



Jeremiah: A Prophet of Great Courage

Jeremiah 1:1-19

Jeremiah 1:1-3

The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.

It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the exile of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

Jeremiah 1:4-6

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
And before you were born I consecrated you;
I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Alas, Lord God!
Behold, I do not know how to speak,
Because I am a youth.”

Jeremiah 1:7-8

But the LORD said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’
Because everywhere I send you, you shall go,
And all that I command you, you shall speak.
Do not be afraid of them,
For I am with you to deliver you,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:9-10

Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth,
and the LORD said to me,
“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.
See, I have appointed you this day over the nations
and over the kingdoms,
To pluck up and to break down,
To destroy and to overthrow,
To build and to plant.”

Jeremiah 1:11-12

The word of the LORD came to me saying,
“What do you see, Jeremiah?”

And I said, “I see a rod of an almond tree.”

Then the LORD said to me, “You have seen well,
for I am watching over My word to perform it.”

Jeremiah 1:13-15

The word of the LORD came to me a second time saying, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north.” Then the LORD said to me, “Out of the north the evil will break forth on all the inhabitants of the land. For, behold, I am calling all the families of the kingdoms of the north,” declares the LORD; “and they will come and they will set each one his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all its walls round about and against all the cities of Judah.”

Jeremiah 1:16-19

“I will pronounce My judgments on them concerning all their wickedness, whereby they have forsaken Me and have offered sacrifices to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands. Now, gird up your loins and arise, and speak to them all which I command you. Do not be dismayed before them, or I will dismay you before them. Now behold, I have made you today as a fortified city and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests and to the people of the land. They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you,” declares the LORD.

Main Point

Jeremiah was called by God to pronounce judgment upon Judah at a time that made this work dangerous to himself and required him to gird himself up with great courage and faith, setting an example for us to follow.

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Jeremiah's Context



Jeremiah's Context

Jeremiah's personal background.

Jeremiah 1:1

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of the priests who were in Anathoth
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The words of Jeremiah **the son of Hilkiah**,
of the priests who were in Anathoth
in the land of Benjamin.

2 Kings 22:8

Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe,
“I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD.”
And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan who read it.

Jeremiah 1:1

The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah,

of the priests who were in Anathoth

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Jeremiah's Context

Jeremiah's personal background.

Jeremiah's historical setting.

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in the thirteenth year of his reign.

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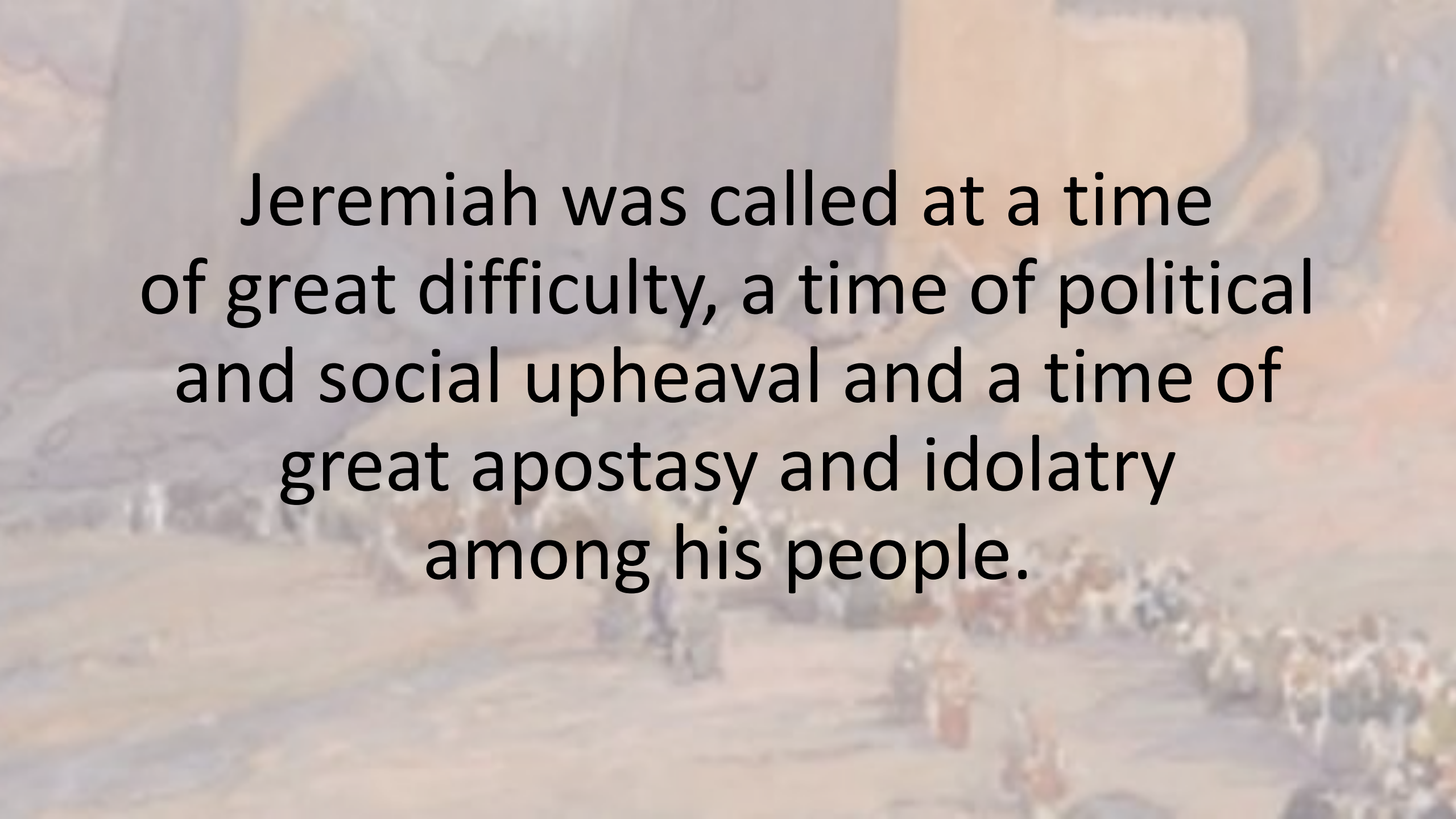
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Jeremiah was called at a time of great difficulty, a time of political and social upheaval and a time of great apostasy and idolatry among his people.

