

THE WORD OF FIRE & HOPE

J E R E M I A H

ev / youth

TERM 3 – 2026

WEEK	PASSAGE	TITLE
Week 1	Jeremiah 1	The Word Calls Jeremiah
Week 2	Jeremiah 2-6	The Word of Fire Against Idolatry
Week 3	Jeremiah 7-10	The Word of Fire Against Temple Defilement
Week 4	Jeremiah 11-17	The Word of Fire Against Covenant Rejection
Week 5	Jeremiah 18-20	The Word of Power
Week 6	Jeremiah 21-24	The Word of Future Hope and Present Despair
Week 7	Jeremiah 25-29	The Word of Truth
Week 8	Jeremiah 30-34	The Word of Restoration
Week 9	Jeremiah 35-39	The Word Preserved
Week 10	Jeremiah 40-52	The Word Vindicated

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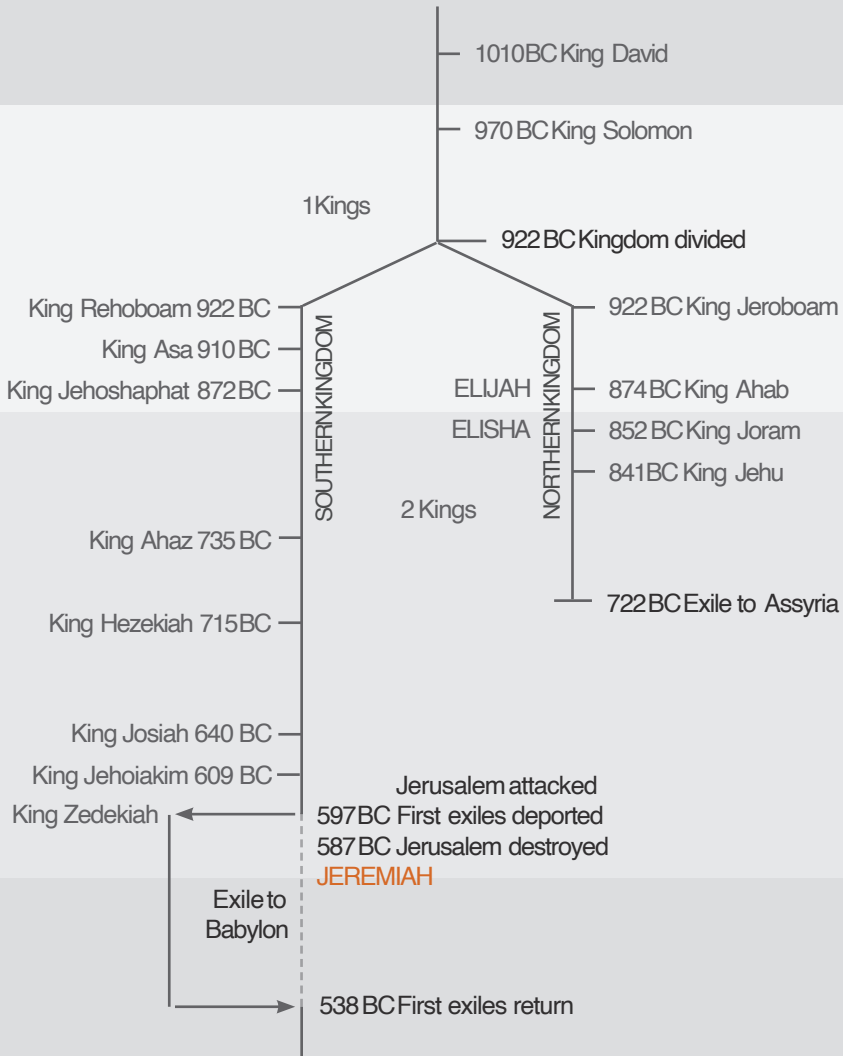
The History of Salvation (Genesis to Kings)

Over the past few years at EV Church, we've covered the Old Testament books of Genesis, Exodus and 1-2 Kings. These books have brought us through the history of the ancient people of Israel. We have seen God promise Abraham a nation who will be God's people living under God's rule in God's place, which marks the beginning of the Israelite people. The book of Exodus saw the rescue of this nation from slavery in Egypt as God brought his power against Pharaoh, out of love for his people. Exodus and the rest of the Pentateuch (Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), recounts God leading his people to the land of Canaan, living under his rule established by the law. The books of 1-2 Kings come after God's promise to David about establishing his kingly line forever (2 Samuel 7). This promise is seemingly fulfilled in King Solomon who reigns wisely, and builds the temple representing God's dwelling place among his people and the place to worship him.

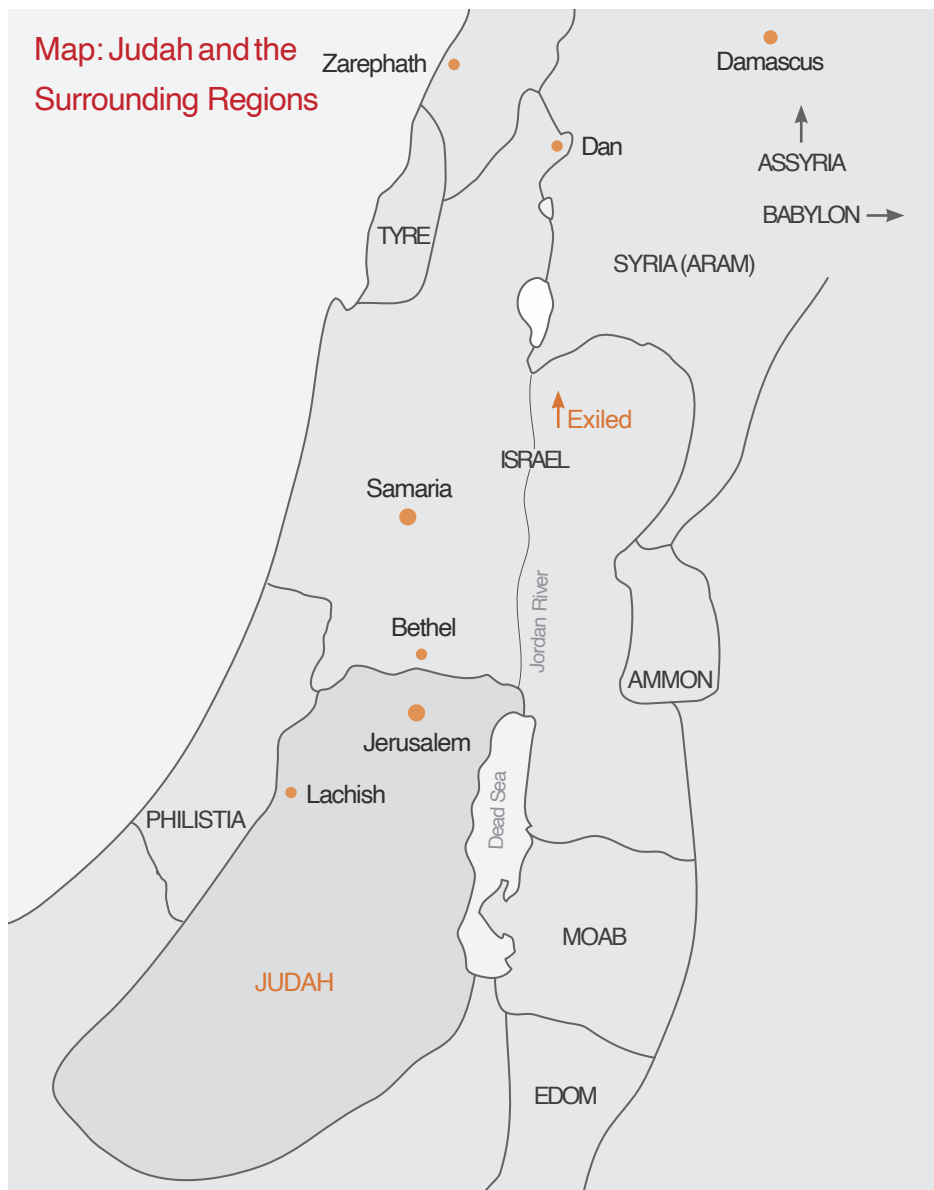
However, like the sin that gripped Adam and Eve leading to the fall, and like the sin that led the people to worship a golden calf over Yahweh in the exodus, sin reared its ugly head in the Kingdom of Israel. Beginning with Solomon, corruption and idolatry began to spread in the leadership of Israel through each generation, leading to a split forming two kingdoms: the north (known as Israel) and the south (known as Judah). The northern kingdom rapidly descends into idolatry, eventually bringing God's judgement through Assyria, leaving only the south who are delivered from Assyria by the prayer of King Hezekiah. However, the very next king, Manasseh and his son, return the nation to sin and idolatry, and God's irreversible judgement is declared. Jeremiah the prophet is raised up into this tumultuous world. His ministry begins during the last glimmer of hope for Judah in King Josiah, who attempts to reform the nation. However, after Josiah's death, the next four kings are foolish and evil leading to Judah's darkest hour: exile to Babylon.

