***
6. Trouble is brewing. The Bible does not identify these northern people. The Assyrians were to the north, but these were on the decline.
7. The city of Jerusalem could be attacked successfully from the north to the east, west and south were deep valleys.
8. God is the judge. God is summoning the kingdom from the North. God is Lord of the nations. Enemy armies will camp around her walls. **God is in control! In the negatives or positives of life…He is God!**
9. ***The Workings of God 16***
10. God uses pagan rulers to fulfill His wishes. Why would they experience such defeat?
11. They burned incense to other gods (16b) They did not believe that God punishes sin.

Where are the gods of self, sex, power, luxury, popularity, beauty…the incense rises!

1. It is God calling nations to carry out His will. This is 40 years before the actual event. He is calling ‘families’ of the earth. He is shaping the course of history, nations, individuals. He is lining up His purpose, plans, and programs. **It may be easy or difficult for me as an individual.**
2. His workings are not for my convenience, but His glory. In my assignment, He is working out a master plan that once complete will be beautiful. I am just a small piece in a big puzzle, **but my and your piece is important!**

God has given you an assignment. How does God enable you?

**III. THE PREPARATION BY GOD 1:17-19**

1. ***Be Advancing 17***

This is our responsibility, even though God is in control.

1. **Suit Up** *Gird up you loins…*Roll up your sleeves. Back then they hiked up their robe and tucked it in their belt. Get in the race. *Lay aside every weight and sin that would hinder you!*
2. **Stand Up** *Arise…*God needs those willing to get up off their easy chair and take a stand!
3. **Speak Up** *Speak unto them all that I command you.*
4. **Shore Up** *Don’t be terrified or I will terrify you.* Don’t lose your nerve. *If anyone is ashamed of Me I will be ashamed of them when the Son of man comes in His Father’s glory.*
5. ***Be Allotted 18a***

*I have made thee this day…fortified city…iron pillar…bronze wall..*

1. Jeremiah I'm sure didn’t see himself as God saw him. (v. 6)
2. God made him this. It’s beyond us, **but God has equipped us for the task!**
3. **God doesn’t design us for failure!**
4. ***Be Advised 18b-19a***
5. *Against….*There will be obstacles and negatives in every assignment.
6. *Against…kings…princes…priest…people* will be *against!*
7. It won’t be easy to go against the flow. God’s will may not be understood by others. *They shall fight against thee!*
8. ***Be Aware 19b***

*I am with you…I will deliver you.*

1. God made Jeremiah strong so he could stand.
2. God promised to stay at his side. *I will never leave you nor forsake you.* At times Jeremiah will seem to be alone and the silence of God can be deafening!
3. He would not be overcome. **God kept His promise…of course.** He’s the God of the almond tree. **He is the God who watches to see that His word is fulfilled!**

**The God who gives you the assignment will see you through to completion.**

**YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!**

**TRUST HIM!**