



Handout for week of 1/28/19 Luke 4:21-30 & Jer 1: 4-5, 17-19

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Jer. 1: 4 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying: 5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee; I have appointed thee a prophet unto the nations.

17 Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee; be not dismayed at them, lest I dismay thee before them. 18 For, behold, I have made thee this day a fortified city, and an iron pillar, and brazen walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. 19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.'

c. 732-540

621 Hilkiyah finds Deuteronomy text  
Editing of OT material

Prophecies of Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk

587 Babylonians conquer Judah, destroy Temple, deport people to Babylon

\* Persia: Zoroaster  
\* Greece: Aesop's *Fables*; Sappho; laws of Solon

COMMENTARY: The rejection of the prophets is a common theme in the Bible. Jeremiah is the first to get our attention. Jeremiah is almost the prototype of the rejected prophet. He has literally written the book on the topic. Today we hear part of the first chapter which tells of his call. In the first part we hear that God has planned his career of prophecy even before he was born. I am not sure how Jeremiah took this particular bit of news. It would have made me a bit nervous, I think. Following this God tells Jeremiah to gird his loins, stand up tall, and tell the Israelites everything God want them to be told. And he shouldn't be crushed, because God would not allow him to be crushed.

Think about that. In other words, God is calling him to do something that might result in his being crushed. At least that is how I would hear it, if I were him. Of course God is saying that he won't be crushed. But the offer of assurances certainly suggests that they must be needed. Danger lies ahead. This leads into the part in which Jeremiah is symbolically dressed in armor like a walled city A pillar of iron. A wall of brass. My first thought would be: It's going to be that bad, huh? One understands why Jeremiah tried to back out of the call. A move on his part that merited the speech of today's reading.

Later on, Jeremiah will feel seriously let down. In the 20th chapter he will accuse God of seducing him' You duped me, and I was duped. He is talking about is call, and the words we just heard in the first reading. Jeremiah suffered at the hands of his enemies. But when he tried to keep quiet, seeing how much trouble it got him into, he found he couldn't manage it. The word burned within him, and he had to speak out.

Beck, Robert. Sunday Homilies: Cycle B 2010. Pgs.36-37.