

**IF WE SEEK THE FACE OF GOD, WE NEED NOT FEAR THE FACES OF PEOPLE.**

*The Person God Will Use*

- Begins with God's call to be something you never thought possible:

God is **preparing** us even when we don't realize it – 1:4-5

*Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>5</sup> "Before I **formed** you in the womb I **knew** you, and before you were born I **consecrated** you; I **appointed** you a prophet to the nations."*

- We feel **inadequate** and formulate excuses – 1:6

*Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."*

- Lack of expertise.

- Lack of experience.

- God reminds us that He has the **final** word on who we are and what we are able to do – 1:7-10

*But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."*

- Almond branch: First tree to bud & indicate spring was near. – 1:11

- God is working while we're waiting...even when it may seem His work is dormant.<sup>1</sup>

- Boiling pot: Judgment is coming. Some don't believe it. Stay faithful anyway. – 1:13

• Get ready to experience **opposition** and God's **power** – 1:17-19

*But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. <sup>18</sup> And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. <sup>19</sup> They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you."*

opposition/power

*"For a people to boast in the glory of the past, and to deny the secret that made the past, is to perish." — G. Campbell Morgan<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> 1:11. God's first confirming vision caused Jeremiah to see the branch of an almond tree. The Hebrew word for "almond tree" is šāqēd, from the word "to watch or to wake" (šāqad). The almond tree was named the "awake tree" because in Palestine it is the first tree in the year to bud and bear fruit. Its blooms precede its leaves, as the tree bursts into blossom in late January. 1:12. The branch represented God who was watching to see that His word is fulfilled. God used a play on words to associate the almond branch with His activity. The word for "watching" is šōqēd, related to the Hebrew noun for "almond tree." Jeremiah's vision of the "awake tree" reminded him that God was awake and watching over His word to make sure it came to pass. – John F. Walvoord, & Roy B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Victor Books: Wheaton, IL, 1983-c1985), in *Logos Library System*.

<sup>2</sup> G. Campbell Morgan, *Studies in the Prophecy of Jeremiah* (Westwood, N.J.: Fleming H. Revell, 1961), 19.