

# the Royal

## MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

**"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9**

### **Week 20 Law Enforcement, Chapter 1**

This week we are moving forward in the Royal series by examining prophetic literature, or "Law Enforcement". This week is more of an introduction week. Every Prophetic book in the Old Testament has similar attribute of the biblical narrative. We have to understand the pre-observations (who, what, where, when, and why) before we can have full understanding of what the text means. Since it is similar to the narrative genre, we will focus on a few details this week:

1. Using Jeremiah 1 as our focus text, what is Jeremiah trying to convey to his audience? It is encouraged to identify who the audience is and why he is writing the book.
2. After we identify Jeremiah's purpose for writing, we want to see what his main point is to the recipient. And since we are thousands of years removed from the time of his authorship, how can we learn and grow from what is being communicated?

One thing to highlight is that although we can learn and grow from the book of Jeremiah, and the Holy Spirit will definitely minister to us through this book, it is important to understand it was not written directly to us. With that in mind, try to think less about what it means to you, and focus more on what it meant to them, and how can you learn from it.

Isn't it fun studying Scripture!!!!

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

## Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

### Opening

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 19 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

### Recap Week 19 Weekly Challenge

1. Recite **Proverbs 1:7**.
2. Discuss experiences practicing them Worship.

### Small Group Sermon Discussion

1. Review the rules of "Law Enforcement," or Prophetic language as a group.
  1. **Genre:** Prophetic Language (The prophets used poetic and narrative language, parables, riddles and enactments to communicate their message.)
  2. **Who is the Law Enforcer (Prophet)?** *When possible, identify if there is a unique God experience in the prophet's life.*
  3. To whom are they **enforcing** loyalty to the law?
  4. In what ways has the nation or an individual been **un-loyal** to God's law?
  5. Identify the **curses** or **blessings** being pronounced.
  6. Identify what new **behavior** God is seeking through the Law Enforcer's message.
2. Simply discuss as a group new insights you learned from prophetic literature as discussed in the sermon on Sunday.
  - ▶ Use lesson plan notes if you have them available.

## Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Jeremiah 1

### Read Jeremiah 1

The book of Jeremiah presents a young man called and chosen to be a mouth piece for God. The task is difficult and appears impossible from the young prophet's perspective. This book is read much like a biblical narrative, but with some added poetry in the midst. With that in mind, there are a few other things to consider before reading this book:

## Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Jeremiah 1

(continued)

### Jeremiah 1 Pre-observation

- ▶ With 52 chapters it is one of the longest books in the Bible.
- ▶ Where most books of the Old Testament books read chronologically, Jeremiah will include certain events that occurred at the end of his life in the middle of text to highlight a certain point. Included in non-chronological order in the book are events about Judah's situation, and personal experiences of Jeremiah's own life (this is crucial to understand if the book of Jeremiah is to make sense when you read it).
- ▶ The first half of the book (ch. 1-25) deals with Jeremiah's prophesies of God's judgments of Judah because of their sin and idolatry.
- ▶ The second half of the book (ch. 26-52) deals with a few prophesies, but mainly deals with Jeremiah's conflicts he had with the kings of his day.
- ▶ A majority of the book was written by the prophet himself. However, it is probable that his scribe, or secretary Baruch (cf. 36:1-4) finished the rest of it.
- ▶ This was written in the final 40 years of Judah's existence before all of Israel (and Judah) were to return back to Jerusalem.
- ▶ Jeremiah's main theological contribution was that God was going to usher in a new covenant for His chosen people (cf. 31:31-34). We see the author of Hebrews confirm this in Heb. 10:16-17.
  
- ▶ Read Jeremiah 1 as a group.

### Reflect Jeremiah 1

1. What was the call of Jeremiah as a prophet? What was he commanded to do?
2. Explain the visions he saw in verses 17 and 13.

### Respond Jeremiah 1

1. Most prophetic literature was written for a people living thousands of years ago. It may be hard to grasp the purpose for the prophecy at first, but what can we (as Americans in 2010) take away from reading chapter 1?
  - ▶ Hint: Read verses 9-10, and verse 16. What is the Lord emphasizing?
2. Are there any areas in your life that you are failing worship and honor God in everything?
  - ▶ This could be areas of sin, disobedience, or improper understanding of who God really is.
  - ▶ This could also be God calling you to an act of service or ministry. Are you diligently seeking after God in complete obedience?

## Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (September 13 – September 19)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” **Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org) and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a “spiritual discipline” that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Study**.

The discipline of study has been repeated week after week because in order to understand anything in its entirety, the discipline of pursuing it has to become an essential habit. Scripture is no different, and studying prophecy is even more crucial to study. Author’s intent of writing a historic document is always hard to grasp, but is possible to get to a clear understanding of.

So for the next few weeks of “Law Enforcement” and even to the end of the Royal series, we are going to really focus on study. We really want to challenge you to grow in the study and knowledge of the Word, so we can grow closer to Him.