

# Message One

## Jeremiah, the Tenderhearted Prophet of the Tenderhearted God

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Jer. 1:1, 4-8, 10, 18-19; 4:19; 9:1, 10; 13:17

- Jer.1:1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin,
- Jer.1:4 Now the word of Jehovah came to me, saying:
- Jer.1:5 Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; / And before you came forth from the womb, I sanctified you. / I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations.
- Jer.1:6 Then I said, Alas, Lord Jehovah! / Indeed, I do not know how to speak, / For I am a youth.
- Jer.1:7 But Jehovah said to me, / Do not say, I am a youth; / For everywhere I send you, you shall go; / And everything I command you, you shall speak.
- Jer.1:8 Do not be afraid of their faces, / For I am with you to deliver you, declares Jehovah.
- Jer.1:10 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 tear down, / To build up and to plant.
- 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.
- Jer.1:19 And they will fight against you, but they will not prevail against you; for I am with you, declares Jehovah, to deliver you.
- Jer.4:19 My bowels, my bowels; I am writhing. / Oh, the walls of my heart! / My heart is moaning within me; / I cannot be silent; / For you hear, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, / The alarm of war.
- Jer.9:1 Oh, that my head were waters, / And my eye a fountain of tears, / That I might weep day and night / For the slain of the daughter of my people!
- Jer.9:10 For the mountains I will take up a weeping and wailing, / And for the pastures of the wilderness, a lamentation; / Because they have been burned up so that no one passes through, / And the sound of cattle is not heard; / Both the birds of the sky and the beasts / Have fled and have gone.
- Jer.13:17 And if you will not hear it, / My soul will weep in secret places for your pride; / And my eye will weep bitterly and shed tears, / Because the flock of Jehovah has been taken captive.

## OUTLINE

### 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—Jer. 1:1, 4-8.**

- Jer.1:1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin,
- Jer.1:4 Now the word of Jehovah came to me, saying:
- Jer.1:5 Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; / And before you came forth from the womb, I sanctified you. / I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations.
- Jer.1:6 Then I said, Alas, Lord Jehovah! / Indeed, I do not know how to speak, / For I am a youth.
- Jer.1:7 But Jehovah said to me, / Do not say, I am a youth; / For everywhere I send you, you shall go;

/ And everything I command you, you shall speak.

Jer.1:8 Do not be afraid of their faces, / For I am with you to deliver you, declares Jehovah.

## **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—v. 10:**

Jer.1:10 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 tear down, / 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—vv. 18-19:**

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.

Jer.1:19 And they will fight against you, but they will not prevail against you; for I am with you, declares Jehovah, to deliver you.

- A. On earth there is always a battle raging between God and those who oppose Him and fight against Him—Eph. 6:12.

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.

- B. God fights not by Himself directly but through His servants who have been sent by Him—1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7.

1 Tim. 1:18 This charge I commit to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you might war the good warfare,

1 Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold on the eternal life, to which you were called and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses.

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

- C. God sent His army—a young man named Jeremiah—to fight those who opposed Him:

1. Jeremiah was equipped by God to such an extent that he became a fortified city and an iron pillar and bronze walls—Jer. 1:18.

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.

2. Those who fought against Jeremiah—Jehovah's one-person army—were actually fighting against Jehovah—v. 19a.

Jer.1:19 And they will fight against you, but they will not prevail against you; for I am with you, declares Jehovah, to deliver you.

3. No one would defeat him because Jehovah was with him—v. 19b.

Jer.1:19 And they will fight against you, but they will not prevail against you; for I am with you, declares Jehovah, to deliver you.

#### **IV. Jeremiah was an overcomer speaking for God—vv. 9-10; 2:1-2:**

Jer.1:9 Then Jehovah stretched out His hand and touched my mouth; and Jehovah said to me, Now I have put My words in your mouth.

Jer.1:10 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 tear down, / To build up and to plant.

Jer.2:1 And the word of Jehovah came to me, saying,

Jer.2:2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus says Jehovah: / I remember concerning you the kindness of your youth, / The love of your bridal days, / When you followed after Me in the wilderness, / In a land that was not sown.

- 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—2 Sam. 7:1-17; 12:1-15.

2 Sam. 7:1 And as the king dwelt in his house and Jehovah gave him rest all around from all his enemies,

2 Sam. 7:2 The king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the Ark of God dwells within curtains.

2 Sam. 7:3 And Nathan said to the king, All that is in your heart go and do, for Jehovah is with you.

2 Sam. 7:4 And in that night the word of Jehovah came to Nathan, saying,

2 Sam. 7:5 Go and say to My servant David, Thus says Jehovah, Is it you who will build Me a house for Me to dwell in?

2 Sam. 7:6 For I have not dwelt in a house, since the day I brought the children of Israel up out of Egypt to this day; but I went about in a tent and in a tabernacle.

2 Sam. 7:7 In all My going about among all the children of Israel, did I ever speak a word to any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?

2 Sam. 7:8 And now thus shall you say to My servant David, Thus says Jehovah of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you might be ruler over My people, over Israel;

2 Sam. 7:9 And I have been with you in every place that you have gone and have cut off all your enemies before you; and I will make a great name for you, like the name of the great ones who are on the earth.

2 Sam. 7:10 And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them there, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more; and the sons of wickedness will ill-treat them no more as before,

2 Sam. 7:11 Even since the time when I commanded that there be judges over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover Jehovah declares to you that Jehovah will make you a house.