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Jeremiah's Calling



Jeremiah's General Calling

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Jeremiah's Calling

He was called to pronounce judgment.

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all their wickedness, whereby they have forsaken Me
and have offered sacrifices to other gods,
and worshiped the works of their own hands.”

“Now, gird up your loins and arise, and speak!”

The Form of God's Judgment

The destruction of warfare.

The exile of the people.

Jeremiah's message was
"Surrender or suffer!"

The Reasons for God's Judgment

They forsook the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:16-17

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The Reasons for God's Judgment

They forsook the LORD.

They worshiped the works of their own hands.

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The Reasons for God's Judgment

They forsook the LORD.

They worshiped the works of their own hands.

They sacrificed to other gods.

Jeremiah 1:16-17

“I will pronounce My judgments on them concerning all their wickedness, whereby **they** have forsaken Me and have **offered sacrifices to other gods**, and worshiped the works of their own hands.”

This would have included child sacrifice!

Jeremiah 32:35

“They built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of Ben-hinnom to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I had not commanded them nor had it entered My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.”

What is the rationale behind child sacrifice,
and how does this relate to us?

Consider what the LORD says to Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
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What does this teach us about how we ought
to think about the unborn child?

Jeremiah's Calling

Called to pronounce judgment.

He was called to provide hope.

Jeremiah 1:9-10

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my mouth, and the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.
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Examples:

