

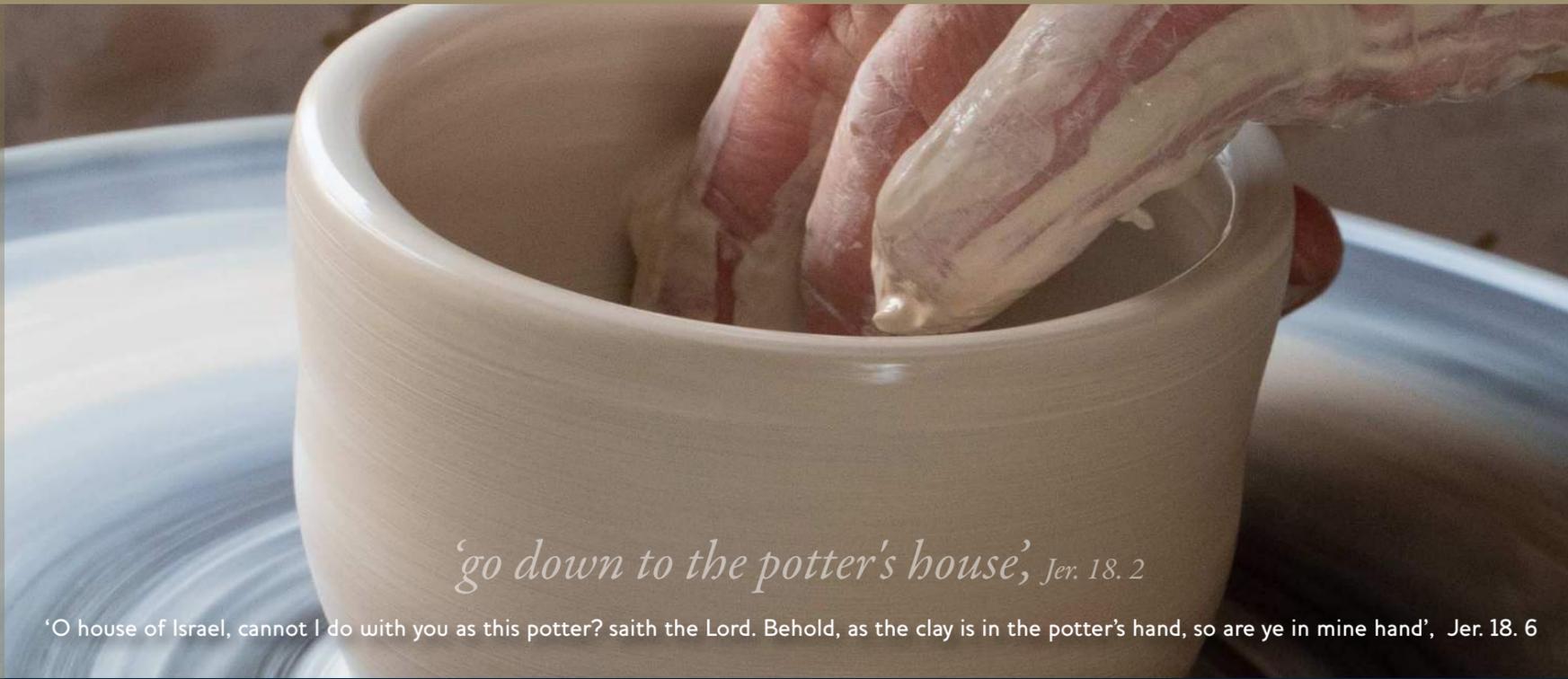
- Noahic covenant** - A covenant providing preservation ... *for the planet*. The sign – a rainbow
 - Abramic covenant** - A covenant promising a nation ... *the nation and the nations*. The sign – circumcision
 - Mosaic covenant** - A covenant providing education ... *the law as a tutor*. The sign – the sabbath
 - Davidic covenant** - A covenant promising coronation ... *the kingdom and the throne*. The sign – the throne?
 - New covenant** - A covenant proclaiming salvation ... *the forgiveness of sins*. The sign – the cup
- 'But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people', Jer. 31. 33

'Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called,
THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
 Jer. 23. 5, 6

'Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a *new covenant* with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah', Jer. 31. 31

Jeremiah key message

As the international superpowers like Assyria began to weaken, king Josiah, Jer. 1. 2, took advantage of the opportunity to expand Judah's independence. But, as Babylon began to dominate Mesopotamia, Assyria entered into an alliance with Egypt in 664-525 BC. Egypt tempted Judah to join but Jeremiah's key message is that unholy political alliances are not the way to spiritual security only faithfulness to Jehovah. Jeremiah advised Jehoiakim to accept Babylonian supremacy, believing God was working out His will through the nations, but Jehoiakim ignored him and was killed and cast outside the walls of Jerusalem. Jer. 22. 19.



