

HOW DID JEREMIAH GET BOUND UP WITH KINGS

First, Jeremiah was there when the kingship came to its knees as the major prophet of the pre-exilic days and he was the man who made the concluding analysis of the kingly lines of Israel and Judah.

Second, Jeremiah is the natural candidate of Rabbinic Judaism for the vacancy declared by what traditional external evidence exists.

Third and most impressive the internal evidence points to Jeremiah. The first tier of evidence derives from the phrase “until this day” (used at least 4 times in this book) and popular in Jeremiah’s prophetic writing. This phrase is not unique to the prophet but he does happen to be the writer with whom it is in most frequent use. Moses has one such phrase, Judges gives us two more as does Samuel and the Jeremiah supplies four which are the only such phrases apart from one in Chronicles related to the main earlier historical span of the book. The time must also be long beyond the “now” of Elisha Chapter 8.1-6

Fourth, Jeremiah from the priestly family and his endorsement of the excellent actions of Hilkiyah and his notice of the appointment of the Jewish priest by the King of Babylon to reassure the Samaritans and his critique of the phallic priests tend to favour a priestly writer.

Fifth, the predominance of the prophetic word in the book and the interest in the recompense of nations chimes best with the ministry of Jeremiah

Bob Coffey

A BIBLE COMPANION