

Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations

#1: Jeremiah, the Tenderhearted Prophet of the

Tenderhearted God (8/31-9/6)

OL Summary:

I. Jeremiah was born a priest, but he was called by God to be a prophet not only to the nation of Israel but also to all the nations; hence, he was a priest-prophet.

II. Jehovah appointed Jeremiah to be over the nations and over the kingdoms to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to tear down, and to build up and to plant: **A.** The plucking up, the breaking down, and the destroying are Jehovah's tearing down, whereas the building up and the planting are Jehovah's exalting. **B.** This corresponds to the two meanings of the name Jeremiah—"Jehovah exalts" and "Jehovah tears down."

III. Jehovah made Jeremiah into a fortified city, into an iron pillar, and into bronze walls against the whole land, the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land; they would fight against him but would not prevail against him: **A.** On earth there is always a battle raging between God and those who oppose Him and fight against Him. **B.** God fights not by Himself directly but through His servants who have been sent by Him. **C.** God sent His army—a young man named Jeremiah—to fight those who opposed Him: Jeremiah was equipped by God to such an extent that he became a fortified city and an iron pillar and bronze walls.

IV. Jeremiah was an overcomer speaking for God: **A.** In the age of typology, the overcomers were the prophets; all the genuine prophets were overcomers. **B.** When the majority of God's people were desolate, there was the need for some to rise up to be God's overcomers to maintain the testimony established by God. **C.** The prophets took care of God's oracle first, and based upon the oracle, they exercised, to some extent, God's authority, as seen with David the king and Nathan the prophet. **D.** The overcomers in Revelation 2 and 3 are the fulfillment of the typology of the prophets. **E.** As an overcomer, Jeremiah was an anti-testimony: The children of Israel had become desolate, and Jeremiah was called by God to be an anti-testimony. /God's people did not realize that they were deep in sin before God and that God had already ordained that Babylon would be used to punish them, causing them to be captured to Babylon.

V. The book of Jeremiah has as its particular characteristic and standing God's tenderheartedness plus God's righteousness: **A.** Our God is a tenderhearted God, full of compassion and sympathy, yet He is absolutely righteous. **B.** According to the book of Jeremiah, God's love is a composition of His tender care, compassion, and sympathy; even while He chastises His elect people Israel, He is compassionate toward them. **C.** The words in Jeremiah 9:10-11 and 17-19 express Jehovah's feeling concerning Israel's suffering of His correction: Although Jehovah was punishing Israel, He was still sympathetic toward them. /The words "us" and "our" in verse 18 indicate that Jehovah joined Himself to the suffering people and was one with them in their suffering.

VI. The book of Jeremiah is also an autobiography in which Jeremiah tells us of his situation, his person, and his feeling, revealing his tender heart: **A.** God is tender, loving, compassionate, and righteous, and Jeremiah, a

timid young man, was raised up by God to be His mouthpiece to speak for Him and express Him. **B.** Jehovah is the tenderhearted God, and in being tenderhearted, Jeremiah was absolutely one with God; thus, God could use the prophet Jeremiah to express Him, speak for Him, and represent Him. **C.** Jehovah came in to correct His hypocritical worshippers, and Jeremiah reacted to Jehovah's correction; the prophet's reaction was very tender, sympathetic, and compassionate. **D.** Jeremiah wept on God's behalf; his weeping expressed God's weeping: In his weeping Jeremiah represented God. **E.** Because Jeremiah often wept, even wailed, he is called the weeping prophet: Although God was grieved and hurt because of His people, He had to find someone on earth who had these feelings. /When His Spirit came upon that particular one, Jeremiah, and put His feelings in Jeremiah's spirit, the prophet could then express the sorrowful feeling of God.