INTRODUCTION:

Timeline: Jeremiah



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INTRODUCTION:

The Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah's ministry takes place in the last days of Judah from the end of Josiah's reign until the exile into Babylon. Although the book does not strictly follow a chronological order, some chapters may be arranged by subject matter, moving backwards and forwards through time. This structure implies the book is not necessarily designed to be read in chronological order; there is a deeper movement of the book ordered around a central theme.

Theme: Narrative About the Word of God

What makes Jeremiah unique within the Old Testament is this theme about the word of God. The phrases "thus says the Lord" or "declares the Lord" occur frequently in Jeremiah, and more often than in any other book of the Old Testament. The opening of Jeremiah (1:1-4) establishes a relationship between God's word and the words of Jeremiah, as the prophet brings the message of what God's word will do in Israel and among all nations. In the calling of the prophet we see what God's word will do: destroy and then rebuild (1:10), and this context gives rise to the structure of the book which consists of two main movements:

1. God's word of fire tears down the idolatrous nation of Judah (chapters 2-24). With idolatry running rampant in the nation, Jeremiah brings the message of God's anger towards their idolatry, calling the nation to repent (2-6). However, their hard hearts refuse to hear his message, and so God's word tears down Israel's false security in the temple (7-10), the covenant (11-20) and the monarchy (21-24). All hope for the nation now lies in the future.
2. God's word is vindicated among all nations and plants new life (chapters 25-52). The truth of God's word of judgement is put to the test by false prophets (25-29); however, God's word triumphs over all nations as it is vindicated by its fulfilment in history (35-52). In the midst of these events, there is a future promise of restoration through the bringing of a new covenant, which will put God's law on the hearts of his people (30-34).

The book of Jeremiah can be a heavy book to read with heavily repeated themes of God's judgements against an idolatrous people who have hard hearts and refuse to

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listen to his words calling them to repent. However, contained within the book is an incredible message of God's great patience, mercy and faithfulness to an undeserving people. Although God brings his judgement on Judah and the surrounding nations, God preserves a remnant in accordance with his covenant promises, which finds its ultimate fulfilment 600 years later in the person of Jesus Christ.

How Jeremiah Points to Jesus

There are many ways this book points to Jesus. Two great promises stand out in the midst of the dark backdrop of Jeremiah, which anticipate the Lord's great plan of salvation:

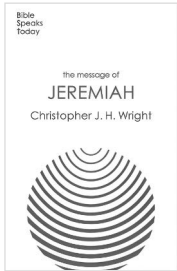
1. The promise of a righteous branch (23:5-6), who will be a new king in the line of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16), who will reign in righteousness unlike the unrighteous kings of Israel's history, and will be our righteousness. Six hundred years after this promise, a man is born in the line of David (Matthew 1:1), who lived a perfectly righteous life and died on the cross in our place so that in him we receive righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).
2. The promise of a new covenant where God will not only forgive sin and remember it no more (31:34) but will write his law on the hearts of his people (31:33) dealing with the greater problem of the Old Covenant: humans' sinful hearts (17:1,9). At the last supper, Jesus announces the new covenant will be established by his blood (Luke 22:40, Hebrews 8). This covenant is received through faith in Jesus, who gives the Spirit which writes God's law on the heart of the believer (Romans 8:1-4, 2 Corinthians 3:1-3).

Note on key verses for each week

Jeremiah is a large book with a lot of content to cover. The key verses at the start of each week are there to help you navigate the book and keep track of its main movements.

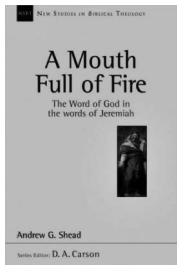
INTRODUCTION:

SUGGESTED READING:



The Message of Jeremiah by Christopher Wright

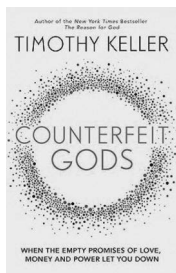
A simple-to-read commentary.



A Mouth Full of Fire by Andrew Shead

A bit more technical: more a how-to-read Jeremiah than verse-by-verse commentary.

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Counterfeit Gods

by Tim Keller

A greatbook to think through idolatry.



God'sBig Picture

by Vaughan Roberts

How the whole Bible fits together as a unified story of God's salvation.

WEEK 1: JEREMIAH 1

Key verse: “See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.” Jeremiah 1:10

DAY 1: Back to the Bible

Read: Jeremiah 1:1-3, 2 Kings 22:1-13 and 23:1-3

1. What are the main events in these passages/this passage?
2. What is the effect of God's word on Josiah, on the people, and on Judah's religious practices?
3. How would you describe the time during Josiah's reign?
4. What are some of the main ways God's word has impacted you this year?

Prayer: Ask that God's word would continue to draw us back to him, and that our lives would continue to be transformed to live in accordance with his good word.

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DAY 2: Four Foolish Failures

Read: Jeremiah 1:1-3, 2 Kings 23:31-24:20

1. How would you describe the next four kings after Josiah?

King	Timeline and events	Description of the king
Jehoahaz		
Jehoiakim		
Jehoiachin		
Zedekiah		

2. What is the picture this gives us of Judah's leadership during the time of Jeremiah?

Prayer: Ask that God would be at work in our leaders' choices for the good of God's purposes.

WEEK 1: JEREMIAH 1

Key verse: “See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.” Jeremiah 1:10

DAY 3: At the End

Read: Jeremiah 1:1-3, 2 Kings 25:1-26

1. What do you notice about what happens to the people in the land of Judah?
2. What do you notice about what happens to the temple (the house of the Lord)?
3. This section ends with the summary statement, “So Judah was taken into exile out of its land” (25:21). What have been your reactions to this period of Israel’s history? How would you have felt if you had lived through this time?

Prayer: God, as we think of those around the world who are being removed from their homeland due to wars and corruption, we ask that you would bring peace to these places, and ultimately the peace that is found in your gospel to them.

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DAY 4: Call to Destroy and to Build

Read: Jeremiah 1

Jeremiah is speaking during the time of the downfall of Israel to a nation that is growing in wickedness. Here we see Jeremiah's particular calling as a prophet during this time.

1. What are the things God calls Jeremiah to do?
2. What do we learn about what Jeremiah should expect in his ministry?
3. In what ways does God prepare Jeremiah for his calling?
4. Our ministry is similar to Jeremiah's in that, we will have to stand against those who oppose the gospel. How can we draw a similar comfort to the one that Jeremiah has in God's protection?

Prayer: Lord, we know that your word causes division even within families, but we know that it is the truth about you and your love which we long for all people to know. Please grow in us courage to speak your truth even when it's uncomfortable.

WEEK 1: JEREMIAH 1

Key verse: "See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." Jeremiah 1:10

DAY 5: The Word in the Prophet's Mouth

Read: Jeremiah 1

1. Where do you see descriptions of God's word? (Vs 11-13)
2. What is it that God's word will do?
3. There are dual promises made about God's word in verses 11-16. What do the two visions say about God's word that will be spoken by Jeremiah the prophet? ("Consider that almond trees" would be as common to see as eucalyptus trees in Australia)
4. How might this inform how we read the words in the Bible (remembering Hebrews 1:1-2)?

