

Sefer Yirmiyahu - When Politics & Religion Clash

Class #7 - Jeremiah's promise of future Redemption (chapters 30-33)

& The reason for chronological chaos in Sefer Yirmiyahu

For Torah in Motion series- by Menachem Leibtag

Intro:

As our series began during the '3 weeks', our study focused thus far on the events that led to the destruction of the Temple, and how Yirmiyahu tried to prevent it, by encouraging the people to surrender to the Babylonians. This week, before we begin our study of Yirmiyahu's prophecies of future redemption, we will dedicate the first half of our class to discussion of the overall structure (or lack of structure) in the book of Yirmiyahu.

I. A general outline:

A. Rebuke of Am Yisrael - chapters 1 thru 20

chapters 1 - "Nevuat hakdasha" - The navi is appointed!

chapters 2 -> 10 / Rebuke/ final warning/ the "megillat sefer"?

2-6 / from time period of Yoshiyahu

7-10 / from time period of Yehoyakim

chapters 11 - 20 / Misc. units of rebuke w/o 'headers'

B. Rebuke of the leaders of Am Yisrael - chapters 21 thru 29

[note the 'dated' headers in this unit]

chapters 21 - 23 / rebuke of the Kings - house of David

followed by rebuke of prophets and priests

chapter 24 - / between Bavel & Jerusalem - where is the future?

chapters 25-29 / The decree of 70 years of Babylonian rule!

& its implications

C. Nevuot of "nechama" [redemption] chapters 30-34

D. The story that explains the book's framework /chapters 35-36

Yirmiyahu writes the 'megillat sefer' & Yehoyakim burns it

E. Story of the Destruction - chapters 37 thru 45

[Similar in style to Sefer Melachim- Prophecies fulfilled]

F. Nevuot for the 'other nations' - chapters 46-51

G. Epilogue - story of the destruction - chapter 52

II. The 'time-line' vs the 'outline'

The Forty Years of Yirmiyahu's prophecies [18+11+11]

A- 18 w/Yoshiyahu – [From Year 13 of his reign until his death in Year 31]

Year 13 - National teshuva begins [based on II DH 34:1-8] / Ashur falls

Year 18 - Renovation of Temple; when they find the 'sefer torah'

Year 31 - Yoshiyahu's tragic death at Megiddo, fighting Pharaoh Necho

[Yehoyakim becomes King with support of Pharaoh Necho]

B- 11 w/Yehoyakim – leaves God, aligns himself with Egypt, rebels against Bavel

Year 4 - Nebuchadnezzar, King of Bavel, begins conquest of Middle East

Year 8 – rebellion against Bavel, after three years of servitude

Year 11 -Nebuchadnezzar defeats Jerusalem, King dies,; 'aristocracy ' is exile

Including King Yehoyachin (son of Yehoyakim), after 3 mos. reign

C- 11 w/Tzidkiyahu – [appointed by Bavel, on condition of subservience]

Year 4 – plans rebellion against Bavel, which begins the next year

Year 11 – Temple & Jerusalem destroyed, People exiled

Review headers of each chapter to verify

Explain 'political theory' for chronological order!

III. Sources for distinct units:

Chapter 36 – [when Yehoyakim burnt the 'megilat sefer']

א וַיְהִי בַשָּׁנָה הָרְבַעִית, לַיהוֹיָקִים בֶּן-יֹאשָׁהוּ
מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה; הָיָה הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה, אֶל-יִרְמְיָהוּ, מֵאֵת
יְהוָה, לֵאמֹר.

1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

ב קח-לךְ, מִגִּלְת־סֵפֶר, וּכְתַבְתָּ אֵלֶיהָ אֶת כָּל-
הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר-דִּבַּרְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל-
יְהוּדָה, וְעַל כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם--מִיּוֹם דִּבַּרְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ,
מִיָּמֵי יֹאשָׁהוּ, וְעַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

2 'Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.

ג אוֹלֵי יִשְׁמְעוּ, בַּיַּת יְהוּדָה, אֶת כָּל-הַרְעָה, אֲשֶׁר
אֲנִי חֹשֵׁב לַעֲשׂוֹת לָהֶם--לְמַעַן יָשׁוּבוּ, אִישׁ מִדַּרְכּוֹ
הַרְעָה, וְסָלַחְתִּי לְעוֹנָם, וּלְחַטָּאתָם. {ס}

3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way, and I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.' {S}

ד וַיִּקְרָא יִרְמְיָהוּ, אֶת-בָּרוּךְ בֶּן-נְרִיָּה; וַיִּכְתֹּב
בָּרוּךְ מִפִּי יִרְמְיָהוּ, אֶת כָּל-דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר-דִּבַּר
אֵלָיו--עַל-מִגִּלְת־סֵפֶר.