2 Sam. 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Sam. 7:13 It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2 Sam. 7:14 I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will strike him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men;

- 2 Sam. 7:15 But My lovingkindness will not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I put away before you.
- 2 Sam. 7:16 And your house and your kingdom will be made sure forever before you; your throne will be established forever.
- 2 Sam. 7:17 According to all these words and according to this whole vision did Nathan speak to David.
- 2 Sam. 12:1 Then Jehovah sent Nathan to David. And he went to him and said to him, Two men lived in a city, one rich and the other poor.
- 2 Sam. 12:2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds,
- 2 Sam. 12:3 But the poor man had nothing but one small ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he nourished it, and it grew up together with him and his children; it ate of the morsels of his food and drank out of his own cup and lay on his bosom; indeed it was like a daughter to him.
- 2 Sam. 12:4 And there came a traveler to the rich man. But the rich man refused to take something from his own flock and herd to dress for the wayfarer who had come to him; but he took the poor man's ewe lamb and dressed it for the man who had come to him.
- 2 Sam. 12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. And he said to Nathan, As Jehovah lives, the man who has done this is worthy of death;
- 2 Sam. 12:6 And he shall restore the ewe lamb fourfold because he has done this thing and because he had no pity.
- 2 Sam. 12:7 Then Nathan said to David, You are the man. Thus says Jehovah the God of Israel, I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul;
- 2 Sam. 12:8 And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your bosom, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if this were too little, I would have added to you such and such things.
- 2 Sam. 12:9 Why have you despised the word of Jehovah by doing what is evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife as your wife and have slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.
- 2 Sam. 12:10 Now therefore the sword will not depart from your house forever because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.
- 2 Sam. 12:11 Thus says Jehovah, I will now raise up trouble against you from within your house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and will give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.
- 2 Sam. 12:12 For you did this secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and even before the sun.
- 2 Sam. 12:13 And David said to Nathan, I have sinned against Jehovah. And Nathan said to David, Jehovah has also put away your sin; you will not die.
- 2 Sam. 12:14 Nevertheless, because you have given the enemies of Jehovah much occasion to blaspheme Him because of this thing, the son who is born to you shall also surely die.
- 2 Sam. 12:15 Then Nathan went to his house. And Jehovah struck the child whom Uriah's wife bore to David, and he was very sick.

**D. The overcomers in Revelation 2 and 3 are the fulfillment of the typology of the prophets.**

- Rev. 2:1 To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, He who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:
- Rev. 2:2 I know your works and your labor and your endurance and that you cannot bear evil men; and you have tried those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false;
- Rev. 2:3 And you have endurance and have borne all things because of My name and have not grown weary.
- Rev. 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.

- Rev. 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.
- Rev. 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- Rev. 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- Rev. 2:8 And to the messenger of the church in Smyrna write: These things says the First and the Last, who became dead and lived again:
- Rev. 2:9 I know your tribulation and poverty (but you are rich) and the slander from those who call themselves Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
- Rev. 2:10 Do not fear the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison that you may be tried, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- Rev. 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.
- Rev. 2:12 And to the messenger of the church in Pergamos write: These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:
- Rev. 2:13 I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name and have not denied My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- Rev. 2:14 But I have a few things against you, that you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat idol sacrifices and to commit fornication.
- Rev. 2:15 In the same way you also have some who hold in like manner the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- Rev. 2:16 Repent therefore; but if not, I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war with them with the sword of My mouth.
- Rev. 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.
- Rev. 2:18 And to the messenger of the church in Thyatira write: These things says the Son of God, He who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like shining bronze:
- Rev. 2:19 I know your works and love and faith and service and your endurance and that your last works are more than the first.
- Rev. 2:20 But I have something against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, she who calls herself a prophetess and teaches and leads My slaves astray to commit fornication and to eat idol sacrifices.
- Rev. 2:21 And I gave her time that she might repent, and she is not willing to repent of her fornication.
- Rev. 2:22 Behold, I cast her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her, into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works;
- Rev. 2:23 And her children I will kill with death; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the inward parts and the hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your works.
- Rev. 2:24 But I say to you-the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they Say-I put no other burden upon you;
- Rev. 2:25 Nevertheless what you have hold fast until I come.
- Rev. 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
- Rev. 2:27 And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces, as I also have received from My Father;
- Rev. 2:28 And to him I will give the morning star.
- Rev. 2:29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

- Rev. 3:1 And to the messenger of the church in Sardis write: These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are living, and yet you are dead.
- Rev. 3:2 Become watchful and establish the things which remain, which were about to die; for I have found none of your works completed before My God.
- Rev. 3:3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and keep it and repent. If therefore you will not watch, I will come as a thief, and you shall by no means know at what hour I will come upon you.
- Rev. 3:4 But you have a few names in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they will walk with Me in white because they are worthy.
- Rev. 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- Rev. 3:6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- Rev. 3:7 And to the messenger of the church in Philadelphia write: These things says the Holy One, the true One, the One who has the key of David, the One who opens and no one will shut, and shuts and no one opens:
- Rev. 3:8 I know your works; behold, I have put before you an opened door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept My word and have not denied My name.
- Rev. 3:9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, those who call themselves Jews and are not, but lie-behold, I will cause them to come and fall prostrate before your feet and to know that I have loved you.
- Rev. 3:10 Because you have kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you out of the hour of trial, which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth.
- Rev. 3:11 I come quickly; hold fast what you have that no one take your crown.
- Rev. 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
- Rev. 3:13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
- Rev. 3:14 And to the messenger of the church in Laodicea write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God:
- Rev. 3:15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.
- Rev. 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am about to spew you out of My mouth.
- Rev. 3:17 Because you say, I am wealthy and have become rich and have need of nothing, and do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,
- Rev. 3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.
- Rev. 3:19 As many as I love I rebuke and discipline; be zealous therefore and repent.
- Rev. 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.
- Rev. 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.
- Rev. 3:22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

