

chapel 2/5/74 Jeremiah

said, I will give you the mouth to speak. Jer. raised objections of his unfitness, but he had no idea of the situation into which he would come. God brought him into these situations and now he faces them and feels so terrible that he cries out this terrible cursing on the one who brought news that he was born. Of course that is hyperbole. ~~God~~ Jer. did not actually want this man who simply came to his father and said you've got a son born, that this man should be treated in such a terrible fashion. That would be ridiculous of course. The meaning of it is that Jer. is expressing his terrible feeling that he was born to go through this awful situation that he had to go through. But the great glory of Jer. is that though he pours out his feelings to God and they are expressed here clearly in the book and they are not wrong feelings, they are not wicked feelings; if they were they would be labeled. They are part of his prophecies showing the feelings that can come to one who follows God's will in difficult situations. But though he pours out his feelings in this way to the Lord, Jer. ~~sto~~ stood like a flint before those who ^{opposed} ~~pposed~~ the Word of God and presented His truth and stood foursquare all through this book. If these passages were left out you might even get the idea that he was a little bit hard and cold, but when you read these passages and when you read the bk. of Lam., you see the grt. loving longing heart of that man, as he sought to do the Lord's will.

Now God had promised Jer. at the beginning of his ministry that God would protect him. God does not always protect His people. When the 3 men went into the fiery furnace, Dr. R. D. Wilson used to say how he liked ~~their~~ their statement where they said to the king: God is able to protect us from the fire ~~fire~~ but if not we still will not bow to your image. They did not know whether God was going to protect them through it or not. They knew that God could, but they were ready to make their lives count for God whatever His will might be. In the case of Jer., God told him at the beg. of his ministry that he would protect him. We find it right in ch. 1:18: "Behold I have made thee this day a defended city (reading text)."