VII. In order that God may be fully expressed through us, we need to have spiritual emotions, be tenderhearted with one another, and be able to serve God with tears:

A. A spiritual person is full of emotions; the more spiritual we are, the richer our emotions are: We need the Lord to work on us until our feelings are fine and tender. /Every time God works on us, chastises us, and deals with us, our feelings become finer and more sensitive; this is the deepest lesson in the breaking of the outer man. **B.** In the church life we need to be tenderhearted with one another: We should not judge and condemn our fellow believers but be kind to them, tenderhearted, forgiving them even as God in Christ also forgave us. /The more we experience Christ as our life supply, the more our hearts become tender, and when we are tenderhearted, we will forgive others. **C.** The apostle Paul served the Lord with tears and admonished the saints with tears: If we do not know how to weep or shed tears, we are not very spiritual. **D.** "Out of much affliction and anguish of heart" Paul wrote to the Corinthians "through many tears": In 2 Corinthians 7 Paul conveyed a deep, tender, and intimate concern for the Corinthians; his word was very touching. **E.** When, in the church life, we pass through the valley of Baca (weeping), God makes this valley as spring; this spring is the Spirit: The more we weep on the highways to Zion, the more we receive the Spirit; while we are weeping, we are being filled with the Spirit, and the Spirit becomes our spring.

Church announcement and fellowship

① Friday 20:00-21:00, Jeremiah BSG : Although Deuteronomy is not finished yet, the change will be made to The Morning Revival of the Book of Jeremiah from 8/31 (Mon).

② Saturday 8:30-8:45, after each district's every morning pray-reading of the Morning Revival, the Q&A session on the "The Holy Word for Morning Revival" will be held from 8:45-9:30. During July and the first half of August, the Saturday mornings' "Group Pray-Reading" and "Q&A" sessions were put to a halt due to video training and blending gatherings. They are to be revived again.

③ Correction of Special Conference schedule in September: See attached sheet.

CP1: Go against the Japanese culture which forces Christians to hide, declare the name of the Lord Jesus openly. If you fight against those who oppose God, God is with you and you will surely overcome

OL1: Jehovah made Jeremiah into a fortified city, into an iron pillar, and into bronze walls against the whole land, the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land; they would fight against him but would not prevail against him. [Jer.1:18](#) And I am now making you today into a fortified city and into an iron pillar and into bronze walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against its princes, against its priests, and against the people of the land. [19](#) And they will fight against you, but they will not prevail against you; for I am with you, declares Jehovah, to deliver you. **OL2:** On earth there is always a battle raging between God and those who oppose Him and fight against Him. [Eph.6:12](#) For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. **OL3:** God sent His army—a young man named Jeremiah—to fight those who opposed Him. **OL4:** Jeremiah was an overcomer speaking for God. God's people did not realize that they were deep in sin before God and that God had already ordained that Babylon would be used to punish them, causing them to be captured to Babylon.

In the matter of functioning in the church meetings, we should not be dismayed by anyone, and we should not be afraid of anyone. Rather, we should function to speak for the Lord. Why was it necessary for God to make Jeremiah into a fortified city, into an iron pillar, and into bronze walls? This was necessary because a battle was raging. The kings, the princes, the priests, and the people of the land were enemies not only to Jeremiah but also to God. These enemies were fighting against God, and Jeremiah was sent to represent God and fight for Him. Those who fought against Jeremiah fought against Jehovah. The Bible tells us that on earth there is always a battle raging between God and those who oppose Him and fight against Him. God does not fight by Himself directly but through His servants who have been sent by Him. This was the situation in Jeremiah's time. God sent His army—a young man named Jeremiah—to fight against those who opposed Him. ...In the Lord's recovery today, we also face opposition, condemnation, and rejection, and we also must fight for God. In this fighting our weapons are God Himself and the truth revealed in the Bible.

