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chapel 2/5/74 -- Jeremiah

It is no excuse for our ever being lazy, for our failing to develop ourselves to the utmost and do the most we can with our potentiality but His plan is best whichever it is.

Now we start at the beginning of the book of Jeremiah with the account of his call. We find this in vs. 4-5 (Reading 1:4-5) God's plan for Jeremiah was made long before Jeremiah was born. God had a definite plan for his life, a definite purpose in it and that purpose was fulfilled. And God has a plan and a purpose for each of us. We can rejoice in His purpose or we can be frustrated and miserable when we find what His purpose is. Jeremiah had a very difficult task. I don't think most of us realize how disagreeable his task was. In order to realize it let us think of the fact that Jeremiah loved his people. He was a patriotic member of the kingdom of Judah. He loved the city of Jerusalem. A book -- a whole book in the Scripture, the book of Lamentations is devoted to Jeremiah's lamentations over the destruction of that city he loved so much. Yet God ~~said~~, sent Jeremiah to rebuke His people, to tell them that unless they repented and turned away absolute misery was ahead and to be there when the misery came, when the city was destroyed he seemed to be a quisling. He seemed to be a fifth columnist to many of his people. How different was the situation of Jeremiah from that of Isaiah. You begin Jer. and you begin Isa. and they seem very much alike Both of them start with denouncing the people for their sin. But Isa. after he denounces them for their sin looks way beyond them to the blessings that God says are sure to come. Now when the denunciations of Isaiah and the declaration of coming exile have reached the point of actually coming a century after the time of Isaiah, Jeremiah comes and he denounces people for their sin, but he doesn't say God is going to bring great blessing. He says, If you repent God will bring you blessing. So Isaiah had the privilege of giving those marvellous pictures of blessing ahead; of the birth of Christ; of the universal kingdom of Christ which He is going to establish, of the wonderful things that are coming for God's people. Jeremiah has