4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which He had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.

ה וַיִּצְוֶה יִרְמְיָהוּ, אֶת-בָּרוּךְ לֵאמֹר: אֲנִי עָצוּר--
לא אוֹכֵל, לְבוֹא בֵּית יְהוָה.

5 And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying: 'I am detained, I cannot go into the house of the LORD;

ו וּבָאתְ אֵתָה וְקִרְאתְ בַּמִּגְלָה אֲשֶׁר-כָּתַבְתָּ מִפִּי
אֶת-דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה בְּאָזְנֵי הָעָם, בֵּית יְהוָה--בְּיוֹם
צוּם; וְגַם בְּאָזְנֵי כָל-יְהוּדָה הַבָּאִים מֵעָרֵיהֶם,
תִּקְרְאֵם.

6 therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD'S house upon a fast-day; and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities.

ז אוֹלֵי תִפְל תַּחֲנַנְתֶּם, לִפְנֵי יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁבוּ, אִישׁ
מִדְּרָכּוֹ הַרְעָה: כִּי-גָדוֹל הָאָף וְהַחֲמָה, אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר
יְהוָה אֶל-הָעָם הַזֶּה.

7 It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will return every one from his evil way; for great is the anger and the fury that the LORD hath pronounced against this people.'

ח וַיַּעַשׂ, בָּרוּךְ בֶּן-נְרִיָּה, כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּהוּ, יִרְמְיָהוּ
הַנְּבִיא--לְקִרְאָ בְּסֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה, בֵּית יְהוָה. {פ}

8 And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the words of the LORD in the LORD'S house. {P}

ט וַיְהִי בַשָּׁנָה הַחֲמִשִּׁית לִיהוֹיָקִים בֶּן-יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ
מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה, בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַתְּשַׁעִי, קָרְאוּ צוּם לִפְנֵי
יְהוָה כָּל-הָעָם, בִּירוּשָׁלַם; וְכָל-הָעָם, הַבָּאִים
מֵעָרֵי יְהוּדָה--בִּירוּשָׁלַם....

9 Now it came to pass in the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, in the ninth month, that they proclaimed a fast before the LORD, all the people in Jerusalem, and all the people that came from the cities of Judah unto Jerusalem.

כג וַיְהִי כִּקְרוֹא יְהוּדִי, שְׁלֹשׁ דָּלְתוֹת וְאַרְבָּעָה,
יְקָרְעָה בְּתֵּעַר הַסֵּפֶר, וְהִשְׁלִךְ אֶל-הָאֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר אֶל-
הָאֵח: עַד-תֵּם, כָּל-הַמִּגְלָה, עַל-הָאֵשׁ, אֲשֶׁר עַל-
הָאֵח.

23 And it came to pass, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was in the brazier, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier.

כד וְלֹא פָחַדּוּ, וְלֹא קָרְעוּ אֶת-בְּגָדֵיהֶם--הַמְּלָךְ,
וְכָל-עַבְדָּיו, הַשְּׂמָעִים, אֶת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה.

24 Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.

כה וְגַם אֶלְנָתָן וַדְּלִיָּהוּ וּגְמַרְיָהוּ הִפְגְּעוּ בַּמְּלָךְ,
לְבַלְתִּי שָׂרֹף אֶת-הַמִּגְלָה; וְלֹא שָׁמַע, אֱלֵיהֶם.

25 Moreover Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had entreated the king not to burn the roll; but he would not hear them.

כו וַיִּצְוֶה הַמְּלָךְ אֶת-יִרְחֻמְאֵל בֶּן-הַמְּלָךְ וְאֶת-
שָׂרְיָהוּ בֶן-עֲזַרְיָאֵל, וְאֶת-שְׁלֹמְיָהוּ בֶן-עַבְדָּאֵל,
לְקַחַת אֶת-בָּרוּךְ הַסֵּפֶר, וְאֶת יִרְמְיָהוּ הַנְּבִיא;
וַיִּסְתִּירֵם, יְהוָה. {ס}

26 And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son, and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet; but the LORD hid them. {S}

כז וַיְהִי דְבַר-יְהוָה, אֶל-יִרְמְיָהוּ--אַחֲרֵי שָׂרֹף
הַמְּלָךְ, אֶת-הַמִּגְלָה וְאֶת-הַדְּבָרִים, אֲשֶׁר כָּתַב
בָּרוּךְ מִפִּי יִרְמְיָהוּ, לֵאמֹר.

27 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying:

כח שׁוּב קַח-לְךָ, מִגְלָה אַחֲרָת; וּכְתַב עָלֶיהָ, אֶת
כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָרִאשׁוֹנִים, אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ עַל-הַמִּגְלָה
הָרִאשׁוֹנָה, אֲשֶׁר שָׂרֹף יְהוֹיָקִים מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה.

