

Believe *His* Prophets

This Morning Watch Calendar follows the Believe His Prophets Daily Bible Reading Guide for 2017. Each chapter has a study verse to be used as the Youth Morning Watch verse of the day. A chapter Summary Statement is provided each day.

2017 Morning Watch Calendar

Quarter 3: July - September



General Conference Youth Ministries Department
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July 1

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 42
2. **Theme:** God’s Servant, and the people’s response
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 42:1
4. **Statement:** Here is a lovely messianic chapter. The first part describes Jesus so perfectly that it’s hard to believe there is anyone who can’t see it. The last part describes the condition of the people, not only before Jesus came to earth, but also many of them after. Do you think there are also promises for us, God’s lesser servants, in the first part?

5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Great Servant of humankind, how could You debase Yourself so much as to come to us? It would be like one of us becoming an ant to show other ants where the best anthills are! But You loved us that much. Thank You!!*

July 2

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 43
2. **Theme:** Redeemed!
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 43:1-2
4. **Statement:** How much more precious could God’s promises to you be? He knows your name; He walks with you through every single difficulty you face. (Don’t misunderstand vs 3-4; God does not give up anyone except those who refuse Him. But He is willing to lose everything for each one who says yes to Him.)

1. **Response:**

5. **Prayer:** *My Creator, every day I feel safer, knowing You are guiding me and holding me up through any fire or high water that I face in life.*

July 3

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 44
2. **Theme:** Abundant life with God
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 44:3
4. **Statement:** Here is a heart-lifting exercise. Put your name in wherever the text says Jacob, or Israel, or Jeshurun, or other names. God is giving these promises to *you*, just as if you were the only child He had! Each of us is His “favorite.” God is omnipotent and omnipresent, and He can do that with all of us at once!

2. **Response:**

5. **Prayer:** *Father, help me to acquire both knowledge and understanding, which can grow to true wisdom. Show me my worst traits, and guard me against them.*

July 4

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 45
2. **Theme:** God calls Cyrus
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 45:8
4. **Statement:** Here is proof that God deals even with people who do not know Him. When Cyrus felt “moved” to subdue nations, did he have any idea it was God’s plan? Who knows? God says He can “gird you” and “give you a title of honor” even when you don’t know Him. Of course, the blessings can’t be as great or as complete as when people *do* know God, but we can take comfort in the fact that God is working with all the people we are praying for, whether they know Him or not.

5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Supreme Ruler, You are in charge of everything. But You have given us the great gift of free will. We can say No. But I won’t! Please help me lead others to say Yes, too.*

July 5

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 46
2. **Theme:** God versus fake gods
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 46:4
4. **Statement:** Can you name some idols of today, where you live? Do those false ideas and things even claim to know the future and “accomplish all their good pleasure?” No. In fact, they usually promise their followers *their* good pleasure. “Just buy this product, worship this image, do this ritual, and you will be rich and popular and powerful!” God makes no such promises. “You will have tribulation,” says Jesus. “But I’m with you.” Which promise would you rather have?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Jesus, You are with me. That’s all I ask.*

July 6

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 47
2. **Theme:** God cries over Babylon
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 47:10
4. **Statement:** Those who follow Babylon and refuse to leave her wicked ways were also created and loved by God. He will weep at her final destruction. But the leader of all that rebellion, the devil himself, made the ultimate false and blasphemous claim. It’s in v 10. Do you see him claiming the very Name of God?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Holy One, I am only because You are and You made me. Please stop me if I ever start being proud or arrogant!*

July 7

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 48
2. **Theme:** God’s own are sometimes Babylonish
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 48:10-11
4. **Statement:** Here, even Israel and Judah go wrong. They don’t actually say “I AM”; they use God’s name, but “not in truth or righteousness.” They do it for power and for falsehood. God declares their guilt, but also promises to refine and deliver those who will consent to it. On which side are you?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Mighty God, I am Yours, no one else’s. I do believe You created everything, and I will pay attention to Your commandments.*

July 8

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 49
2. **Theme:** Salvation to the ends of the earth
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 49:13
4. **Statement:** It is very clear that this first part, while partially fulfilled in Isaiah, is actually about the Messiah. See 6-7. Does it surprise you, then, to see that even Jesus may have sometimes been tempted to think His work was pointless (v 4)? What kept Him from giving up?
7. **Response:**

5. **Prayer:** *O God, give me the faith of Jesus, the faith that never lets go, the faith that goes through blackness trusting that You know what’s on the other side and I don’t have to know.*

July 9

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 50
2. **Theme:** God defends His Servant
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 50:7
4. **Statement:** Again, you can see signs of Jesus in these texts. But they can also apply to any who, like Isaiah, faithfully follow God’s call on their lives despite mockery and opposition. Have you had to do that yet?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord God, I know that I will not be ashamed when I follow what You ask me to do and let others say or do what they may.*