Prayer: Lord, we know that your word is powerful, a "double-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12) able to expose our hearts and transform our minds, and it is trustworthy to build our lives upon. Please continue to grow us by this word.

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Prayer Points and Notes

Optional Weekend Reading

Read 2 Chronicles 34-36

1. What's similar or different to the 1 Kings' account (From Days 1, 2 and 3)?
2. What do you think it would be like to live in the world of Jeremiah?

Prayer: Pray about the things you have read this morning

WEEK 2: JEREMIAH 2-6

Key verse: "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." Jeremiah 2:13

DAY 1: Turn From Your Idols

Read: Jeremiah 2:1-19 (read to 3:5 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. What imagery stood out to you, or had an impact?
2. Jeremiah 2:13 says they have abandoned God for their own cisterns. What is it that they have abandoned God for?
3. How would you describe God's response? What does God's response demonstrate about the fairness of his judgement?
4. Are there any idols that lie behind your sins (e.g. pleasure, security, comfort)? How might this passage remind us to turn from idols?

Prayer: Ask that God would keep us from worthless idols, which cannot give us life, and turn us back to him – the true source of life and joy.

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DAY 2: Turn in Repentance

Read: Jeremiah 3:6-18 (read to 4:4 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. What imagery shows Israel's treatment of God? What does this reveal about the horror of idolatry?
2. What is the basis for God to receive them back? What does this demonstrate about God's love?
3. How does this passage describe what repentance looks like (3:12-14)?
4. Do you remember what it looked like for you to repent and believe in Jesus? What did you appreciate about God's willingness to receive you when you believed?

Prayer: Lord, thank you that you chose to receive me back even while I was still in my sin.

WEEK 2: JEREMIAH 2-6

Key verse: "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." Jeremiah 2:13

DAY 3: Turn From Presuming God's Patience

Read: Jeremiah 4:10-26

1. This passage starts with the prophet calling the people to repent by returning to the Lord. What do verses 1-4 show it would look like for them to return to God? What if they don't?
2. What are some of the images that Jeremiah uses to describe the future judgement? In verses 23-26, Jeremiah uses language similar to Genesis 1. Why might this be significant?
3. How is Jeremiah's message about timing of judgement similar to our time waiting for Jesus (2 Peter 3:9-10)? How might our lives be affected by the times we live in (Romans 2:4)?

Prayer: Lord, as we are reminded that your patience means salvation, may we be driven to live without wasting the time we have.

THE WORD OF FIRE AGAINST IDOLATARY

DAY 4: Turn From Your Own Way

Read: Jeremiah 5:1-19 (read to 5:31 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

The Lord has declared that judgment is coming from the north (4:6); however, it is almost as if God has been looking for a reason to forgive this people (3:14-15, 4:1-3), but the prophet gives us the perspective from God of these people.

1. What kinds of sins has Judah committed? How might this answer their question in verse 19?
2. Is there any hope that God will pardon his people? What would you say is the main problem for them?
3. What have these past few passages taught us about the kindness and sternness of God (Romans 11:22)?

Prayer: Lord, we know that you are a God of great forgiveness for you sent your son into the world to die for our sins, but we also know we must not presume upon your kindness and justify a life of sin. Lord, please turn us daily from our temptation to sin.

WEEK 2: JEREMIAH 2-6

Key verse: "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." Jeremiah 2:13

DAY 5: Turn Back to the Right Path

Read: Jeremiah 6:1-20 (read to 6:30 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. What do these images reveal about the scope of God's judgement? How should the people respond (see verse 16)?
2. In verse 16, what do you think it looks like to walk in the way of ancient paths? (See Psalm 1:1-6 for help)
3. In what ways can we make sure we are walking in the way God has planned for us (Romans 12:1-2)?

Prayer: A song to sing in light of this week (Comethou fount): "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart; O take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts above."

THE WORD OF FIRE AGAINST IDOLATRY

Prayer Points and Notes

Optional Weekend Reading

Read: Exodus 32:1-14

Eight hundred years before the events of Jeremiah, God had rescued his people from slavery to Egypt and given them his laws to live by, which specifically told the people not to make an idol (see Exodus 20:1-6).

1. What is the horror of the event you have read?
2. What have you noticed remains the same about God dealing with idolatrous people from Exodus until Jeremiah?
3. In what ways is Jesus greater than anything we could be tempted to make an idol of (see Colossians 1:15-20)?

Prayer: Ask God to produce in you a heart that is undivided in its love for Jesus.

WEEK 3: JEREMIAH 7-10

Key verse: “No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. Who should not fear you, King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise leaders of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.” Jeremiah 10:6-7

DAY 1: Security of the Temple Dismantled

Read: Jeremiah 7:1-20

The temple of the Lord was the place where the ark of the covenant was placed (1 Kings 8), which represented God's presence and dwelling among his people.

1. In verses 1-15, what do we learn about how the people thought of the temple? Why would it represent their safety (verse 10)?
2. Shiloh (verses 12-15) was where the ark was placed in Samuel's day (1 Sam 3:3, 21), before the building of the temple, but this did not stop Shiloh's destruction. What lesson were the people meant to learn from this? Why were their religious activities unable to save them?
3. Read Matthew 21:12-13—why do you think Jesus quotes Jeremiah 7:11?
4. God's temple is fulfilled in Christ and in his people, the church (John 2:21 and Ephesians 2:19-22). In what ways can we be godly amongst God's people?

Prayer: Praise God for the gift he has given us with the church, the place he dwells by the Spirit in his people.

THE WORD OF FIRE AGAINST TEMPLE DEFILEMENT

DAY 2: I Desire Mercy Not Sacrifice

Read: Jeremiah 7:21-34 (read to 8:3 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. God reminds the people of the reason he rescued them from Egypt (Exodus 6) under the slavery of Pharaoh. What is it that the Lord required from them? Why didn't they listen to God?
2. The people believed they were worshiping God by bringing sacrifices to him. What do you think was the problem with their sacrifices? Can you think of something about God's character they may have not understood?
3. The practices of worshipping at high places and child sacrifices were common in the ancient world but forbidden by God (Leviticus 18:21). What does the description of God's judgments say about mixing foreign religious practices with the worship of God?
4. Are there dangers of us mixing the world's practices with our own worship of God (see Romans 12:1-2 for help)?

Prayer: Lord, teach us how to worship you in the way that is pleasing to you, keeping us from being conformed by the teachings of this world as we seek to live for you.

WEEK 3: JEREMIAH 7-10

Key verse: “No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. Who should not fear you, King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise leaders of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.” Jeremiah 10:6-7

DAY 3: Lament in the Face of Disaster

Jeremiah reflects the word of God in this book, and so he represents imperfectly the affections of God towards a world turned against his word. And the news is God does not delight in the destruction of the wicked.

Read: Jeremiah 8:18-9:3 (read from 8:1 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. What are some of the things lamented about in this passage?
2. Jeremiah uses vivid imagery of tears and grief in 9:1-3. Why might his ministry be so difficult and bitter for him (especially given the people around him are proclaiming peace 8:11)?
3. Sometimes it can be difficult knowing the truth of the gospel when people around us choose to ignore the truth. How might bringing these laments to God be helpful?

Prayer: Lord, when we turn to you and cry out about the pain of things from the world, please hear our cries and answer us with what we need. For all you send is necessary and good, and your steadfast love is trustworthy in all life's circumstances.

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DAY 4: Weary With Sin

Read: Jeremiah 9:1-16

1. What are some examples Jeremiah gives of Judah's deceitful living? Do any of these stick out to you?
2. Some have said that the God of the Old Testament, shows His wrath to random things, which makes him changeable, makes him capricious and temperamental. How does his passage demonstrate his judgement is not like this?
3. In verses 12-16, what is the reason for God's judgement? Why did they forsake God's law?
4. In light of this passage about God's judgement against sinners, read Romans 8:1-4. How has Christ dealt with humanity's failure to keep God's law?

Prayer: Lord, the sinful life is a wearisome life and we know that your anger towards sin is holy and just. Left on my own, mine would be a life of guilt and condemnation. Praise you Lord for the wonderful news that sin's accusing power under the law has been dealt with by Christ.

