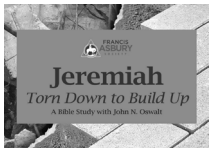

Jeremiah: Torn Down to Build Up

A Bible Study with the Francis Asbury Society

SESSION 2

Jeremiah 1–2

Background: Anathoth was a village about three miles northeast of Jerusalem. Priests lived in cities surrounding Jerusalem so that they could serve at the Temple in their turn. Abiathar had an estate here to which Solomon confined him after Abiathar's support of Adonijah.

- The thirteenth year of Josiah was 628 BC. The Book of the Law was recovered in 621 BC.
- The word for "almond" and the word for "watch over" are much alike.
- Mesopotamian armies came at Israel and Judah from the north because the Arabian desert prevented direct access from the east.
- The same Hebrew word is used for "forsake" and "divorce."

Jeremiah's Call (1:1–19)

1. What does verse 5 say about fetal life? What three things are said about God in regard to Jeremiah. What is their significance?

2. Why are Jeremiah's youth and inexperience not important? What did God say to Moses when he raised similar objections (Ex 3–4)? Think of Isaiah's call in Isaiah 6.

3. What is the purpose of Jeremiah's ministry according to verse 10? What is the inner logic at work here?

4. What does the boiling pot (vv 13–15) symbolize?

5. Why will judgment come upon Jerusalem and Judah (v 16)? What is so bad about that?

Opening Charges (Chapter 2)

1. What language is used in the chapter to characterize the kind of relationship God wants with us? Go through the chapter and find as many expressions of this idea as you can.

2. When trouble came to them, what question did they not ask (vv 6 and 8). What is the significance of the question, and why did they not ask it?

3. What have the people done according to verses 8–13? What is so surprising about that?

4. What is the problem with making alliances with pagan nations (vv. 18, 25, 36)?

5. How have Israel's sins with gods and nations impacted the poor (v 34)? Why?