Application: Business person/ Graduate student

In Japan, beginning with the carnage of Hideyoshi Toyotomi and Ieyasu Tokugawa against Christians, persecution was so severe throughout the Edo period (267 years) that Christians then hid themselves as Christians. Otherwise, irrelevant families and neighbors could be killed. Due to the influence of such persecution over many years, believers still profess that they are Christians. In particular, few high-ranked people declare that they are

Christians. This proves that Japanese culture and tradition strongly oppose Christ and the church. If you do not declare yourself as a Christian, you are not directly denying the Lord, but you are denying it indirectly. So if you have the opportunity at school or at work, tell that you are a Christian. But this is not to force you to declare it in a constrained manner. If you pray with burden in prayer, you will be given opportunity in a natural way. May you open a new horizon of declaring the name of the Lord openly in Japan. [Matt.10:33](#) But whoever will deny Me before men, I also will deny him before My Father who is in the heavens. [1 Pet.2:12](#) Having your manner of life excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the matter concerning which they speak against you as evildoers they may, by your good works, as they see them with their own eyes, glorify God in the day of His visitation.

Testimony of brother: "While I was a director of an industrial association (meaning having a public position) as a representative of a large company, when searched on the net, my name had been found first as a director of the industrial association, then after the second and third one, my name had come out as a responsible person of the church in Kobe. The information were photos, videos uploaded on the net by the full-timers and responsible ones of the churches such as Taiwan for showing their appreciation after they visited the church in Kobe. My opponents at the company I worked for (a joint venture with a 50% and 50% Japanese-American capital) used this information to hire the most famous lawyers in Japan to oppose me, through the chairman and president of the Japanese parent company. The lawyer encouraged me to quit or deny as a leader of church. But I refused very clearly. They scrutinized my life thoroughly, but they had found nothing in the end, so they made their main conclusion that "it is not good to be a leader of the church." They appealed the CEO and COO of the US headquarters with this conclusion. The US CEO and COO pronounced, "This person is the most important person in Japan. Your hands are filthy when you accuse him for this reason. We will end the 50-year history of a joint venture with you in Japan." After that, the US headquarters bought the shares by about 12.5 billion yen, dissolved the joint venture, and dismissed all those who opposed me. To tell the truth, I was not willing to testify by myself, but I followed the testimony of myself on the net with the spirit of martyrdom, and be bold and did not reject the name of Jesus. I think that this testimony was what caused God to protect me, to bless my work in the company, and to lift me. I will never be defeated, even if there is a fierce opposition when I testify, because God is with me".

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, there is a fierce battle on earth between God and those who oppose God and fight against Him. I stand against the influence of hidden Christians in Japan and boldly testify that I am a Christian. I will pioneer a new era, publicly making a testimony that Jesus is Lord, damaging Satan's deceit and witnessing the

name of the Lord publicly. It is to reach the goal of God's economy and the preparation of the bride. Amen!"

CP2: God is tenderhearted and absolutely righteous. Serve by becoming one with God's feeling, putting the natural affection onto the cross

OL1:The book of Jeremiah has as its particular characteristic and standing God's tenderheartedness plus God's righteousness. Our God is a tenderhearted God, full of compassion and sympathy, yet He is absolutely righteous. **OL2:**Although Jehovah was punishing Israel, He was still sympathetic toward them. The words us and our in verse 18 indicate that Jehovah joined Himself to the suffering people and was one with them in their suffering. Jehovah Himself was weeping in sympathy with His people. **Jer. 9:18-19** let them hasten and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may shed tears and our eyelids may pour forth water. **19** For a voice of wailing was heard from Zion: How we are ruined! We are utterly put to shame!...**OL3:**The book of Jeremiah is also an autobiography in which Jeremiah tells us of his situation, his person, and his feeling, revealing his tender heart. **OL4:**The apostle Paul served the Lord with tears and admonished the saints with tears. If we do not know how to weep or shed tears, we are not very spiritual. When we live in the spirit, using the soul as an organ, we will be able to serve the Lord and admonish the saints with tears.

When I began to live in the spirit, in my new man, taking the soul as my organ, I began to shed tears. At these times I shed tears by the soul as my organ, not as my person. The person who shed tears was my spirit...When we love someone by our soul as a person, that is wrong. It may be love, but it is of the old man and is still related to the flesh. To love by our soul as our person is wrong, but to love by our spirit as our person with our soul as our organ is right. It is impossible to love someone without our soul. Our spirit, strictly speaking, does not have the loving ability. In order to love, we must have a loving organ. The loving organ is our emotion, a part of our soul.

