

# The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam  
To Zedekiah

Book 1

A  
Daily Devotional  
Study Guide

Week 43

## “Living Complacent”

**Study:** Zephaniah 1:1-18

**Reading:** Philippians 3:1-16, Revelation 3:14-22

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:5

### What Does the Bible Say?

The book of Zephaniah was written sometime during the reign of Josiah (640-609 B.C.) It was most likely written before the reforms took place, but could have been written while Josiah was in the middle of the reforms. Little is known about Zephaniah, but he does identify himself as a descendant of Hezekiah (715-686 B.C.) whose reign ended around 50 years before this book was written (vs 1).

This prophecy starts with a description of the great destruction that God was going to bring to the earth. God was going to remove all men, animals, birds, fish and any remnant of the wicked world. The earth as we know it today will be completely removed. This appears to be a prediction of the “Day of the Lord” when Jesus returns and establishes a new heaven and a new earth. It appears this is mentioned to reveal God’s hatred for the sin of men and his choice to remove it, similar to what He did with the flood in Genesis (vs 2-3).

As with many prophecies, there appears to be a short term fulfillment in the destruction on Israel and a long term fulfillment focused on the end times. In verse 4, the prophecy is narrowed down to a specific focus on Judah and Jerusalem. God was going to judge the nation for their sin and destroy any trace of the worship of Baal that existed in the land. The priests of Baal and those who worshiped the heavens would also be destroyed. The inhabitants of the land who chose not to turn to the Lord would also be destroyed as God would choose to spare those who sought after him. Perhaps, God used Josiah as a part fulfillment of this prophecy or it could be that Josiah knew of this prophecy and wanted to destroy the evil so God could spare the nation (vs 4-6).

The day of this judgement was coming closer and closer as God was preparing for a sacrifice to take place. This sacrifice was going to be his nation and the special guests He called to make the sacrifice were the Babylonians. The leaders of Judah would be punished because they had adopted the foreign practices of the nations and did not head the law of

God. God was going to punish the rich who leapt at the chance to take advantage of others and was going to punish the servants who were full of fraud and violence (vs 7-9).

When the Babylonians attacked they would start at the Fish Gate, which was on the north end of the city (also called the Damascus Gate) and they would proceed south into the city's second quarter and then down to the hills where the palace and other prominent residents of the city would have lived. Those living in the profitable market areas would cry out since there would be no more merchants coming in to sell their goods. God said He would search out the city for the evil inhabitants as an enemy army would search door to door with their torches. The people would face this judgement not because they fully rejected God, but because they didn't believe God would do what He said. They didn't believe He would judge if they did evil, nor did they believe He would bless if they did good. As a result, their homes would be destroyed and their fields and goods would be taken by others (vs 10-13).

This day was not far off, but was drawing near. God had been patient in withholding His judgement from Judah, but He would not withhold it much longer. It was going to be a time of great distress and anguish where their strong cities would be demolished and many in the cities would be killed. All of this judgement was going to take place because of their sin and nothing would be able to save them. The earthly riches they trusted in would not be enough to stave off the great destruction the Lord was going to bring (vs 14-18).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Though these are historical events, they parallel the destruction of the Day of the Lord in the end times. The key focus of the whole prophecy was on the judgement of sin. One of the reasons that the people were being judged was because of their complacent attitude towards God. They didn't fully reject God, but they did not embrace Him either. They worshiped Him along with many of their false Gods, not realizing He was the One true God. It is easier than you realize to become complacent in your worship of Him. You can let sin become common place and take the mercy and grace of God for granted. Though the people of Judah sound extremely wicked to us, it would not have seemed as wicked to them in those days because they were simply living like the society around them. It is vital that you live differently than the world, with a focus on obeying God.

When was the book of Zephaniah written (vs 1)? What can you learn about Zephaniah?

What did God say He was going to do (vs 2)?

What will God's judgement on the earth entail (vs 3)?

How is this similar to the judgement of the flood?

How was God going to judge Judah (vs 4)?

What sins were they committing (vs 4-5)?

What did they not do (vs 6)?

What was the sacrifice that God prepared (vs 7)?

Who was God going to punish (vs 8)? Why?

What two groups of people were mentioned in verse 9? Why?

Where was the Fish Gate (vs 11)? Why do you think these places are mentioned?

Who was called to wail over the destruction of the marketplaces (vs 11)?

