

JEREMIAH: GOD'S WORSHIP LEADER

The theme of this first piece is to show that Jeremiah was God's chosen worship leader in Judah; full six centuries before Christ. No prophet was called by God to serve as worship spokesman in the unique manner he was.

Jeremiah sought to bring people back to true worship of God. What he did should guide our worship leaders today. So! Why not *resurrect* Jeremiah to serve God today? You mean resurrect a guy that's been dead for 2500 years? What could he say that would make sense today? End of the matter! But not so! If God used Jeremiah then, couldn't he use him again? Not literally, of course! But God could use his great spirit and skills resurrected in you and in me in the Spirit.

Thinking to yourself that you could be another Jeremiah is not far fetched. Jeremiah lived during a time like our own: a period when people were fixed upon forms and styles of worship rather than upon obedience to God. People thronged week after week into the temple. They expected God to satisfy their personal wants and desires even though they ignored his holy laws. God spoke loud and clear through the mouth of his prophet:

"My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns that can hold no water." (2:13)

God sought to confront frequent worshipers through Jeremiah's warning. He brought God's Word directly to worshipers entering the gate of the Lord's house. Should they respond to his message, he would send them out to bless the nation.

I employ the phrase *frequent worshipers* in a specific manner. They are people who attend the temple just to attend the temple. They participate in religious services to feel spiritually satisfied about themselves.

However, is this true worship? Biblical worship? Doesn't such religious practice focus upon their **gain** rather than God's **glory**? Hasn't God become a pawn in pursuing religious pleasure rather than a blessed Redeemer in renewing lives?

Doesn't God call worship leaders today to wake up frequent worshipers to *bone fide* worship? Making humble and willful obedience to Christ in dealing with issues in their daily lives. Working out their obedience to Christ by addressing the needs of the poor, widows, oppressed, and the unsaved. As resurrected Jeremiahs.

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