“LESSONS FROM THE CALL OF JEREMIAH”

JEREMIAH 1:1-10

INTRO: Twice in the New Testament we are told that Old Testament has been written for us and is a learning tool for us.
   - Romans 15:4
   - 1 Corinthians 10:11

THEREFORE, WE WOULD DO WELL TO STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT ON A REGULAR BASIS. (All scripture is fully inspired!).

In our text we find THE CALL OF JEREMIAH TO MINISTRY and this conversation between God and Jeremiah has a lot for us to learn in our own life and ministry. Let’s observe.

NOTE ON JEREMIAH
1) Jeremiah served as both a Priest and a Prophet which was not common.
2) Jeremiah served for at least 5 decades to five Kings of Judah including: Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah covering the years of 627-586 BC. He was 20-25 years old when he began to minister.
3) Jeremiah preached mainly to Judah (the southern kingdom) but at times he spoke to other nations as well.
4) Jeremiah remained unmarried and was called the “weeping prophet” because of the unrepentant sin of Judah and the coming destruction of Babylon.
5) Jeremiah gives many lessons for nations and individuals today.

I. THE PRE-INCARNATE CONDITION OF JEREMIAH – VSS. 1-5
   A. God FORMED Jeremiah exactly the way He wanted him to be.
   B. God KNEW Jeremiah in every way because He formed him.
   C. God SANCTIFIED Jeremiah and “set him apart” for a specific purpose.
   D. God ORDAINED Jeremiah and called him to a specific mission.

   NOTE: The concept that God sets His people aside for ministry before birth is common in scripture: Psalm 139:13-18; Isaiah 49:1; Galatians 1:15.

II. THE POST-INCARNATE CONDITION OF JEREMIAH – VSS. 6-10
   A. Jeremiah’s Perception of Himself – Vs. 6
      1. He was self-abased and put himself down: “I CANNOT SPEAK.”
   B. God’s Perception of Himself – Vss. 7-10

      NOTE: GOD HAD A PLAN FOR JEREMIAH AND INTENDED TO FULFILL IT!
      1. God Rebuked Jeremiah – “SAY NOT.” Vs. 7a
      2. God Reminded Jeremiah of His Presence and Provision – Vs. 7b
         b. “I Shall Send Thee” – God’s Direction
         c. “Thou Shalt Speak” – God’s Command and Provision
      3. God Encouraged Jeremiah – Vs. 8
         a. “Be Not Afraid”
         b. “I am With Thee to Deliver Thee”
   4. God Equipped Jeremiah – Vs. 9
      b. “Put My Words in thy Mouth” - For preaching
   5. God Authorized Jeremiah – Vs. 10
      a. As a Prophet of Judgment – Vs. 10a
         -“Root out, Pull down, Destroy, Throw down”
      b. As a Prophet of Salvation – Vs. 10b
         -“Build, Plant”

   ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE PERSONAL LESSONS FROM JEREMIAH TO US
   A. God Formed us to be what He Wanted us to be in the Womb
   B. God Knew ALL about us Before we were Conceived.
C. God Set us Apart for Certain Ministry before our Birth.
D. God Ordained us to Specific Ministry including Location.
E. God Overrides ALL of our Inadequacies.
F. God Rebukes ALL of our Excuses.
G. God Specifically Directs us in our Ministry (As we allow).
H. God Encourages us in our Ministry (If we look unto Him).
I. God Equips us for Every Aspect of our Ministry.
J. God Personally Authorizes to do our Ministry.

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON AND APPLICATION:
1) Every believer is sanctioned by God for specific ministry.
2) Every believer was brought into this world to complete that ministry.
3) Every believer is equipped by God for that ministry.
4) Every believer will give an account for the performance of that ministry.