

The Order of the Chapters in Jeremiah: Though in many ways the Book of Jeremiah is very understandable, one of the things that can make it very confusing is that the chapters of the book are not arranged chronologically. (Some of this may be because of the complex textual history of Jeremiah. There were different ancient versions, and were even different versions in Jeremiah's day because his book was destroyed and then rewritten (see Jeremiah 36. Thus it is not surprising that the book comes together in a complex way). Sometimes there is explicit information that allows us to determine when a prophecy was delivered, but at other times we have to guess based on the tone and subject of the prophecy. Thus we cannot be sure of the timing of many chapters. If one were to read the chapters chronologically, based on both reliable information and guesses, such an order would look something like this:

1-6, 14-16, 26-27, 35, 25, 17-20, 22, 7-12 (?), 36, 45, 13, 23-24, 29-31, 46-51 (?), 28, 21, 32-34, 37-44, 52