E. As an overcomer, Jeremiah was an anti-testimony:

1. The children of Israel had become desolate, and Jeremiah was called by God to be an anti-testimony—Jer. 27:1-15.

Jer.27:1 In the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, the king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from Jehovah, saying,

Jer.27:2 Thus said Jehovah to me, Make for yourself bonds and yoke bars, and put them on your neck;

Jer.27:3 And send them to the king of Edom and to the king of Moab and to the king of the children of Ammon and to the king of Tyre and to the king of Sidon by the hand of the messengers who come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah the king of Judah.

Jer.27:4 And command them to go to their masters, saying, Thus says Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel: Thus you shall say to your masters,

Jer.27:5 It is I who made the earth, and the people and the animals who are on the face of the earth, by My great power and by My outstretched arm; and I give it to whomever it seems right in My own eyes.

Jer.27:6 And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and I have also given him the beasts of the field to serve him.

Jer.27:7 And all the nations will serve him and his son and his son's son until the time of his own land comes, when many nations and great kings will make him serve them.

Jer.27:8 But if any nation or kingdom will not serve this Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon and will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, I will punish that nation with sword and with famine and with pestilence, declares Jehovah, until I have consumed them by his hand.

Jer.27:9 But as for you, do not listen to your prophets and to your diviners and to your dreams and to your soothsayers and to your sorcerers who speak to you, saying, You will not serve the king of Babylon.

Jer.27:10 For they prophesy falsehood to you, with the result that you will be removed far from your land; and I will drive you out, and you will perish.

Jer.27:11 But any nation that will bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will leave in its own land, declares Jehovah, to till it and dwell there.

Jer.27:12 And I spoke to Zedekiah the king of Judah according to all these words, saying, Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live.

Jer.27:13 Why will you die, you and your people, by sword, by famine, and by pestilence, as Jehovah has spoken concerning the nation which will not serve the king of Babylon?

Jer.27:14 And do not listen to the words of the prophets who speak to you, saying, You will not serve the king of Babylon; for they are prophesying falsehood to you.

Jer.27:15 For I have not sent them, declares Jehovah; but they prophesy falsely in My name, with the result that I will drive you out and you will perish, you and the prophets who prophesy to you.

2. 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—15:12-14.

Jer.15:12 Can one break iron, / Iron from the north, or bronze?

Jer.15:13 Your wealth and your treasures / I will give as plunder without price, / And that for all your sins, / And within all your borders.

Jer.15:14 I will cause your enemies to bring it / Into a land you do not know; / For a fire is kindled in My anger, / Which will burn against you.

3. Because Israel had fallen into such a befuddled situation, Jeremiah, an overcomer, was an anti-testimony, speaking the word given to him by Jehovah and being contrary to the false prophets—27:16—28:17.

Jer.27:16 And I spoke to the priests and to all this people, saying, Thus says Jehovah, Do not listen to the words of your prophets who prophesy to you, saying, The vessels of the

- house of Jehovah will now shortly be brought back from Babylon; for they are prophesying falsehood to you.
- Jer.27:17 Do not listen to them; serve the king of Babylon and live. Why should this city become a desolation?
- Jer.27:18 But if they are prophets and if the word of Jehovah is with them, let them intercede to Jehovah of hosts that the vessels which are left in the house of Jehovah and in the house of the king of Judah and in Jerusalem may not go to Babylon.
- Jer.27:19 For thus says Jehovah of hosts concerning the pillars and concerning the sea and concerning the bases and concerning the rest of the vessels which are left in this city,
- Jer.27:20 Which Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon did not take when he took into exile Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem.
- Jer.27:21 For thus says Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels which are left in the house of Jehovah and in the house of the king of Judah and in Jerusalem,
- Jer.27:22 They will be carried to Babylon and remain there until the day I visit them, declares Jehovah; then I will bring them up and restore them to this place.
- Jer.28:1 And in that same year, at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah the king of Judah, in the fourth year, in the fifth month, Hananiah the son of Azzur, the prophet, who was from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of Jehovah in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying,
- Jer.28:2 Thus says Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.
- Jer.28:3 Within two full years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the house of Jehovah, which Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon took from this place and carried to Babylon.
- Jer.28:4 And Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, I will bring back to this place, declares Jehovah; for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.
- Jer.28:5 Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and in the presence of all the people who were standing in the house of Jehovah.
- Jer.28:6 And the prophet Jeremiah said, Amen! May Jehovah do so. May Jehovah establish your words which you have prophesied and bring back the vessels of the house of Jehovah and all the exiles from Babylon to this place.
- Jer.28:7 Nevertheless hear now this word which I am about to speak in your ears and in the ears of all the people.
- Jer.28:8 The prophets who were before me and before you since long ago prophesied against many lands and against great kingdoms, of war and of evil and of pestilence.
- Jer.28:9 The prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then the prophet will be known as one whom Jehovah has truly sent.
- Jer.28:10 Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke bar from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah and broke it.
- Jer.28:11 And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, Thus says Jehovah, Even so I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two full years. Then the prophet Jeremiah went his way.
- Jer.28:12 And the word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah after the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke bar from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying,
- Jer.28:13 Go and speak to Hananiah, saying, Thus says Jehovah, You have broken the wooden yoke bars, but you have made in their place iron yoke bars.
- Jer.28:14 For thus says Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, I have put an iron yoke upon the neck of all these nations that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon; and they will serve him. And I have also given the beasts of the field to him.
- Jer.28:15 And the prophet Jeremiah said to the prophet Hananiah, Listen now, O Hananiah, Jehovah has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in falsehood.

