

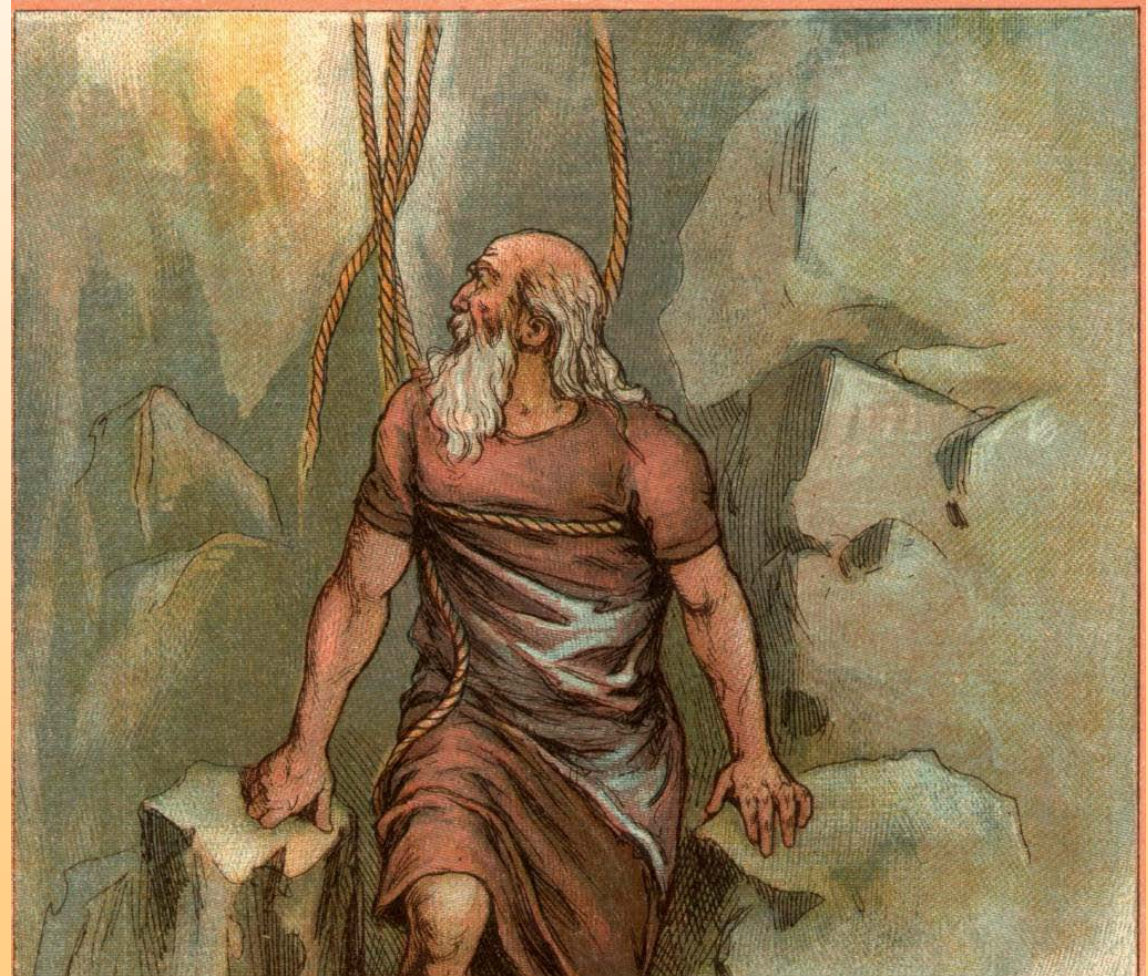
# More Woes for the Prophet

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Jeremiah 20: 7.



"O Lord, You induced me,  
and I was persuaded;  
You are stronger than I,  
and have prevailed.  
I am in derision daily;  
Everyone mocks me."  
Jeremiah 20: 7.





# I. Introduction

The Prophetic role is very challenging because of the resistance of his audience. The mockery and the derision are common things in the life of every true prophet of God.



"Your dignity can be mocked, abused, compromised, toyed with, lowered and even badmouthed, but it can never be taken from you. You have the power today to reset your boundaries, restore your image, start fresh with renewed values and rebuild what has happened to you in the past."