WEEK 3: JEREMIAH 7-10

Key verse: "No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. Who should not fear you, King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise leaders of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you." Jeremiah 10:6-7

DAY 5: Boasting in What?

Read: Jeremiah 9:17-26

1. These people had a boasting problem – though the tongue is small it makes great boasts (James 3:6). How might their proclaiming of peace (8:11) not fit the reality of what God's word announces?
2. What's the problem with boasting in riches or power (verses 23-24)? What is worth boasting about according to this passage?
3. Is there anything in your life that you can't help but boast about? How can Paul's boast in Galatians 6:14 help shape our boasting?

Prayer: Lord, may our only boast in life be that of the cross of Christ. Please fill our hearts with the delight of the love you have shown us there that we may spring forth in praise.

THE WORD OF FIRE AGAINST TEMPLE DEFILEMENT

Prayer Points and Notes

Optional Weekend Reading: Idols are Nothing

Read: Jeremiah 10:1-16 (and 10:17-25 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

Verses 1-16 set up a number of contrasts between idols and God. Below is a table to help summarise. Have a go at filling it out:

Passage	Idols are....	But God is....
Verses 2-7		
Verses 8-10		
Verses 11-13		
Verses 14-16		

1. What is it about idols that might make them attractive to worship? How does this contrast reveal the folly of this worship?
2. John Calvin once said “the heart is an idol factory.” What would be some modern versions of idols? How does this comparison help us turn from worship of idols?

Prayer: Lord keep my heart from enslavement to the idols of _____.
For they do not love me, but you loved me in giving me what was most precious to you – the life of your son.

WEEK 4: JEREMIAH 11-17

Key verse: "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17:9

DAY 1: The Covenant Ministers Seek to Kill the Covenant Preacher

Read: Jeremiah 11

1. In verses 1-17, what do we learn about the covenant between God and Israel? How does it relate to the promise of the land? What is the just judgement for Israel's refusal to listen to the words of the covenant?
2. In Vs 21, Anathoth was a town of Levitical priests, and the Levites were set apart to lead Israel in worship and teach the covenant (Deuteronomy 10:8; 31:9-13). Yet those meant to uphold God's word sought to kill the prophet who spoke it. Likewise, Israel's leaders rejected the Messiah, leading him like a lamb to the slaughter. What does this reveal about the human heart and the justice of God's judgement?
3. If Israel's history is written as a warning for us (see 1 Corinthians 10:1-12), how might we honestly reflect on our own hearts in light of Israel's hypocrisy?

Prayer: Father, keep me from sin. Work in me to bring all my sin into the light, so that I might repent and live to honour you in all things. Thank you that Christ covers my sin. Even my good deeds, still riddled and mixed with sin, Christ our Priest offers them perfectly to you.

THE WORD OF FIRE AGAINST COVENANT REJECTION

DAY 2: Where is Your Justice, Lord?

Read: Jeremiah 12

1. Jeremiah's question for God in verse 1 has a particular group in mind, but how might it be a question asked by God's people in lots of situations, even by us today (see also Habakkuk 1:1-4; Psalm 73:1-3)?
2. What does God's answer suggest about the struggles ahead for Jeremiah and who really has reason to complain about the wickedness in Israel?
3. What hope is there for a nation that has turned away from the living God?
4. How do we see more fully today the way God's compassion has been outworked for those who trust in him?

Prayer: Lord, the prosperity of the wicked and the persecution of your people across time and across the world raises our questions and doubts. Deepen our trust in you to sovereignly work out all things in conformity with your good plan.

WEEK 4: JEREMIAH 11-17

Key verse: "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17:9

DAY 3: Anger at Those he Loved

Read: Jeremiah 13:1-17

1. How would you describe the tone and theme of this chapter?
2. What are some of God's main charges against his people (see also 11:8)?
3. In the midst of a sobering word, Jeremiah embodies God's love for Israel (13:17). People often say that love and anger are opposites. But can you think of how love might lead to anger? How does this help us understand God's love and his wrath on sinners?

Prayer: Father, you love us "with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). Help us to see our sin more and more as you see it so that we might hate any hint of rebellion in the same way as you hate it.

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DAY 4: Seeking Repentance for His Name's Sake

Read: Jeremiah 14:10-22 (also chapter 15 if you want to read all of Jeremiah this term)

1. What are the signs that God is against Israel, and what is the reason that he is against them?
2. It appears that this is a prayer of repentance, but look at who is speaking these words. We might imagine that Jeremiah or Moses or Samuel (15:1) could repent on behalf of these sinners, but God would reject their prayers for them. What is God trying to show his people about the people's incurability (14:19)?
3. Jeremiah is to pray for the "sake of your name" (14:7,9, 21). How is this Israel's only hope (see also Ezekiel 36:22-23)?

Prayer: Father, thank you that you have acted in a way that both defends your honour and saves sinners. We trust in you, for we bear your name, we trust you to hold us and keep us in Christ, safe in your hands now and forever.

WEEK 4: JEREMIAH 11-17

Key verse: "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17:9

DAY 5: Detestable Idols

Read: Jeremiah 16:14-21

1. What emotions is Jeremiah conveying in this passage?
2. What is the surprise in verse 14? But why is the news still bad for those who originally heard Jeremiah's message?
3. We often imagine that the religions of the world are sincere, but what is God's view of the images and idols that people create? Why might he describe it in so much stronger terms than we often would?

Prayer: Father you are holy and perfect. To worship anything other than you is the most hideous of crimes. Give us eyes to see your majesty and so to see the weight of sin. Would our sin and the sin in the world grieve us and help us long for salvation for all.

THE WORD OF FIRE AGAINST COVENANT REJECTION

Prayer Points and Notes

Optional Weekend Reading: Turn our Hearts to You

Read: Jeremiah 17

1. What do we learn about God, and what do we learn about the human heart?
2. If the heart is “beyond cure,” why can only God save (17:14)? How might reflecting on these truths keep us humble and grateful for salvation?

Prayer: Father, without you our hearts are incurable; we could never please you (Romans 8:7). We praise you for your glorious grace – you alone can save, there is nothing in us that would turn us to you. Keep me humble and keep me grateful for salvation.

WEEK 5: JEREMIAH 18-20

Key verse: He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel."
Jeremiah 18:6

DAY 1: God's Pottery Class

Read: Jeremiah 18:1-12

1. Verses 1-10 describe a scene where Jeremiah enters a potter's house and learns a lesson about God. What is the main point of the lesson taught at the potter's house? How is the lesson applied?
2. Verses 8-10 parallel the message Jeremiah has been sent to preach in 1:10. What does this passage teach about the power behind Jeremiah's message?
3. In verses 11-12, how is this lesson applied to the nation of Israel? What was their salvation from disaster dependent upon?
4. What is the distinction that we need to make between God and us? How does this lesson lead to a life of repentance (turning to God and depending on him for salvation)?

Prayer: Lord God, you are greater than all of creation for you are the one true creator of the heavens and the earth. Who are humans that you are mindful of us? Keep us Lord from thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought.

THE WORD OF POWER

DAY 2: Is There Anything Like This?

Read: Jeremiah 18:11-17

1. Jeremiah reflects on the people's hearts through a series of rhetorical questions (i.e. a question that has implied answers). What do you think the implied answers are? What do they suggest about Israel's behaviour?
2. The language of "cool flowing waters" brings back to mind Jeremiah 2:10-13. What is the madness of Israel's behaviour?
3. What are the consequences of their behaviour?
4. Sometimes in our world rejection of the true and living God can be seen as something that is normal, even natural. How does this passage critique that idea? What is natural/ right about living for God rather than rejecting him?

Prayer: Lord, our world makes it seem natural to "follow our hearts", even though we know they are stubborn and evil. Lord, may we not fall into foolishness but by the power of your Spirit seek to grow hearts that delight in your oaths rather than our own.