- Jer.28:16 Therefore thus says Jehovah, I will send you from the face of the earth. This year you will die because you have spoken rebellion against Jehovah.
- Jer.28:17 And the prophet Hananiah died in that very year in the seventh month.

**V. The book of Jeremiah has as its particular characteristic and standing God's tenderheartedness plus God's righteousness—9:10-11; 23:5-6; 33:16:**

- Jer.9:10 For the mountains I will take up a weeping and wailing, / And for the pastures of the wilderness, a lamentation; / Because they have been burned up so that no one passes through, / And the sound of cattle is not heard; / Both the birds of the sky and the beasts / Have fled and have gone.
- Jer.9:11 And I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, / A habitation of jackals; / And I will make the cities of Judah / A desolation without inhabitant.
- Jer.23:5 Indeed, days are coming, / Declares Jehovah, / When I will raise up to David a righteous Shoot; / And He will reign as King and act prudently / And will execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- Jer.23:6 In His days Judah will be saved, / And Israel will dwell securely; / And this is His name by which He will be called, / Jehovah our righteousness.
- Jer.33:16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely; and this is the name by which she will be called: Jehovah our righteousness.

**A. Our God is a tenderhearted God, full of compassion and sympathy, yet He is absolutely righteous—9:10-11; 23:6.**

- Jer.9:10 For the mountains I will take up a weeping and wailing, / And for the pastures of the wilderness, a lamentation; / Because they have been burned up so that no one passes through, / And the sound of cattle is not heard; / Both the birds of the sky and the beasts / Have fled and have gone.
- Jer.9:11 And I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, / A habitation of jackals; / And I will make the cities of Judah / A desolation without inhabitant.
- Jer.23:6 In His days Judah will be saved, / And Israel will dwell securely; / And this is His name by which He will be called, / Jehovah our righteousness.

**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—Lam. 3:22-23.**

- Lam. 3:22 It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, / For His compassions do not fail;
- Lam. 3:23 They are new every morning; / Great is Your faithfulness.

**C. The words in Jeremiah 9:10-11 and 17-19 express Jehovah's feeling concerning Israel's suffering of His correction:**

- Jer.9:10 For the mountains I will take up a weeping and wailing, / And for the pastures of the wilderness, a lamentation; / Because they have been burned up so that no one passes through, / And the sound of cattle is not heard; / Both the birds of the sky and the beasts / Have fled and have gone.
- Jer.9:11 And I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, / A habitation of jackals; / And I will make the cities of Judah / A desolation without inhabitant.
- Jer.9:17 Thus says Jehovah of hosts, / Consider, and call for the mourning women to come, / And send for the skillful women to come;
- Jer.9:18 Let them hasten and take up a wailing for us, / That our eyes may shed tears / And our eyelids may pour forth water.

Jer.9:19 For a voice of wailing / Was heard from Zion: How we are ruined! / We are utterly put to shame! / For we have forsaken the land / Because they have cast down our dwellings.

1. Although Jehovah was punishing Israel, He was still sympathetic toward them.
2. 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.

Jer.9:18 Let them hasten and take up a wailing for us, / That our eyes may shed tears / And our eyelids may pour forth water.

3. Jehovah Himself was weeping in sympathy with His people.

## **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—3:6-11; 4:3-31; 32:26-27; 33:1-2.

Jer.3:6 Then Jehovah said to me in the days of Josiah the king, Have you seen what Israel the apostate has done? She went up on every high mountain and under every flourishing tree and committed fornication there.

Jer.3:7 And I said, After she has done all these things, she will return to Me; but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it.

Jer.3:8 And I saw that because of all the adultery that Israel the apostate committed I divorced her and gave her a certificate of divorce, yet her sister Judah the treacherous did not fear but went and committed fornication also.

Jer.3:9 And because she treated her fornication lightly, she polluted the land and committed adultery with stones and trees.

Jer.3:10 And yet in spite of all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to Me with all her heart, but instead falsely, declares Jehovah.

Jer.3:11 And Jehovah said to me, Israel the apostate has shown herself to be more righteous than Judah the treacherous.

Jer.4:3 For thus says Jehovah to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem, / Break up your fallow ground, / And do not sow among thorns.

Jer.4:4 Circumcise yourselves to Jehovah, / And remove the foreskins of your heart, / Men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, / Lest My wrath go forth like fire / And burn, and there be no one to quench it / Because of the evil of your deeds.

Jer.4:5 Declare in Judah / And proclaim in Jerusalem, and say: / Blow the trumpet in the land; / Cry aloud and say, / Gather yourselves and let us go / Into the fortified cities.

Jer.4:6 Raise up a standard toward Zion. / Seek refuge; do not stay; / For I am bringing evil from the north, / And great destruction.

