**Jesus Came to Build and to Destroy**

Jesus would need to destroy some things if He was going to build something new.

**1 John 3:8** 8 “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

This word for “destroy” means to loose; dissolve; sever; break; or unravel. It would be like undoing knots in something tied up. As a reference to undoing the devil’s work, this would lay the foundation for the great work of bringing forth a new wineskin to hold new wine.

**Matthew 16:18** 18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

“Prevail” is the term “kataischuo” which means “strength-against”: Hell is powerless against the church (Heb. 2).

To pursue this theme of destroying and building, let us look at Jeremiah, Chapter 1. There, we find the Call (vv. 4-8), the Consecration and Commission (vv. 9-10), and the Confirmation (vv. 11-12):

**Jeremiah 1:4-5** 4 “Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

This is similar to what Paul says concerning himself and other believers including you.

**Galatians 1:15** 15 “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called *me* through His grace…”

**Ephesians 1:4-5** 4” just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined **us** to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will…”

**Romans 8:29-30** 29 “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

From the womb to now there has been a growth toward what we will be and accomplish. You are a deliberate plan and purpose of God…a chosen instrument of Divine activity!

**Jeremiah 1:6** 6 “Then said I: “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I *am* a youth.”

He was terrified by the call, as was seen also in the life of Moses. This is actually typical of all believers at the call of God. But God has a consistent response, whether to Jeremiah or to us.

**Jeremiah 1:7** 7 “But the Lord said to me: “Do not say, ‘I *am* a youth,’ For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.’

 God’s response to our hesitation is always to point out that it isn’t about what we can or cannot do. Let the weak say, “I am strong!” Don’t focus on self saying, “I can’t.” Just do what I say; it is My revelation, My thoughts, not yours! If I send you, I provide the means. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

**2 Corinthians 12:10** 10 “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

**2 Timothy 1:6-7** 6 “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

**Jeremiah 1:8** 8 “”Do not be afraid of their faces, For I *am* with you to deliver you,” says the Lord.”

 I am with you to deliver you…out of the consequences of My calling. Many are the

afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

**2 Timothy 3:11** 11” persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.”

Paul said, “With much persecution shall we enter the Kingdom of God”, and “All who would live godly…shall suffer persecution”. Jesus Himself said, “In the world you have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Being an obedient follower of Christ will cause pressure to arise; just do right and trust God!

**Jeremiah 1:9** 9 “Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.” **{Consecration for Commission}**

“My word in your mouth…” That is, we are to speak the word of God over life. Relating to faith, Paul said, “The word is near you, in your heart and in your mouth” (Rom 10:6-9). When we come to faith in Christ, God touches our mouth. His hand equips, arms, and readies us. Thereafter, we have the authority to bind and loose (MT 16:19).

We become preachers of righteousness.

**2 Timothy 4:2** 2 "Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”

**Jeremiah 1:10** 10 “See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, **To destroy** and to throw down, **To build** and to plant.”

 Destroy and build with His words (See Isa 55:10 ff.). God Commissions to be over heathen:

**Matthew 28:18-20** 18 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5** 4 “For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,” **{To Destroy}**

**Jeremiah 1:11-12** 11 “Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see a branch of an almond tree.” 12 Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.”

The almond tree begins to blossom in January when all other trees are still asleep; it is first to awaken to new life. God is saying, “I will bring speedy manifestation to My word in your mouth. I am wakeful and watchful over My word to perform it.

Jesus came to build and destroy. As you have seen with Jeremiah, God calls, consecrates and commissions, and confirms His people, sending them to build and destroy.

**Mark 16:15-20** 15 “And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” 19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.“

Jesus called them, consecrated and commissioned them and confirmed them as they preached everywhere. Let us go forth in this same way to receive this same confirmation! Amen!