WEEK 5: JEREMIAH 18-20

Key verse: He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel."
Jeremiah 18:6

DAY 3: A Cry to the Lord for Justice

Read: Jeremiah 18:18-23

1. What is the cause of Jeremiah's crying out to God?
2. What kinds of justice do you think Jeremiah had experienced in his time?
3. As Jesus, the final prophet, is rejected by his people and murdered, he cries out to God for mercy on his persecutors (Luke 23:34). What is the impact of this on our lives as we experience injustice in our world?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the cross, where both your love for the world and justice against sin came together in Jesus.

THE WORD OF POWER

DAY 4: Broken Beyond Repair

Read: Jeremiah 19:1-15

Here we enter back into the potter's house, but this time the message is vividly different.

1. How does the content of God's message (verses 3-9, 11-13) match the image of a broken pot (verse 10)?
2. Ben Hinnom/ Topheth was a valley just outside Jerusalem. What was it known for according to the passage? How might these practices be different to what God had wanted his people to be?
3. Why do you think Topheth is the place where Jeremiah breaks the pot?
4. What does this passage reveal about God's dealing with wickedness?

Prayer: Lord, we desire for wickedness to come to an end in the world around us. Help us to trust in your justice and timing, for we know you also desire for all to be saved (John 3:16).

WEEK 5: JEREMIAH 18-20

Key verse: He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel."
Jeremiah 18:6

DAY 5: Prophet's Public Life

Read: Jeremiah 20:1-6

Pashhur was the priest in charge of the temple, which meant that he was responsible for the activities conducted within the temple and for maintaining its order.

1. How does Pashhur respond to the message he hears from Jeremiah? What do you think was the motivation for him to act this way (given he has also been prophesying lies – see verse 6)?
2. What is the problem of Pashhur opposing Jeremiah? How is that problem exposed by Jeremiah?
3. When we speak the message of the gospel, what kind of responses do you think we should expect? If it brings opposition how should we respond?

Prayer: Ask God for courage to be bold in our public stance on the gospel when the opportunities arise, even though it may bring awkwardness and rejection.

THE WORD OF POWER

Prayer Points and Notes

Optional Weekend Reading: The Prophet's Private Grief

Read: Jeremiah 20:7-18

1. How would you characterise Jeremiah's response to the things that happened with Pashhur and Israel? What is he feeling?
2. What aspects of God's character are highlighted here? What feelings does Jeremiah attach to God's message of judgement?
3. God does not delight in the destruction of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11), but God will not let the evil against Jeremiah go unpunished (Proverbs 11:20-22). How might knowing this grow our relationship with God when we are grieved about his judgement?

Prayer: Father, we know that you do not delight in the destruction of the wicked, and we know that you must exercise justice. We are humbled again by the cross where we see your justice for wickedness and your mercy to save.

WEEK 6: JEREMIAH 21-24

Key verse: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.”
Jeremiah 23:5-6

DAY 1: Is God for Us?

Read: Jeremiah 21:1-14

After rebelling against Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 24:20), King Zedekiah sends two leading priests, Pashhur son of Malkijah (not the Pashhur son of Immer) and Zephaniah to Jeremiah.

1. What does the request of Israel's leaders in verse 2 reveal about what they expected from God? What does Jeremiah's response in verses 3-7 reveal about the problem of these expectations?
2. Jeremiah gives advice in verses 8-10. How would you summarise the advice?
3. Verses 11-14 address the house of David – the royal line to which Zedekiah belonged. What were the kings meant to do? Since God is now against Judah, what does this reveal about their leadership?
4. God is against this nation because of the evil of the kings. Is God for us though? How can we know that God is with us and not against us? (See Romans 8:1, 30-39 for help.)

Prayer: Praise God that in Christ we can know that he is for us and not against us, and that there is nothing that can turn his wrath against us because of our faith in Jesus.

THE WORD OF FUTURE HOPE AND PRESENT DESPAIR

DAY 2: God's King is to Be....

Read: Jeremiah 22:1-12

1. What was the responsibility of the Davidic king (verses 1-5)? How would you describe the ideal picture of rule in God's land?
2. How had the kings of Jeremiah's time behaved (have a look at your notes on Week 1 Day 2)? Did any of these kings behave in the way God had commanded?
3. What will happen to the land and throne of Israel as a result of their behaviour?
4. Being exiled from God's promised land was a devastating judgement. God's blessing comes through the true king, who perfectly keeps God's covenant. What hope and comforts come from having Jesus as king?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the confidence that I can have in Jesus as my king; the king who bled and died for me so that I can know the blessing of relationship with you forever.

WEEK 6: JEREMIAH 21-24

Key verse: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.”
Jeremiah 23:5-6

DAY 3: The Unrighteous Ruler

Read: Jeremiah 22:13-30

Gilead and Lebanon (verse 6) were sources of expensive cedar wood used for building the king's palace. Jehoiakim sought to establish himself as king through building up his palace with these materials at the expense of others (verses 14-17).

1. In what ways does this action forsake the responsibility God had given to the kings (see particularly 22:3)?
2. What is the judgement for Jehoiakim's behaviour? What happens to the royal line of Israel (see verse 30)?
3. There are many situations where power can be used for financial gain. Can you think of any ways you have seen power abused, or you have been tempted yourself to use influence or power for financial gain?
4. What is comforting and/ or confronting about how God judges those who abuse power for self gain?

Prayer: Lord, as you provide me with positions of power or influence please by your Spirit turn me from the temptation to abuse that power for myself, and, Lord, may you help me look for ways to love and care for those who have been abused by such powers in our world?

THE WORD OF FUTURE HOPE AND PRESENT DESPAIR

DAY 4: The Righteous Ruler

Read: Jeremiah 23:1-8

1. The leaders of Israel are often described as shepherds and the people as the flock (see Ezekiel 34). In verses 1-2, what has been the impact of the current kings on the people?
2. The kings of Jeremiah's day failed in their responsibility as shepherds. What does this passage tell us God will do that these kings have not done?
3. God promises to restore his people through a new king. What is different about this king to those kings of Jeremiah's day? What will be the impact of this king on the people?
4. The name, "The Lord our righteous saviour" is a promise about Jesus. How does 2 Corinthians 5:21 fulfil this promise for us? What kind of safety does it provide for us?

Prayer: Lord, please be at work within the leaders of our country to be righteous in their choices, and may the failure of human leaders remind us of our perfect King Jesus.

WEEK 6: JEREMIAH 21-24

Key verse: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.”
Jeremiah 23:5-6

DAY 5: Lying Prophets

Read: Jeremiah 23:16-32 (also read verses 9-40 if you want to read the whole book this term)

1. What is the content of the false prophet's message? What do you think makes their message convincing?
2. What is God's perspective on these prophets?
3. In our world, it can be difficult to discern lies from the truth, and sometimes people can even preach a false Jesus. What is the principle given by 1 John 4:1-3 and 15 for identifying false messages?

Prayer: Lord, thank you that you have given us the message of truth about Jesus in your word so that we can know what is true and what is false. Lord, please keep us from being led astray by false teaching and hold us firmly to your truth by your Spirit.

THE WORD OF FUTURE HOPE AND PRESENT DESPAIR

Prayer Points and Notes

Optional Weekend Reading: The Right Side of History

Read: Jeremiah 24:1-10

Jeremiah has a vision in this passage of two kinds of contrasting fig trees. Use the table below to help see the contrast.

	Who does this represent?	What is God's promise to this group?
Good figs		
Bad figs		

1. What do you notice is the main difference between the two groups?
2. Do you sometimes wonder if we as Christians are on the right side of history? What can give us confidence that we are?

Prayer: Lord, we know that not one of your promises has failed to be fulfilled, so we can have confidence in your promise to raise us to be with you in the same way you raised Jesus from the grave.

WEEK 7: JEREMIAH 25-29

Key verse: "So Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people of Judah and to all those living in Jerusalem: For twenty-three years—from the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah until this very day—the word of the Lord has come to me and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened." Jeremiah 25:2-3

DAY 1: Exiled for 70 years

Read: Jeremiah 25:1-14

Jeremiah 25 marks a turning point in the book, as the words of the prophet begin to be vindicated and fulfilled in the history of the nation. As the narrative progresses, we see God's word fulfilled in the history of the whole world. So, this passage gives us the picture of what to expect from the next half of Jeremiah.

