



## THE CALL AND THE PREPARATION

Many times God's people are content to be pleased about God's ways. It often happens that after a prophecy, believers are keen to see the fulfillment of the prophecy. They want the prophecy to be fulfilled immediately. They do not consider the cost involved, and the preparation that has yet to take place before the prophecy.

*Jer. 1:6. Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for*

*Jer. 1:7. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.*

God's call upon our lives, as individuals, as families, or as the church, comes with a price tag. We must not forget that the call of God comes to us with a price tag and a preparatory work. Before we can come into God's service, we need to be subjected to a work of preparation, on which there can be no compromise. This preparation is not like the seal of some Bible college or Christian institution. There is no human seal of acceptance, but there has to be a divine seal of acceptance. Only God is able to use us. This is a part of the calling in Christ Jesus. This is what happened over Jeremiah's life and ministry. There is a preparation under God's hand, which goes beyond the preparations of man for ministry.

A second outstanding fact in connection with Jeremiah's call was his lack of preparation from the tasks he faced. "Ah, Lord God!" he cried, "behold I cannot speak" (1:6). He was, of course, not a child in the literal sense, for he was a man. But he felt he was like a child in knowledge and experience; he did not feel qualified for the task of being unfit to hold a prophetic office on the grounds of a lack of knowledge and experience. This is a striking illustration of the mysterious working of God.



## VERSE

*Jer. 1:5*

*"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."*

In His wisdom, He chose as 'a prophet unto the nations', with temperament and aptitude for that tremendous task.

A third feature of vital significance in Jeremiah's call was the equipment received for his life work. This equipment was symbolized by the laying on of hands upon his mouth, an action which was accompanied by the explanatory words, 'I have put my words in thy mouth...' (2:9).

Jeremiah's equipment also included a message from the Lord, which he adapted to his need. It consisted, first of all, of a word of protestation of unfitness (1:7). The twice repeated 'Thou shalt' of 'Thou shalt go', and 'Thou shalt speak' - swept aside the young prophet's plain to him that he must subject himself unreservedly to the authority of the Lord. The word of command was followed by a word of gracious encouragement: 'I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.' Hostile faces there certainly were, lowered in resentment, eyes flashing in hatred, and lips curled in denunciation. But here was a promise of the Lord's own presence, and in that fact lay for Jeremiah a guarantee of strength and protection against the dangers of his future ministry. Saints, the prophet certainly needed such a guarantee! Few men have ever been confronted with a more formidable task.

Jeremiah realized the depths and the intensity of things which he would experience. He realized the intensely painful things that he would have to undergo and the terrible need of the people for his ministry. This caused him to shy away and withdraw from the service of God. And see what the Lord says to him,

*Jer 1:10. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over principalities and powers, to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.*

This message was sent by [Good Samaritan Fellowship](#), H2/22,  
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