

Jeremiah

Chapter 45

Message to Baruch

The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Neriah, when he wrote these words in a book at the dictation of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: 2 “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch: 3 You said, ‘Woe is me! For the LORD has added sorrow to my pain. I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.’ 4 Thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD: Behold, what I have built I am breaking down, and what I have planted I am plucking up—that is, the whole land. 5 And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the LORD. But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go.”

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. (CSB)

Baruch’s survival came at God’s command. God promised to deliver him more than 15 years before Jerusalem’s destruction. God promises to keep Baruch safe during a time of continued war (v 5). (TLSB)

45:1 *fourth year of Jehoiakim.* 605 B.C. Ch. 45 fits chronologically between 36:8 and 36:9. (CSB)

45:2 *to 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 *Woe is me!* The honest scribe admitted that he shared Jeremiah’s anguish over a painful and futile task (8:18; 12:1; 15:15–21; 20:7–8). (TLSB)

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)

find no rest. 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)

45:5 *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)

Whoever would be great in God’s kingdom must surrender selfish ambitions (cf Mt 20:26–28). (TLSB)

I will give you your life. 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)

Ch 45 God reveals His heart in a message of encouragement encouragement to Baruch, Jeremiah's secretary. When God disciplines, even faithful servants like Baruch will feel the heat of His wrath. Yet God will protect Baruch throughout the turmoil ahead. Because God is wholly righteous, He must punish sin (Heb 12:6), although it causes Him great pain. God keeps His promises, even when His people break theirs, and He finally sends the Savior for all sinners. • Help us understand Your heart, O Lord, even when we do not understand Your plans for us. Keep our eyes on the cross of Christ Jesus. Amen. (TLSB)