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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1564 ~ Jeremiah the Prophet.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

A few centuries ago, an uneducated miner in Scotland began to preach among his fellow workmen with great power. Soon his witness took him far beyond the confines of the mining towns. Someone asked him how he received his call to preach.

He replied, “Oh, I had such a burden on my soul for those who did not know the Gospel. I argued with the Lord that I had no education and no gift. But He said to me, “Jamie, you know what the sickness is, don’t you?”

I answered, “Yes, Lord, the sickness is sin.” “And you know what the remedy is, don’t you, Jamie?” I answered, “Yes, Lord, the remedy is the Lord Jesus Christ.” And He said to me, ‘Jamie, you take this remedy to those who are sick.’ That is my call to preach.” This is God’s call to every believer in Jesus.

Many of God’s people called to do some special work for Him have felt so inadequate for the huge task they were given. And the first thing they tried to do was put forward to God why they thought He had called the wrong person. This happened in today’s *Bible Adventure*, which is taken from the Old Testament book of Jeremiah, Chapter 1.

Some seventy years after the death of God’s prophet Isaiah, God called a very young man Jeremiah from a priestly family to be His prophet to Judah. Although Jeremiah made the excuse of his young age as a reason not to be a prophet, God insisted Jeremiah was the right one for the job.

God's hand had been on Jeremiah since before he was born. Jeremiah's call to God's work came in the sixteenth year of the reign of King Josiah. This was the time just before Josiah went through all the land of Israel and Judah, tearing down the altars and groves for worshipping false gods. Jeremiah thus experienced the golden years of his ministry until Josiah was killed in a battle that he shouldn't have ever been involved in.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

What is a prophet? A prophet faithfully told the people God's words regarding His worship and will for those listeners. His role involved the writing down of future events as they were revealed to him by God's Holy Spirit.

These inspired writings from the ancient prophets now form the books of the Bible. Many of the Old Testament books were written by a number of people throughout a period of a thousand years prior to 400BC. The New Testament books were written later between 50AD and 100AD.

In AD 302, the Roman Emperor Diocletian ordered all sacred books be destroyed by fire. Such persecution caused the early Christian leaders to look at which books rightly deserved to be considered inspired and sacred. At this point in time, there were many false and corrupt books in circulation as well as truly inspired books. When the apostles were alive, the necessity for *written* records of the words and actions of Jesus Christ was not so pressing. But when the time came for them to pass on, it became extremely important to the believers that authoritative records be established as a Bible.

In the case of the New Testament, the final selection were decided at the council at Carthage in 387 AD, despite evidence that points to the choosing of books as early as about the year 100.

When the compilation of Scriptures was finalised, God did not call any further prophets to give any more prophecies concerning His chosen people and the Kingdom of God.

The inspired Word of God is different from all other books in the world. God knew the end of history from the beginning and many of the prophecies He gave under inspiration to His prophets are still yet to take place. These unfulfilled prophecies were given to men known in their own generations as being godly people.

The Bible is God's Word to Christian believers. Many who love Him dearly have made heroic efforts to get the Bible into the hands of ordinary people. Some have risked their lives to become Bible smugglers into various countries where rulers and authorities have forbidden Bibles. Anti-God leaders fear the reading of the Bible because they might lose power over their people.

When King Josiah was alive, Jeremiah had a godly friend in Josiah. Jeremiah preached to the people often by using vivid illustrations. In Chapter 18 of the book of Jeremiah, Jeremiah was instructed by God to visit a potter's house. When Jeremiah next preached, he dramatically broke a clay bottle to emphasize that God would send Babylon's army to break down the walls of Jerusalem and take the people he was preaching to into captivity.

After Josiah's death and until the end of the nation of Judah, Jeremiah suffered ridicule and times of imprisonment in several uncomfortable places.

However, God protected Jeremiah's life throughout it all. Jeremiah kept on with his preaching and warning the inhabitants of Jerusalem of God's forthcoming judgement. But the people wouldn't listen. They hardened their hearts until they had no sense of guilt regarding their lack of relationship with God.

Guilt comes when a person's conscience tells them that they have done wrong. God never makes people escape their guilt; they are instead to confess and forsake their sin. If guilt within a person's spirit is not forgiven, a person may experience ill health. Or they may try to appease their conscience by drowning it in drugs, alcohol or other mind-numbing pursuits. But guilt can never be permanently removed by self-pity, illness or any other form of escapism.

The Lord Jesus told the parable of a prodigal son. When the hungry son came to his senses and realized that all his father's hired servants had more to eat than he did, he decided to return home. He believed that he had forfeited his sonship by already receiving his share of his father's inheritance. He thought out a speech of apology and confession of his guilt. He hoped his father would take him on as a servant so he could at least have some food. Each one of us needs to experience a release from guilt through full confession and repentance so we can face reality.

An old man recounted his call to be a missionary in China. But he decided to get married instead and not to go. For the next forty years, he endured an unhappy relationship with his wife until she died. Did he regret turning down God's call? It was his great missed opportunity. Have you known and loved the Lord Jesus as your Saviour for many years? Does His plan for your life seem like an unclimbable mountain? No one can do His work in their own strength. It is only by being fully surrendered to Him and depending on Him every minute of the day that we can identify with the faithfulness of Jeremiah.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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