Shannon L. Alder



“A person with a scoffing and mocking spirit aggressively disdains that which other people value. In other words these people have made certain fundamental decisions about how they will process new input. The person with a critical spirit searches for all the tiny, tiny mistakes. That is the first thing they look for, their mental activity is geared towards proving their theory that I am right and you are wrong, I am OK and you are not OK”. Since everyone human being has faults this is quite easy to accomplish. They forget that God is watching them and that one day they will also be judged.”

John Edmiston



“Unless a man gives himself entirely to the Cross, in a spirit of humility and self-abasement; unless he casts himself down to be trampled underfoot by all and despised, accepting injustice, contempt and mockery; unless he undergoes all these things with joy for the sake of the Lord, not claiming any kind of human reward whatsoever – glory or honor or earthly pleasures – he cannot become a true Christian.”  
Mark the Ascetic, 5<sup>th</sup> century, “Letter to Nicolas the Solitary”, The Philokalia:  
The Complete Text (Vol. 1)



"Only the degraded want to  
degrade others."  
Marty Rubin



“Words have the power of life and death,” Matt Chandler.





“Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfils the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things.”  
Winston Churchill



“God regularly sent His messengers because He loved His people. Unfortunately they rejected the prophets and mocked their words. They totally forgot that by rejecting His prophets they rejected God Himself. They failed to understand there is impossibility to eliminate God from their life. God cannot be mocked.”  
(DS)



# II. Context





'Our text belongs to the 'Confessions of Jeremiah'. (11:18-23, 12:1-6; 15:10-21; 17:14-18; 18:18-23; 20:7-18). Through these passages Jeremiah is not only presenting God's word to him, but is underlining the impact of his prophetic ministry on his everyday life.'



“Jeremiah offers the reader of the Bible a window into his interior grappling, a rare glimpse into the daily struggle of the man with the unenviable task of heralding the destruction of the kingdom of Judah.”

Daniel Walter



# The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah: Structure

A	Ch. 1	Prologue: Vocation of Jeremiah and prediction about Babylon
B	Ch. 2 - 10	Prophecies regarding Judah
C	Ch. 11 - 20	Confessions of Jeremiah
D	Ch. 21 - 29	Nebuchadnezzar punishing the king Zedekiah and Jerusalem
E	Ch. 30 - 33	The New Covenant and the new Consolation
D'	Ch. 34 - 35	Sin of the king Zedekiah
C'	Ch. 36 - 45	Suffering of Jeremiah
B'	Ch. 46 - 51	Prophecies regarding the Nations
A	Ch. 52	Epilogue: Fall of Jerusalem and fulfillment of the prophecy about Babylon



# Chronology of Biblical Prophets

Supremacy	To Israel	To Judah	Mainly To Other Nations
Assyrian Age	AMOS (763 – 750 B.C.)	ISAIAH (7 – 750 B.C.)	JONAH (770 – 750 B.C.)
	HOSEA (755 – 715 B.C.)	MICAH (737 – 690 B.C.)	
	Fall of SAMARIA (722 B. C.)		
Babylonian Age		HABAKKUK (630 – 605 B.C.)	NAHUM (640 - 615?)
		ZEPHANIA (640 – 609 B.C.)	
		JOEL (620?)	
		JEREMIAH (627 – 580 B.C.)	
		EZECKIEL (593 – 570 B.C.)	
		DANIEL (605 – 530 B.C.)	
		Fall of JERUSALEM (586 B. C.)	
Persian Age		HAGGAI (520 B. C.)	Fall of BABYLON (539 B. C.)
		ZECHARIAH (520 – 518 B. C.)	
		MALACHI (425 B. C.?)	

III. Despite the challenges,  
the Prophet Jeremiah  
accomplished his ministry  
with dignity and inspired so  
many generations with the  
certitude that God is in  
control of the events,  
according to His Plan of  
Salvation



# 1. Difficulty of the Prophetic Ministry

"O Lord, You induced me,  
and I was persuaded."