July 10

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 51
2. **Theme:** Comfort for God’s people
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 51:3
4. **Statement:** Again, you can put your name in places where it says Zion or people. These promises are for you. God will make you like a watered garden, even here, and one of these days, the “sky will vanish like smoke” and we and everything will be made new! Write a thank you prayer to God.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Creator and Redeemer, I can’t wait for You to make everything new. In the meantime, I will live in Your light and my life will be like the garden of Eden, even here.*

July 11

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 52
2. **Theme:** Final redemption
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 52:7
4. **Statement:** After everything earthly Jerusalem went through, all the captivities and wars and sin, God rescued them. He will do the same, finally, with the whole earth. All who say yes to God and commit to the life of love will live with Him forever. How does that make you feel?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, may it come soon! While we wait, I want to be a bearer of glad tidings to all who will listen.*

July 12

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 53
2. **Theme:** The suffering Servant
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 53:11
4. **Statement:** This is the clearest prophecy of Jesus in the whole Old Testament. So many details of His life and death are described here in detail. Verse 11 is a promise specifically for Jesus, especially when He struggled in the Garden of Gethsemane. Might the angels have whispered to Him, “You will see the result of the anguish of Your soul. By Your knowledge, many will be justified”?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear, beloved Jesus, I can’t even begin to imagine what You went through for me. I know You must have been tempted to give up. I am so glad You didn’t!*

July 13

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 54
2. **Theme:** Zion comforted
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 54:10
4. **Statement:** Whenever you are in deep trials, you may come here and read this chapter and be comforted and encouraged. Terms like “barren” or “fruitful” can be symbolic in almost any situation. This chapter can be read by a childless woman, but it also applies to someone who feels their life is not producing fruit for God. Pray it for yourself, and see what God brings to your heart.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord of hosts, Maker, even Husband (caregiver) of my soul, You are always with me, and I trust You, no matter what.*

July 14

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 55
2. **Theme:** The Invitation
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 55:1
4. **Statement:** Here is Jesus’ invitation to the wedding feast of the Lamb. He invites every soul on earth to come up and partake of His feast—but that’s not all. He invites us now, today, to partake of his faithfulness and salvation, to live with our hands in God’s hands. Have you sent your RSVP?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Bridegroom, I would be more than honored to attend Your feast, and I can’t believe You are starting it now, even before we get to the Great Table in heaven! PS, I’ll bring as many others as I can!*

July 15

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 56
2. **Theme:** ALL are invited
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 56:7
4. **Statement:** Just in case anybody doubted it, the invitation specifically includes those who have been looked down upon and considered “not good enough.” God calls the disabled (mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually) and the “foreigners” (to the Jews, these were any non-Jews, but nobody is foreign to the King of the whole earth!) God calls you, too. Believe it!
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Father, yes. Yes! I’m coming! And extra thank-You’s for the glorious gift of Sabbath!*

July 16

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 57
2. **Theme:** God’s scathing rebuke of evil
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 57:15
4. **Statement:** This chapter gets specific in describing horrific evils perpetrated by people who knew better. God describes false worship as adultery—being faithless to the God to Whom they had pledged their devotion. He is even angrier when the leaders put such obstacles in the way of His people. (Compare v 14 with Matt. 23:13.) Yet still, at the end, He promises healing...if only they’ll listen.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, what can I do to help? When people are simply ignoring You and going their own ways, show me when to speak and when to keep silent, and always make me a silent witness, at least.*

July 17

- 1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 58
- 2. **Theme:** Wisdom versus the know-it-all
- 3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 58:12
- 4. **Statement:** The first part of this chapter does not specifically mention Sabbath but is talking about fasts, so it does apply to holy days. Some people make them into days of burden, fasting, afflicting themselves, trying to show how holy they are. Others treat them with “business as usual”—another way of translating “your own ways.” What does God say His holy days are meant to be?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, make me a repairer of the breach and a restorer of streets in which to dwell.*

July 18

- 1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 59
- 2. **Theme:** A call and a confession
- 3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 59:21
- 1. **Statement:** What? God asks. Do you think I’m too weak to save you? Again and again He begs His people to listen, to come near. From v 9, Isaiah finally records a confession! Is there hope? Yes—always. Just look at the end.

4. **Response:**

- 5. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, thank You for the promise of the Holy Spirit, and help me to live in that holy light always.*

July 19

- 1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 60
- 2. **Theme:** The home of God
- 3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 60:21
- 4. **Statement:** This chapter is another that sounds like the book of Revelation. It is another that we can read when we are discouraged by what we see around us. He will come. The days of our mourning will be over. “I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time.”

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Holy God, when You “hasten things in their time,” it still seems really long to us! We are short-lived creatures. But I will trust You.*

July 20

- 1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 61
- 2. **Theme:** Jesus’ Mission Statement
- 3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 61:10
- 4. **Statement:** Again we see one of the favorite chapters of the Bible. God promises eternal salvation, eternal joy, eternal riches of a type we can’t even imagine yet. He symbolizes His salvation as the jewelry and finery worn by a bride and bridegroom, and also as a garden. Find your favorite passage and share it with someone else.