Our spirit by itself cannot weep or shed tears. In the Gospels the Lord Jesus wept (John 11:35; Luke 19:41). He wept from His spirit as His person with His soul as His organ. He did not love by the soul as His person; rather, He loved by His spirit as His person with His soul as His organ. Today, as Christians, we are the same as the Lord Jesus. In our Christian life our soul must be denied as our person, yet our soul is still very useful as an organ. When our soul rises up to be our person, we should tell our soul, "Dear soul, you were my person in the past but not today. Today you are my organ in resurrection, and my person is my regenerated spirit with the Lord Jesus as its life. This spirit is the new man, and this new man is my person. You, dear soul, are now only my organ. Stay in your position, and do not propose anything to me. When I love or think, you must be my loving and thinking organ."

Application to the serving ones

When you serve the saints, do not serve with the

natural love. Don't think that your natural love would help people. The church is not a place of volunteers. The service in the church is the service to dispense Christ to others in spirit, in the resurrected love, putting the natural affection onto the cross.

For example, when you see the new one under other saint's care, you may think you can do better than they do and try to care for that new one by yourself without fellowshipping with the saints. In such case, there are pride, rivalry, dullness mixed with your love. Please stop for a moment and open to the fellowship and practice the service of the Body. By fellowshipping, you will notice things that you could not notice. Please realize that your natural affection has the fallen element, pride and prejudice mixed. These are put onto the cross through the fellowship practically. Moreover, because the service in the church is the service of the Body, it is only when you are coordinated with other members, can you be transferred to the service of the Body from the individual service. Before fellowship, please pray the prayer in the message.

Testimonies of the sisters: **(1)**When I started serving, I didn't realize the service of the Body, I made failures in taking care of many newly saved ones and making them remaining fruit. New ones were saved in various districts, but there was not enough fellowship with brothers and sisters of these districts, many of them could not receive the care and they could not remain. Due to my natural love, I didn't include brothers and sisters and bore them by myself. By these failures, I learnt that I should do the service of the Body. After I came to treasure the fellowship with the saints and learn to move forward to the service of the Body from individual service, I could gain remaining fruit more than before. It is critical to have the service of the Body in fellowship. **(2)**Because some saints served the new ones with their natural affection, new ones got impudent and depend on too much. They didn't have fellowship with the saints and poured their natural love to the new ones. As a result, the fallen nature of the new ones became manifested in the church life. For example, some new ones tried to utilize the car of the saints only for their convenience impudently. They didn't know how it costs to own a car, in addition to the buying the car, it costs a lot for the gas, oils, tax, parking, fixing etc. to maintain the car so they thought it was all right to utilize the saints' car for their convenience.

For the point **(2)**, the church life should encourage the new ones to walk according to the spirit, but actually in this case, it accepted the walk according to the flesh. It is unrighteous for them to utilize the other's car for their benefit. To avoid things like this, we have set the fee, although it is very cheap, in case of using the car of the saints. Our service should encourage new ones to practice righteousness. The natural love spoils the new ones, but the resurrected love through the cross will perfect them.

CP3: In the suffering that comes from Satan's opposition, we experience the God of comfort and take care of new ones with an intimate concern

OL1: In order that God may be fully expressed through us, we need to have spiritual emotions, be tenderhearted with one another, and be able to serve God with tears.

OL2: The more we weep on the highways to Zion, the more we receive the Spirit; while we are weeping, we are being filled with the Spirit, and the Spirit becomes our spring. The tears we shed are our own, but these tears issue in a spring, which becomes the early rain, the Spirit as the blessing. [Psa. 84:5](#) Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. [6](#) Passing through the valley of Baca, they make it a spring; indeed the early rain covers it with blessings. FN "Baca": Meaning weeping. On the one hand, those on the highways to Zion are strengthened in God; on the other hand, they are opposed by Satan, who causes them to suffer persecution. The trouble and persecution caused by Satan can make the highway a valley of weeping.