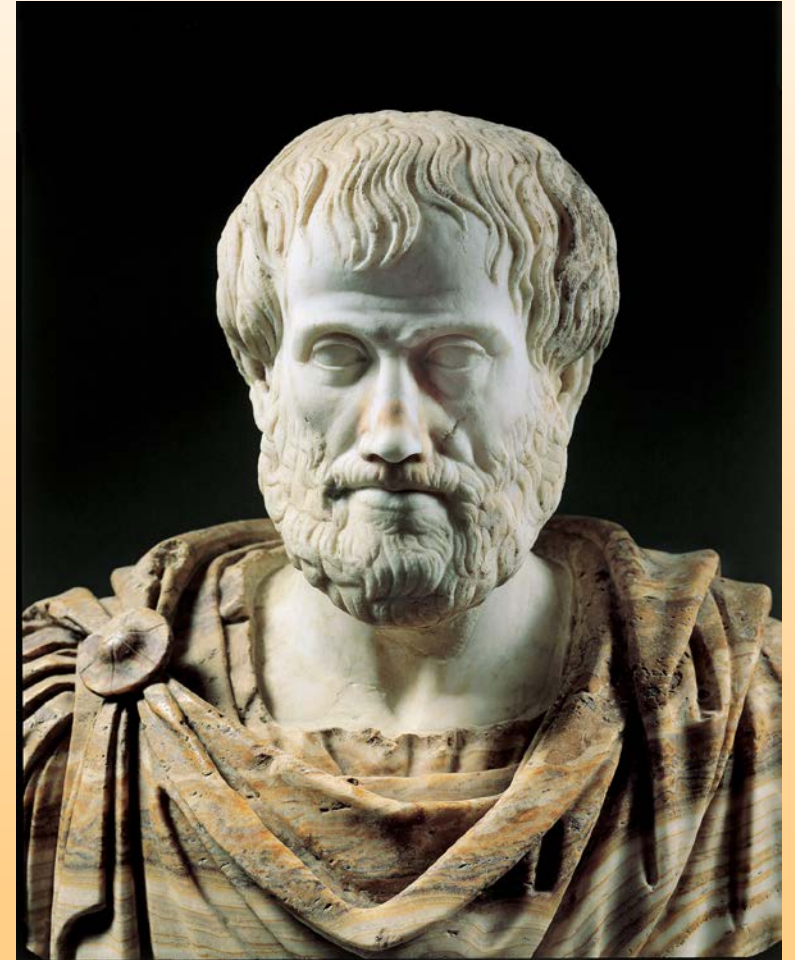




“If I had known what I know now,  
ten horses wouldn't have driven me  
to it. Moses and Jeremiah also  
complained that they were deceived.”  
Martin Luther, Tabletalk, No. 406



"To avoid criticism say nothing, do nothing,  
be nothing."  
Aristotle



"Since God sees fit to delegate angels to minister unto all who are in need of help, we know that if we do our part, these heavenly representatives of omnipotent power will be commissioned to help in this time of special need. I hope and pray that everything which can be done may be done. If all will now do what they can, the difficulty will soon be in the past, no more to harass the cause of God."  
Ellen G. White, RH March 19, 1901, par. 16.





2. Responding to the call  
is the result of a robust  
discussion with the Lord  
“You are stronger than I,  
and have prevailed.”



“Every outcome of every challenge should reveal how God supplies the grace to make it through the seemingly impossible.”

Leo Patalinghug



« God's calling is very often a confrontation with the Almighty. It is a sudden experience, without a preparation. This can be considered as a divine eruption, transforming the life of an individual and uprooting the life of the prophet.”  
Joëlle Ferry

