

Jeremiah

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "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." 6 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." 7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." Jeremiah 1:4-8 ESV

Then the LORD put out His hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth." Jeremiah 1:9 ESV

Read the book of Jeremiah for the Biblical true story. Some things have been added to the movie.

Jeremiah's father told him, "We must abide by God's laws if we want to continue to be free." The history of the Jewish people shows that when they followed God and His word they were free but when they turned from God they were defeated by their enemies. From a very young age Jeremiah felt God's call on his life. *Jeremiah 1:5* tells us that the Lord said, "*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.*"

God knew each of us when we were tiny babies in our mother's womb. He has a good plan for each of us.

A man appeared to Jeremiah and said that it was time for him to speak the words that the Lord gave him. Although Jeremiah knew in his heart that this was true, it was difficult for him to say things that he knew would displease his father and those who served in the temple. God told Jeremiah that He would put His words in Jeremiah's mouth. When Jeremiah spoke to the people about their sins they didn't want to hear it.

Why do you think that people are so reluctant to admit that they have done things wrong?

The movie producers added the characters of Judith and her family to the story to portray the realities that many people had to face in the time of Jeremiah. Although Jeremiah was born into the tribe of Levi and destined to serve as a priest, he could feel the call of God on his heart and life and knew that serving God was much more than just performing the priestly duties in the temple.

How do you think that God is calling you to serve Him? Are you listening?

When Baruch, the scribe, found Jeremiah he said that the words Jeremiah spoke were the words of God. He said he was tired of the hypocrisy in Jerusalem. Jeremiah and Baruch called the people to return to justice and compassion. This made the king very angry, yet both Baruch and Jeremiah were willing to risk their lives to tell the people what God had said. Jeremiah trusted God to deliver him.

Do you think that people today want to be told that they should return to God and His ways?

Jeremiah warned that the Babylonians would come if the people did not return to God. What he said came true. He prophesied that God would destroy the city of Jerusalem unless the people repented of their sins, and still the people would not listen. Other prophets said they spoke in God's name but their words did not come true. Jeremiah said to Hananiah, a false prophet, "You have made these people trust in a lie."

Do you think people trust in lies today? Are we willing to hear God's truth and be saved?

In *Matthew 24:11-13* Jesus says, "*And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*" The only way to know whether or not prophets speak the truth is to compare what they say against the word of God. If prophets say something different than God they do not speak the truth.

Do you know God's word? A good place to start reading is the book of John which tells the life of Jesus.

Dear Lord, we do not trust You the way that we should. We continually think of ourselves and the things that we want instead of studying Your word to learn what You want. Create clean hearts in us. Renew our spirits so that we will walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Pour out Your grace and mercy upon us. Raise up a faithful, loving church in Jesus' name, Amen.