1. Verses 1-7 summarise Jeremiah's ministry up to this point. What has been the shape of Jeremiah's ministry?
2. Verses 8-11 summarise the fate of the people of Judah under God's will. What will their future be?
3. Verses 12-14 summarise the fate of the Babylonians who carry out God's judgement on the people of Judah. What will their future be?
4. God's word has power not just over his people but over the nations of the world, which all work towards his purposes and are always fulfilled. Read Ephesians 1:9-10. What can we expect the future to look like? What is our confidence for this happening?

Prayer: Ask that God would help you to have your purposes in life align with his purposes.

THE WORD OF TRUTH

DAY 2: Drinking the Cup of God's Wrath

Read: Jeremiah 25:15-29 (also read to verse 38 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. What does the symbol of the cup represent? Who will have to drink from this cup? (In verse 26, "Shesak" is an encrypted Hebrew phrase for Babylon.)
2. Verses 33-35 have some heavy imagery of weeping and fear. How does this sobering language speak into facing the full extent of God's wrath?

Jesus suffers incredible anguish about facing the cross (Matthew 26). Many others have faced similar fates of terrible death without the same anguish that Jesus had.

3. Read Matthew 26:39. What does Jesus really fear? What does it mean for him to take the cup (in the context of what Jeremiah tells us the cup is)?
4. Jesus made the choice to drink the full cup of God's wrath against the sin of the world, even though he did not deserve it. He did this to fulfil God's will to save you from his wrath. Take a moment to consider, what does this mean for you?

For reflection and prayer: "In the strange mercy of God, the cup of his righteous wrath is given into the hands, not of his enemies, but of his beloved son. And he will drink it, down to the dregs until the moment comes when 'I thirst' gives place to 'it is finished'." (Lesslie Newbigin, The light has come).

WEEK 7: JEREMIAH 25-29

Key verse: “So Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people of Judah and to all those living in Jerusalem: For twenty-three years—from the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah until this very day—the word of the Lord has come to me and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened.” Jeremiah 25:2-3

DAY 3: Self Vindicated Word

Read: Jeremiah 26:1-15 (also read up to verse 24 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. The message Jeremiah speaks here is almost the same as what he preached in the temple in chapter 7. How do these people react to the same message (verses 7-11)? See Deuteronomy 18:20-22—how might the death penalty be appropriate in their minds?
2. What is the defence Jeremiah gives in verses 12-15? What does he trust in for the truth?
3. What does the change of the crowd from verse 8 to 16 suggest about them? Where is their trust placed?
4. Has there ever been a time where you have been easily swayed by an argument or speech? Have there been times where you have been more sceptical? What does this demonstrate about what or who you trust?

Prayer: Lord, your word continues to show itself to be true and good year after year. May I not wander from its truth and be tossed back and forth by every wind of teaching, but may I be rooted firmly in the truth.

THE WORD OF TRUTH

DAY 4: The Yoke of the Lord

The next two days will relate to one another as Jeremiah 27 and 28 have opposing messages that pitch the prophecy of Jeremiah's message against the prophecy of Hananiah.

Read: Jeremiah 27

A yoke was two bars and straps that were attached to an animal, used often to plough fields. So, a yoke would represent the animal bearing the burden of serving the owner's field.

1. Jeremiah receives a word from the Lord about wearing a yoke. What does the yoke represent? What does it symbolise for the nations to do (verses 8-11)?
2. What will happen if anyone refuses this yoke?
3. How are verses 21-22 different from the prophet's message in verse 16? What will be the result of false prophecy on the nation?
4. Reflect on Proverbs 18:21. What are some ways in which our speech can have power for harm or for good?

Prayer: Lord, do not let us be captured by messages of false hope in our world but by your spirit. Continue to lead us into truth, that our speech may be shaped by what is true and good, not by the lies of the devil.

WEEK 7: JEREMIAH 25-29

Key verse: “So Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people of Judah and to all those living in Jerusalem: For twenty-three years—from the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah until this very day—the word of the Lord has come to me and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened.” Jeremiah 25:2-3

DAY 5: The Yoke of Hananiah

Read: Jeremiah 28

1. In what ways is Hananiah's message similar to that of Jeremiah's from chapter 27? What is appealing about Hananiah's message?
2. What is Jeremiah's test for discerning the true prophecy? (Note also how Jeremiah's prophecy of 70 years in chapter 25 is different to Hananiah's prophecy.)
3. Many were persuaded by Hananiah's lie (verse 15). Read Jeremiah 6:10 – how does this help explain the acceptance of the lying prophet over the true prophet?
4. Have you ever experienced a time where the Bible's words were not appealing to you? How might knowing God's character help even hard words become like Jeremiah 15:16 again?

Prayer: Lord, open my eyes that I might see the wonderful things in your law (Psalm 119:18). Turn my heart towards your laws and not towards selfish gain (Psalm 119:36), for I delight in your commands because I love them (Psalm 119:47).

THE WORD OF TRUTH

Prayer Points and Notes

Optional Weekend Reading: Prepare for 70 Years Not Two Years

Read: Jeremiah 29:1-23 (read to verse 32 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. What does the message about settling into the land suggest about the length of this exile? How is that different to the false prophecies of the time?
2. What is the true hope that God offers through the true prophet?
3. In our time, the message of the gospel can be distorted by others. How can we know our faith is in the true gospel? (Read Galatians 1:6-9 for help.)

Prayer: Lord, thank you that the message of the gospel about Jesus Christ has been made clear in the Bible for us to know.

WEEK 8: JEREMIAH 30-34

Key verse: “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” Jeremiah 31:33

DAY 1: God Will Restore the Broken

Jeremiah 30-31 is known in tradition as the book of consolation, and reveals God's solution to the problem of Jeremiah's words (i.e. God's words in his mouth) failing to cause any change within the people of Israel. Because Israel have stubborn, rebellious hearts that will not listen to God's word, and no offers of forgiveness or words of judgement have changed them, what can be done?

Read: Jeremiah 30:1-17 (read up to verse 24 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. There are a number of “I will” statements in this chapter. See if you can make a list of all the “I will” statements? Do you notice any common themes?
2. Is there anything that Israel needs to do? What do you think is the reason for their restoration?
3. What hope is there for people who have stubborn, rebellious hearts that will not listen to the word of God?
4. How can this hope help shape our prayers for those people we know who don't yet know the Lord?

Prayer: Father, please restore the heart/ hearts of the following people in my life:

THE WORD OF RESTORATION

DAY 2: Restored...Once Again

Key to some words and places in today's passage:

Ephraim – Can refer to a tribe of Israel, or to the northern kingdom (Israel) when Israel and Judah split, or to all of God's people, and is often the name used to describe Israel as God's firstborn (Jeremiah 31:20).

Zion – Refers to the city of Jerusalem, and often in association with God's dwelling place in the temple (Isaiah 8:18).

Jacob – Is the father of the 12 tribes of Israel, son of Isaac, son of Abraham.

Read: Jeremiah 31:1-14 (read to verse 26 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. Verses 1-2 contain imagery taken from the rescue out of Egypt, about surviving the sword of judgement against wickedness in the wilderness, which is now applied to the exile to Babylon (verses 3-6). What will God do "again" that he did for those in the wilderness in the past (see verses 3-6)?
2. What is the effect of God's promised restoration to a people in exile (verses 7-14)?
3. We are a people whom God has rescued from slavery to sin. How does reading this response shape our prayers, singing and other ways of worshiping God?

Prayer: Lord, we praise your love that endures forever. Not only did you rescue your people from exile by your mighty power, but you have rescued us from this present evil age through your son. Please fill our hearts and mouths with the joy of your salvation.

WEEK 8: JEREMIAH 30-34

Key verse: “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” Jeremiah 31:33

DAY 3: Restored Permanently

Read: Jeremiah 31:27-34 (read up to verse 40 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. There are two main promises God makes in this passage. See if you can summarise them below?

Promise 1 (verses 27-30): _____

- a. How does this promise fulfil Jeremiah's calling (1:10-12)?
- b. What is the meaning of verses 29-30 (see Ezekiel 18:1-4)? What does this mean for the basis of being righteous or unrighteous?

