

JEREMIAH THE PROPHET ATW2012

# Jeremiah The Prophet

a song cycle

for Tenor and Piano

by

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# JEREMIAH THE PROPHET

(C. 655 BC - 586 BC)

Jeremiah, often referred to as the “Weeping prophet” is regarded as a major prophet in Judaism, Islam and Christianity and is credited as author of both Jeremiah and Lamentations in the scriptures. He was the son of Hilkiah, a Levitical priest living in Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. His prophetic ministry began in the 13th year of King Josiah of Judah at the tender age of 20 and extended over a period of more than 40 years. God appointed Jeremiah to warn Jerusalem of the coming destruction by northern invaders as judgment for their idolatry and sin. His message fell mostly on deaf ears, and resulted in his personal persecution: beatings, imprisonments, public humiliation in the stocks, death threats, family rejection and solitary confinement in a miry cistern. He lived to witness the fulfillment of God’s warnings, the siege of Jerusalem and her people taken into captivity in Babylon. Even still, Jeremiah preached hope to the people of God, the restoration of Israel, and a New Covenant to be written on their hearts.



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I. THE CALL.....1  
JEREMIAH 1:4-10, 18-19

*<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, <sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." <sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Alas, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, because I am a youth." <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' because everywhere I send you, you shall go, and all that I command you, you shall speak. <sup>8</sup> "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you," declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."*

*<sup>18</sup> "Now behold, I have made you today as a fortified city and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests and to the people of the land. <sup>19</sup> They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you," declares the LORD.*

II. THE SUFFERING.....7  
LAMENTATIONS 3: 1-25, 33-41

*<sup>1</sup> I am the man who has seen affliction because of the rod of His wrath. <sup>2</sup> He has driven me and made me walk in darkness and not in light. <sup>3</sup> Surely against me He has turned His hand repeatedly all the day. <sup>4</sup> He has caused my flesh and my skin to waste away, He has broken my bones. <sup>5</sup> He has besieged and encompassed me with bitterness and hardship. <sup>6</sup> In dark places He has made me dwell, like those who have long been dead. <sup>7</sup> He has walled me in so that I cannot go out; He has made my chain heavy. <sup>8</sup> Even when I cry out and call for help, He shuts out my prayer. <sup>9</sup> He has blocked my ways with hewn stone; He has made my paths crooked. <sup>10</sup> He is to me like a bear lying in wait, a lion in secret places. <sup>11</sup> He has turned aside my ways and torn me to pieces; He has made me desolate. <sup>12</sup> He bent His bow and set me as a target for the arrow. <sup>13</sup> He made the arrows of His quiver to enter into my inward parts.*

*14 I have become a laughingstock to all my people, their mocking song all the day. 15 He has filled me with bitterness, He has made me drunk with wormwood. 16 He has broken my teeth with gravel; He has made me cower in the dust. 17 My soul has been rejected from peace; I have forgotten happiness. 18 So I say, "My strength has perished, and my hope from the LORD." 19 Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness. 20 Surely my soul remembers and is bowed down within me. 21 This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. 22 The LORD's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I have hope in Him." 25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. 33 For He does not afflict willingly or grieve the sons of men. 34 To crush under His feet all the prisoners of the land, 35 to deprive a man of justice in the presence of the Most High, 36 to defraud a man in his lawsuit—of these things the Lord does not approve. 37 Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? 38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both good and ill go forth? 39 Why should any living mortal, or any man, offer complaint in view of his sins? 40 Let us examine and probe our ways and let us return to the LORD. 41 We lift up our heart and hands toward God in heaven.*

**III. THE PROMISE.....19**  
**JEREMIAH 29:10-13, 32:38-41**

*10 For thus says the LORD, "When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*

*38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good and for the good of their children after them. 40 I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me. 41 I will rejoice over them to do them good and will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul."*

**New American Standard Bible**

# JEREMIAH THE PROPHET

## 1. The Call

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 18-19

AMY TATE WILLIAMS

Steady, but with expression ♩ = 84

*mp* *p*  
pedal down, blurred

*mp*  
Now the word of the Lord came to  
*p blurred*

me say - ing, "Be-fore I  
*mf*

# JEREMIAH THE PROPHET

## 2. The Suffering

Excerpts from Lamentations 3

AMY TATE WILLIAMS

With pathos  $\text{♩} = 72$

1 *mf* Ped.

4 *mf* *sf* Ped.

7 *mf agitated*  
I am the man who has seen affliction  
*mp* *mf*

10  
by the rod of His wrath! Surely God has turned His hand against me all the day.

# JEREMIAH THE PROPHET

## 3. The Promise

Jeremiah 29: 10-13  
Jeremiah 32: 38-41

AMY TATE WILLIAMS

Majestic, sustained  $\text{♩} = 54$

*mp*

6 *mp molto legato*

Thus says the Lord, "When sev-en-ty years have been com-

11 ple - ted for Ba - by - lon, I'll vis - it you and I will ful - fill My prom - ise

15 to you, to bring you home, For I know the plans that I have for