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Lord God, cause righteousness and praise to spring up in me.*

July 21

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 62
2. **Theme:** Glory and a new name
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 62:10
4. **Statement:** Do Israel and Judah deserve all that God lavishes on them in this chapter? Do we? In ancient times, and still in some places, a person’s name is far more than a label; it has great power to define them. God promises, I’m going to make you so new and different you will even have a new name! And God will rejoice over you. Yes, over *you!*
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *My God, my God, what have I ever done to deserve Your love and mercy? Nothing! But I claim Your name, and call myself Christian. Let me show that name as it is meant to be.*

July 22

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 63
2. **Theme:** God’s “strange work”
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 63:16
4. **Statement:** It was back in chapter 28:21 that God’s work of justice is called “strange,” or “extraordinary,” or “unusual,” depending on the translation. Here it is described in grim detail. God hates destruction. But He cannot let it go on forever. He has to end it. He has pled for thousands of years for people to listen to Him and be saved. He has given His own lifeblood to rescue us. At some point, He must stop.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Holy God, I can feel a tiny taste of the love You feel for Your erring ones. Please show me how I can help to save some.*

July 23

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 64
2. **Theme:** Prayer for mercy
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 64:8
4. **Statement:** While time lasts, God’s wrath is restrained. Bad things happen, and sometimes we bring them on ourselves, but they are meant to call us back, not to destroy us. Isaiah here prays for mercy. We can pray for the same.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Holy and righteous God, You would be within Your rights to simply end the whole earth. You could have done it at Eden, or at the Flood. But You always have a little more mercy. I join my pleas with Yours to save as many as possible.*

July 24

1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 65
2. **Theme:** God’s wrath tempered, all things new
3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 65:17
4. **Statement:** In the first verses, God points out that He does have the right to not relent. Hasn’t he pled for centuries? His people are doing occult and evil rituals in the night, and then calling themselves holier than others in the day! But He does relent, and promise all things new. Those who will listen will have peace forever.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, I am the offspring of those blessed by the Lord. My children will be the same. I am Yours.*

July 25

- 1. **Chapter:** Isaiah 66
- 2. **Theme:** Rebukes and promises
- 3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 62:13
- 4. **Statement:** God promises the comfort of a loving Mother, but also promises an end to evil. He knows the works and thoughts of *all*, and all of those will be seen. Their rewards will be just in either case.

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *God, I bow down before you. I won't wait until every knee bows. I want to follow You and live in Your peace now!*

July 26

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 1
- 2. **Theme:** Jeremiah's call
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 1:7
- 4. **Statement:** Jeremiah was young and inexperienced when God called him. Unlike many other prophets, God told him from the beginning that the people would not listen to him and would mistreat him. What decision would you have made?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Master, I am young and untried. But I want to go wherever You send me—only because I know You will be with me all the way.*

July 27

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 2
- 2. **Theme:** Courage and generosity
- 3. **Study Verse:** Isaiah 28:27
- 4. **Statement:** Like Isaiah, Jeremiah calls sin by its name and is open about describing Israel's apostasy. Just recently, Josiah has revived the temple services and brought Judah back from its sin, but it is too little, too late. God's judgment will fall.

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Patient God, keep calling as long as You can. Show me how I can help, and not hinder.*

July 28

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 3
- 2. **Theme:** Israel versus Judah
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 3:12
- 4. **Statement:** Israel (the northern kingdom) has turned completely against God, but her sister Judah (the southern kingdom) did not learn a lesson from Israel's ruin by Assyria. God still offers forgiveness if Judah will "only acknowledge her iniquity." Where are you in this story?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, I want to be the voice of reason, like Jeremiah. I don't want to be one of the rebels. I want to be Yours alone.*

July 29

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 4
- 2. **Theme:** God's lament over His children
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 30:5
- 4. **Statement:** God is still calling Israel. It's never too late. Now Judah is in danger as well. Read God's tearful anguish in verses 19-22. Can you hear Him weeping over today's people as well?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *O Lord, I am sorry for Your pain! I don't want to cause any of it. I want to help bring some of them back. Show me what to do.*

July 30

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 5
- 2. **Theme:** Lemuel’s sayings
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 5:18
- 4. **Statement:** Jeremiah seeks through the streets of Jerusalem for just one person who does justice and seeks truth. Could God find that one person in your town today?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *God, I want to be that person. I can only live in justice because of you. I seek truth. Help me spread Your righteousness around.*

July 31

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 6
- 2. **Theme:** Here comes Babylon
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 6:16
- 4. **Statement:** Most of this chapter is an alarm call—run, run! Babylon is coming! But in the middle, here is this quiet call to seek the “ancient paths” where we can “find rest for our souls.” What do you think these ancient paths are?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Dear Father, I want to live in those ancient paths. I want to walk in the good way, find rest for my soul, and invite others to walk with me*

August 1

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 7
- 2. **Theme:** A message at the temple gate
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 7:5
- 4. **Statement:** Young Jeremiah takes up his stand where the people are entering God’s courts, acting holy, but not loving God or others. At this point there is still a chance they can avert captivity by Babylon. What do they have to do to make that happen?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, I want to serve You and serve Your people, especially the most vulnerable ones.*

