


A FIRE IN MY BONES — JEREMIAH 20:7-13

If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. (20:9)



JEREMIAH HAD A HARD LIFE

“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.” (1:5)



“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.” (1:7-8)

Jeremiah preached – Israel would not repent

Specific sins he identified included idolatry (Jeremiah 44:1-30); adultery (Jeremiah 5:7-9; 7:9); oppressing the foreigners, orphans and widows (Jeremiah 7:5-6); lying and slander (Jeremiah 9:4-6); and Sabbath-breaking. (Jeremiah 17:19-27)

And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind. (7:31)

Jeremiah Complains To God

Jeremiah was warned: ***“Do not be afraid of them, for I will be with you and rescue you” (Jeremiah 1:8)***. Then he said it again: ***“They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD (1:19)***

“I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.
8 For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.” (20:7b-8)

Jeremiah Complains To God

“I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long. (20:7b-8).

“I hear many whispering, ‘Terror on every side! Report him! Let’s report him! ‘All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying ‘Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him’” (20:10).

Jeremiah Had A Fire In His Bones

“But if I say, ‘I will not mention him or speak any more in his name,’ his word is in my heart like a burning fire, shut up in my bones. I am weary of hold it in; indeed, I cannot” (20:9).

“But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten” (20:11)

“Is not my word like a fire,” declares the LORD (23:29)

Jeremiah Presented A Great Example

Jeremiah's message was necessary to empty Israel's pride and prepare their heart to hear the message of one who could rescue them.

Men and women need a similar message today.

In all his misery, Jeremiah preached , "Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! Why? Because he rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked" (20:13).