28 'Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.

כט ועל-יהויקים מלך-יהודה תאמר, כה אמר יהוה: אתה שרפת את-המגלה הזאת, לאמר, מדוע כתבת עליה לאמר בא-יבוא מלך-בבל והשחית את-הארץ הזאת, והשבית ממנה אדם ובהמה. {ס}

29 And concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah thou shalt say: Thus saith the LORD: Thou hast burned this roll, saying: Why hast thou written therein, saying: The king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from thence man and beast? {S}

...

לב וירמיהו לקח מגלה אחרת, ויתנה אל-ברוך בן-נריהו הספר, ויכתב עליה מפי ירמיהו, את כל-דברי הספר אשר שרף יהויקים מלך-יהודה באש; ועוד נוסף עליהם דברים רבים, כהמה. {פ}

32 Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire; and there were added besides unto them many like words.

IV. The introduction to the prophecies of comfort - chapter 30

א הדבר אשר היה אל-ירמיהו, מאת יהוה לאמר.

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

ב כה-אמר יהוה אלהי ישראל, לאמר: כתב-לך, את כל-הדברים אשר-דברתי אליך--אל-ספר.

2 'Thus speaketh the LORD, the God of Israel, saying: Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.

ג כי הנה ימים באים, נאם-יהוה, ושבתי את-שבות עמי ישראל ויהודה, אמר יהוה; והשבתי, אל-הארץ אשר-נתתי לאבותם--וירשوها. {פ}

3 For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will turn the captivity of My people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD; and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.' {P}

ד ואלה הדברים, אשר דבר יהוה אל-ישראל--ואל-יהודה.

4 And these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah.

ה כי-כה אמר יהוה, קול חרדה שמענו--פחד, ואין שלום.

5 For thus saith the LORD: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

ו שאלו-נא וראו, אם-ילד זכר: מדוע ראיתי כל-גבר ידיו על-חלציו, ביולדה, ונהפכו כל-פנים, לירקון.

6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child; wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

ז הוי, כי גדול היום ההוא--מאין כמהו; ועת-צרה היא ליעקב, וממנה יושע.

7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is a time of trouble unto Jacob, but out of it shall he be saved.

ח וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא נֹאֵם יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת,
אֲשֶׁר עָלָיו מֵעַל צְוֹאֲרֶךְ, וּמוֹסְרוֹתֶיךָ,
אֲנִיתָק; וְלֹא-יַעֲבֹדוּ-בּוֹ עוֹד, זָרִים.

8 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bands; and strangers shall no more make him their bondman;

ט וְעִבְדוּ, אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם, וְאֶת דָּוִד
מֶלֶכָם, אֲשֶׁר אָקִים לָהֶם. {ס}

9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. {S}

י וְאַתָּה אֶל-תִּירָא עֲבָדֵי יַעֲקֹב נֹאֵם-יְהוָה,
וְאֶל-תַּחַת יִשְׂרָאֵל--כִּי הִנְנִי מוֹשִׁיעֶךָ
מִרְחוֹק, וְאֶת-זֶרְעֶךָ מֵאֶרֶץ שְׁבָיִם; וְשָׁב
יַעֲקֹב וְשָׁקֵט וְשָׁאֲנָן, וְאִין מִחְרִיד.

10 Therefore fear thou not, O Jacob My servant, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel; for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall again be quiet and at ease, and none shall make him afraid.

יא כִּי-אֲתָךְ אֲנִי נֹאֵם-יְהוָה, לְהוֹשִׁיעֶךָ:
כִּי אֶעֱשֶׂה כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר הִפְצוֹתֶיךָ
שָׁם, אֲךְ אֲתָךְ לֹא-אֶעֱשֶׂה כָּל־הַיּוֹרֶתֶיךָ
לְמִשְׁפָּט, וְנִקָּה לֹא אֲנַקֶּךָ. {פ}

11 For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have scattered thee, but I will not make a full end of thee; for I will correct thee in measure, and will not utterly destroy thee. {P}

יב כִּי כֹה אָמַר יְהוָה,
אָנוּשׁ לְשִׁבְרֶךָ-
נִחְלָה, מִכְּתֶךָ.

12 For thus saith the LORD: Thy hurt is incurable, and thy wound is grievous.

יג אִין-דָּן דִּינֶךָ, -- לְמַזּוֹר;
רַפְּאוֹת תִּתְעַלֶּה, אִין לָךְ.