August 2

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 8
- 2. **Theme:** Pleading with Zion
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 8:7
- 4. **Statement:** You can hear the love and frustration in the voice of God (spoken in human words by His prophet) as He pleads with the people to stop being self-righteous and actually *do right*. Do you think God feels like this today? Why or why not?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Loving Lord, You must cry over Your people! Please show me how to help.*

August 3

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 9
- 2. **Theme:** The weeping God
- 3. **Study Verse:** 9:23-24
- 4. **Statement:** Jeremiah is often called the “weeping prophet.” But it is God who is weeping, for the stubborn, intense, unrepentant rebellion of His own children. How can you comfort God?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, please help me not to give You reason to cry over me. Help me to find ways to turn the hearts of others, to see You not as an angry, punishing God, but as weeping over us with love and longing.*

August 4

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 10
- 2. **Theme:** Foolish idolatry
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 10:12
- 4. **Statement:** It can be easy for us today to mock those who build physical idols with their own hands and then bow down and worship them. But what things made with human hands can you think of that people worship today?

5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Only true God, I know that it is You alone who has established this earth. Help me to live by Your wisdom.*

August 5

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 11
- 2. **Theme:** Broken covenant
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 11:4b
- 4. **Statement:** God reminds the people of the covenant He made with them when He brought them out of Egypt, and of the curses for disobedience which Moses warned of from the beginning. He also tells Jeremiah about a plot against his life and promises to save him.

5. **Response:**

Prayer: *Holy One, I want to keep Your covenant, and I know I can only do that with the power of Christ. Thank You for Your promise of the Spirit.*

August 6

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 12
- 2. **Theme:** Jeremiah debates with God
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 12:15
- 4. **Statement:** Jeremiah asks if God is being completely fair. Do the people deserve so much anger? God reminds him why they do, but as always, ends with a promise of

compassion and healing—if only they will repent!

5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I am listening. I repent of all my sins, and I ask for your compassion and returning.*

August 7

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 13
- 2. **Theme:** Parable of the waistband
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 13:11
- 4. **Statement:** God has Jeremiah live out a “living parable” about a waistband which is ruined. When you wonder if God is vengeful or angry, be sure to look at all these places where He weeps as He warns of evil consequences of evil actions.

5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Great God, I know we all, on this earth, deserve Your anger. Thank You for being so patient instead, even when evil judgments do come; longing that we all may be saved.*

August 8

- 1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 14
- 2. **Theme:** Drought and prayer
- 3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 14:22
- 4. **Statement:** God grants yet another opportunity for repentance. He allows a drought, and none of the idols can save the people. He is hoping they will turn to Him. Jeremiah prays for them. Do you pray for your nation?

5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Mighty King, You are ruler above all. When I see the sins of my country people, I, too, weep for them. Manifest yourself in ways they can understand, and show me how to help.*

August 9

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 15
2. **Theme:** People will not listen
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 15:19
4. **Statement:** God is, He says, "tired of relenting!" (V 6) Who can blame Him, after so many centuries? Jeremiah, too, is getting fed up now. The people not only refuse to listen, they mock and blame and reproach him. Have you ever felt reproached just for trying to speak God's word?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, when I am trying only to be faithful to You, and people get mad at me, it is painful. I know it is only a tiny taste of how You feel when they perpetually turn from You. Help me not to give up.*

August 10

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 16
2. **Theme:** The hardest living parable
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 16:21
4. **Statement:** This must be one of the hardest things God asks of Jeremiah. To show the people how horrible their lives will become if they refuse to repent, he must forego love and family life. The people's fate is almost fixed. Yet still, God promises restoration in the end. What would you do if you were Jeremiah?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Father, I hope You don't ask such hard things of me. But I do pray that I will be faithful to whatever You do ask.*

August 11

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 17
2. **Theme:** Warnings; a reminder of Sabbath
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 17:7-8
4. **Statement:** Jeremiah points out the deceitfulness of a sinful human heart, and the blessings of obedience and dire consequences of continued rebellion. Then he links all this with the Sabbath. Why do you think that one thing is so important?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, let me trust in You no matter what. Let my heart be like a tree planted by water, unafraid when drought comes.*

August 12

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 18
2. **Theme:** Potter and clay
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 18:5
4. **Statement:** Here is another living parable; this time one played out by another. Have you ever watched a potter? What lessons can you learn from their work?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Potter and Sculptor of my soul, form me in whatever fashion You please. If I must be broken and remade, let me lie still in Your hands and trust that the end will be good.*

August 13

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 19
2. **Theme:** Final breaking
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 19:15
4. **Statement:** This time, the vessel that is broken is already fired and complete. It can no longer be remade. God is saying that the captivity can no longer be stopped. People have completely refused to repent. Do you think there might have been a small number who did listen and were faithful? How do you think God cared for those?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord God, we are weak, all of us. But we do have a choice, and I make mine for You, now, while I am young and not yet hardened and complete. Make me Yours!*

