

3.3

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 3 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS

MORNING WATCH FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

NOVEMBER 2020



Chapter: Jeremiah 6

Theme: Here comes Babylon

Study Verse: Jeremiah 6:16

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 7

Theme: A message at the temple gate

Study Verse: Jeremiah 7:5

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 8
Theme: Pleading with Zion
Study Verse: Jeremiah 8:7

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 9

Theme: The weeping God

Study Verse: Jeremiah 9:23-24

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 10

Theme: Foolish idolatry

Study Verse: Jeremiah 10:12

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 11

Theme: Broken covenant

Study Verse: Jeremiah 11:4b

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.

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 12

Theme: Jeremiah debates with God

Study Verse: Jeremiah 12:15

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!

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 13

Theme: Parable of the waistband

Study Verse: Jeremiah 13:11

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.

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 14

Theme: Drought and prayer

Study Verse: Jeremiah 14:22

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 15

Theme: People will not listen

Study Verse: Jeremiah 15:19

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 16

Theme: The hardest living parable

Study Verse: Jeremiah 16:21

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 17

Theme: Warnings; a reminder of Sabbath

Study Verse: Jeremiah 17:7-8

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 18

Theme: Potter and clay

Study Verse: Jeremiah 18:5

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 19

Theme: Final breaking

Study Verse: Jeremiah 19:15

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?

Response: _____

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!*

Chapter: Jeremiah 20

Theme: Jeremiah almost loses heart

Study Verse: Jeremiah 20:13

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?

Response: _____

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!*

Chapter: Jeremiah 21

Theme: Inquiring of Jeremiah

Study Verse: Jeremiah 21:8

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.

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 22

Theme: More messages for the king

Study Verse: Jeremiah 22:3

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 23

Theme: The Great Promise of all promises

Study Verse: Jeremiah 23:5

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 24

Theme: Good figs and bad figs

Study Verse: Jeremiah 24:7

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.

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 25

Theme: Seventy years promised

Study Verse: Jeremiah 25:5

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 26

Theme: The last warning

Study Verse: Jeremiah 26:3

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 people in the next few years?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 27

Theme: Message for those who remain

Study Verse: Jeremiah 27:5

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 28

Theme: False prophet

Study Verse: Jeremiah 28:9

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 29

Theme: Letter to the exiles

Study Verse: Jeremiah 29:7

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 30

Theme: Promised restoration

Study Verse: Jeremiah 30:7

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?

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 31

Theme: Mourning to joy

Study Verse: Jeremiah 31:3

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 32

Theme: The parable of the deed

Study Verse: Jeremiah 32:26

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 33

Theme: Messianic kingdom

Study Verse: Jeremiah 33:15-16

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?

Response: _____

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.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 34

Theme: Prophecy and promise for Zedekiah

Study Verse: Jeremiah 34:4

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.

Response: _____

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

Chapter: Jeremiah 35

Theme: The example of the Rechabites

Study Verse: Jeremiah 35:18

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?

Response: _____

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.*