13 None deemeth of thy wound that it may be bound up; thou hast no healing medicines.

יד כָּל-מֵאֵהֲבֶיךָ שָׁכְחוּךָ,
אוֹתָךְ לֹא יִדְרְשׁוּ: כִּי מִכַּת אוֹיֵב הִכִּיתֶךָ,
מוֹסֵר אֶכְזָרִי--עַל רֹב עוֹנֶיךָ,
עֲצָמוֹ חֲטֹאתֶיךָ.

14 All thy lovers have forgotten thee, they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one; for the greatness of thine iniquity, because thy sins were increased.

טו מֵה-תִּזְעַק עַל-שִׁבְרֶךָ,
אָנוּשׁ מִכְּאֵבֶךָ:
עַל רֹב עוֹנֶיךָ,
עֲצָמוֹ חֲטֹאתֶיךָ-- עֲשִׂיתִי אֵלֶּה, לָךְ.

15 Why criest thou for thy hurt, that thy pain is incurable? For the greatness of thine iniquity, because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee.

טז לָכֵן כָּל-אֹכְלֶיךָ, יֹאכְלוּ, וְכָל-צָרֶיךָ בָּלֶם,
בְּשִׁבֵי יִלְכוּ;
וְהָיוּ שֹׁאֲסֶיךָ לְמִשְׁסָה,
וְכָל-בִּזְזֶיךָ אֶתָּן לְבָז.

16 Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured, and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey.

יז כִּי אֶעֱלֶה אֶרְכָּה לָךְ וּמִמְכוֹתֶיךָ אֶרְפְּאֶדְךָ,
נְאֻם-יְהוָה: כִּי נִדְחָה, קָרְאוּ לָךְ--צִיּוֹן הִיא,
דָּרַשׁ אִין לָהּ. {ס}

17 For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they have called thee an outcast: 'She is Zion, there is none that careth for her.' {S}

יח כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, הֲנִי-שָׁב שְׁבוֹת אֶהְיֶה
יַעֲקֹב, וּמִשְׁכְּנֹתָיו, אֶרְחַם; וּנְבִנְתָה עִיר
עַל-תֵּלָהּ, וְאַרְמוֹן עַל-מִשְׁפָּטוֹ יֵשֵׁב.

18 Thus saith the LORD: Behold, I will turn the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have compassion on his dwelling-places; and the city shall be builded upon her own mound, and the palace shall be inhabited upon its wonted place.

יט וַיֵּצֵא מֵהֶם תּוֹדָה, וְקוֹל מִשְׁחָקִים;
וְהִרְבִּיתִים וְלֹא יִמָּעֹטוּ, וְהִכְבַּדְתִּים וְלֹא
יִצְעָרוּ.

19 And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry; and I will multiply them, and they shall not be diminished, I will also increase them, and they shall not dwindle away.

כ וְהָיוּ בָנָיו כְּקֹדֶם, וְעַדְתּוֹ לִפְנֵי תִכּוֹן;
וּפְקַדְתִּי, עַל כָּל-לֹחֲצֵיוּ.

20 Their children also shall be as aforetime, and their congregation shall be established before Me, and I will punish all that oppress them.

כא וְהָיָה אֲדִירוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ, וּמִשְׁלוֹ מִקְרָבוֹ יֵצֵא,
וְהִקְרַבְתִּיו, וְנִגַּשׁ אֵלַי: כִּי מִי הוּא-זֶה עָרַב
אֶת-לְבוֹ, לְגֹשֶׁת אֵלַי--נְאֻם-יְהוָה.

21 And their prince shall be of themselves, and their ruler shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto Me; for who is he that hath pledged his heart to approach unto Me? saith the LORD.

כב וְהֵייתֶם לִי, לְעָם;
וְאַנְכִי, אֶהְיֶה לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים. {ס}

22 And ye shall be My people, and I will be your God. {S}

כג הִנֵּה סַעֲרַת יְהוָה, חֲמָה יִצְאָה--סַעַר,
מִתְגֹּרֵר: עַל רֹאשׁ רְשָׁעִים, יַחֲוֹל.

23 Behold, a storm of the LORD is gone forth in fury, a sweeping storm; it shall whirl upon the head of the wicked.

כד לֹא יָשׁוּב, חֲרוֹן אַף-יְהוָה, עַד-עֲשֹׂתוֹ
וְעַד-הִקְיָמוֹ, מִזְמוֹת לְבוֹ; בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים,
תִּתְּבוּנְנוּ בָּהּ.

24 The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until He have executed, and till He have performed the purposes of His heart; in the end of days ye shall consider it.

כה בְּעֵת הַהִיא, נְאֻם-יְהוָה,
אֶהְיֶה לֵאלֹהִים, לְכָל מִשְׁפְּחוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל;
וְהֵמָּה, יִהְיוּ-לִי לְעָם. {ס}

25 At that time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people. {S}