

Sefer Yirmiyahu – The strange order of the chapters

Source sheet for shiur by Menachem Leibtag

I. The Forty Years of Yirmiyahu's prophecies [18+11+11]

A- 18 w/Yoshiyahu – [From Year 13 of his reign until his death in Year 31]

Year 13 - National teshuva begins [based on II DH 34:1-8] / Ashur falls

Year 18 - Renovation of Temple; when they find the 'sefer torah'

Year 31 - Yoshiyahu's tragic death at Megiddo, fighting Pharaoh Necho

[Yehoyakim becomes King with support of Pharaoh Necho]

B- 11 w/Yehoyakim – leaves God, aligns himself with Egypt, rebels against Bavel

Year 4 - Nebuchadnezzar, King of Bavel, begins conquest of Middle East

Year 8 – rebellion against Bavel, after three years of servitude

Year 11 -Nebuchadnezzar defeats Jerusalem, King dies,; 'aristocracy ' is exile

Including King Yehoyachin (son of Yehoyakim), after 3 mos. reign

C- 11 w/Tzidkiyahu – [appointed by Bavel, on condition of subservience]

Year 4 – plans rebellion against Bavel, which begins the next year

Year 11 – Temple & Jerusalem destroyed, People exiled

II. The RELIGIOUS ISSUE

A. Ritual vs. Social Justice - Yirmiyahu chapter 7 [early reign of Yehoyakim]

'last call' for proper repentance, based on chapter 26 parallel

Other examples: 2:8, 3:21 thru 4:8; 6:13-20

B. The decree of '70 years' of Bavel - chapter 25

An 'irreversible' decree / turning point in Yirmiyahu's prophecy

C. Staying in the Land, after the decree / based on 22:1-5; 23:5-8

III. The POLITICAL ISSUE [& the Clash]

A. The 'international coalition' to fight Bavel / chapter 27

B. Yirmiyahu's yoke/ & 'military advice' / based on chapter 21

C. The 'showdown' with fellow prophet Chananya / chapter 28

D. Yirmiyahu's troublesome correspondence with Babylonian Exile/ chp. 29

E. The 'false prophets' fight back 29:24-32; in light of 14:11-18 & 23:14-22

F. Insights, in light of Yechezkel 1:1-2, 12:21-28, 13:1-16 & 22:23-31

Basic outline of Sefer Yirmiyahu

A. Rebuke of Am Yisrael - chapters 1 thru 20

chapters 1 - "Nevuat hakdasha" - The navi is appointed!

chapters 2 - 10 / Rebuke/ final warning/ the "megillat sefer"?

2-6 / from time period of Yoshiyahu

7-10 / from time period of Yehoyakim

chapters 11 - 20 / Misc. units of rebuke w/o 'headers'

B. Rebuke of the leaders of Am Yisrael - chapters 21 thru 29

[in this unit, each section has 'dated' header, and is politically charged!]

chapters 21 - 23 / rebuke of the Kings - house of David

followed by rebuke of prophets and priests

chapter 24 - / between Bavel & Jerusalem - where is the future?

chapters 25-29 / The decree of 70 years of Babylonian rule!

& its implications

C. Nevuot of "nechama" [redemption] chapters 30-34

D. The story that explains the book's framework /chapters 35-36

Yirmiyahu writes the 'megillat sefer' & Yehoyakim burns it

E. Story of the Destruction - chapters 37 thru 45

[Similar in style to Sefer Melachim- Prophecies fulfilled]

F. Nevuot for the 'other nations' - chapters 46-51

[the other nations who will be punished via Bavel]

G. Epilogue - story of the destruction - chapter 52

Similar to the last chapter of Sefer Melachim