Jer.4:7 A lion has come up from his thicket, / And a destroyer of nations has set out. / He has gone forth from his place / To make your land a waste; / Your cities will be ruins, / Without an inhabitant.

Jer.4:8 For this, gird yourselves with sackcloth, / Wail and howl; / For the burning anger of Jehovah / Has not turned away from us.

Jer.4:9 And in that day, declares Jehovah, the heart of the king and the heart of the princes will fail; and the priests will be appalled, and the prophets will be astounded.

Jer.4:10 And I said, Alas, Lord Jehovah, surely You have utterly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, You will have peace; whereas the sword reaches to the soul.

Jer.4:11 At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem, A hot wind from the bare heights in the wilderness toward the daughter of My people, not for winnowing nor for purging

Jer.4:12 (A wind too strong for these), will come from Me; now I will also utter judgments against them.

Jer.4:13 Here he is coming up like clouds, / And his chariots like the whirlwind; / His horses are swifter than eagles. / Woe to us for we are devastated!

Jer.4:14 Wash your heart from wickedness, O Jerusalem, / That you may be saved. / How long will your evil thoughts / Lodge within you?

Jer.4:15 For a voice declares from Dan / And announces affliction from the hill country of Ephraim.

Jer.4:16 Make mention to the nations; yes, / Announce against Jerusalem. / Besiegers are coming from a distant land / And utter their voice against the cities of Judah.

Jer.4:17 Like those who watch over a field, they are against her all around / Because she has rebelled against Me, declares Jehovah.

Jer.4:18 Your way and your deeds / Have caused these things to happen to you. / This is your wickedness. Indeed it is bitter! / Indeed it reaches to your heart!

Jer.4:19 My bowels, my bowels; I am writhing. / Oh, the walls of my heart! / My heart is moaning within me; / I cannot be silent; / For you hear, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, / The alarm of war.

Jer.4:20 Destruction upon destruction is proclaimed, / For the whole land is devastated. / Suddenly my tents are devastated, / And my curtains in a moment.

Jer.4:21 How long will I see the standard, / And hear the sound of the trumpet?

Jer.4:22 For My people are foolish; / They do not know Me. / They are stupid children / And have no understanding. / They are wise to do evil, / But they do not know to do good.

Jer.4:23 I looked at the earth, and there it was, waste and emptiness; / And at the heavens, and they had no light.

Jer.4:24 I looked at the mountains, and there they were, shaking, / And all the hills were swaying.

Jer.4:25 I looked, and there was no man, / And all the birds of the heavens had fled.

Jer.4:26 I looked, and there was the fruitful land, a wilderness, / And all its cities were torn down / Before Jehovah, before His burning anger.

Jer.4:27 For thus says Jehovah, / The whole land will be a desolation, / But I will not make a full end;

Jer.4:28 For this the earth will mourn, / And the heavens above will be dark; / Because I have spoken, I have purposed; / And I have not repented, nor will I turn from it.

Jer.4:29 At the sound of horsemen and archers / Every city flees; / They go into the thickets / And climb up on the rocks. / Every city is forsaken, / And not even one inhabits them.

Jer.4:30 And you, O desolate one, what will you do? / Although you dress in scarlet, / Although you are adorned with ornaments of gold, / Although you enlarge your eyes with paint, / In vain do you beautify yourself; / Your lovers despise you; / They seek your life.

Jer.4:31 For I heard a cry like that of a woman in travail, / Anguish like that of a woman bringing forth her first child, / The sound of the daughter of Zion gasping for breath; / She stretches out her hands, saying, / Woe is me, / For my soul is fainting before murderers.

Jer.32:26 And the word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah, saying,

Jer.32:27 Indeed, I am Jehovah, the God of all flesh. Is anything too wonderful for Me?

Jer.33:1 And the word of Jehovah came to Jeremiah a second time while he was still shut up in the court of the guard, saying,

Jer.33:2 Thus says Jehovah who does it, Jehovah who formed it to establish it—Jehovah is His name—

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—2:1—3:5; 4:19; 9:1, 10.

Jer.2:1 And the word of Jehovah came to me, saying,

Jer.2:2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus says Jehovah: / I remember concerning you the kindness of your youth, / The love of your bridal days, / When you followed after Me in the wilderness, / In a land that was not sown.

Jer.2:3 Israel was holiness to Jehovah, / The firstfruits of His increase; / All who ate of it were guilty; / Evil came upon them, / Declares Jehovah.

Jer.2:4 Hear the word of Jehovah, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel.

Jer.2:5 Thus says Jehovah: / What iniquity did your fathers find in Me / That they went far away from Me / And walked after vanity / And became vain?

Jer.2:6 And they did not say, Where is Jehovah, / Who brought us up from the land of Egypt, / Who brought us through the wilderness, / Through a land of deserts and pits, / Through a land of drought and the shadow of death, / Through a land that no one passes through / And where no man dwells?

Jer.2:7 And I brought you into the land of the fruited field, / To eat its fruit and its goodness. / But you came and defiled My land / And made My inheritance an abomination.

Jer.2:8 The priests did not say, / Where is Jehovah? / And those who handle the law did not know Me, / And the shepherds transgressed against Me, / And the prophets prophesied by Baal / And followed after things that did not benefit them.

Jer.2:9 Therefore I will yet contend with you, declares Jehovah; / And with your children's children I will contend.

