

# Jeremiah's Self-Denial as a Message to the Nation

**16: 1-21**

**607 BC during the eleven-year reign of Jehoiakim**

The life of a man or woman of **God** is hard, let alone a **prophet of God**. In order to get the attention of **the people**, **ADONAI** sometimes told **the prophets** to do unusual things. **Isaiah** gave two of **his** son's odd names, which **he** used to convey a message to the nation (see the commentary on **Isaiah Cf - The Sign of Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz**). **Isaiah** also dressed like a prisoner of war to call attention to a coming conflict (see the commentary on **Isaiah Eh - The Oracle Concerning Egypt and Ethiopia**).

The whole section is in an autobiographical style. Given the importance of children in that culture, this prohibition would have been startling to both the prophet and the people. The deprivations pictured here made **Jeremiah's** life a picture of the terrible fate that awaited the nation (**Co - You Must Not Marry and Have Sons and Daughters**). The next file shows that the word of judgment is not **God's** last word with respect to **this people**. **The days are coming** when **YHVH** will once again show favor and return (**shuwb**) **Isra'el** from exile (**Cp - Judgment Before Final Restoration to the Land**).