Who was God going to punish (vs 12)?

What would happen to their things (vs 13)?

What is said about the day of God's judgement (vs 14-16)?

Why was God going to bring judgement (vs 17)?

What would not be able to save them (vs 18)?

What was God going to make an end of (vs 18)?

What does this chapter reveal about God's view of sin?

# “*Repentance or Destruction*”

**Study:** Zephaniah 2:1-15

**Reading:** Luke 13:1-5, 2 Chronicles 7:11-22

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:5

**W**hen my wife and I first traveled to Israel in 1999 one of the places we went to was a public beach located along the Dead Sea. This was set up to be a place that would provide towels and showers for tourists to use during and after swimming in the Dead Sea. When we went back to Israel around 15 years later, we noticed this area was all fenced off with danger signs around it. We found out that there had been sink holes forming around the area and it had led to the closure of that beach.

Today, we are going to see how God predicted that Moab and Amon would become full of salt pits as a result of their sin. (Their lands were located around the Dead Sea.) They were challenged to repent, but they chose not to and the fulfillment of this prophecy is still coming true today.

## What Does the Bible Say?

God’s wrath was going to be poured out because of the sins of the nations that surrounded Judah. Before judgement on these cities was going to take place, God mercifully called out for the people to gather together and repent of their sin. The time of His wrath was drawing near, but there was still a chance that many of them could be spared if they turned to Him. The people were challenged to humble themselves before the Lord and to follow His commands. If they went to God in humility, there was a chance they could escape the great judgement of God that was to come (vs 1-3).

This was a message not just for Judah, but for all the nations around them. Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod and Ekron were all major cities of the Philistine nation. The Philistine land was to the west of Judah and many of the dwelling places of the Philistines were by the Mediterranean Sea. The Israelites were known for being shepherds and this was often despised by the Philistines. As part of their judgement, the Philistines were told that their lands would become fields for the people of Judah to

use for their grazing animals. Though Judah would also experience the judgement of God, because they were His chosen people He would restore their fortunes and increase their land (vs 4-7).

The Philistines were not the only nation that oppressed Judah. The people of Moab and Ammon to the east of Judah had been a constant thorn in the flesh. God declared that those nations would become like Sodom and Gomorrah, which at one time were located in the area where Moab and Ammon would eventually be located. Their land would be destroyed and God would cause much of the land to be uninhabitable. It is interesting to note that this region today is around the Dead Sea and is full of sink holes with very few inhabitants (vs 8-9).

This judgement was going to happen because of their pride and how they taunted the people of Judah. The Lord will show His mighty power against them and disgrace all of the gods they worshiped. This will drive many of the nations to respect and worship the God of Israel. Some parts of this prophecy appear to have a short term fulfillment, while other parts look to the future and the millennial reign of Christ (vs 10-11).

Destruction of the Cushites, located near Egypt to the south and the Assyrians to the north was also predicted here. The city of Nineveh would become like a desert that would be filled with wild animals. All that would be left were ruins for wild animals to use as their homes. The city of Nineveh had been one of the greatest cities of that day since it was the heart of the Assyrian nation. They thought they were the greatest and could not be defeated, but one day they would be put to shame (vs 12-15).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

The judgements in this chapter were pronounced towards the nations around Judah, but the emphasis of this passage was not on the judgement that would take place. The emphasis was a call to repent and turn to God. God warned these nations what would happen if they failed to listen, yet none of the nations heeded His call and God did just as He said He would do. This should serve as a reminder to you of the importance of repenting when God brings something in your life to your attention. God is a God of wrath and fury, but He is also a God of grace and mercy. He would much rather show His grace and mercy to you than pour out His judgement and that is why He pleads with you to humble yourself and do things His way.



Why were the nations around Israel called to gather (vs 1-2)?

What were they told to do (vs 3)?

What might happen if they obeyed (vs 3)?

What were going to be deserted (vs 4)?

What was against the people (vs 5)?

Why should have this been a great cause for concern (vs 5)?

What was going to happen to much of the region along the Mediterranean Sea (vs 6)?

Who was going to possess the land (vs 7)? How has this been fulfilled?

*\*\*\*Today, almost all of the cities mentioned in this prophecy are part of the Israelite nation.*

What people were addressed in verse 8? Where did they live?

What had they done to Israel (vs 8)?

