

Jeremiah 1:1

The Key is almost always hidden on the lintel above the door.

So it is in Bible interpretation, a key to understanding is usually found in the very first verse.

For example in the book of Jeremiah it is written in verse 1:

'The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiyah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin'

Studying prophecy is like learning a new alphabet, a new language. In the beginning just setting the letters to heart is hard work. Then the first simple words, simple sentences, short 'baby' stories. With practice and study, soon all the riches, tones, nuances, and even puns become part of one's lexicon. How are you coming along with it? Here's a good little test for you.

So, when you read that sentence, verse 1 of Jeremiah, what does it shout out to you?

First: the phrase '**in the territory of Benjamin**'.

This tells us the prophecy of the book of Jeremiah is fulfilled in the last days when Benjamin (modern state of Israel) is in her territory (possession of promised land). The prophecy of Jeremiah was written for his day, and for today. Not for any time prior to 65 years ago. For the time since 1949 until now. If you don't understand this, you don't have the key to the book do you?

Second: the phrase '**one of the priests of Anathoth**'.

Anathoth means 'woman' (ana) of 'thoth' (hearth/home). It is one of the 48 cities of the Levites established after Joshua's conquest. Anathoth is a symbol of freedom in the land. A place where the Lord's servants dwelled out from under the civil authority of the tribes (nations). Only 3 miles North of Jerusalem and the temple, but separated from it nevertheless.

Who are the priests during the days of Benjamin (modern state of Israel)? The Age of Grace is still in effect. Therefore the priests during this period are the believers in Jesus. Priests are meant to be free of religious or national affiliation. This is the powerful symbol of Anathoth: she is the free woman, pledged to serve the master of her hearth/home, the Lord Jesus Christ. Not to serve religion. No to serve a King in the land. But to be wholly devoted to Jesus.

The message of Jeremiah is directed towards Christians in the last days of Grace, specifically during the times when Israel is a modern state in the land, but before the Rapture and the Great Tribulation. Towards Christians who have removed themselves from religious or national affiliation and who are wholly devoted to Christ in their heart.

Third: the phrase 'Jeremiah, son of Hilkihah'.

The word Jeremiah means 'Jahweh Exalts' and 'Hilkihah' was the high priest who found the 'Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord' when Josiah commanded the temple to be refreshed.

{Twenty-five years ago, when my first son was born, I named him Jeremy. Today, I am learning why. The Spirit was pointing to what was coming in the last days. Last days of my life. Last days of the church on earth.}

So, now we have really narrowed down to whom the book of Jeremiah will make any sense.

To the believers in Jesus:

- ...who live in the days when modern Israel is a nation
- ...who are scrupulously removed and no part of any formal religion
- ...who owe no heart loyalty to any nation-state of this world
- ...who look only to Jesus for his/her reward or 'exaltation' (next life)

Here is the promise,

- ...fresh revelation is contained in these prophecies for your day that will be so astounding if someone were to describe them they would say it is like finding a 'lost book' in the cannon.
- ...read this book and study it that you may grasp what is going on when the world all around you when it begins to fly into pieces in all directions.

Jeremiah lived through the destruction of Jerusalem.

The saints of Anathoth (you and I) are going to live through the destruction of Christianity as we know it on earth.

Pay attention closely to this space in the coming days. We will begin to unravel Jeremiah before your eyes. Like Jeremiah, you will know what is going to happen before it happens. Like Jeremiah, you will try to warn your worldly religious Christian friends. Like Jeremiah, they will not listen.

Prepare to be like Jeremiah, the 'weeping prophet'. It is all bad news and it is coming to a neighborhood near you.

mark h lane