Jer.2:10 For pass over to the coastlands of Kittim and see, / And send someone to Kedar and consider carefully, / And see if there has ever been anything like this.

Jer.2:11 Has a nation ever exchanged its gods, / Even though they are no gods? / But My people have exchanged their glory / For that which does not benefit them.

Jer.2:12 Be appalled at this, O heavens, / And be horrified; be very desolate, / Declares Jehovah.

Jer.2:13 For My people have committed two evils: / They have forsaken Me, / The fountain of living waters, / To hew out for themselves cisterns, / Broken cisterns, / Which hold no water.

Jer.2:14 Is Israel a slave? Is he a homeborn slave? / Why has he become a prey?

Jer.2:15 The young lions roared over him; / They sounded their voices. / And they have made his land a waste; / His cities are burned, without inhabitant.

Jer.2:16 Also the children of Memphis and Tahpanhes / Have shaved the crown of your head.

Jer.2:17 Have you not done this to yourself / By your forsaking Jehovah your God / When He was leading you in the way?

Jer.2:18 And now what do you have on the road to Egypt, / To drink the waters of the Shihor? / And what do you have on the road to Assyria, / To drink the waters of the River?

Jer.2:19 Your own wickedness will correct you, / And your apostasies will reprove you. / Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing, / That you have forsaken Jehovah your God / And that My fear is not in you, / Declares the Lord Jehovah of hosts.

Jer.2:20 For long ago you broke your yoke; / You tore off your bonds; / And you said, I will not serve! / Indeed upon every high hill / And under every flourishing tree / You have lain down, you have committed fornication.

Jer.2:21 Yet I, I had planted you as a choice vine, / Wholly a faithful seed. / How then have you turned yourself before Me / Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?

Jer.2:22 For though you wash yourself with lye / And make use of much soap, / Your iniquity remains as a stain before Me, / Declares the Lord Jehovah.

Jer.2:23 How can you say, I am not defiled; / I have not gone after the Baals? / Look at your way in the valley; / Know what you have done. / You are like a swift young camel entangling her ways,

Jer.2:24 Like a wild donkey accustomed to the wilderness, / Panting after the wind in her desire. / In her passion who can turn her away? / None that seek her will weary themselves: / They will find her in her month.

Jer.2:25 Keep your foot from being unshod / And your throat from thirst; / But you said, It is hopeless. / No! For I have loved strangers, / And I will go after them.

Jer.2:26 As the thief is ashamed when he is found, / So the house of Israel is ashamed—/ They, their kings, their princes, / And their priests and their prophets,

Jer.2:27 Who say to a tree, You are my father; / And to a stone, You have brought me forth—/ For they have turned their back to Me, / And not their faces. / Yet in a time of their trouble they will say, / Arise and save us.

Jer.2:28 But where are your gods, whom you made for yourselves? / Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble; / For according to the number of your cities / Are your gods, O Judah.

Jer.2:29 Why do you contend with Me? / You have all transgressed against Me, / Declares Jehovah.

Jer.2:30 In vain I have stricken your children: / They have taken no correction. / Your own sword has devoured your prophets / Like a destroying lion.

Jer.2:31 O generation, attend to the word of Jehovah: / Have I been a wilderness to Israel, / Or a land of deep darkness? / Why do My people say, We roam about; / We will no longer come to You?

Jer.2:32 Can the virgin forget her ornaments, / Or the bride her attire? / But My people have forgotten Me / For days without number.

Jer.2:33 How you prepare your ways / To seek love! / Therefore you have even taught / Wicked women your ways.

Jer.2:34 Also on your skirts is found / The lifeblood of the innocent poor. / You did not find them breaking in, / But killed them because of all these things.

Jer.2:35 But you said, I am innocent; / Surely His anger will turn from me. / I am about to enter into judgment with you, / Because you say, I have not sinned.

Jer.2:36 Why do you go about so much / To change your way? / You will be put to shame by Egypt also, / Even as you were put to shame by Assyria.

Jer.2:37 Indeed, from it you will go forth / With your hands upon your head; / For Jehovah has rejected those in whom you trust, / And you will not prosper by them.

Jer.3:1 It is said, / If a man divorces his wife / And she goes from him / And becomes another man's wife, / Will he return to her again? / Will not that land be / Utterly polluted? / But you have committed fornication with many lovers. / Yet return to Me, declares Jehovah.

Jer.3:2 Lift up your eyes to the bare heights and see: / Where have you not been ravished? / By the roads you sat for them, / Like an Arab in the desert; / And you have polluted the land / With your fornication and your wickedness.

Jer.3:3 Therefore the showers have been withheld, / And there has been no spring rain. / But you have had a harlot's forehead; / You refused to be ashamed.

Jer.3:4 Have you not just now called out to Me, My Father, / You are the guide of my youth?

Jer.3:5 Will He preserve His anger forever? / Will He keep it perpetually? / This you have spoken; yet you have done what evil things / That you could.

Jer.4:19 My bowels, my bowels; I am writhing. / Oh, the walls of my heart! / My heart is moaning within me; / I cannot be silent; / For you hear, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, / The alarm of war.

Jer.9:1 Oh, that my head were waters, / And my eye a fountain of tears, / That I might weep day and night / For the slain of the daughter of my people!

Jer.9:10 For the mountains I will take up a weeping and wailing, / And for the pastures of the wilderness, a lamentation; / Because they have been burned up so that no one passes through, / And the sound of cattle is not heard; / Both the birds of the sky and the beasts / Have fled and have gone.

