

# “A CALL TO REFORM”

## The Book of Jeremiah

### Who wrote The Book of Jeremiah?

The Book of Jeremiah is attributed to the prophet Jeremiah. He was born in the village of Anathoth near Jerusalem around 650 B.C. and answered God's call as a prophet at a very young age.

### How did The Book of Jeremiah get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The Book of Jeremiah is named after its author. The name Jeremiah means "Yahweh establishes."

### When did these events take place?

The events recounted in The Book of Jeremiah occurred between 627 and 570 B.C.

### For more about The Book of Jeremiah:

See page 803 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

The story of the Prophet Jeremiah would have been perfect for Hollywood. When you read this book, you might think you are reading the script for one of those disaster movies. You know the plot where the hero tries to warn the community that their carelessness or inattention to danger is leading them to an impending disaster. A lot of times, this person is not only ignored but almost attacked for trying to warn them. Then, in the end, the victims regret that they hadn't listened to him and he becomes a folk hero to the people who did follow his advice.

God called Jeremiah as a prophet over 600 years before the birth of Christ, to perform this critical role. The northern kingdoms of Israel had already been conquered by the Assyrians and Judah in the south was soon to fall to Nebucadnezzar the King of Babylon. God sent Jeremiah to warn the people that unless they changed their sinful ways, something terrible was about to happen as a punishment to them. Instead of listening to him, many of the Jews actually threatened to kill Jeremiah for being a false prophet. They continued to worship idols and to turn their backs on God. Jeremiah escaped into Egypt to avoid the fate they would eventually face.

If the prophet Isaiah is recognized for the words he wrote, Jeremiah's greatest gift in prophecy was the example he set for others. In fact, some scholars have identified many similarities between the life of Jeremiah and the life of Jesus. For instance, Jeremiah is the only prophet in the Old Testament that was actually commanded by God to remain single and not to marry. For us, Jeremiah is a striking example of how we can resist peer pressure to live as we please just because everyone else is doing it. His commitment to do God's will, no matter how difficult it may seem, is an inspiration for us to remember the rewards of keeping God first in our lives.

**Interesting Fact:** The "New Covenant" verses found in chapter 31 verses 31-34 are sometimes called the "Gospel before the Gospel". This passage is a landmark in Old Testament theology.

**Bonus Point:** Of what nation was it predicted, "Every head will be made bald and every beard will be shaved?"