

## Structure of Jeremiah

This structure is based on the text found in an English Bible based on the Masoretic Text of Jeremiah

- 1:1-19 Call of Jeremiah vv1-3 Introduction to the book as a whole 4-19 call of the prophet. God's words are in poetry 2 visions in prose. Charge in prose
- 2:1 – 6.30 Pronouncements of judgement and calls to repent. Mainly in poetic form. Some passages of descriptive explanation in prose eg 3:6-10 and 3:15-18 and 4:11-12. Basically early prophecies inc ref to "Foe from the North"
- 7:1 – 10:25 The people's falseness in worship  
Ch 7 – 8:3 Prose Ch 7 Temple Sermon, instruction for the prophet about criticism of the cult, intercession, burn offerings, criticism of the people, child sacrifice.  
8:4 – 9:26 collection of poems punishment and lamentation for Judah. Two passages in prose 9:12 – 16 and 9:23 – 27.
- 11:1 – 20:18 Falseness in the covenant  
11:1 – 13:27 11:1-17 Prose 3 sections  
11:18 – 12:6 First of Jeremiah's confessions  
12:7 – 13 Poetry  
12:14 – 17 Prose  
13:1-14 Prose – waistcloth  
13:15-27 Poetry - Instruction to the king and queen  
14:1 – 17:27 14:1 – 10 Poem against Judah  
14:11 -16 Prose God will not hear the prayer of Judah  
14:17 – 15:9 Poems – God's distress over Judah  
15:10 – 21 Second of Jeremiah's confessions  
16:1 –21 Jeremiah not to take a wife – doom of Judah – prayer  
17:1 – 13 Poems and Prose  
17:14 – 18 Third confession of Jeremiah  
17:19 – 27 Prose section about Sabbath spoken at the Benjamin Gate  
18:1 – 20:18 18:1 – 12 Prose Jeremiah at the potter's house  
18:13 – 17 poem about apostasy  
18:18 – 23 Fourth confession of Jeremiah  
19 Jeremiah breaks the potter's flask in Topheth  
20:1 – 6 Pashur beat Jeremiah and put him in the stocks  
20:7 – 13 Fifth confession of Jeremiah  
20:14 – 18 Sixth confession of Jeremiah  
21:1 – 24:10 21:1 – 10 Prose Zedekiah seeking the fate of the city because of the Babylonian threat. God's answer –poem  
22:1 – 5 D editor?  
22:6 – 17 poems against people of the city  
22:18 – 23 Fate of Jehoiakim and Lebanon  
22:24 – 30 Fate of Jehoiachin (Coniah)  
23:1 – 3 Woe to the shepherds Prose  
23: 5 – 8 Oracles of restoration – Righteous branch  
23:9 – 40 cycle of prose and poems concerning the prophets