What was going to happen to these cities (vs 9)?

What sin had they committed (vs 10)?

What will God cause to happen to the “gods of the earth” (vs 11 -ESV)?

Who else would face destruction (vs 12)? Where were they from?

What would God do to Assyria (vs 13)?

What do animals being in a city reveal (vs 14)?

What had Nineveh said (vs 15)?

How were they wrong (vs 15)?

## “*Forgiveness and Restoration*”

**Study** Zephaniah 3:1-20

**Reading:** Zechariah 8:1-23

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:5

**T**here have been a handful of times over the years where I have said or done something to my wife that I knew deeply hurt her. When I reached the point where I realized how much I had hurt her, I apologized and asked for forgiveness. Though I am sure it was hard at times for her, she chose to forgive me. Those times were such a relief to me because it brought great restoration and caused me to love her even more.

Today, we are going to see how God will forgive His people. Even though they did many things to greatly hurt Him, one day He will bring great restoration and forgiveness to the land of Israel.

### What Does the Bible Say?

Nahum 1 predicted judgement upon Judah and chapter 2 predicted judgment on the surrounding cities. In chapter 3, the prediction of judgement is directed toward the city of Jerusalem, but the end of the chapter gives a future hope after judgement. Jerusalem was described as a city that was violent and full of crime. Though God had attempted to warn the city through His Word and through prophets, many in the city failed to listen to correction. They did not turn to the Lord or trust in Him. The leaders of the city were compared to roaring lions and the judges were compared to wolves. This pictured how they didn't care about others, but were completely in it for their own gain. The spiritual leaders, the prophets and priests, had also failed by choosing not to abide by the law of God (vs 1-4).

Even though all this was happening in the city, the presence of God was still there. He was just as faithful as He had always been to them, though the people were unfaithful to Him. God had showed His power to them by destroying other nations, even great and mighty ones, and leaving their cities desolate. This should have been enough to get the attention of Jerusalem and drive the people to Him, but they would not listen to His correction. As a result, God was going bring destruction to the city of Jerusalem, just as He had done with the other cities around

them. Even as God brought warning after warning to the people, the people became more corrupt (vs 5-7)?

Verse 8 appears to be a transition between the current prediction of the judgement of Jerusalem to the end times where He will gather all the nations together for judgement. The wording here is very similar to many other predictions that point to the end times (vs 8).

There will be a day when God will finally have had enough with all the evil in the world and will bring judgment. This judgement was not just one of harm, but also one of purification. God will remove those who chose not to seek Him and spare those who chose to follow Him. This will create a world where all the inhabitants choose to seek after God. God will gather together believers from all of over the world who will come and worship Him. God will also remove the shame of the rebellion of Israel and they will come in humility to worship Him. The result will be that all men will live in safety without fear of judgement (vs 9-13).

There will be a day for great rejoicing and celebration because the hand of God's judgement would be removed from the land. The enemies of Israel will be conquered and the presence of God will once again dwell among them. This will mean that all their troubles would be over and they will never face disaster again. God will calm their fears and they will be able to live in a continual state of rejoicing. Those who shed tears because the festivals could not be celebrated will be able to celebrate them with joy. Jerusalem and all Israel would no longer be despised or looked down upon, but will be given a good name which all the inhabitants of the earth will look up to (vs 14-20).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you realize the great restoration that God brings through forgiveness? There are times when all believers fail and those failures often cause a feeling of continual guilt. The picture of forgiveness and restoration in this chapter is amazing. Jerusalem was guilty of amazing sin, yet God was capable of greater forgiveness. This complete forgiveness will come one day to the nation of Israel, but God has also promised forgiveness to the believers who repent, humble themselves and look to Him.

Another reminder from the passage today is the fact that you have a future hope. Even though this world is evil and wicked, there will be a day where you will live in a perfect and complete world. This is a day that all believers can look forward to.

What was awaiting Jerusalem (vs 1)?

What did Jerusalem refuse (vs 2)?

How were the leaders of Jerusalem described (vs 3)?

What were the priests and prophets like (vs 4)?

How did God act in the middle of this evil (vs 5)?

What had God done to other nations (vs 6)?

How was this meant to be a warning to Jerusalem (vs 6)?

What did God want them to do (vs 7)?

What did they choose to do (vs 7)?

How should this be a great warning to you?

What was God planning to do (vs 8)?

