

3.3

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 3 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS

MORNING WATCH FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

DECEMBER 2020



Chapter: Jeremiah 36
Theme: Jeremiah's scroll
Study Verse: Jeremiah 36:2

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 37

Theme: Jeremiah's imprisonment

Study Verse: Jeremiah 37:17

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.

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 38

Theme: Jeremiah in the pit

Study Verse: Jeremiah 38:20

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 39
Theme: Jerusalem falls
Study Verse: Jeremiah 39:10

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 40

Theme: Mercy for Jeremiah

Study Verse: Jeremiah 40:5

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.

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 41
Theme: Treachery in Judah
Study Verse: Jeremiah 41:14

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 42

Theme: Seeking guidance through Jeremiah

Study Verse: Jeremiah 42:10

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.

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 43

Theme: Rebellion again!

Study Verse: Jeremiah 43:10

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 44

Theme: Judgment in Egypt

Study Verse: Jeremiah 44:28

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!

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 45

Theme: Jeremiah to Baruch

Study Verse: Jeremiah 45:5

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.

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 46

Theme: Messages to the nations

Study Verse: Jeremiah 46:27

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.

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 47

Theme: Prophecy against Philistia

Study Verse: Jeremiah 47:2

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 48

Theme: Prophecy against Moab

Study Verse: Jeremiah 48:47

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 49

Theme: Prophecies of destruction

Study Verse: Jeremiah 49:11

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.

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 50

Theme: Babylon's end foretold

Study Verse: Jeremiah 50:4-5

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 51

Theme: Babylon's final fall

Study Verse: Jeremiah 51:5

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 52

Theme: More details on Jerusalem's fall

Study Verse: Jeremiah 52:32

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Lamentations 1

Theme: Weeping for Zion

Study Verse: Lamentations 1:1

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?

Response: _____

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.

Chapter: Lamentations 2

Theme: Turn to God

Study Verse: Lamentations 2:19

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Lamentations 3

Theme: Jeremiah identifies with the people

Study Verse: Lamentations 3:21-22

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Lamentations 4

Theme: Admitting they deserved it all

Study Verse: Lamentations 4:1

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.

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Lamentations 5

Theme: Begging for God's mercy

Study Verse: Lamentations 5:21-22

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?

Response: _____

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!*

Chapter: Ezekiel 1

Theme: Ezekiel's vision

Study Verse: Ezekiel 1:28

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?

Response: _____

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!*

Chapter: Ezekiel 2
Theme: Ezekiel's call
Study Verse: Ezekiel 2:7

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Ezekiel 3

Theme: A hard call

Study Verse: Ezekiel 3:10

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.

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Ezekiel 4

Theme: More living parables

Study Verse: Ezekiel 4:9

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Ezekiel 5

Theme: Strong judgments

Study Verse: Ezekiel 5:5

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Ezekiel 6

Theme: Idolatry hurts God

Study Verse: Ezekiel 6:9

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?

Response: _____

Prayer: *My one true and only God, You and You alone will I serve. I don't want to hurt You—ever! If I do, forgive me and show me how to do better.*

Chapter: Ezekiel 7
Theme: Day of the end
Study Verse: Ezekiel 7:10

Statement: There are two phrases which recur over and over. One is “the (or an) end,” and the other is “the day.” Count how many times they occur and what God says about them. Can you see ways this prophecy applies to the end of time, as well?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Great Judge of the nations, I do want You to make an end of evil, once and for all. Help me to call others to come away so they won't be destroyed with it.*

Chapter: Ezekiel 8

Theme: A vision of God the Son

Study Verse: Ezekiel 8:2

Statement: This chapter deals with the secret and horrifying evils going on even within God's own house back in Jerusalem. Compare the description in v 2 with the description in Rev. 1:13-15 and see if you think this was a vision of Jesus Himself, before He came to earth.

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Ezekiel 9

Theme: A mark on the forehead

Study Verse: Ezekiel 9:4

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?

Response: _____

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.*