

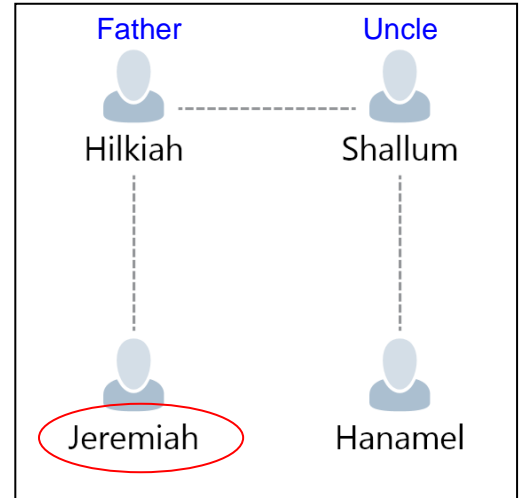
Notes on Jeremiah

Jeremiah Chapter 1

Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah. Hilkiah was a priest from Anathoth. Anathoth was a town in the territory of Benjamin which Joshua setup as one of the towns for the priests in Benjamin. We don't know who Hilkiah's father was.

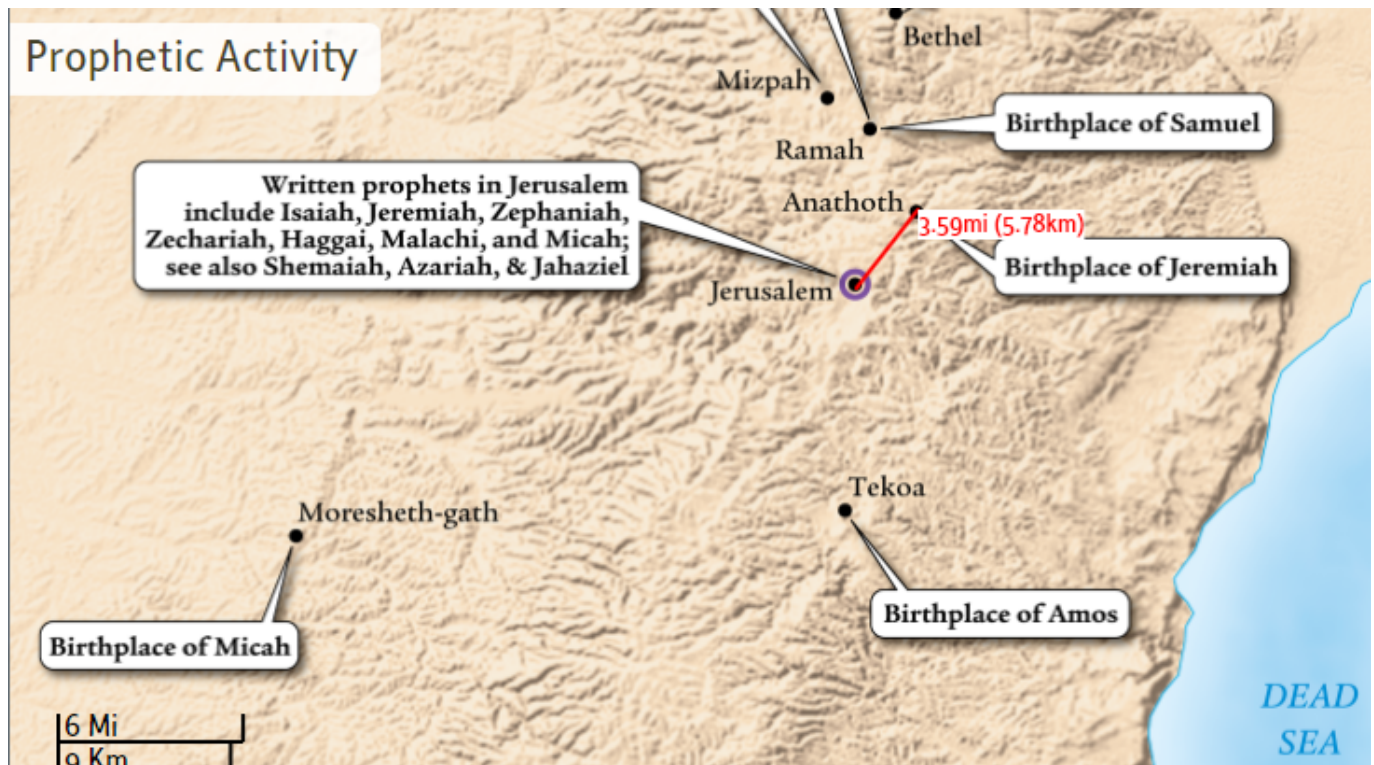
So Jeremiah must have been from the **tribe of Levi** if his father was a priest.

The LORD calls Jeremiah in the 13th year of Josiah's reign (Josiah is 21 yrs old, 627_{BC})¹. The northern kingdom has been gone for about 95 years. Josiah & Jeremiah are in the southern kingdom (Judah). Josiah was the last king who did right before God.