What change is God going to make (vs 9)?

What point was being made in verse 10?

How does verse 11 show the amazing forgiveness of God?

What type of people did God desire (vs 12-13)?

Why would this cause rejoicing (vs 14-15)?

Why is living without fear such a great promise (vs 16-17)?

What will God do for those who seek Him (vs 18)?

How will God cause things to be different (vs 19)?

Why is this a prophecy of great hope (vs 20)?

# “Don’t Be Afraid of Them”

**Study:** Jeremiah 1:1-10

**Reading:** Isaiah 6:1-13. 1 Timothy 1:12-17

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:5

I remember how scared I was when I was called to be the senior pastor of a church in my late 20's. Being an assistant was nice because I could always direct questions or problems to the senior pastor, but when I became the “head guy” it was quite scary. There were times, when I thought of all the responsibility of the lead pastor, that I wanted to turn down the offer or choose to quit the ministry all together. Yet God’s Word challenged me to be bold in Him and His power and strength.

Today, we are going to see that when Jeremiah was called to be a prophet, he really didn’t want the job. Yet God reminded him that it was the power of God working through Him that would make the difference.

## What Does the Bible Say?

According to 2 Chronicles 34, Josiah began to reign as king when he was eight years old. In the eighth year of his reign, when he was 16, he began to seek after God. In the twelfth year of his reign he began to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem of its idols. In the eighteenth year, he cleansed the temple and that is when the Book of the Law was found. Jeremiah stated that the Word of the Lord first came to him in the thirteenth year of Josiah’s reign, which would have been shortly after the cleansing began. Jeremiah’s time as a prophet lasted all the way past the city of Jerusalem falling to the Babylonian empire (vs 1-3).

Jeremiah was the son of a priest named Hilkiyah, though this was probably not the high priest that found the Book of the Law. He was from the tribe of Benjamin and grew up in a small town called Ananah, which was about three miles northeast of Jerusalem. The role that God was going to call Jeremiah to play over the next several years would be a very difficult one. When God called Jeremiah to be a prophet, He told Jeremiah that He knew who Jeremiah was going to be and what role Jeremiah was going to play as a prophet even before Jeremiah was conceived. This call came to Jeremiah when he was quite young, though

we are not told an exact age. Jeremiah had no confidence in himself or his abilities, most likely because he was still a teenager or young adult. God didn’t listen to the excuses of Jeremiah and told him not to talk about his age. God was going to use him in spite of himself or his age. He was told to simply do as God said and speak the words that God would tell him to speak. Most of all, He was commanded not to be afraid of the people who He was going to be declaring God’s Word to. God would take care of him, even if his words angered some of the people he was speaking to. When Jeremiah first started out as a prophet during the time of Josiah, his words would have been received much better than later in his life when he had to prophesy during the reign of wicked kings (vs 4-8).

To help assure Jeremiah of God’s power, the hand of God reached out and touched his lips. God declared that He was putting His words in the mouth of Jeremiah. Jeremiah was going to be declaring judgement to some nations and great blessings to other nations. He was going to have great power in his words and people were going to see his words come true (vs 9-10).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you feel inadequate to be a servant of God? Perhaps you feel God calling you to be a leader of a group. Maybe you feel the call of God to go and speak to a family member or a friend about Jesus. It is easy to think you are not good enough and fear that you won’t say the right words. Jeremiah felt like he wasn’t old enough to be used by God, but God told him that his age didn’t matter. Scripture reveals that God can use anyone no matter what age or what abilities they have or don’t have. It is easy to use your natural abilities, or lack thereof, as an excuse for not following the leading of God. Instead of making excuses, you need to trust in the confidence of God and carry out God’s leading in your life without fear. Serving God may not always be easy and you may not always get the results you were looking for, but you can trust that He will continue to work on your behalf.

### Thought for the day

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Why do you think Jeremiah described who he was and where he was from (vs 1)?

When did Jeremiah start his time as a prophet (vs 2)?

How long was Jeremiah a prophet (vs 3)?

What did God declare about Jeremiah (vs 4-5)?

Why is it a powerful truth to realize that God has called you for a purpose even before you were conceived (vs 5)?

What role in life do you think God has called you to play right now?

What was the first excuse that Jeremiah used (vs 6)?

What was the second excuse (vs 6)?

How is this similar to the call that God placed on the life of Moses (Exodus 3:1-22)?

