

# **GOD - MISSING IN ACTION?**

**God calls Jeremiah to be His prophet.**

*Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19*

## **Jeremiah's complaint**

*Jeremiah 15:18 “Why do I keep on suffering? Why are my wounds incurable? Why won't they heal? Do you intend to disappoint me like a stream that goes dry in the summer?”*

Jeremiah kept his part of the agreement; but it seemed as though God abandoned His!

The only part of God's promise that was true for Jeremiah was the part “...*they will fight against you!*” (1:19)

But then God said, “...*they will not overcome you!*” (1:19)

## **Jeremiah became miserable.**

He felt a failure, and cried out, “*Why do I keep on suffering? Why are my wounds incurable?*”

**Have you had an experience like Jeremiah's?** You complained like Jeremiah, *Why God Why?*

**God ignored Jeremiah's, “Why?”**

***Jeremiah 15:19*** So this is what the Lord says: “If you change your heart and return to me, I will take you back. Then you may serve me. And if you speak things that have worth, not useless words, then you may speak for me. Let the people of Judah turn to you, but you must not change and be like them.

## **God did not explain why Jeremiah’s ministry had been so turbulent.**

When things don’t work out the way we felt God had promised, we want an explanation.

We are encouraged to trust God’s wisdom and love and to never doubt that; *in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*

### ***Romans 8:28***

We can focus too much on the mysteries of life that we don’t understand. Rather, we should focus upon what we do know about God!

## **God repeated His promised**

***Jeremiah 15:20-21*** I will make you as strong as a wall to this people, as strong as a wall of bronze. They will fight against you, but they will not defeat you, because I am with you. I will rescue you and save you,” says the Lord. <sup>21</sup> “I will save you from these wicked people and rescue you from these cruel people.”

God reinforces the same promises when He first called Jeremiah.

## **A fundamental principle of God.**

**The promise of God and the God who promises them are the same!**

- When God gives us His Word, He gives us Himself! *John 1:1; Hebrews 6:13, 17-18.*
- To reject the Word of God is to reject God. *1 John 5:9-10.*
- To hold onto the Word is to hold onto God!
- The word of faith and faith in the Word are inseparable.
- The Word remains unfulfilled until it is appropriated by faith!
- The Word both creates faith and demands faith!

## **God reinforced His Word back into Jeremiah's spirit.**

The challenge is to hold fast to what God has spoken, confident that in God's time He will bring His promise into a living reality.

**God's promise enabled Jeremiah to endure**

*Jeremiah 15:21 “I will save you from these wicked people and rescue you from these cruel people.”*

Jeremiah committed to fulfil God’s call upon his life against all the odds.

**We are called not to despair but to endure.**

God’s love enabled Jeremiah to bear the worst humiliation; and God’s love can see you and I through our problems too.

*Proverbs 24:16a For the righteous man falls seven times and rises again.*

**We admit we’re defeated, when we refuse to get back up!**

**Endurance:** (compound word) ***hupo*** under - ***meno*** to stay, to abide, to remain.

A picture of someone under a great load but stubbornly standing without collapsing.

*Genesis 49:14-15 (kjv) Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens. And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.*

*Issachar is a strong ass...*

A male donkey that is stout and strong bodied.

*couching down between two burdens...*

Bearing patiently whilst carrying the weight.

Issachar was able to rest with the load and burden of serving on his back.

Jesus said, *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”* **Matthew 11:28-30**

Jesus promises us rest as we serve Him and not rest from serving Him!