I. The introduction of Jeremiah places him 100 years after Isaiah.

 A. Jeremiah ministered from Josiah to Zedekiah: See 2 Kings 22-25 (626-587 B.C.)

 B. Three nations dominated and Judah was not one: Assyria; Babylon; Egypt.

II. Jeremiah, the man, is a notable combination of failure and success.

 A. He is known as the “Weeping Prophet.” For 40 years few to none heeded him.

 B. From the Life Application Bible’s introduction to Jeremiah we read a great synopsis.

 1. Its exhortation to us is to “feel with him as he agonizes…and commit yourself

 to being successful in God’s eyes.”

III. There is a noteworthy self-esteem issue Jeremiah has recorded in the first chapter.

 A. There is a noteworthy pattern of this personality trait in scripture.

 1. Let’s consider others who have felt the same way about themselves.

 a. 1 Samuel 15:17, “Although you were once small in your eyes…”

 (1) The Message, “You were nothing and you knew it.”

 b. Abraham; Moses; Timothy; Peter; and Paul

 B. Compare the theology of Psalm 139 with Jeremiah 1, “Before you were formed…”

 C. What do we say about ourselves?

 D. Does knowing God make any difference in who we are and what we do?

 1. Courage is not dependent upon good self-esteem.

IV. Chapter Two, verse 13, has one of the most important evaluations of all time.

 A. Idol worship comes in many forms.

 B. Would we trade a spring for a cistern?

 C. Remember, it is not “they” about whom Jeremiah is speaking, it is we.

 1. 1 Corinthians 10, the Bible is written typologically. (All is a warning to us.)

V. The invitation of Jeremiah 3 is consistent with Isaiah’s invitation, “Return…for I am merciful.”

 A. The imagery, the parabolic speech is undeniably clear.

 1. God wants to be our “husband” and we his “bride.”

 B. The echoes of the Gospels are clearly recognizable.

**Softly and Tenderly**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.** Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,Calling for you and for me;See, on the portals He’s waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me. [Refrain]**2.** Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,Pleading for you and for me?Why should we linger and heed not His Mercies?Mercies for you and for me? [Refrain] | **3.** Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,Passing from you and from me;Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,Coming for you and for me. [Refrain]**4.** O for the wonderful love He has promised,Promised for you and for me!Though we have sin, He has mercy and pardon,Pardon for you and for me. [Refrain] |

**Refrain**

Come home, come home;

Ye who are weary, come home;

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling;

Calling, “O Sinner, come home!”