The early rain in Psalm 84:6 is the Spirit, and the Spirit is our blessing. This was the situation with a certain brother in Chefoo. Before he believed in the Lord Jesus, he was a Muslim. After he was saved and came into the church life, he suffered a great deal of persecution. This persecution nearly killed him, and he shed many tears. But those tears became a spring; the spring became the Spirit as the early rain; and as a result this brother was very living.

As long as we have the proper concern for people, we are well on our way to be qualified to be used of God for their salvation. A very good testimony of this is in the book *Seen and Heard*. In that book, the writer, James M'Kendrick, tells us of standing in front of a group of unbelievers and weeping, without saying a word. Nevertheless, a number were saved, for he had a deep concern. Eloquence, gift, and power can never touch people as deeply as your concern for them.

If we have an intimate concern, we shall be tender with others. A crude, insensitive person does not have an intimate concern. If a husband does not have a proper concern for his wife, he may be very strict and demanding of her. But having an intimate concern will cause him to be tender. Once we become tender, our way of speaking will be soft and sweet.

A mother has not only love for her child; she also has a deep concern....A woman may be lacking in education, but if she has a deep concern for her children, she is qualified to be a good mother. Of course, knowledge and ability are helpful, but they are not prerequisites. The unique prerequisite for being a good mother is concern. The same principle is true regarding caring for the church. It is not adequate for the elders simply to love the church. This love must become a deep concern, a concern for all the young ones and weaker ones. This concern causes our labor to be fruitful.

Application to new ones, Youth/College students

As the new ones and young students come into the church life, on the one hand there is blessing from God and on the other hand there are oppositions and trials from Satan. There are never always good things. But the trial is not just for believers, but for everyone. Please remember. There are positive purposes in the trials against you, such as (1) preparation for the way out, (2) the fountain of tears becomes the blessing of the Spirit, (3) you can experience the comfort of God and comfort others and build up the church. God can also use Satan to perfect you and build up the church. [1 Cor. 10:13](#) No temptation has taken you except that which is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow that you be tempted beyond what you are able, but will, with the temptation, also make the way out, that you may be able to endure it. [2 Cor. 1:3](#) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassions and God of all comfort; [4](#) Who comforts us in all our affliction that we may be able to comfort those who are in every affliction through the comforting with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

"Out of much affliction and anguish of heart" Paul wrote to the Corinthians "through many tears." ([2 Cor. 2:4](#)) Through trials and tears, you will be able to concern for others. In the gospel, in the nourishing of the church life, in the relationship between husband and wife, in parenting, if you have an intimate concern, they will be blessed. [2 Cor. 7:3](#) I do not say this to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts for our dying together and our living together. Since Paul's expression was tender and filled with the intimate concern, there was power and impact, which enables him to touch the believers deeply. **Testimony of a new sister:** The Sannomiya district started in the end of last year, and at the time of the Gospel preaching, we met a Japanese Peruvian sister at the Ohyasutei Shopping Street. She soon came to the church life. She has a strong gospel burden for her friends at work and neighborhood. Especially a burden for friends from foreign countries. She knows from own experience that they often have many problems on language and living. This sister prayed with intimate concern and many tears for their salvation. In addition to praying, she also opens her own house and consult with them or let them stay at her home to care for their needs. This year, two friends at work were baptized. The sister's intimate concern and many prayers with tears are pattern for our gospel and nourishing.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, I learn to serve God with spiritual feelings, compassion, and tears like Jeremiah. While there are blessings from God in the church life, there are also oppositions and trials from Satan. But I can experience the way out of the trials, the fountain of tears being turned into rain of the blessing of the Spirit and the comfort of God in affliction. Through these experiences, we care for the six kinds of new ones with intimate concern. Make me the vital one, the overcomer who builds up the church. Amen!"