

Jeremiah's Training

Jeremiah 1:1-19

Background

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. The word of the Lord came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went to exile.

(1)The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

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

"Ah, Sovereign Lord", I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

(2)But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

(3)Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. **See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant**".

(1)The word of the Lord came to me:

"What do you see, Jeremiah?" "I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied.
The Lord said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.

(2)The word of the Lord came to me again: "What do you see?"

"I see a boiling pot, tilting away from the north," I answered.
The Lord said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land. I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms," declares the Lord.

*"Their kings will come and set up their thrones
in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem;
they will come against all her surrounding walls
and against all the towns of Judah.
I will pronounce my judgments on my people
because of their wickedness in forsaking me,
in burning incense to other gods
and in worshipping what their hands have made.*

(The Charge)

"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 people of the Land. They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you", declares the Lord."

Think back to or recognize how God has or will train you. Write down the things God used/uses on the back of this worksheet. For me, God used my work experience in training to help me learn to speak in front of others and train them. He also gave me special project work in my job that has served me well in leading women's ministry.

Here are the scriptures, vs. 1-9 where God calls Jeremiah into his prophetic ministry.

God begins with a general awakening to an area of ministry.

Sometime later you may feel as if the Lord is speaking to you more directly.

Then there will come a time when God begins to equip you clarify your specific calling.

Here again we see God reach out to Jeremiah to prepare him for ministry.

Because Jeremiah is going to operate as a prophet, God begins to give him visions/symbols to interpret. Jeremiah gets his first quiz right in vs. 11-12.

Again Jeremiah gives the right answer for the test in vs. 12-16, and God then explains what the visual means so Jeremiah can learn to how to interpret God's symbolism for future prophetic assignments.

God is so gracious that He is gives us opportunity to learn how to use our spiritual gifts and operate our ministry. He will start us out small and mature us into His missionary, visionary, evangelist, pastor or teacher. Zechariah 4:10 teaches us "not to despise the day of the small things" so make sure you value your small opportunities and glean everything you can from the experience. It is these things that prepare you for a larger ministry.

Here God gives a charge to Jeremiah in vs. 17-19. Our charge is the same – "Get Yourself Ready!" God does not want us to be terrified. Even when opposition and discouragement comes, know that God will rescue you and build you up.