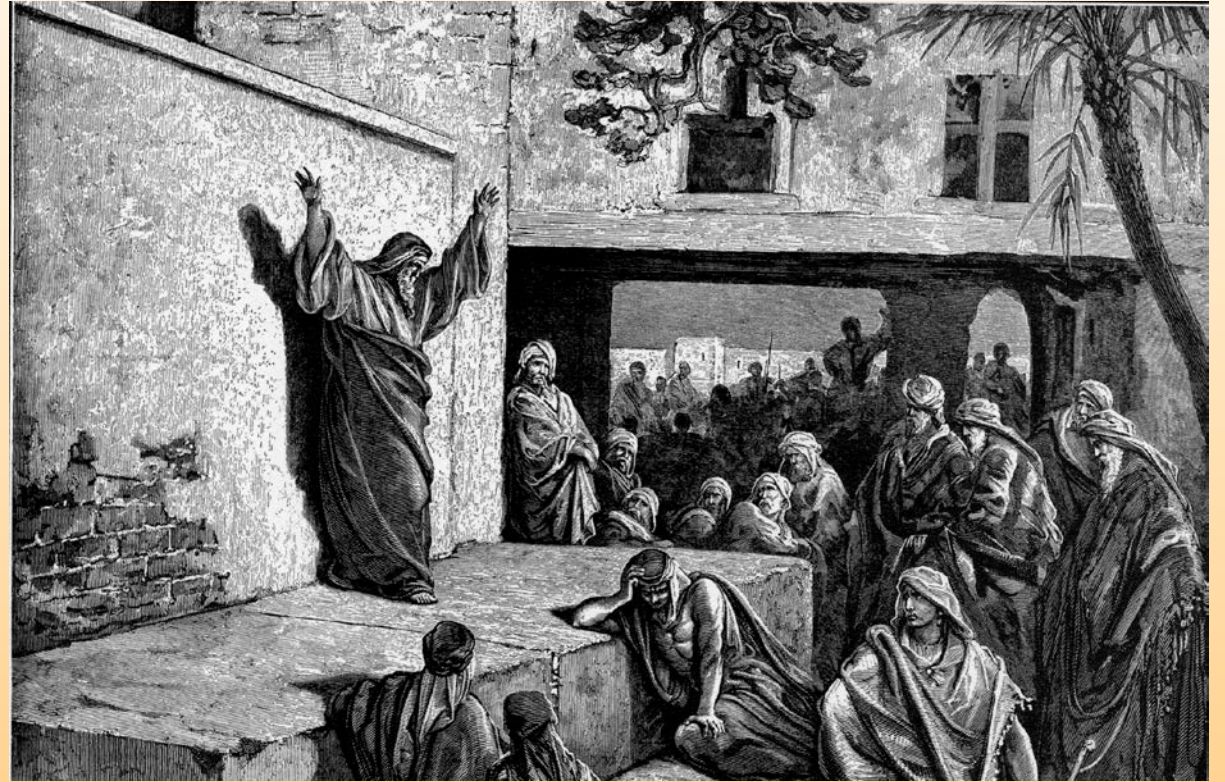




"We are faced with pressure from the very earliest moments of life. It was the exertion of pressure that escorted us from our mother's womb into the waiting arms of the doctor. Pressure is a fact of life. There is no place you can go to escape it. Pressure is not necessarily a bad thing. How we handle and manage the pressure in our lives will determine the fulfillment and success we experience in life. Pressure is basically resistance. It is the result of force being applied by something against something else. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, acknowledges the presence of resistance in his pursuit of his calling. We likewise face resistance in our pursuit of God's calling for our lives. In Ephesians 6: 10 Paul reveals the source of our opposition when he states: 'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers...'"

Jim Matthews

3. There is a high level of resistance among God's people regarding the prophetic ministry  
"I am in derision daily; Everyone mocks me."



“The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear.”

Herbert Sebastien Agar





“Tell a nation that judgment is at its doorstep, and the best you can hope for is to be mocked and ridiculed. Tell a nation that for some as yet unexplained reason God will continue to overlook its evil and rejection of Him, and it will continue to prosper, and you will be loved and adored, called prophet and embraced by all.