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—8:18-19,21-22; 9:1-2; 10:19-25.

Jer.8:18 Oh, that there were comforting to me in sorrow! / My heart within me is faint.

- Jer.8:19 It is the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people / From a land very far away: / Is Jehovah not in Zion? / Is her King not in her? / Why have they provoked Me to anger / With their graven images and with strange idols?
- Jer.8:21 For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken. / I mourn; horror has taken hold of me.
- Jer.8:22 Is there no balm in Gilead? / Is there no physician there? / Why then has the recovery of the daughter of my people / Not occurred?
- Jer.9:1 Oh, that my head were waters, / And my eye a fountain of tears, / That I might weep day and night / For the slain of the daughter of my people!
- Jer.9:2 Oh, that I had a traveler's lodging place in the wilderness / That I might leave my people and go away from them, / For all of them are adulterers and an assembly of treacherous men.
- Jer.10:19 Woe is me because of my hurt! / My wound is grievous. / But I said, Truly this is my affliction, / And I must bear it.
- Jer.10:20 My tent is destroyed, and all my cords are broken; / My children have gone from me and they are not; / There is no one who will spread out my tent again / And set up my curtains.
- Jer.10:21 For the shepherds are stupid / And have not sought Jehovah; / Therefore they have not prospered, / And all their flock is scattered.
- Jer.10:22 The sound of a report! Here it comes, / Even a great commotion from the land of the north, / To make the cities of Judah / A desolation, a habitation of jackals.
- Jer.10:23 I know, O Jehovah, / That a man's way is not in himself; / It is not in the man who walks / To direct his step.
- Jer.10:24 Correct me, O Jehovah, but in measure, / Not in Your anger lest You bring me to nothing.
- Jer.10:25 Pour out Your wrath on the nations / Who do not know You / And upon the families / Who do not call upon Your name; / For they have devoured Jacob, yes, devoured him and brought him to an end, / And they have desolated his habitation.

**D. Jeremiah wept on God's behalf; his weeping expressed God's weeping—4:19; 9:1; 13:17:**

- Jer.4:19 My bowels, my bowels; I am writhing. / Oh, the walls of my heart! / My heart is moaning within me; / I cannot be silent; / For you hear, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, / The alarm of war.
- Jer.9:1 Oh, that my head were waters, / And my eye a fountain of tears, / That I might weep day and night / For the slain of the daughter of my people!
- Jer.13:17 And if you will not hear it, / My soul will weep in secret places for your pride; / And my eye will weep bitterly and shed tears, / Because the flock of Jehovah has been taken captive.

**1. In his weeping Jeremiah represented God—9:10.**

- Jer.9:10 For the mountains I will take up a weeping and wailing, / And for the pastures of the wilderness, a lamentation; / Because they have been burned up so that no one passes through, / And the sound of cattle is not heard; / Both the birds of the sky and the beasts / Have fled and have gone.

**2. We may say that God wept within Jeremiah's weeping, for in his weeping Jeremiah was one with God—13:17.**

- Jer.13:17 And if you will not hear it, / My soul will weep in secret places for your pride; / And my eye will weep bitterly and shed tears, / Because the flock of Jehovah has been taken captive.

**E. Because Jeremiah often wept, even wailed, he is called the weeping prophet—Lam. 1:16; 2:11; 3:48:**

- Lam. 1:16 For these things I weep; / My eye, my eye runs down with water, / For the comforter who should revive my soul / Is far from me; / My children have become desolate, / Because the enemy has prevailed.
- Lam. 2:11 My eyes are consumed with tears; / My bowels are in ferment; / My liver is poured out on the earth, / Because of the brokenness of the daughter of my people, / Because the little ones and the nursing children / Faint in the streets of the city.
- Lam. 3:48 My eye runs down with streams of water / For the destruction of the daughter of my people.

1. Although God was grieved and hurt because of His people, He had to find someone on earth who had these feelings.
2. 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.
3. As we read the book of Jeremiah, we can sense that, although he wept, his emotion had been disciplined—4:19; 9:1,10; 13:17.

Jer.4:19 My bowels, my bowels; I am writhing. / Oh, the walls of my heart! / My heart is moaning within me; / I cannot be silent; / For you hear, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, / The alarm of war.

Jer.9:1 Oh, that my head were waters, / And my eye a fountain of tears, / That I might weep day and night / For the slain of the daughter of my people!

Jer.9:10 For the mountains I will take up a weeping and wailing, / And for the pastures of the wilderness, a lamentation; / Because they have been burned up so that no one passes through, / And the sound of cattle is not heard; / Both the birds of the sky and the beasts / Have fled and have gone.

Jer.13:17 And if you will not hear it, / My soul will weep in secret places for your pride; / And my eye will weep bitterly and shed tears, / Because the flock of Jehovah has been taken captive.

4. Jeremiah's sorrowful and weeping emotion had been disciplined and restricted so that God could come to him and use him to express the sorrowful feelings that were in His heart.

## **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—James 5:11; Exo. 34:6; Psa. 103:8:**

James 5:11 Behold, we call those who endured blessed. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen his end from the Lord, that the Lord is very tenderhearted and compassionate.

Exo. 34:6 Then Jehovah passed by before him and proclaimed, Jehovah, Jehovah, God compassionate and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth,

Psa. 103:8 Jehovah is compassionate and gracious, / Long-suffering and abundant in lovingkindness.

