

The Call of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1 – 6

by Don Falkos

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The Lord said to Jeremiah, "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart to be my spokesman. You are to go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. Don't be afraid. I will protect you. You will stand against nations: some you will uproot and tear down; others you will plant and build up. Now, tell me what you see?"

"I see a branch from an almond tree."

"Yes. That means I am watching and will do what I say. Now what do you see?"

"I see a pot of boiling water tipping from the north."

"Yes. Armies from the north will boil out onto Judah for my people have prostituted themselves by worshiping idols. They treat my temple with contempt by always returning to their evil ways. They have turned away from me – the spring of living water – and have dug cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all. They are full of treachery; not one of them is honest."

The Lord sent Jeremiah to the people to say, "Because of your idolatry, a powerful army is coming from a distant land bringing disaster and destruction and taking you into exile. Listen to this warning, or you will be turned into a heap of ruins. The Lord says, 'Come home to me. Admit your guilt. I will bring you back to this land and provide you with wise leaders. Others from every nation will join you and Jerusalem will become a refuge and a holy place.' "