# “Paul and Jeremiah: Strange Bedfellows?

A Study of Paul’s References to Jeremiah in Galatians”

*Thesis*

Paul understood his call and mission, at least in part, in connection with the Old Testament prophets. In particular, Paul referred often to the prophet Isaiah, but also seems to have understood his call and mission in terms of the prophet Jeremiah. This paper seeks to present evidence and arguments for this thesis concerning Jeremiah, primarily from Paul’s letter to the Galatians, with some examination of other Pauline writings. Ways in which this thesis might enrich our reading of Galatians are proposed.

*Outline*

# Why it might seem that paul and jeremiah are strange bedfellows:

## We refer to Paul as an apostle, rather than as a prophet.

## The flyleaf between the Old and New Testaments.

## The importance of Isaiah and Habakkuk for Paul.

# EVIDENCE FROM OTHER PAULINE LETTERS.

## Admittedly, there are only a few direct quotes from Jeremiah. Indeed, there are only two: 1 Corinthians 1:31=Jeremiah 9:24; and 2 Corinthians 10:17=Jeremiah 9:24.

## Allusions and/or echoes are neither plentiful nor convincing. However, the following are candidates:

### Romans 9:21 // Jeremiah 18:6.

### 1 Corinthians 1:30 // Jeremiah 23:5-6.

### 2 Corinthians 6:16 // Jeremiah 32:38.

4. Romans 11:27; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Corinthians 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:3, 6 // Jeremiah 31:31-34.

# EVIDENCE FROM GALATIANS FOR A CONNECTION WITH jEREMIAH.

1. Galatians 1:15 and Jeremiah 1:5.
2. Paul’s and Jeremiah’s Concern with Their Legitimacy as Messengers of God.
3. Jeremiah and the Nations and Paul and the Nations.

**CONCLUSION: How might reading Galatians in conjunction with Jeremiah enrich our reading of Galatians?**