Promise 2 (verses 31-34): _____

- c. What was the old covenant spoken of in verses 31-32 (see Exodus 19:5-6)?
- d. How does this new covenant deal with humanity's core problem (see 17:1,9)? Why was the old covenant unable to deal with this problem?

In Luke 22:20, Jesus declares that the shedding of his blood brings in the new covenant, and Hebrews 10:18 declares that this new covenant is permanent. What a gift we have received!

Prayer: Who are we Lord to receive such a wonderful gift? May our hearts not grow cold but be filled with joy and delight by the Spirit you have caused to dwell in us.

THE WORD OF RESTORATION

DAY 4: GoodProperty Investment Plans

Read:Jeremiah 32:1-15(readverses 16-44if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. What is Jeremiah asked to do? What is it about the circumstances makes this request strange?
2. Jeremiah buys the land from Hanamel. What is the significance of buying from someone in his family (see Leviticus 25:23-25)?
3. What do verses 13-15 suggest about when this deed will be useful?
4. The promised land foreshadowed the promise of a new creation, which was fulfilled in Jesus' announcement of the coming kingdom (Luke 10:9). How can we make similar investments to that of Jeremiah in the time we live in (see Matthew 6:19-21)?

Prayer: Ask that God would provide wisdom for clarity on how to use the resources we have at our disposal for the sake of the kingdom.

WEEK 8: JEREMIAH 30-34

Key verse: “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” Jeremiah 31:33

DAY 5: God's Covenant is Trustworthy

Read: Jeremiah 33:12-26 (read from verse 1 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. What are some of the promises that we are reminded of here that God is going to fulfil (see verses 12, 14, 18)?
2. Read Jeremiah 23:5-6. Do you notice anything different from Jeremiah 33:15-16? What does this tell us about the relationship between the king and his people?
3. What confidence is given that God will fulfil these promises? (For help, pay attention to the “if so...yet” statements in verses 19-25.)
4. Sometimes the circumstances of life can lead us to question whether God is going to keep his promises to us. How does Acts 2:29-36 remind you that God's promises are fulfilled? How does this passage remind you again of the trustworthiness of his words to us?

Prayer: Lord, it is a great comfort to know that we can stand upon your promises as a solid foundation for the future of our lives, for we know Jesus was raised from the grave fulfilling your promise.

THE WORD OF RESTORATION

Prayer Points and Notes

Optional Weekend Reading: Back to the Current Reality

Read: Jeremiah 34:1-22

1. Given all the words of hope and restoration, what does the current reality of Israel suggest about when God's promise will be fulfilled (see 25:11-12)?
2. What are the words given to King Zedekiah? How do the people in Jerusalem respond to this word?
3. How does this speak into what genuine repentance looks like (see 2 Corinthians 7:10)? What has repentance looked like in your life?

Prayer: Lord, please grow in us godly sorrow about sin in our lives so that we may continue to turn from our old way of life. Please grow our delight in our salvation that we may strive towards the new way of life lived by the Spirit.

WEEK 9: JEREMIAH 35-39

Key verse: "So you go to the house of the Lord on a day of fasting and read to the people from the scroll the words of the Lord that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns."
Jeremiah 36:6

DAY 1: I Have Spoken Again and Again

Read: Jeremiah 35

1. Complete this table:

	The Rekabites	Judah
Who speaks to them?		
How often did they speak to them?		
Where do these people take refuge when Babylon comes?		
What is God's verdict on each group?		

2. All sin is a failure to listen to God's word. How does this passage help us see sin for what it is and our need for salvation from it?

Prayer: Father, you graciously speak to us to reveal your will, but so often we fail to listen. Work by your Spirit through your word to transform our hearts to listen and obey.

THE WORD PRESERVED

DAY 2: God's Written Word

Read: Jeremiah 36:20-32 (read from Vs 1 if you want to read all of Jeremiah)

1. What is the plan and the purpose for writing God's word to Jeremiah on a scroll?
2. What do you think God is teaching us by recording the burning and rewriting of God's word?
3. We often take for granted that God can speak to us, through the prophet's sermon and through words written on a page. How does this passage encourage us to approach God's written word, and how might we be tempted to treat it similarly to Jehoiakim?

Prayer: Father, "I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees." (Psalm 119:10-12)

WEEK 9: JEREMIAH 35-39

Key verse: "So you go to the house of the Lord on a day of fasting and read to the people from the scroll the words of the Lord that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns."
Jeremiah 36:6

DAY 3: Where are Your Prophets?

Read: Jeremiah 37:1-10 (read 11-21 if you want to finish Jeremiah)

1. Who are the key people in this part of Jeremiah, and what do we learn about them?
2. In the past, when Jerusalem had been surrounded by a large army, King Hezekiah asked the prophet Isaiah to inquire of the Lord about what would happen, and God promised to save them (you can read about this in 2 Kings 18-19 and Isaiah 36-37). What is similar about Jerusalem's situation in Jeremiah 37, and how is Jeremiah's word different (see also Isaiah 39:6-7)?
3. What are the ways people avoid the plain truth of God's word in this passage? How might we also find it difficult to not hear inconvenient truths from God's word?

Prayer: Father, help me come to your word always humbly and ready to learn and not correct. You are the wise and righteous God of all. Teach us your wisdom and what is right.

THE WORD PRESERVED

DAY 4: Leave and Live

Read: Jeremiah 38:1-13 (read 14-28 if you want to finish Jeremiah)

1. What will bring life according to Jeremiah, and what do the officials think?
2. When it comes to God's word, life and death is at stake; there is the truth that sets free and the error that brings ruin. What motivates the people in this passage to either heed or avoid God's word, and what can we learn from their good or bad example?
3. Why might it have been hard for those hearing Jeremiah to leave the city? Can you think of an equivalent situation in your own life? How does the Christian need to be willing to leave in order to live (see also Mark 8:34-38)?

Prayer: Father, help me count everything as loss compared to Christ and having my righteousness in him. Help me to consider everything a loss that I might find him (use Philippians 3:7-11 to shape your prayers today).

WEEK 9: JEREMIAH 35-39

Key verse: "So you go to the house of the Lord on a day of fasting and read to the people from the scroll the words of the Lord that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns."
Jeremiah 36:6

DAY 5: The Disaster Fulfilled

Read: Jeremiah 39

1. What earlier prophecies from Jeremiah can you see being fulfilled in this passage?
2. What happens to those who did not trust the words of God through Jeremiah, and what happens to those who did trust those words?
3. God's word has told us of a future eternal disaster. What might it look like in your life to live heeding his word and trusting in his rescue?

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for bringing the gospel word to us, to warn us of the coming judgement, and we trust in the saviour who took this judgement in our place on the cross.

THE WORD PRESERVED

Prayer Points and Notes

Optional Weekend Reading

Read John 16:12-15

1. Who is Jesus speaking to? When the Spirit comes, what does he say it will do?
2. What will it look like to be led into all truth (see John 14:26, 15:26)?
3. Both Jeremiah's and the disciples' words were opposed by others. How does Jeremiah 36 and John 16 help build confidence in the enduring nature of God's word? And its relevance?

Prayer: Praise God for the Bible you have in front of you – that he has by his power preserved this word so that you could be reading it today.

WEEK 10: JEREMIAH 40-52

Key verse: “Those who escape the sword and return to the land of Judah from Egypt will be very few. Then the whole remnant of Judah who came to live in Egypt will know whose word will stand – mine or theirs.” Jeremiah 44:28

DAY 1: God's Words Outside Judah

Read: Jeremiah 40:1-6

God's words came to Jeremiah in a remarkable way, through the words of an outsider, Nebuzaradan, the commander of the Babylonian Guard, after he released him from chains a second time in Ramah (a short distance north of Jerusalem). This is the second time God has spoken through an outsider for Jeremiah – the first being Ebed-Melek the Cushite who removed Jeremiah from the cistern (38:7-13).

1. What's the significance of a Babylonian (outsider to Judah) being the one bringing the words of the Lord to Jeremiah? For further reflection, what are some similarities between the Babylonian and the centurion of Jesus' crucifixion (Mark 15:39)?
2. What is the message of the Lord to Jeremiah? What does Jeremiah's choice to stay with the people who imprisoned him reveal about his character?
3. After Jeremiah's example of loyalty to his own people, do you have any reflections on your own loyalty to your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Prayer: Lord, we know that we were once outsiders, but you adopted us into your family in your grace through the blood of your son.

