**DO NOT SAY ‘I AM ONLY A CHILD’**

Jeremiah 1:1-10 (7)

But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.

**Introductory questions to set the historical context of the passage**

We see in verses 2-3 that the word of God came to Jeremiah during a period of 40 years, when one good king (Josiah, who reigned 31 years) and two evil kings reigned in Jerusalem (Jehoiakim and Zedekiah, each reigning 11 years.) In 2 Kings 23 (see below) we see just how corrupt the kings and people of Jeremiah’s time were. Though, Josiah renewed Israel’s covenant with God, his sons Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:31-37[[1]](#footnote-2)) and Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:18-19[[2]](#footnote-3)) did evil in the eyes of the Lord. They stubbornly refused to listen to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 25:1-7: see below)

1. Who was Jeremiah (1)? Based on the introductory questions, what was the spiritual environment like during the days of Jeremiah? (2-3; 8a)
2. What did God say to Jeremiah when He called him? (4,5) List three thing God did before Jeremiah was even born? (5)? Given that, what does it teach us about God’s calling?
3. How did Jeremiah respond to God’s call? (6) But what did God say and command him (7)? What problem could possibly arise when he tries to preach the word of God (6,8a)? How did God help him (8b, 9)? Why is not necessary to speak fluently for anyone who lives upon God’s calling?
4. What was Jeremiah’s position and mission as a prophet of God (10)? What would he uproot and destroy (2 Co10:5[[3]](#footnote-4))? And what would he build (Jer 31:31-34)?  In this regard, think about the significance of being called by God.

**2 Kings 23:1-23**

He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord. 3The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant. 4The king ordered ……to remove from the temple of the Lord all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley and took the ashes to Bethel.

5He did away with the idolatrous priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem—those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts. 6He took the Asherah pole from the temple of the Lord to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem and burned it there. He ground it to powder and scattered the dust over the graves of the common people. 7He also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes that were in the temple of the Lord, the quarters where women did weaving for Asherah.

10He desecrated Topheth, which was in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, so no one could use it to sacrifice their son or daughter in the fire to Molek. 11He removed from the entrance to the temple of the Lord the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun. They were in the court a near the room of an official named Nathan-Melek. Josiah then burned the chariots dedicated to the sun.12He pulled down the altars the kings of Judah had erected on the roof near the upper room of Ahaz, and the altars Manasseh had built in the two courts of the temple of the Lord. He removed them from there, smashed them to pieces and threw the rubble into the Kidron Valley. 13The king also desecrated the high places that were east of Jerusalem on the south of the Hill of Corruption—the ones Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the vile goddess of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the vile god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the people of Ammon.

14Josiah smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles and covered the sites with human bones. 15Even the altar at Bethel, the high place made by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin—even that altar and high place he demolished. He burned the high place and ground it to powder, and burned the Asherah pole also. 19Just as he had done at Bethel, Josiah removed all the shrines at the high places that the kings of Israel had built in the towns of Samaria and that had aroused the Lord’s anger.

20Josiah slaughtered all the priests of those high places on the altars and burned human bones on them. Then he went back to Jerusalem. 21The king gave this order to all the people: “Celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.” 22Neither in the days of the judges who led Israel nor in the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah had any such Passover been observed. 23But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was celebrated to the Lord in Jerusalem.

24Furthermore, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. This he did to fulfill the requirements of the law written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in the temple of the Lord. 25Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.

**Jeremiah 25:1-7**

1The word came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. 2So Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people of Judah and to all those living in Jerusalem: 3For twenty-three years—from the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah until this very day—the word of the Lord has come to me and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened. 4And though the Lord has sent all his servants the prophets to you again and again, you have not listened or paid any attention. 5They said, “Turn now, each of you, from your evil ways and your evil practices, and you can stay in the land the Lord gave to you and your ancestors for ever and ever. 6Do not follow other gods to serve and worship them; do not arouse my anger with what your hands have made. Then I will not harm you.” 7“But you did not listen to me,” declares the Lord, “and you have aroused my anger with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves.”

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

31“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to d them, e ” declares the Lord.

33“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” *declares the Lord.*

1. Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years.

And he did evil in the eyes of the Lord, just as his predecessors had done. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, 19He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, just as Jehoiakim had done. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)