What did God tell Jeremiah not to say (vs 7)?

What did God tell Jeremiah he needed to do (vs 7)?

How does this reveal the simplicity of following the leading of God?

Why did God tell Jeremiah not to be afraid (vs 8)?

What comforting statement did God give to Jeremiah (vs 8)?

What did God do with His hand (vs 9)?

Why do you think He did this?

What did God say He had done (vs 10)?

How have you been given power similar to the power that Jeremiah had been given?

## ***“Don’t Be Dismayed”***

**Study:** Jeremiah 1:11-19

**Reading:** Joshua 1:1-10, Luke 12:4-7

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:5

One of the questions I received often when I plan a trip to Israel is, “Aren’t you scared?” This is because the violence that takes place in and around Israel is often in the news. Yet, every time that I have been in the Holy Land I feel just as safe as when I am at home. One thing that does assist me in feeling safe in Israel is because there are soldiers and policemen everywhere, especially in and around Jerusalem. Though things can and do happen, this authoritative presence gives great peace when exploring the land where Jesus walked.

Today, we are going to see that we don’t have to live in fear when we are carrying out God’s plan. His presence is much greater than any military force and you can rest assured that He is always protecting you.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

God gave Jeremiah the vision of an almond branch and then asked him what he saw. On the surface, this doesn’t make full sense, but most likely God was using a play on words. The word for “watching” is related to the word used for the almond tree. The almond tree was referred to as “the awake tree” since it was the first tree in the year to bud. Most likely, this was a reminder to Jeremiah that God was awake and watching to make sure His Word would be carried out (vs 11-12).

A vision of a boiling pot was then given to Jeremiah. The pot was tilting away from the north pointing out that the contents of the pot would soon be poured out to the south. God stated that He was calling the nations from the north to come and invade Jerusalem. The cities of Judah would fall to these invaders, most likely this is a reference to the Babylonians, and they would set up their rule at the gates of the cities. This was going to be a punishment from God because the people forsook Him and chose to offer sacrifices to other gods (vs 13-16).

Once God revealed His plan to Jeremiah, He commanded Jeremiah to get himself ready and prepare for action. He was now to carry out the call of God on His life and start declaring judgement to the people. God

encouraged Jeremiah not to be discouraged when the people refused to listen. There would be times in his life that the leaders of Judah would try to harm and even kill Jeremiah. God told Jeremiah that he would be protected from any attempt to bring him great harm. He told Jeremiah that he was going to be like a strong city, iron pillar or bronze wall. He would be unstoppable even though some of the kings might not have wanted to hear what he had to say. Though there would be difficult times and Jeremiah would face persecution for sharing the Word of God, the enemy would not prevail against him. God declared that He was with Jeremiah and since He was with him, Jeremiah had nothing to fear (vs 17-19).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Though this passage was directly given to Jeremiah, God's protection is promised to all His children who are doing His will. The command, "Fear not" is repeated over and over in Scripture. There will be times where people will not like what you have to say when you are speaking for the Lord, but you don't have to be afraid of them. The enemies of God are subject to His power. He will protect you and only allow what He wants to happen to you. It is very easy to give into your human nature and began to fear, especially when others speak out against you. This is why God tells you over and over again not to fear but to trust that He will take care of you. When you know you are secure and safe with God, it enables you to boldly live for Him and to carry out the plans that He has for your life.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* Thank God for constantly watching out for you and keeping you safe.
- \* Ask God to help you live without fear.
- \* Praise God because He is powerful enough to keep you safe from any earthly or supernatural force.

### **Thought for the day**

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What did God show Jeremiah in a vision (vs 11)?

Why do you think God showed him this (vs 11-12)?

*The Hebrew word for almond tree is "saqe", from the word "to watch or to wake" (saqa).*

What point do you think God was making (vs 11-12)?

What did God show Jeremiah in the second vision (vs 13)?

What direction was the pot pouring out towards (vs 13)?

What did this indicate (vs 14)?

What were the invaders going to have the power to do (vs 15)?

*\*\*\*Though Babylon was technically north east of Jerusalem, all the invasions would come from the north because of the desert that was directly east of Judah.*

Why was God going to judge them (vs 16)?

Why did God tell Jeremiah to get dressed (vs 17)?

