

JEREMIAH, HIS LIFE AND TIMES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649114580

Jeremiah, his life and times by T. K. Cheyne

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

T. K. CHEYNE

**JEREMIAH, HIS
LIFE AND TIMES**

JEREMIAH:

HIS LIFE AND TIMES.

BS
580
J4
C4
SR L

BY

REV. T. K. CHEYNE, M.A., D.D.

ORIEL PROFESSOR OF THE INTERPRETATION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE AT OXFORD,
CANON OF ROCHESTER.

London:

JAMES NISBET AND CO.,

21, BERNERS STREET, W.

TO
PROF. EBERHARD SCHRADER,
Author of
"THE CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTIONS AND THE OLD TESTAMENT,"
A FOREMOST PUPIL OF EWALD
AND PIONEER OF ASSYRIOLOGY,
AS A MEMORIAL
OF PLEASANT PERSONAL INTERCOURSE
IN FORMER DAYS.

C'est pour nous tous un devoir de rompre le cercle magique dans lequel nous restons volontairement enfermés ; sachons nous concilier le grand public par une bonne et scientifique vulgarisation de nos travaux, et ne nous contentons pas de dix lecteurs érudits, quand nous pouvons réunir dans notre auditoire tous ceux que le passé de l'esprit humain charme et attire.

M. BARBIER DE MEYNARD.

PREFACE.

JEREMIAH is one of the central figures of an exciting period which has to be reconstructed by a combined effort of criticism and imagination. It is nearly twenty years since I first began to prepare for a commentary on Jeremiah, and since then the book and its author have retained an interest for me. The exposition in the "Pulpit Commentary" (1883-1885) is a most fragmentary realization of my original plan, and I was glad to take up the pen once more. In the summer of 1887 I preached a course of sermons on Jeremiah in Rochester Cathedral, similar to a course which I have printed on Elijah.¹ These sermons are the germ of the present volume.

In these two biographies I have entered on a field which is new to me—the literary and yet critical treatment of those Old Testament narratives which from my childhood I have loved. With faltering steps I have sought to follow Arthur Stanley, who regarded it as his mission "so to delineate the outward events of the Old and New Testament, as that they should come home with a new power to those who by long familiarity have almost ceased to regard them as historical at all." It is hoped that this volume may be an appropriate companion to Dr. Driver's critical and yet both reverent and popular study on the Life and Times of Isaiah.

I regret that, since Deuteronomy had to be brought in at all hazards, it was impossible to discuss the question of the text of Jeremiah, that of the arrangement of the prophecies, or that of the origin of Jer. x. 1-16, and (see p. 168) l., li. I should now probably modify what I have written on these subjects in

¹ "The Hallowing of Criticism" (Hodder and Stoughton, 1888).

the "Encyclopædia Britannica" (art. "Jeremiah"), and in the "Pulpit Commentary," and should have to discuss them in connexion with the larger question of the method of the editor of Jeremiah, who, I suspect, dealt more freely with his material (yet not so as to injure its true prophetic inspiration) than some of the other editors of the prophecies. I have thought it best on this occasion not to assume more than the most assured results of criticism. The reader must make allowance for the narrow limits prescribed to the volumes of this series. The Book of Jeremiah itself is full of exegetical interest; the character of Jeremiah is a fascinating psychological problem; the times of Jeremiah are among the most important in Old Testament history. On each of these subjects I have tried to throw some light from various sources, and at the same time to kindle in the reader that same reverential sympathy which I hope I feel myself for this great prophet.

Sept. 18, 1888.

CONTENTS.

PART I.

JUDAH'S TRAGEDY DOWN TO THE DEATH OF JOSIAH.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
GOD COMMANDS TO TAKE THE TRUMPET	1
The narrative of Jeremiah's call ; its biographical and spiritual value.	

CHAPTER II.

FRIENDS IN COUNCIL	13
Jeremiah and his friends—Reformers before the Reformation.	

CHAPTER III.

HOPES AND FEARS QUICKLY REALIZED	21
Jeremiah's early discourses, and the historical inferences warranted by them—The quiescence of the reforming party—The sign granted at length—The threatened Scythian invasion.	

CHAPTER IV.

MORNING-CLOUD GOODNESS	37
The crisis and its effects—Religious reaction.	

CHAPTER V.

"HE THAT SEEKETH, FINDETH"	43
The finding of the book of Divine instruction—The national covenant—Jeremiah, a preacher of Deuteronomy.	

CHAPTER VI.

	PAGE
THE ANCIENT LAW TRANSFORMED	60
The publication of the first Scripture, its significance—The leading ideas of Deuteronomy—The effects of the recognition of the Lawbook.	

CHAPTER VII.

FRAUD OR NEEDFUL ILLUSION?	69
Criticism of the narrative in 2 Kings xxii.—The Mosaic authorship of the Lawbook, not tenable—Reasons for this—Notes on the allusions to Egypt in Deuteronomy, and on the finding of the Lawbook.	

CHAPTER VIII.

"HIS REMEMBRANCE IS LIKE MUSIC" (ECCLES. XLIX. 1)	87
David's "last words" fulfilled in Josiah—His thirteen golden years after the great covenant—Jeremiah's comparative happiness—His friends among the wise men—Pharaoh Neco profits by the weakness of Assyria—Josiah's defeat at Megiddo; his death—The national mourning—The tragedy of his life, and of Israel's history.	

PART II.

THE CLOSE OF JUDAH'S TRAGEDY.

CHAPTER I.

THE CLOUDS RETURN AFTER THE RAIN	102
Consequences of Josiah's death—Jeremiah's changed attitude towards Deuteronomy—His visit to Anathoth.	

CHAPTER II.

ON THE VERGE OF MARTYRDOM	114
Jeremiah's sermon in the Temple—The fate of Shiloh—The prophet's trial and acquittal—The martyrdom of Uriah.	

CHAPTER III.

KEEP THE MUNITION, WATCH THE WAY!	125
Progress of Neco—Accession of Jehoahaz, and soon after of Jehoiakim—Fall of Nineveh—Neco's defeat by Nebuchadrezzar—Dread of Babylon at Jerusalem—Jeremiah's new peace of mind—His prophecy on Egypt, &c.	