August 14

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 20
2. **Theme:** Jeremiah almost loses heart
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 20:13
4. **Statement:** Until this point, although he was reviled and ignored and mocked, Jeremiah has not faced physical retribution. Now he is beaten and put in the stocks—and by a priest, no less. He almost loses heart. What helps him recover his faith?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Father, may I face retribution if necessary, but not blame You and still keep faith. And when I blame You momentarily, as Jeremiah did, forgive me!*

August 15

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 21
2. **Theme:** Inquiring of Jeremiah
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 21:8
4. **Statement:** Can you even believe that the king and priests dare to “inquire of the Lord” through Jeremiah after everything he has already said, and ask that “perhaps the Lord will deal with us according to all His wonderful acts...”? Jeremiah, of course, gives them a straight answer.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *God of all the ages, You are faithful to Your word. Help me to be faithful to it, too.*

August 16

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 22
2. **Theme:** More messages for the king
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 22:3
4. **Statement:** Jeremiah is to go to the king and make it plain—destruction is coming now. Still, repentance will bring blessing. Make a list of the specific sins God rebukes the kings for in this chapter. Do you see these things happening in today’s world?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, is there any way I can help provide justice for others around me?*

August 17

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 23
2. **Theme:** The Great Promise of all promises
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 23:5
4. **Statement:** Whenever, in the Old Testament, there have been a number of chapters promising retribution and destruction for unrelenting rebellion, God always breaks in with a great promise like this one. What is the ultimate promise, for all people in all times?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Jesus, may Your reign of peace and justice come soon! May I help to bring it in, even now, in small ways, while we wait for the final reconstruction.*

August 18

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 24
2. **Theme:** Good figs and bad figs
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 24:7
4. **Statement:** We know that Jeremiah is not in chronological order. This chapter comes after Nebuchadnezzar had carried away the king, nobles, and artisans to Babylon. God still has promised blessings for those who will now, at last, come to repentance.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I want to be faithful to You long before destruction comes. Plant me and make me know You.*

August 19

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 25
2. **Theme:** Seventy years promised
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 25:5
4. **Statement:** Jeremiah has now been faithfully calling the people to God for 23 long years. The leaders are in Babylon already, so perhaps those who are left will listen. For the first time, he gives a specific time: for 70 years the people will stay in captivity. What would you do if a prophet said your country would be captive 70 years to an enemy country?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, keep me faithful to You no matter what upheavals happen around me. Help me find ways to serve those who are in captivity one way or another.*

August 20

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 26
2. **Theme:** The last warning
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 26:3
4. **Statement:** This chapter comes before the previous chapter in time (compare 26:1 with 25:1). Just before the Babylonians came, Jeremiah gave one last warning. And some did listen! Some wanted to kill Jeremiah, but others said no, he's spoken to us in God's name. What do you think happened to those
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, so often in this world, the innocent who are following You suffer when calamities come because of those who rebel. Thank You that You remain with those faithful ones always.*

August 21

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 27
2. **Theme:** Message for those who remain
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 27:5
4. **Statement:** Jeremiah has messages for those who remain in the land after Nebuchadnezzar has come and gone. Can you imagine your response if your country were taken over and a prophet said that God says to submit and serve that other country?

5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, help us all to discern wisely between true and false prophets. Sometimes the real ones say things that are unexpected and hard to understand. Thank You for giving us this story as an example.*

August 22

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 28
2. **Theme:** False prophet
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 28:9
4. **Statement:** Right after the events of the last chapter, while Jeremiah is still wearing the yoke God told him to make, a false prophet is *still* intent on keeping people from believing Jeremiah. What he says *seems* to be of faith. But what happens?

5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, help us to know Your Word so thoroughly that we will be able to tell when a prophet is truly from You.*

August 23

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 29
2. **Theme:** Letter to the exiles
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 29:7
4. **Statement:** Those who had been taken to Babylon now knew from personal experience that Jeremiah had been telling the truth all these years. It must have been comforting to get a letter from home, even though the contents were not comforting. In what ways are we all in exile, seeking the peace of where we are?

5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, as citizens of Your kingdom, none of us are truly at home here. Help us to pray for and build up the communities around us, knowing that in that we will find peace while we wait.*

August 24

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 30
2. **Theme:** Promised restoration
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 30:7
4. **Statement:** “Your wound is incurable,” says God in v 12; and yet He promises healing and complete restoration. What does this tell us about His power and love?