*\*\*\*This was the picture of someone getting ready for work or an activity by putting on the proper clothing.*

What was Jeremiah to say to the people (vs 17)?

Why was he told not to be dismayed (vs 17)?

What did God say He would do for Jeremiah (vs 18)?

Why would this be a comfort to Jeremiah?

What did God say the enemies would not be able to do (vs 19)?



# “A Lost Love”

**Study:** Jeremiah 2:1-11

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-33

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:5

Since moving to northern Michigan I have found it very interesting how the ones who appreciate the natural beauty the most are the ones who move into the area later in life. Many people who grow up in the region take much of what they grow up around for granted and don't often take time to enjoy the nature around them. This is natural for most people, no matter what region they grow up in.

Today, we are going to see how Israel took all the blessing of God for granted and forgot to continue to follow Him. We will be reminded of the importance of continually reminding ourselves about His Word.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Jeremiah was called to go to Jerusalem and reveal to them how they had turned from God. God's message reminded them that at one time they were devoted to the Lord, like a young bride willing to follow her love wherever he went. They made a commitment to follow God and experienced the great blessings that He had to offer. All the nations who fought against them were destroyed and God had caused them to be extremely successful (vs 1-3).

The next message addressed more than Jerusalem and was a message directed at all the Israelites. In this message, God asked them what he had done wrong which caused their fathers to turn from Him. They sought after things that were worthless and as a result they themselves became worthless. They had forgotten about the God who miraculously delivered them out of Egypt and led them through great deserts. It no longer crossed their minds that it was God who gave them a land filled with bountiful fruit and a land where living was easy. Instead of living in continual thankfulness, they quickly forgot about God and began to defile the land with evil and false worship (vs 4-7).

The priests who were supposed to connect the people to God didn't continually draw the people closer to Him. Instead they ignored God and the laws that He laid down for them. Those who were to be the teachers

chose not to teach the commands of God and eventually the leaders of the land turned against Him towards the idols and false worship of the pagans. The prophets joined in by speaking for Baal and not for God, leading the people to waste their time on worthless things (vs 8).

As a result of their rejection, God was going to fight against His very own people and not just the current generations, but the future generations would feel this wrath as well. God challenged them to look at Cyprus or Kedar and see if there had been any nation that had acted as Israel. Cyprus was an island in the Mediterranean and Kedar was a city in the Arabian desert. Basically Cyprus was far in the west and Kedar was far to the east. We would say something like “scan the globe” today and it would have similar meaning. His point was that if they searched they couldn't find a nation that switched gods like the Israelites had. They chose no longer to exalt the God who greatly benefitted them and instead sought after gods who were not helpful (vs 9-11).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Have you every wondered in your mind, “How could Israel act the way they did?” Yet we are told that one of the reasons we have been given the Old Testament was for the examples of what to do and what not to do. You can have the same attitude the Israelites did and not even know it. God was calling out the defiance of the people for what it really was, though the Israelites didn't realize what they had done. They made excuses for many things just like we do today. If you notice where it started, it started with a failure of the priests and teachers to teach the Word of God. This is why a central focus on the Word of God is vital for your life and the life of your fellow believers. Sadly, many churches care more about numbers than they do the Word of God and begin to bring worldly philosophies into the church to draw more people. Step by step they move away from the Word and into worldly methods. Choose to learn from the example of Israel and hold the Word of God in high esteem in your personal life and in your church.

## Thought for the day

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Who did God tell Jeremiah to proclaim His Word to (vs 1-2)?

What did God say He remembered (vs 2)?

What had the Israelites done for God (vs 2)?

How did God recall the actions of the Israelites after they left Egypt (vs 3)?

\*\*\**Though a study of Exodus would reveal problems that the Israelites gave to God, overall they chose to serve and seek Him.*

Who was the next message given to (vs 4)?

What question did God ask in verse 5?

What did they choose not to think about (vs 6)?

What had God done for them (vs 6)?

What does verse 7 say God had done for the people?

How did the people respond (vs 7)?

What did the priests choose not to do (vs 8)?

How did this lead to the downfall of the nation?

What four categories of people are mentioned in verse 8?

Why was the failure of these men so detrimental to the nation of Israel (vs 8)?

What do you think God meant when He said He was going to “contend” (ESV) with the people (vs 9)?

What would a search reveal (vs 10-11)?

What are ways that you can do the same today?

## Memory Verses

*Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God? 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!"*