



DIGGING DEEPER – WEEK 6

J²

Without God = Without Hope.

This formula found in Ephesians 2:12 reminds us of the true source of our hope. Six hundred years before Christ came to earth, God gave us a glimpse of the Savior He would send through the prophet Jeremiah. Many commentators make mention of the correlations between the prophet Jeremiah and the Messiah he foretold. One source writes, “Jeremiah has been rightly called the most Christlike of the prophets. Certain disciples saw in Jesus of Nazareth the prophet Jeremiah returned to life” (Matthew 16:14).¹ Though the commentators’ lists of similarities differ somewhat, many contain the following parallels:

1. Both delivered judgment on sinful people. (Jeremiah 1:9-16; 21-23; John 5:22)
2. Both wept over the city of Jerusalem. (Jeremiah 9:1; Luke 19:41)
3. Both had a message for Israel and the world. (Jeremiah 2:2-4; 46:1; John 14:6)
4. Both used common examples from agrarian society to illustrate spiritual truths (for example, figs, farming, water, pottery). (Jeremiah 2:13; Matthew 13:3)
5. Both were accused of being “madmen.” (Jeremiah 29:26-27; John 10:19-20)
6. Both were taken to Egypt under political pressure. (Jeremiah 43:4-7; 44:1; Matthew 2:13)
7. Both were priest and prophet. (Jeremiah 1:1-5; Matthew 13:57 [prophet]; Hebrews 9:11 [priest])
8. Both were rejected in their own hometowns. (Jeremiah 11:21; Luke 4:28-30)
9. Both called the Temple a den of robbers. (Jeremiah 7:11; Mark 11:17)
10. Both experienced loneliness. (Jeremiah 15:10; Isaiah 53:3)
11. Both practiced open, honest communication with God. (Jeremiah 15:10; Matthew 27:45-46)
12. Both endured rejection by political and religious leaders. (Jeremiah 20:1-2; John 18:12-13, 24)
13. Both were beaten, falsely accused, and arrested. (Jeremiah 37:12-15; Matthew 26:60-61; 27:26)

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14. Both said a new covenant was coming. (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 22:20)
15. Both offered hope in the midst of trials. (Jeremiah 31:28; John 14:1, 27)

Jeremiah and Jesus brought a similar message. Both warned of the need to be careful with God's message, idolatry, listening, hard-heartedness, blaming, and disobedience. However, they both also pointed to hope in God. Jesus' life and Jeremiah's life correspond in many ways, but they diverge on one great point: Jeremiah was a sinful man used by God to draw His people back.

Although Christ preached a similar message, His divinity sets Him apart as One much greater than a prophet. He came to reconcile people to God. He said boldly in John 14:6 that He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the only way to come back to God. Jeremiah spoke of Jesus long before He knew His name. In fact he exercised faith in Jesus by believing in God's promise to send the Messiah.

Jeremiah's likeness to Jesus puts him in the category of a Christ-type. *Merriam-Webster* defines a *type* as "a: a person or thing (as in the Old Testament) believed to foreshadow another (as in the New Testament) b: one having qualities of a higher category."² In this case, Jeremiah is foreshadowing the Messiah who is to come. The similarities between Jeremiah and Jesus are meant to point us to a fuller understanding of who Christ is so that we can know Him.

As a teen I had a quiet-time diary that had two sections. In the first section you answered this question: "What is the Scripture saying?" In the second you responded to this question: "How does this apply to my life today?" While I am grateful that doing devotions this way helped me read curiously and ask questions, I found it incomplete. Not every verse of Scripture has a direct application in daily life. Some passages "apply to my life" in that they expand my view of God. As I know and understand Him more, my intimacy with Him increases. It may not be something I can write in two sentences in my diary, but it revolutionizes my walk over time as I grow deeper in my relationship with Him.

As we see Jeremiah's life as a Christ-type, we grow a bigger view of God in our hearts. He is the ultimate source of hope that Jeremiah is pointing toward. As we end our study of Jeremiah, I pray we have developed a deeper knowledge and intimacy with the One he typified, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through both J's we are reminded of the hope that comes through God alone.

"I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called."

Ephesians 1:18

1. Frank Gaebelin, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 6* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986), 361.

2. "Type," <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/type>.