5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Loving God, You can heal me even when I feel completely unhealable. I long for Your deliverance.*

August 25

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 31
2. **Theme:** Mourning to joy
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 31:3
4. **Statement:** This chapter is so beautiful, especially in the middle of the darkness that surrounds it, that it is hard to pick one verse to focus on. Which are your favorites? Have you lived where people literally survive the sword but are waiting to be able to return to their homes? How does that feel?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *God, You have promised homeland to us all. Some of us live where that seems impossible. Help us to have faith, and give me work to do to help here and now.*

August 26

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 32
2. **Theme:** The parable of the deed
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 32:26
4. **Statement:** Jeremiah is getting old. Nebuchadnezzar has been in power 18 years already, and is now besieging the rest of Jerusalem. Naturally, the people are blaming Jeremiah and he is in jail. What living parable does God give him, and why?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, when things are darkest, let me not lose hope. I will recite Your past deeds and goodness, as Jeremiah did, and I will trust You.*

August 27

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 33
2. **Theme:** Messianic kingdom
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 33:15-16
4. **Statement:** In response to Jeremiah's prayer of faith, God repeats, with even more detail, His promises of final restoration. Can you divide the earthly elements from the elements that will only be fulfilled when Jesus comes again?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Great Creator and Re-Creator, I know all will be well when You come back. Grant that all will be well with my soul now, without waiting for that Great Day.*

August 28

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 34
2. **Theme:** Prophecy and promise for Zedekiah
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 34:4
4. **Statement:** In God's original plan for Israel, people who served each other in payment for debt were not to be kept in slavery. They could serve for seven years. Judah had not kept that law. Yet Zedekiah finally began to listen, and he made the people set each other free. In response, God promised mercy to him.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, is there some way I can set someone free from captivity, spiritual or temporal?*

August 29

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 35
2. **Theme:** The example of the Rechabites
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 35:18
4. **Statement:** This is a good story, of a family who obeyed their forefather all their days and were held up to all of Judah by God as an example of the kind of obedience the people had not shown God. Wouldn't it be nice to know who the Rechabite descendants are now?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, someday in heaven, I'd like to shake the hand of a faithful Rechabite. In the meantime, I will obey You as my Father.*

August 30

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 36
2. **Theme:** Jeremiah's scroll
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 36:2
4. **Statement:** Here is another chapter that actually goes with chapter 25. Jeremiah dictates all the prophecies God has given him to a scribe, Baruch, who writes them all down. The people and the priests take it to heart—no doubt some faithfully, some not—but what is the king's response?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, thank You that nothing is lost of Your words, even when humans try to destroy them.*

August 31

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 37
2. **Theme:** Jeremiah's imprisonment
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 37:17
4. **Statement:** This chapter comes before chapter 32, and tells the story of how Jeremiah was imprisoned. It also shows that King Zedekiah is not as fully committed to rebellion, but has some mercy left in him.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, from Jeremiah to John the Baptist to many today, Your faithful servants have suffered mistreatment and imprisonment. Help me to be faithful no matter what, and to look forward to the day of full recompense when they will be honored in Your eternal kingdom.*

September 1

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 38
2. **Theme:** Jeremiah in the pit
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 38:20
4. **Statement:** City officials were so angry that Jeremiah seemed to be giving treasonous advice, to submit to the Babylonians, that they threw him in a muddy pit. The king rescued him, and for once listened to him. What do you think you would do?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, I pray that I will have such a close walk with You now, that I will know Your voice even when it says unbelievable things.*

September 2

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 39
2. **Theme:** Jerusalem falls
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 39:10
4. **Statement:** At last, the word of the Lord comes to pass completely. The city falls and is burned, and the Babylonians take the rest of the people. Jeremiah promises mercy to the one who had mercy on him. But notice verse 10. We rarely hear about this, but it says something important about God. What is it?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *God of my ancestors, sometimes You do keep the innocent safe when their land is suffering under the wrongdoing of others. Thank You.*

September 3

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 40
2. **Theme:** Mercy for Jeremiah
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 40:5
4. **Statement:** At first, Jeremiah is taken with the other captives. But here he is set free to go wherever he will. He goes back to the poor (no longer poor) who are left in the land. This chapter shows that Babylon, early on, had more mercy than some other conquerors.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Father, thank You for the mercy and kindness You show to the poor, even through the hands of those who are not Your followers.*

September 4

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 41
2. **Theme:** Treachery in Judah
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 41:14
4. **Statement:** Gedaliah seems to have been an honorable man who would treat the remaining Judeans with kindness. But for some, that was not enough. Ishmael, an Ammonite, (against whom Gedaliah had been warned) succeeded in killing him and taking the people captive. Why do you think the final verses show the people running away?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *God, so often we feel tossed one way or another, completely powerless against the political forces fighting over us or our lands or resources. Show us that You are always with us, even then.*

September 5

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 42
2. **Theme:** Seeking guidance through Jeremiah
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 42:10
4. **Statement:** The people who remain, after all they have been through, are very humble when they ask Jeremiah to pray and ask God what they should do. They promise they will obey, whether they like the answer or not. And God answers clearly.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Father, when You answer so clearly, it's such a blessing. I will obey when I understand what You ask.*

September 6

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 43
2. **Theme:** Rebellion again!
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 43:10
4. **Statement:** But no, apparently they were only trying to *look* obedient and willing. The minute Jeremiah returns with God’s clear answer (and you can tell by the completeness of the promises and warnings that God knew what they were going to do) they call Jeremiah a liar to his face and head for Egypt. And they take Jeremiah and Baruch with them. How would you feel?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Please, Lord, let me not be like these people! I want to truly follow You and truly humble myself before You!*

