

Till something one's heart's set on goes really wrong, one is a child. *But, you say, that's a daily experience for the child?* So I must add, "something one's heart's set on with one's adult powers, in one's 'maturity' in the bio-developmental sense." Try sentences expressing this mood--e.g., "I've given it my all, and it didn't work out." Cf. the Fr. maxim "From success one learns nothing." To the adult, life says no to a straight-line connection of question/answer, problem/solution, project/accomplishment, power/achievement, dream/fulfilment, desire/satisfaction, want/supply; and one is being asked to make some other than straight-line sense....This Bible study is about this dimension of being asked (biblically, being called by God to "go out" and "come up higher"). Jer. had thrown heart and soul and mind and strength into providing spiritual support for King Josiah's reforms; Josiah is crushed between Babylon and Egypt and his son Jehoiakim succeeds: here Jer. is in midcareer and midlife crisis, struggling with (1) anomie [collapse of cosmos into chaos: what does it all mean?], (2) accidie [how can I go on caring?], (3) oscillating negative emotions (e.g., bitterness: chap.12) and apathy, and (4) the urge to make and communicate fresh sense of life-and-world (chaps.36 & 45)....Read the scroll of Jer. at one sitting; then, at another sitting, read Kuist's "The Book of Jeremiah" and circle as you go the reff. that strike you as most important for you right now; then, at a third sitting, draw a marginal line to cover, in your study Bible [JB is best for this], those passages....Jer.'s heart can be read without noting its historical setting, but the setting helps, so here it is:

The pulsations of empire: SECULAR history [B.C....]	The final four decades of the Kingdom of David: SACRED history	
	<i>King</i>	<i>Prophet</i>
640-----		
Assyria faltering	Josiah the king	Jeremiah's call [627f-1.1f]
630-----		
620-----	[Proto-] Deuteronomy discovered, Reformation begun [622f]	
Ninevah falls [612]		
610-----		
Necco kills Josiah [609], and.....	Josiah's son Jehoiakim becomes a vassal of Egypt	
Battle of Carchemish [605], so.....	king becomes a puppet of Babylon	Temple forbidden to Jeremiah [605], so dictates to Baruch (1.4-8.3)
600-----		
590-----	abortive rebellion [598]	As Isaiah had seen Assyria, so Jeremiah sees Babylon as God's punishment.
	revolt (589): Egypt had promised support, but Babylon destroys Jerusalem [586]	Baruch's book (26-45; Jer. expresses hope by investing in captured real estate--32.1-25).