THE WORD VINDICATED

DAY 2: Judah's Rebellion: Against Babylon

Read: Jeremiah 40:7-41:3 (read up to 41:15 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. What do we learn about Gedaliah's leadership? What are his instructions to the people left in the land?
2. What are the concerns brought by Gedaliah? What might be the reason for Gedaliah's response (see Jeremiah 9:3-6)?
3. What do we know about Ishmael that might have been a motive for his murder of Gedaliah? What is so dangerous politically about this choice?
4. Sometimes, like Ishmael, ambition or frustration about our current situation can blind us to poor choices. Can you think of a time where these things have led to a poor choice in your own life (maybe not murder, but greed...)? How can we grow towards more measured choices?

Prayer: Lord, please help us to see the bigger picture as we make choices in life, and, as we reflect on poor choices we have made, may it turn us back to you for grace.

WEEK 10: JEREMIAH 40-52

Key verse: "Those who escape the sword and return to the land of Judah from Egypt will be very few. Then the whole remnant of Judah who came to live in Egypt will know whose word will stand – mine or theirs." Jeremiah 44:28

DAY 3: Safety in Egypt or God's Word?

Read: Jeremiah 41:16-42:16 (read up to 42:22 if you want to finish Jeremiah this term)

1. After the assassination of Gedaliah at the hands of Ishmael, Johanan takes over the people who are left. Why does he flee? What's his plan for safety?
2. When they consult the "Prophet (Word of God)" Jeremiah about what they should do, what are the promises he gives? What warnings does he give?
3. Given what you have read in Jeremiah so far, what might make you sceptical that they will listen to God's words as they promised (42:5-6)?
4. Is your security in life founded on God's word? How does that shape the way you live?

Prayer: Lord, may all our practices in life be built upon the solid foundation of your word by putting your words into practice in our daily lives (reflect on Matthew 7:24-27).

THE WORD VINDICATED

DAY 4: Judah's Rebellion Against God

Read: Jeremiah 43

1. What is the significance of the choice made by the leaders of Judah given the context of what you read on Day 3? What is their reason for this choice?
2. How do verses 8-13 reveal the futility of their attempt to flee from judgement by finding safety in Egypt (see Jeremiah 23:24)?
3. What does this teach us about how our attitude matters when seeking to know God's will? What are some comforts and challenges you find when responding to God's will for our lives in the Bible (i.e. Mark 8:34-35)?

Prayer: Lord, thank you that we can know what your will for our lives is when we read the Bible. Please teach us to approach your words with humility ready to submit even when we find it hard to obey.

WEEK 10: JEREMIAH 40-52

Key verse: "Those who escape the sword and return to the land of Judah from Egypt will be very few. Then the whole remnant of Judah who came to live in Egypt will know whose word will stand – mine or theirs." Jeremiah 44:28

DAY 5: Reverse Exodus

Read: Jeremiah 44. (As you read, note down anything that sounds familiar from what you have read in the book of Jeremiah so far.)

1. The journey into the promised land began with the exodus from Egypt (Jeremiah 2:6-7). What has led to a return to the place where they were originally rescued from? Have they learnt anything from the past?
2. Verse 28 brings the conflict between Judah's leaders and God's word to its conclusion. What does this verse reveal about the folly of resisting God's word?
3. Reflecting on the events recorded in the book of Jeremiah, what do you think are some lessons that ought to be learnt?

Prayer: Praise God that this book was not the end of the story; that there was a far greater prophet, king and priest to come who would establish a new covenant – one that is even greater than the old covenant.

THE WORD VINDICATED

Prayer Points and Notes

Optional Weekend Reading: The Scribe Preserved

Read: Jeremiah 45

Baruch was an assistant of Jeremiah, acting as his scribe particularly after Jehoiakim had burned the scroll of Jeremiah in a fire (see Jeremiah 36:32), hence Baruch is affected in a similar way to Jeremiah in his ministry.

1. What has Baruch's feelings towards his ministry been? What would he have liked for his life (verse 5)?
2. How does God respond to Baruch's distress?
3. Verse 4 has similarities to 1:10. What did the message of 1:10 anticipate the Lord was going to do? What was anticipated in Jeremiah's message?
4. Sometimes our ministry can feel bitter and prevent us from having a life we may have wanted for ourselves. How might knowing God is with us in the midst of these feelings be helpful to us (Matthew 28:20, Romans 8:28)?

Prayer: Lord, we don't see all the ways in which you are working through things toward good purposes, but we know that we can trust you even when our ministry feels bitter for you are with us and work even the difficult things for our good.



Colin and Jill Bakon (SIM) Spain

Colin and Jill are involved with a church plant in Nerja (southern Spain). Colin continues to coach Spanish pastors, and encourage mission in their churches. Pray for them as they connect with locals and help disciple local believers. Pray for Spanish church leaders to mature, and for more Spaniards to know Jesus as Lord.



Chris and Kristy Galea (CMS) Malta

Chris and Kristy, with Josh, Esther, Caleb and Ruth, are continuing to invest in relationships with locals in Malta. Pray for fruitful involvement with the local church and for the discipling of believers through Bible studies in Maltese. Pray for the people of Malta to put their hope in Jesus alone.



Kirri (SIM) Central Africa

Kirri serves as part of a church-plant team based in a remote community in Central Africa. Pray for Kirri and her teammate as they connect with the local community and refugees, and seek to deepen relationships. Pray for people in Central Africa to come to know Jesus as their Lord.



Rick and Ellen Middle East

Rick and Ellen, together with their three kids, are continuing to learn language and culture in the Middle East. Continue to pray for comfort, strength and perseverance as a family, in relationships with locals and those at the local Bible college, particularly during a time of conflict in the Middle East. Pray for future opportunities to train local Christian leaders and for many in the region to turn to Jesus amidst ongoing uncertainty.



Warrick and Sarah (CMS) Middle East

Warrick and Sarah, with Elijah, are thankful for many opportunities to witness for Jesus through relationships with refugees and locals. Please continue to pray for their relationships, opportunities for longer-term ministry, and that they would trust God when there is conflict in the region.



Lachlan and Candy Grice (CMS) Taiwan

Lachlan and Candy, with sons Beaumont and Jonathan, are in southern Taiwan learning language and culture. In the future, they hope to serve in high school and university ministry. Please pray for them as they continue to make connections, navigate new culture, and for Taiwan to know Jesus.



Matt and Caitlin Bakon (CMS) Pacific

Matt and Caitlin, together with Josiah (3) and Grace (9 months) are working towards serving in the Pacific. They hope to engage in Bible translation ministry, serving alongside local translators to bring God's word to local people in their 'heart language'. The Bakons will visit us in August 2026.



Simon and Margie Gilham (CMS) Uganda

Simon and Margie are planning to serve long-term in Uganda. Ministry will include teaching at the Bishop Tucker School of Divinity and Theology, which has been training leaders for the church of Uganda and beyond for more than 100 years. Simon and Margie will share with us in November 2026.



Foundry Church Wallsend

Sam Broadfoot, and a small staff team, planted this new Bible-based church in Newcastle's growing western suburbs in late 2025. Pray for all those who attend to have a deep, assured faith in Jesus their saviour, and that he'd provide all they need as a church to be able to proclaim Jesus for years to come.



Rhys Ewing (AFES) Newcastle University

Rhys is part of the Newcastle Christian Students Staff Team. His focus is discipling and training Christian students at Ourimbah and Gosford campuses. Give thanks for the opportunities to connect with staff and students especially at the new Gosford building. Pray for more young people to know the hope of Jesus.



Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Australia

FIEC is the "denomination" that EV Church is part of, and is committed to praying for. FIEC is aiming, with God's help, to plant new churches and grow existing churches that reach ordinary people with the extraordinary message of Jesus Christ.



Reach Australia (RA)

RA wants to see healthy, evangelistic and multiplying churches reaching the lost across Australia.



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