September 7

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 44
2. **Theme:** Judgment in Egypt
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 44:28
4. **Statement:** God has had enough. He promised a remnant, and did leave one, in safe conditions in Judah, under a just governor, and they *still* openly rebelled and went directly counter to His command. Now they will all be destroyed. And yet they are defiant. But note v 28: a *few* will *still* be delivered!
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Merciful God, You give chance after chance after chance to repent! I don’t want to be hard-hearted at all, but for those who are, thank You for Your mercy.*

September 8

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 45
2. **Theme:** Jeremiah to Baruch
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 45:5
4. **Statement:** This brief letter goes back with chapter 25. Jeremiah is writing his discouragement to his scribe, Baruch. He feels hopeless, but he recognizes that God is committed to saving his life, at least, wherever he is taken. Write an encouraging letter back to Jeremiah.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, let me be a word of encouragement to those of Your servants who are working in difficult conditions.*

September 9

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 46
2. **Theme:** Messages to the nations
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 46:27
4. **Statement:** Babylon and Egypt are both under God’s judgment. So are Judah and Israel, but once again God reminds the faithful that they will eventually be rescued. There will be restoration at last.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *O come, Lord Jesus! We have waited so long! We are surrounded by sound and fury, war and iniquity. Make an end! And keep us faithful until then.*

September 10

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 47
2. **Theme:** Prophecy against Philistia
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 47:2
4. **Statement:** Tyre, Sidon, and the Philistine land have not come in for much comment since Isaiah’s prophecies, but they, too, are under judgment from God. Does this remind you of the final Day of the Lord?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *O God, I long for the day when the whole force of Satan’s work and lies are overthrown and You can bring peace to Your children who are listening to You.*

September 11

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 48
2. **Theme:** Prophecy against Moab
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 48:47
4. **Statement:** Moab, too, is under God’s retribution. Yet look how God weeps again for His erring children. List the reasons Moab is in trouble. (For example, see vs 7 and 29.) But even to Moab, a restoration is promised at last. What hope does this give you?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *God of all, I know that all the people of the whole earth are Yours. I pray that You may be able to reach as many as possible of them with Your love and mercy.*

September 12

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 49
2. **Theme:** Prophecies of destruction
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 49:11
4. **Statement:** Ammon, Edom, Damascus, and more. Some of these nations were originally relatives of the Israelites. Anyway, we’re all descended from Noah, and all brothers and sisters. We know better than to do the things we have done, and we all deserve God’s judgment. Still, He offers mercy, especially for the vulnerable ones who have been the victims of those under judgment.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *God, You are our God in all generations. Help me to remember we are all blood-relatives on this planet, and that Your blood has doubly redeemed us as Yours.*

September 13

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 50
2. **Theme:** Babylon’s end foretold
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 50:4-5
4. **Statement:** Babylon was used by God as an instrument to punish rebellious Judah. Under Nebuchadnezzar, there was some justice. But later rulers would be “jubilant” over their “pillaging” (v 11) and ultimately, Babylon would face its own judgment. Besides, God held the “shepherds” (leaders) of His people more responsible than the ordinary citizens. But each is responsible for their own choice. Which have you made?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *O Lord, thank You for taking us back, time after time after time. Let me not be like Babylon, rejoicing over someone else’s downfall.*

September 14

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 51
2. **Theme:** Babylon's final fall
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 51:5
4. **Statement:** Here is more detail about Babylon's guilt and destruction. What clues can you find that this prophecy, besides being about the fall of the literal Babylon who conquered Judah, is also about the final fall of Satan's false system?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Great God, You are the Creator, You are the Judge, and You are the Redeemer. Each of us has a choice. I make mine for You.*

September 15

1. **Chapter:** Jeremiah 52
2. **Theme:** More details on Jerusalem's fall
3. **Study Verse:** Jeremiah 52:32
4. **Statement:** Jeremiah ends with a kind of epilogue that gives more details of the final fall of Jerusalem, such as describing the valuables from the temple that were taken. At the end, it surprises with a story showing that even some Babylonians could show mercy to their enemies. Can you?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Master, You are in final charge of all our destinies. You can make good from evil, even in my life!*

September 16

1. **Chapter:** Lamentations 1
2. **Theme:** Weeping for Zion
3. **Study Verse:** Lamentations 1:1
4. **Statement:** He had spent his entire life foretelling it, but when Jeremiah saw the actual destruction of the city that was supposed to shine forth God's love to the world, he wrote this heartbroken poem. In Hebrew, the first three chapters are acrostics of the Hebrew alphabet. Do you think the prophet was still speaking for God as he wrote his lament? Why or why not?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** Dear God, You are the first to lament when we fall, You beg us to let You help, and You rejoice when we repent.

September 17

1. **Chapter:** Lamentations 2
2. **Theme:** Turn to God
3. **Study Verse:** Lamentations 2:19
4. **Statement:** Only the direst of necessities will cause God to allow such intense suffering. As we have seen, He tried endlessly to get His people to repent, and they were defiant. Still, His heart breaks for them; still He begs them to return. Have you ever sinned and felt this miserable and hopeless? What did you do?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** My God, my God, You never truly abandon us, even when we abandon You. You are always longing for our return.