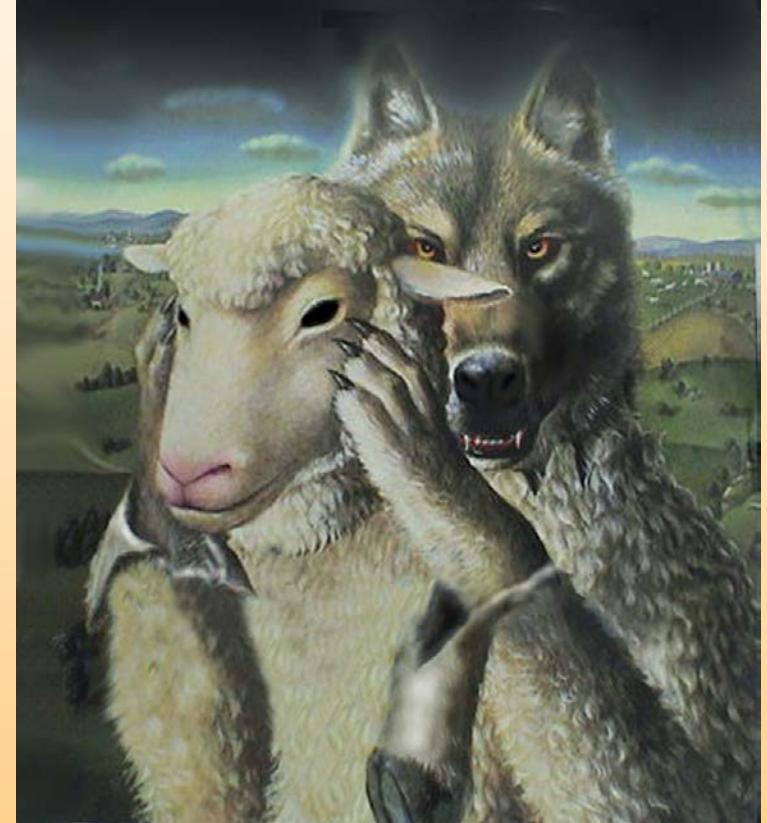
True prophetic ministries are unpopular, they are uncompromising they strive to do the work of God, even to their own discomfort and personal sacrifice. True prophetic ministries are unconcerned with men’s opinions about them, they often times speak the words given them, hoping in their hearts they do not come to pass, they are mocked, rejected and misunderstood, yet they do the work nonetheless, for it is their calling, their duty, and their reasonable service to God.”

Ajay Varghese

“Because prophecies are messages from God, they are not easily dismissed. We naturally resist God's words, for His ways and thoughts are as different from our ways and thoughts as the heavens are high above the earth. However, prophecy resists our resistance. Prophecy stands up for itself. It fights against our hardness of heart. Because prophecy cannot be chained (2 Tm 2:9), easily brushed off, or forgotten, it is easier to throw the prophets out of town or to kill them than it is to dismiss their prophecies (see Am 7:12).

Instead of rejecting prophecy and persecuting prophets, pray to receive prophecy. Pray: "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening (1 Sam 3:9). Lord, penetrate and purify my heart with Your prophetic word."

“False prophets were prosperous for a long period of time. Everything went well for their ministry. They were preaching peace. They were patriotic and protective of all ('Jerusalem will not be destroyed'; no famine for the country, etc.) They were popular and well accepted. However, they contributed significantly to the 70 years of Exile and to the destruction of the city. Only the messages coming from the true prophets contained in reality God's message of protection, of truth, and of love.”  
(DS)





# V. Conclusion



“Christ sought to save the world, not by conformity to it, but by revealing to the world the transforming power of the grace of God to mold and fashion the human character after the likeness of the character of Christ. To go over to the world in our practices will not influence the world to change its principles and practices. With an eye single to the glory of God, we are to live above the world, and yet in every way we are to seek to let the heavenly light shine forth in Christlike actions, and thus exert a powerful influence to save sinners. The moment a professed Christian goes over the line, and follows the fashions of the world, he becomes an idolater, and a stumbling block to sinners. You can draw the world with you only as you wear Christ’s yoke; but you can have no influence upon the world in lowering yourself to its low level. Remember, Christ gave Himself to save you, and you can do no less than give yourself to save souls for whom Christ died.” Ellen G. White, Ms62, August 18, 1894, par. 40.

“Popular revivals are too often carried by appeals to the imagination, by exciting the emotions, by gratifying the love for what is new and startling. Converts thus gained have little desire to listen to Bible truth, little interest in the testimony of prophets and apostles. Unless a religious service has something of a sensational character, it has no attractions for them. A message which appeals to unimpassioned reason, awakens no response. The plain warnings of God’s Word, relating directly to their eternal interests, are unheeded. With every truly converted soul the relation to God and to eternal things will be the great topic of life.”  
Ellen G. White, Great Controversy, p. 463.



“What is the best attitude when we come to the prophetic word of God? “Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening (1 Sam 3:9).”  
(DS)



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