Jeremiah

Chapter 45

*A Message to Baruch*

**This is what Jeremiah the prophet told Baruch son of Neriah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, after Baruch had written on a scroll the words Jeremiah was then dictating:  2 “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to you, Baruch:  3 You said, ‘Woe to me! The LORD has added sorrow to my pain; I am worn out with groaning and find no rest.’” 4 The LORD said, “Say this to him: ‘This is what the LORD says: I will overthrow what I have built and uproot what I have planted, throughout the land.  5 Should you then seek great things for yourself? Seek them not. For I will bring disaster on all people, declares the LORD, but wherever you go I will let you escape with your life.’”**

**45:1–5** A brief message of encouragement to Baruch, Jeremiah’s faithful secretary (see note on 32:12). Though out of chronological order, the section provides a suitable historical appendix to chs. 39–44 as well as a smooth transition to chs. 46–51 (see notes on v. 1; 46:2). (CSB)

**45:1** *fourth year of Jehoiakim.* 605 b.c. Ch. 45 fits chronologically between 36:8 and 36:9 (see note on 36:8). (CSB)

 *had written on a scroll.* See 36:4; see also 36:2 and note. (CSB)

**45:2** TO YOU BARUCH – Even the disciple of the prophet was not spared by the Lord as far as reproving the faults of those whose welfare He sought was concerned. (Kretzmann)

**45:3** To some extent Baruch shared Jeremiah’s anguish, the result of Jeremiah’s prophetic call and ministry (see, e.g., 8:18–9:2; 20:7–18). (CSB)

 *worn out with groaning.* See Ps 6:6. (CSB)

 *find no rest.* See La 5:5. (CSB)

The grief which Baruch felt was intensified by fear for his own life on account of the suspicions of his own countrymen, chap. 43, 3. All of this seemed to him to amount to a very harsh treatment on the part of God. (Kretzmann)

**45:4** *overthrow … built … uproot … planted.* See note on 1:10; see also 2:21; 31:4–5, 28, 40; 32:41; 33:7. (CSB)

 *land.* Or “earth” (see “all people” in v. 5; see also 25:15, 31; 46–51). (CSB)

**45:5** *great things … Seek them not.* See Ps 131:1. Baruch’s brother Seraiah would occupy an important position under King Zedekiah (see 32:12; 51:59), but Baruch himself was not to be ambitious or self-seeking. (CSB)

 *escape with your life.* See note on 21:9. (CSB)

Baruch was not to claim exemption in the general overthrow, but he had the consolation of knowing that his life would be spared, no matter what else he might have to endure. "This is part of God's design in suffering His servants to be tempted, that their temptations may adapt them for ministering to their fellow-servants when tempted." (Kretzmann)