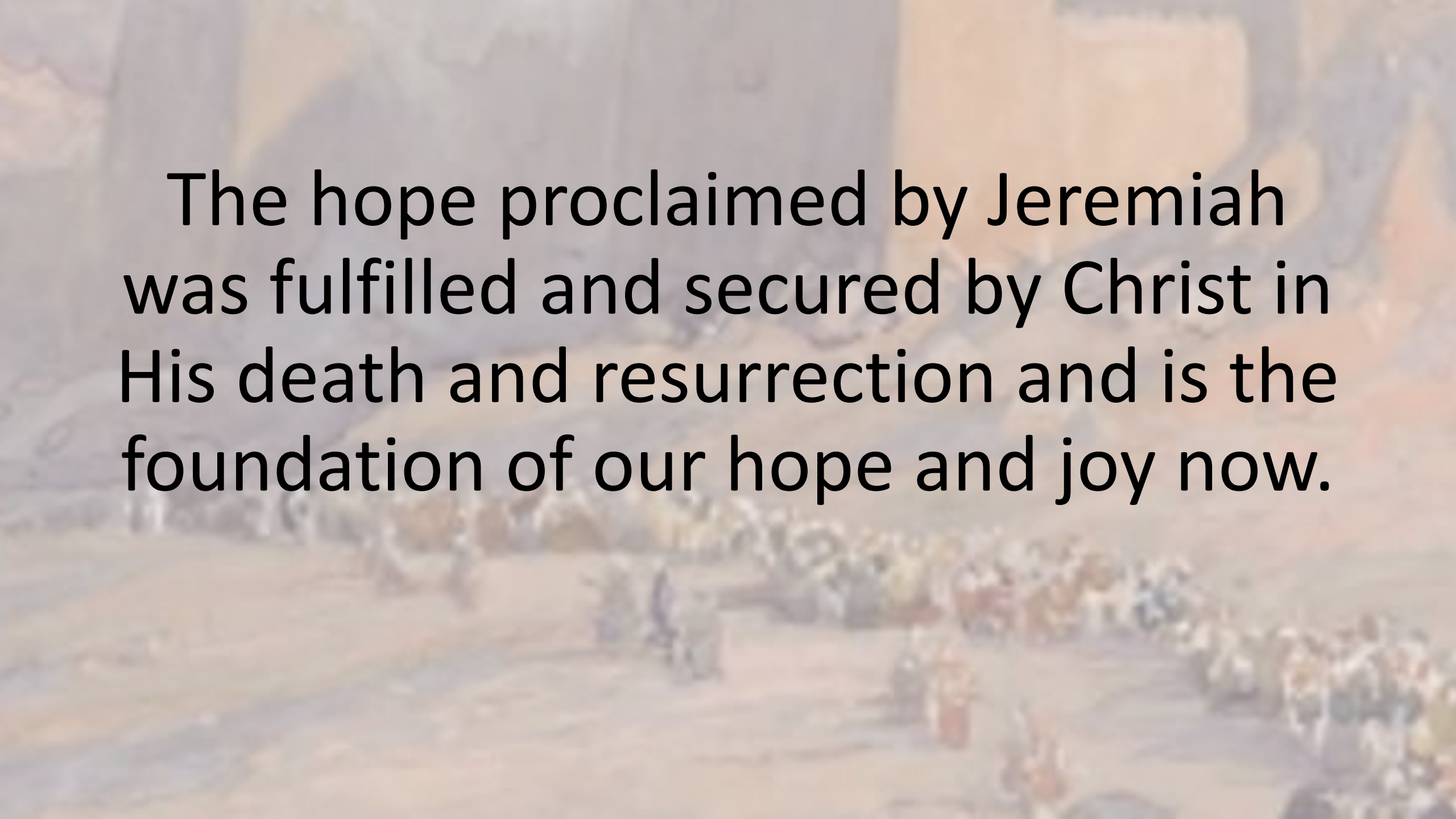
Jeremiah 23:5

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch;
And He will reign as king and act wisely
And do justice and righteousness in the land.”

Jeremiah 31:31

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.”

The “Book of Comfort” (chapters 30-33)



The hope proclaimed by Jeremiah was fulfilled and secured by Christ in His death and resurrection and is the foundation of our hope and joy now.

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Jeremiah's Context

Jeremiah's Calling

Jeremiah's Conflict



Jeremiah's Conflict

Conflict without.

Jeremiah 1:18-19

“Now behold, I have made you today as a fortified city and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests and to the people of the land. They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you,” declares the LORD.

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Opposition from his homeland

Jeremiah 11:21-23

“Therefore thus says the LORD **concerning the men of Anathoth**, who seek your life, saying, “Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, so that you will not die at our hand”; therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, “Behold, I am about to punish them! The young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters will die by famine; and a remnant will not be left to them, for I will bring disaster on the men of Anathoth — the year of their punishment.”

Opposition from his own family

Jeremiah 12:6

**“For even your brothers and the household of your father,
Even they have dealt treacherously with you,
Even they have cried aloud after you.
Do not believe them, although they may
say nice things to you.”**

Jeremiah's Conflict

Conflict without.

Conflict within.

Jeremiah 1:17

**“Now, gird up your loins and arise,
and speak to them all which I command you.
Do not be dismayed before them,
or I will dismay you before them.”**

**The LORD knew the temptation Jeremiah
would face to turn away from his calling, so He
forewarned him to prepare and strengthen him.**

Jeremiah's conflict within

Jeremiah 20:7-8

“O LORD, You have deceived me and I was deceived;
You have overcome me and prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
Everyone mocks me. For each time I speak, I cry aloud;
I proclaim violence and destruction,
Because for me the word of the LORD has resulted
In reproach and derision all day long.”