- A. A spiritual person is full of emotions; the more spiritual we are, the richer our emotions are—1 Cor. 4:21; 2 Cor. 6:11; 7:3; 10:1; 12:15:

1 Cor. 4:21 What do you want? Should I come to you with a rod or in love and a spirit of meekness?

2 Cor. 6:11 Our mouth is opened to you, Corinthians; our heart is enlarged.

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.

2 Cor. 10:1 But I myself, Paul, entreat you through the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who (as you say) in person am base among you, but while absent am bold toward you,

2 Cor. 12:15 But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved less?

1. We need the Lord to work on us until our feelings are fine and tender.
  2. 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—4:16.
- 2 Cor. 4:16    Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
- B.    In the church life we need to be tenderhearted with one another—Eph. 4:32:
- Eph. 4:32    And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.
1. 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—Luke 6:37; Eph. 4:32.
- Luke 6:37    And do not judge, and you shall by no means be judged; and do not condemn, and you shall by no means be condemned; release, and you will be released;
- Eph. 4:32    And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.
2. 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—Acts 20:19, 31; Phil. 3:18:
- Acts 20:19    Serving the Lord as a slave with all humility and tears and trials which came upon me by the plots of the Jews;
- Acts 20:31    Therefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I did not cease admonishing each one with tears.
- Phil. 3:18    For many walk, of whom I have told you often and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ,
1. If we do not know how to weep or shed tears, we are not very spiritual.
  2. 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—Acts 20:19, 31.
- Acts 20:19    Serving the Lord as a slave with all humility and tears and trials which came upon me by the plots of the Jews;
- Acts 20:31    Therefore watch, remembering that for three years, night and day, I did not cease admonishing each one with tears.
- D.    “Out of much affliction and anguish of heart” Paul wrote to the Corinthians “through many tears”—2 Cor. 2:4:
- 2 Cor. 2:4    For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you through many tears, not that you would be made sorrowful but that you would know the love which I have more abundantly toward you.
1. Paul’s expression was tender and filled with the intimate concern of the ministering life—11:28; 12:15.
- 2 Cor. 11:28    Apart from the things which have not been mentioned, there is this: the crowd of cares pressing upon me daily, the anxious concern for all the churches.
- 2 Cor. 12:15    But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved less?
2. In 2 Corinthians 7 Paul conveyed a deep, tender, and intimate concern for the Corinthians; his word was very touching—vv. 2-3.

- 2 Cor. 7:1 Therefore since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and of spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- 2 Cor. 7:2 Make room for us; we have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one.
- 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.
- 2 Cor. 7:4 Great is my boldness toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf; I am filled with comfort, I overflow with joy in all our affliction.
- 2 Cor. 7:5 For even when we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted in everything; without were fightings, within were fears.
- 2 Cor. 7:6 But He who comforts those who are downcast, that is, God, comforted us by the coming of Titus;
- 2 Cor. 7:7 And not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted because of you, declaring to us your longing, your lamentation, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced the more.
- 2 Cor. 7:8 For though I caused you sorrow by the letter, I do not regret it. Even if I did regret it (for I see that that letter, even if for an hour, caused you sorrow),
- 2 Cor. 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to God, that in nothing you might suffer loss from us.
- 2 Cor. 7:10 For sorrow according to God works repentance unto salvation, which is without regret; but the sorrow of the world works out death.
- 2 Cor. 7:11 For behold this very thing, your being made sorrowful according to God, what earnestness it has worked out in you, indeed what defense, indeed what indignation, indeed what fear, indeed what longing, indeed what zeal, indeed what punishment! In everything you have commended yourselves to be pure in the matter.
- 2 Cor. 7:12 So then, though I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of him who did the wrong, nor for the sake of him who was wronged, but for the sake of manifesting to you before God your earnestness for us.
- 2 Cor. 7:13 Because of this we have been comforted. And in addition to our comfort, we rejoiced more abundantly over the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you.
- 2 Cor. 7:14 For if in anything I boasted to him on your behalf, I have not been put to shame; on the contrary, as we spoke all things in truth to you, so also our boasting before Titus turned out to be the truth.
- 2 Cor. 7:15 And his affections are abundantly toward you, he remembering the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.
- 2 Cor. 7:16 I rejoice that in everything I have boldness because of you.

3. Because Paul's expression was tender and filled with intimate concern, it had power and impact, and it was able to touch the believers deeply.

E. When, in the church life, we pass through the valley of Baca (weeping), God makes this valley a spring; this spring is the Spirit—Psa. 84:6; John 4:14; 7:38-39:

- Psa. 84:6 Passing through the valley of Baca, / They make it a spring; / Indeed the early rain covers it with blessings.
- John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life.
- John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
- John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

1. The more we weep on the highways to Zion (Psa. 84:5), the more we receive the Spirit; while we are weeping, we are being filled with the Spirit, and the Spirit becomes our spring.

Psa. 84:5      Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, / In whose heart are the highways to Zion.

2. The tears we shed are our own, but these tears issue in a spring, which becomes the early rain, the Spirit as the blessing—Zech. 10:1; Gal. 3:14; Eph. 1:3.

Zech. 10:1    Ask rain of Jehovah / At the time of spring rain, / Of Jehovah who makes the lightning, / And He will give them showers of rain, / To everyone herbage in the field.

Gal. 3:14     In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Eph. 1:3      Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,