Jeremiah's is prophet until after the last king of Judah (Zedekiah; Jerusalem fell in 596_{BC}) and went into exile with a remnant (they refused to go to Babylon) into Egypt. The latter part of Jeremiah's time as prophet overlaps that of Daniel and Ezekiel.

In Josiah's 12th year he began to tear down the high places (2 Ch 34:3). It is interesting that God chooses to appoint Jeremiah prophet during this time. A time when it would seem that Judah is being cleansed and that Jeremiah would bring word that Judah would be punished.



¹ from my King's timeline.

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Notes on Jeremiah

In verses 4-5 Jeremiah tells us about the LORD's calling him.

⁴ The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew^a you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."²

There are several interesting points to be gleaned here.

- God had decided prior to Jeremiah's conception that he would be a prophet (predestined).
- God reveals that He decides when a conception happens and has all control over how we are formed (i.e. our gender, how we look, plans that He has for us)
- Commentaries mention that the word **knew** is the same word used in Genesis for when a husband is intimate with a wife.

יָדָעַ (yāda') *know*.

To the best of my understanding the commentaries are inferring that God intimately knows each of us (not in a sexual way but in a deep relational way).

In verse 6 Jeremiah speaks a complaint to the LORD. Like many before him (i.e. Moses).

- 'I don't know how to speak'
- 'I am only a child'. Commentary says that Jeremiah was in his late teens or early 20's. And makes reference to 1 Kings 3:7 where Solomon uses this same phrase. Solomon was about 20 when he became king. They are not so much inferring that they are little children but that they are inexperienced for a task.

In verses 7-10 God rebukes and reassures Jeremiah

- Do not say 'I am only a child'
- You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you to say
- Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you
- The LORD touches Jeremiah's mouth
- I have put My words in your mouth
- I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot & tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.

Verses 11-12 reveal that the LORD has given a vision to Jeremiah. God shows Jeremiah a vision of an almond tree. Jeremiah correctly answers God that he saw an almond tree. The commentary tells of a word play that God uses here. The root word for almond in Hebrew has the meaning 'awake' (the tree was named the awake tree because it was the first to bloom). The Hebrew word watch comes from the same root. *Jeremiah's vision of the "awake tree" reminded him that God was awake and watching over His word to make sure it came to pass.*³

יָקָדַ (šāqēd) *almond tree* יָקָדַ (šāqad) *watch*



Almond Branch

² *The Holy Bible : ew International Version*. 1996 (electronic ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan. Jer 1:4-5

³ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books. Passage Jeremiah 1:11-12.

Notes on Jeremiah

Verses 13-16 reveal that the LORD has given another vision to Jeremiah. God shows Jeremiah a boiling pot tilting away from the north. After Jeremiah reports what he has seen, then God explains what it means.

- God is about to summon all peoples of northern kingdoms to bring disaster on all who live in the land. (v 14-15)
 - We can see God giving this word through Jeremiah in multiple places
 - (cf. 4:6; 6:1, 22; 10:22; 13:20; 15:12; 16:15; 23:8; 25:9, 26; 31:8; 46:24; 47:2; 50:3, 9, 41)⁴
- 'Their kings will come and setup their thrones in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem'
 - This would have been a clear sign to the people of Judah. It is in the gates of the city that the ruling council sat (Gen 19:1; Ru 4:1)⁵
 - This was a sign that the city would fall to these people coming from the north. Jeremiah shows the fulfillment in Jer 39:2-3.
- 'they will come against all her surrounding walls and against all the towns of Judah'
 - God showing that all of Judah will fall, as the northern kingdom of Israel had fallen.
- God says that He will pronounce judgments on His people.
 - God is sovereign. Israel is His inheritance, thus they belong to Him.
- God tells of reasons for the judgment
 - 'their wickedness in forsaking Me'
 - 'in burning incense to other gods'
 - 'in worshipping what their hands have made'
 - These seem to be failing the first 2 of the 10 commandments!
 - God has been patient with them and sent plagues, prophets and signs. But the people refuse to turn to Him. Even if we imagine that this was given during Josiah's reforming, we also can see in scripture that after Josiah (still in the time of Jeremiah) the people return to their wickedness (2 Ch 36:13-17).
- It is interesting that God uses a cooking pot in Ezekiel chapter 24 to show on that very day Nebuchadnezzar moves against Israel (in the 9th year of Zedekiah).
 - God uses a boiling pot to show Jeremiah what judgment will take place at the beginning of his ministry.
 - God uses a large cooking pot to show Ezekiel what will happen to Israel on that very day Nebuchadnezzar moves his army against Jerusalem.

In verses 17-19 we see that God now tells Jeremiah to be ready to do what He has appointed him to do.

- 'Get yourself ready!'
- 'Stand up and say to them whatever I command you.'
- 'Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them.'
- 'Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the peoples of the land.'
 - This is interesting. It shows that Jeremiah's enemies are his own people.
- 'They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you, declares the LORD.'
 - God shows Jeremiah that his ministry will be a trying one.
 - God also reassures him that He is in control and will protect him.

⁴ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures.*

⁵ From NIV study Bible footnotes.