Jeremiah's conflict within

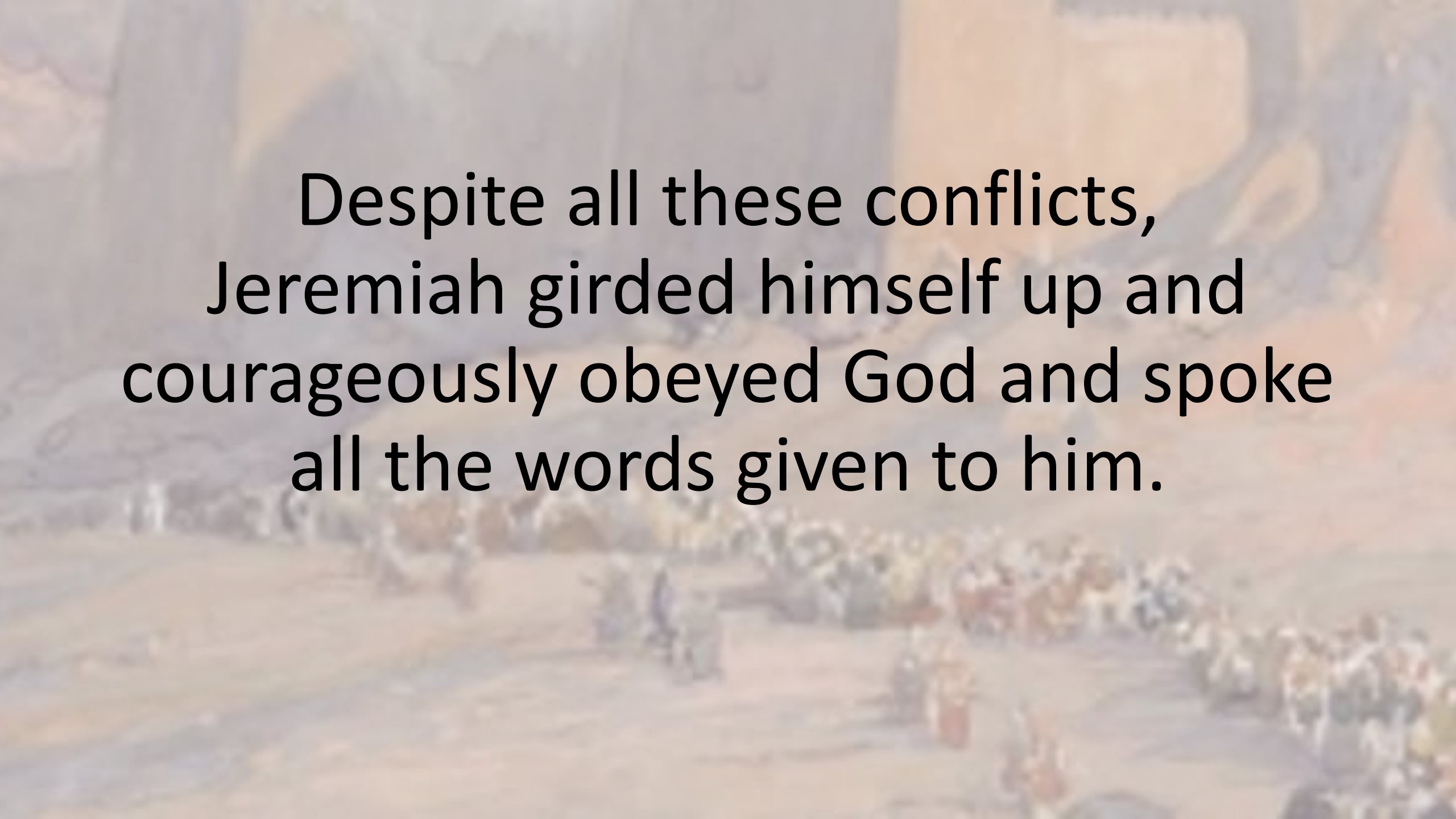
Jeremiah 20:9-10

“But if I say, “I will not remember Him
Or speak anymore in His name,”

Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire
Shut up in my bones; and I am weary of holding it in,
And I cannot endure it.

For I have heard the whispering of many, “Terror on every
side! Denounce him; yes, let us denounce him!”

All my trusted friends, watching for my fall, say:
“Perhaps he will be deceived, so that we may prevail
against him and take our revenge on him.”



Despite all these conflicts,
Jeremiah girded himself up and
courageously obeyed God and spoke
all the words given to him.

Jeremiah's Conflict

Conflict without.

Conflict within.

Assurance through his conflict.

Jeremiah 1:19

“They will fight against you,
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How does this apply to us now?

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples...and lo,
I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The Lord has also given to us a mission
to speak in difficult times, but He has
also promised to be with us!

Conclusion

While we are not Prophets, we are called to speak the truth both of judgment and hope.

Opposition will come, but we must not be dismayed but must courageously speak.

We can do this knowing that our Lord is always with us as our dread champion!