September 18

- 1. **Chapter:** Lamentations 3
- 2. **Theme:** Jeremiah identifies with the people
- 3. **Study Verse:** Lamentations 3:21-22
- 4. **Statement:** Jeremiah, too, feels hopeless and lost. He shares the depth and intensity of his feelings, perhaps to help others to hear him. Then he gently turns them to consider God's goodness—one more time. Perhaps...this time they will listen?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Lord, when I have sinned, help me to remember that Your mercies are new every morning. When others have sinned, may I encourage them with the same thought.*

September 19

- 1. **Chapter:** Lamentations 4
- 2. **Theme:** Admitting they deserved it all
- 3. **Study Verse:** Lamentations 4:1
- 4. **Statement:** The sin was so great. Jeremiah admits they deserved everything they got. He remembers again how, even in the ugliness of the siege, the people didn't care for each other, but only for themselves. How could God have let it continue without judgment? He couldn't. And He can't now, either. He will put a stop to it.

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Even so, come, Lord Jesus! End the evil and begin Your new reign.*

September 20

- 1. **Chapter:** Lamentations 5
- 2. **Theme:** Begging for God's mercy
- 3. **Study Verse:** Lamentations 5:21-22
- 4. **Statement:** Jeremiah finishes with another prayer for mercy. They deserved it, but do they deserve it forever? Will God be angry forever and never turn back to them? What do you think?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, sometimes we do deserve the evil that befalls us. But please don't give up on us. And please let me learn a lesson from these stories and never defy You!*

September 21

- 1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 1
- 2. **Theme:** Ezekiel's vision
- 3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 1:28
- 4. **Statement:** Of all the strange visions the prophets ever had, this must be one of the strangest. People have tried to draw the "vehicle," they have speculated about everything from nonsense to aliens and spacecraft. Bottom line, what do you think this vision was about?

5. **Response:**

- 6. **Prayer:** *God Almighty, Your glory is not even understandable, let alone describable! What we know is that You are great and astonishing...and that You talk to us!*

September 22

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 2
2. **Theme:** Ezekiel's call
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 2:7
4. **Statement:** Ezekiel is in Babylon with the exiles. From what has happened, you'd think God had completely given up on these people. But no—He's still calling prophets. He warns that they won't listen, but Ezekiel is to speak truth to them just the same. What would you have said?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I want to follow Your call, but I hope it isn't as hard as these prophet's work was! Still, I will go where You send me, if You stay with me.*

September 23

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 3
2. **Theme:** A hard call
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 3:10
4. **Statement:** Here is another living parable; the edible scroll. God explains its meaning in v 10—Ezekiel is to take all God's words to heart whether anyone else does or not. Ezekiel doesn't like it (v 14) but God has promised to make him as strong as his hearers, so that will help.
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Jesus, I take Your words into my heart, and I will speak what You give me to speak.*

September 24

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 4
2. **Theme:** More living parables
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 4:9
4. **Statement:** Apparently Ezekiel is with the first group of exiles; this is before Jerusalem's final siege and fall. God gives him living parables like Jeremiah's. Why do you think God gave him special food? And what do you think would have been your reaction if you had been one of the exiles in Babylon?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *King of the universe, You never give up trying to reach us! We are unspeakably grateful.*

September 25

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 5
2. **Theme:** Strong judgments
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 5:5
4. **Statement:** Here are more details of the strong judgments God has set against Judah. Again, Ezekiel acts them out. Perhaps the people will learn better from living parables than from sermons. Why do you think God says He has set Jerusalem "at the center of the nations"? No longer in Jerusalem, can they still do God's work?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, remind me that You have set me where I am for a reason. There are people for me to live out my witness in front of—keep me faithful.*

September 26

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 6
2. **Theme:** Idolatry hurts God
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 6:9
4. **Statement:** Here, God gives (again) the most important reason why it is so bad for us to worship other things, things our own hands have made, instead of our true Creator. What is it?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Jesus, I know You have been active in human affairs from the very beginning, and even before. I pray that You are present in my life every single day.*

September 29

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 9
2. **Theme:** A mark on the forehead
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 9:4
4. **Statement:** Ezekiel has seen the abominations going on in the name of God. Now he learns that not only are there people who are innocent, but they are “sighing and groaning” over these abominations. Do you think there are people like this today in our world?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I do sorrow over the sin and evil I see around me in this world. Help me to hold apart, and yet to reach out to those I can, hoping they may turn to You.*

September 30

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 10
2. **Theme:** God’s indescribable glory
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 10:4
4. **Statement:** Again Ezekiel struggles to find human language to describe the awesome and amazing things he sees. God seems to be departing His temple, and scattering judgment over the city. What do you think your reaction would have been if you were Ezekiel?
5. **Response:**

6. **Prayer:** *Jesus, I’m glad You came as a human so that at least we have a human face to imagine for You! I am overwhelmed when I try to imagine Your true glory.*