'go down to the potter's house', Jer. 18. 2

'O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand', Jer. 18. 6

Jeremiah his profile

His call – from the priestly city of Anathoth, two miles north of Jerusalem, this young man was called to proclaim a message of doom for forty years to the stiff-necked and backslidden people of Judah and at the same time 'a prophet unto the nations', Jer. 1. 5.

His commission – A contemporary of Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel and Ezekiel. His ministry spans 627BC – 580BC when Judah were threatened by Assyria, Egypt and besieged by Babylon.

His character – heartbroken and sensitive, he was not permitted to marry and have a family, Jer. 16. 1-4.

His cry – Jeremiah's first twelve sermons including his temple sermons, proclaimed coming judgement resulting in death threats and a scroll being burned. He is often called the weeping prophet, his lamentations follow his prophecy mourning for the nation.

His courage – Despite being thrown in a pit and beaten up Jeremiah had courage to continue and ended up taken to Egypt against his will, Jer. 43. 6, where it seemed he died around 570BC.

His covenant – Jeremiah more than any other prophet is conscious of the broken covenant relationship of the people with God, 11. 1. but reveals there is coming a new covenant written on the heart.

The words of Jeremiah came after the reforms of King Josiah, in the days of King Jehoiakim and the final King of Judah - Zedekiah. The book doesn't follow a chronological order but can be broadly divided in four sections:

Ch 1 - The prophet called and commissioned | Ch 2 - 45 The prophecies against Judah and Jerusalem | Ch 46 - 51 The prophecies against nine Gentile nations | Ch 52 - The fall of Jerusalem and exile to Babylonia

Under Josiah
 Ch 1 – The prophet is called and commissioned
 Ch 2 – Sermon 1, Israel's past glory but broken cisterns
 Ch 3 – Sermon 2, Jeremiah is sent to backsliding Israel
 Ch 4 – Sound the alarm, return O Israel
 Ch 5 – Israel have overstepped the mark out of bounds
 Ch 6 – Ask for the old paths and walk therein
 Ch 7 – Sermon 3, God's house made a den of robbers
 Ch 8 – The harvest is past, the summer is ended
 Ch 9 – Glory in the Lord but judgement is coming on all
 Ch 10 – Empty customs and signs or the God of truth?

Ch 11 – Sermon 4, breaching the covenant
 Ch 12 – How wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?
 Ch 13 – Sermon 5, Judah's revived relationship
 Ch 14 – Sermon 6, the drought and the lying prophets
 Ch 15 – Calling Moses and Samuel won't avert judgement
 Ch 16 – Sermon 7, Jeremiah is not to marry
 Ch 17 – The heart is deceitful above all things
 Ch 18 – Sermon 8, the potter's house, a marred vessel
 Ch 19 – The potters gate, Israel is a broken vessel
 Ch 20 – The smiting of Jeremiah, delight and despair

Under Zedekiah
 Ch 21 – Sermon 9, against Judah's kings
 Ch 22 – The love of money is the root of all evil
 Ch 23 – Sermon 10, the lies of pastors and prophets
 Ch 24 – Sermon 11, the baskets of figs, good and evil

Under Jehoiakim
 Ch 25 – Sermon 12, the seventy year captivity
 Ch 26 – Jeremiah receives death threats

Under Zedekiah
 Ch 27 – A warning against listening to false prophets
 Ch 28 – The fall of Hananiah, a false prophet
 Ch 29 – Letter to the captives, Shemaiah a false prophet
 Ch 30 – Writing a book, the time of Jacob's trouble
 Ch 31 – The new covenant means forgiveness of sins
 Ch 32 – Jeremiah in prison, is anything too hard for the Lord?
 Ch 33 – Certainty in God's covenants, day follows night!
 Ch 34 – Uncertainty in man's covenants, broken words

Under Jehoiakim
 Ch 35 – Obedient Rechabites, keeping our word
 Ch 36 – Jehoiakim burns God's word but cannot bind it

Under Zedekiah
 Ch 37 – Zedekiah wants it every way, rejecting the word
 Ch 38 – Zedekiah afraid of mockery, trusting the word
 Ch 39 – Zedekiah and Judah carried into captivity
 Ch 40 – Jeremiah returns - the plot to kill Gedaliah
 Ch 41 – Gedaliah killed but Ishmael escapes
 Ch 42 – Egypt is never the answer

Ch 43 – Running from God but Egypt to be smitten
 Ch 44 – God's word against the Jews in Egypt
 Ch 45 – The lesson of Baruch, don't seek position

Ch 46 – The destruction of Gentile Egypt by Babylon
 Ch 47 – The destruction of the Philistines
 Ch 48 – The judgement of Moab - lazy and spoiled
 Ch 49 – Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar, Hazor and Elam
 Ch 50 – The judgement of Babylon – Defeat
 Ch 51 – The judgement of Babylon – Destiny
 Ch 52 – Fall of Jerusalem, God's house burned

'Thus saith the Lord'

is mentioned 147 times in Jeremiah more than any other old testament book. As the nation faces God's judgement it is with the word of God ringing in their ears.

root out | pull down | destroy | throw down | build | plant (Jer. 1. 10)