- 24:1 – 10 Prose describing Jeconiah's removal to Babylon – vision of two baskets of figs with explanation.
- 25:1 – 14 Summary of part 1
- 25:15 – 38 Cup of wine incident with list of nations –prose
- 25:30 – 38 Denunciation of the nations - poetry
- 26 - 29
- 26 Jeremiah preaches in the Temple in the reign of Jehoiakim
- 27 Jeremiah preaches against the prophets and urges the rulers to submit to Babylon – at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah
- 28 Dispute and prophecy against Hannaniah in the same years
- 29 Prophecy sent by Jeremiah to those in Exile in Babylon including a warning against false prophets
- 30:1 – 33:26 Book of Consolation
- 30:1 – 31:22 Cycle of poems of restoration
- 31:23 – 31:34 Prose addition to the poems of consolation about the New Covenant esp 31:31- 34
- 31:35 – 37 Additional poem
- 31:38 – 40 Prose conclusion marking out the sacred area
- 32:1-5 Prose introduction to the capture of Zedekiah
- 32:6 – 32:15 Jeremiah purchases the field at Anathoth
- 32:16 – 42 Judgement on the city and its people but verses of hope for restoration are added Prose section
- 33:1 – 13 Prophecies about the coming of the Chaldeans but restoration will follow (voice of the bridegroom and bride vv 10-11
- 33:14 – 16 A righteous branch will spring forth
- 33:17 – 26 God's covenant cannot be broken
- 34:1 – 36:32 King and people refuse the word of Jeremiah
- 34:1 – 7 Jeremiah speaks to Zedekiah
- 34:8 – 23 Emancipation of slaves – then decision reversed – sermon by Jeremiah
- 35 In Jehoiakim's reign - Incident with the Rechabites – they are an example to the people
- 36:1 – 3 Jeremiah orders the writing of the scroll in 4<sup>th</sup> year of Jehoiakim 605
- 36:4 – 10 Baruch takes the scroll to the temple during a feast
- 36:11 – 19 Baruch is warned to go and hide with Jeremiah
- 36:20 – 32 Scroll is taken to the king who burns it – Jeremiah sets Baruch to write another copy
- 37:1 – 39:18 Up to the fall of Judah and Jerusalem 597 – 587BC
- 37:1 – 2 Scene setting after 597 and the removal of Jehoiachin
- 37:3 – 38:28 Fortunes of Jeremiah before the Fall.
- 37:11 – 15 Jeremiah is arrested for attempting to leave the city to go to the Land of Benjamin to receive his portion
- 38 He is thrown in to a pit by the princes but rescued by Ebedmelech an Ethiopian and is kept safe
- By the king who listens to Jeremiah's advice but does not act on it
- 39:1 – 10 Fall of Jerusalem and capture of Zedekiah

- 39:11 – 14 Nebuchadnezzar arranges for Jeremiah's safety
- 39:15 – 18 Prophecy to Jeremiah while he was shut up in the court of the Guard
- 40:1 – 45:5 Fate of those who were left after the Babylonian destruction
- 40:1 – 6 Release of Jeremiah
- 40:7 – 16 Gedaliah made governor of the land by the Babylonians
- 41:1 – 6 Murder of Gedaliah and Babylonian soldiers by Ishmael son of Nethaniah
- 41:7 – 18 Johanan the son of Kareah rescues the people taken by Ishmael  
And takes them to Geruth Chimham in preparation to go to Egypt
- 42:1 – 6 Communal appeal to Jeremiah
- 42:7 – 22 Sermon by Jeremiah against a flight to Egypt
- 43:1 – 7 Response to Jeremiah's advice not to go to Egypt
- 43:8 – 13 Incident in Egypt with large stones set in the pavement
- 44 Denunciation of the Jewish communities in Egypt and their responses
- 45 Prose oracle by Jeremiah in 605BC (4<sup>th</sup> year of Jehoiakim)
- 46 – 51 Oracles against the nations
- 46:1 Title announcing the oracles against the nations
- 46:2 – 26 Poetic oracle against Egypt with prose explanations
- 47:1 – 7 Poetic oracle against the Philistines with prose introduction
- 48:1 – 47 Poetic and prose denunciations against Moab
- 49:1 – 6 Poetic denunciation of the Ammonites
- 49:7 – 22 Prose and poetic words against Edom
- 49:23 – 27 Poetic oracle against Damascus
- 49:28 – 33 Poetic denunciation of Kedar and Hazor
- 49:34 – 39 Prose denunciation of Elam (dated in the text to 597BC)  
Beginning of the reign of Zedekiah –  
39 has a note of restoration for Elam
- 50:1 – 51:59 Prose and poetic denunciations of Babylon
- 51:59 – 64 Prose conclusion to the words spoken against Babylon explaining they were written in a book in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Zedekiah's reign  
593BC
- 52:1 – 34 Further account of the fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple
- 52:1 – 3a Summary of Zedekiah's rule
- 52:3b – 11 Fall of Jerusalem and Zedekiah's fate
- 52:12 – 16 Destruction of Jerusalem and deportation
- 52:17 – 23 Transportation of temple furnishings
- 52:24 – 27 Execution of leading citizens
- 52:28 – 30 Statistics of three deportations
- 52:31 – 34 Release of Jehoiachin from prison

For this last section 52:1 – 34 see 2 Kings 24:18 – 25:30