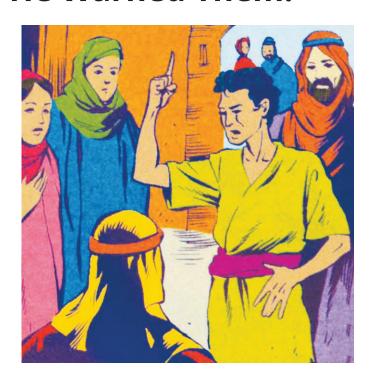
## **He Warned Them!**



Jeremiah 1:1-9; 25:1-14; 39:1-10; Ezra 1:1-5

The people didn't love God or obey Him. They worshiped the idols they had created with their own hands. They acted very badly. However, they expected God to protect them from their enemies.

God loved his people, but he had to punish them if they didn't change their ways. How could he warn them about the danger of disobeying?

One day, God spoke to a young man named Jeremiah. "Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart: I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah was afraid. "Sovereign Lord, I don't know how to speak; I'm too young."

God replied, "Don't say, 'I'm too young.'

You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Don't be afraid of them, for I'm with you and will rescue you."

For 23 years, Jeremiah did exactly what God asked him to do. When God gave him a message, he passed it on to the people of Judah. He preached in the city of Jerusalem. He spoke about sin and what would happen if they didn't repent.

"Turn now, each of you, from your evil ways and your evil practices, and you can stay in the land the Lord gave to you and your ancestors for ever and ever. Don't follow other gods . . ."

Neither the king nor the people paid attention to the messages that God gave them through Jeremiah. They continued to worship the idols and do evil. One of the kings burned the scroll on which Jeremiah had written God's messages. However, Jeremiah and his secretary wrote the message again. Jeremiah warned the people: "Therefore the Lord Almighty says this: 'Because you haven't listened to my words, I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin. I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp. This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years."

But not everything that Jeremiah said