

# The Prophets & Kings

## From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

### Book 1

#### A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 47

## ***“The Threat Is Real”***

**Study:** 2 Kings 23:31-24:1, 2 Chr 36:1-5

**Reading:** Hebrews 12:3-11, Deuteronomy 8:1-20

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:9

**W**hen my children were young, I made my own paddle that I would use for spanking them. One of the things I liked the most about this paddle was the threat that it provided. After having to experience it a few times, my children became afraid of this paddle and the fear of the paddle was a great tool for me to use because my children knew what it felt like and knew I would use it. I really didn't have to spank my children much at all after I made the paddle. Many times, I would simply ask, “Do I need to go get the paddle?” and that would often take care of the issue. Occasionally, I would go get the paddle and set it down and almost every time, their behavior would change.

Today, we are going to see that one of the reasons that the Israelites did not turn back to God was because they believed He would not punish them. Though He warned them over and over, He started to carry out the threats that He had been giving. He was going to carry out His Word to solidify in their minds that He would do what He declared.

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

After the death of Josiah, his twenty three year old son, Jehoahaz, was made king. The Jeremiah mentioned here is not the prophet Jeremiah. Jehoahaz was not a good man and in his short reign he was described as someone who did what was evil in the sight of God. Jehoahaz only reigned for three months when King Neco of Egypt captured him and removed him from being king. We are not told why Neco did this, but are simply told that he was sent to Riblah where the Egyptians had an outpost. This was located in the land of Syria, north of Israel. Neco chose to make Eliakim his brother king in his place. It appears that Eliakim was much more submissive to Egypt than Jehoahaz was because Egypt imposed a very large tribute on Judah. A tribute was like a tax that foreign nations were forced to pay a stronger nation in order to keep from being invaded and destroyed. According to the MacArthur Study Bible,

“Neco changed his name from Eliakim, meaning “God has established,” to Jehoiakim, “the Lord has established.” The naming of a person was regarded in the ancient Near East as sign of authority; so by naming Jehoiakim, Neco demonstrated that he was the lord who controlled Judah.” In order to get the money needed to pay tribute to Egypt, Jehoiakim put a great tax burden on the people of Judah. After Neco had finished his business in the region, he took Jehoahaz to Egypt where he eventually died (2 Ki 23:31-35, 2 Chr 36:1-4).

It is interesting to note that the people made Jehoahaz king when he was 23, but Jehoiakim became king when he was 25. This indicates that Jehoahaz was younger than Jehoiakim (Eliakim). Normally, the oldest son was made king. The best guess is that Jehoahaz was a much stronger personality than Jehoiakim. Neither was a righteous king. Jehoiakim reigned for 11 years and his reign was described as an evil one (2 Ki 23:36-37).

We are now introduced to Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army. Predictions about him and the Babylonians had been given by prophets for years. Babylon had disposed of the great nation of Assyria and had defeated the Egyptian armies that had battled them in the northern territories. Instead of paying tribute to Egypt, Judah was now forced to pay tribute to Babylon. To avoid invasion and destruction from Babylon, Jehoiakim made a deal with them to pay tribute and he did this for three years. This tribute was leading to the poverty of the nation and Jehoiakim decided to rebel and stop paying tribute to Babylon (2 Ki 24:1, 2 Chr 36:5)

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

God had been proclaiming judgement for years through his prophets. Though he had given Judah a reprieve because of the righteousness of Josiah, the wickedness of Jehoahaz and Jehoikim started to usher in the fulfillment of many of the prophecies. If the people would have turned back to God, God would have spared them longer, but it appears that the reforms Josiah made did not fully change the hearts of the people. One of the great lessons you can learn from this is that God will keep His word. For years, false prophets were declaring that God would not let harm come to Judah, but those prophets were completely wrong. This should encourage you when you think of God’s promises about end times events. Though people have been declaring that God will not do what He says, Scripture and history reveal that God will keep His Word.

## 2 Kings 23

How old was Jehoahaz when he was made king (vs 31)?

How long was his reign (vs 31)?

How did Jehoahaz reign (vs 32)?

What did God allow to happen to Jehoahaz (vs 33)?

What did he force Judah to pay (vs 33)?

What did Neco do according to verse 34?

Why do you think he did this?

What did Jehoiakim do to get the tribute needed (vs 35)?

What do you think this did to the land and the people of Judah?

How long did Jehoiakim reign (vs 36)?

How was his reign described (vs 37)?

Why do you think the two sons of Josiah reigned so differently than he did?

## 2 Kings 24

Why did the people of Judah stop paying tribute to Egypt (vs 1)?

*\*\*\*Egypt had lost its power and had retreated back to the land. This left a vacuum in the land that was easily filled by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians.*

How long did Jehoiakim pay tribute to Babylon (vs 1)?

What did he do at the end of that time period (vs 1)?

Why do you think he did this?

# “Remembering Shiloh”

**Study:** Jeremiah 7:1-7, 26:1-6

**Reading:** Psalm 78:1-72

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:9

## What Does the Bible Say?

When Jehoiakim was placed as king by Neco (609/608 B.C.), God told Jeremiah to go to the entrance of the court of the temple and declare a message to the people that were coming to worship the Lord. It appears that the events recorded in chapter 26 were a summary of the longer message that was delivered in chapters 7-10. In chapter 26, God specifically told Jeremiah to declare everything that He said. He was not to hold anything back from the people, indicating that this was going to be a hard message for many of the people to take. The hope was that they would choose to listen to what was said and that they would turn from their evil ways. God made it clear that He did not want to bring disaster upon His people, but wanted them to repent so He could spare them from what was going to take place (7:1-2, 26:1-3).

The message that Jeremiah was to give was a simple one. It was a warning for them to listen to the message of Jeremiah and to turn back to God. This message was urgent as judgment was coming very soon. If they chose not to listen, the nation would become like Shiloh and would be like a curse word for nations around them. Shiloh was the place where the tabernacle stood for around 350 years until it was abandoned when the Ark of the Covenant was captured. It had gone from a place that was very prominent in Israel's culture to a place that was abandoned and where very few people went (7:3, 21:4-6).

One of the great problems the people were experiencing is that they were listening to the false teachers and the evil priests who were leading them in the wrong direction. Though many of these prophets and priests were in attendance, Jeremiah boldly declared that these deceptive practices were harmful to the whole nation. The false teachers had declared that this was God's temple, indicating that God would not cause it harm since it represented Him. Yet, this is why God used the illustration of Shiloh since it had once been the central place of worship for the people (7:4).

The people were challenged to change the way that they lived by choosing to show justice and mercy to each others. They were not to take advantage of the travelers who were passing through their land, nor were they to do anything that would harm the fatherless or widows. These people were simply at the mercy of the society because they had very little that they could do for themselves. The people were also told to stop shedding the blood of the innocent. Exactly what actions this was directed at was unclear, though it seems to be that the wealthy would beat the poor and helpless into submission and even kill others who would not go along with their plans. They were also challenged to put away the foreign gods which they had started to worship again after the reforms of Josiah had taken place (vs 7:5-6).

If they chose to listen and do what God said, He would choose to spare the judgement that He was bringing upon them. They would not be removed from the land, but God would bless them in the land (vs 7).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

One of the tendencies that many people have is to believe that something bad will not happen to them. It is easy to think that something will happen to others, but that you can avoid the same type of thing. This is exactly what the leaders of Judah were telling the people. They kept deflecting the messages of doom given by Jeremiah and other prophets by telling the people that everything would be okay and that God would not harm His special city or special people. Some people even have similar attitudes today when it comes to the United States. Some people think we are God's chosen people and no harm will come our way, but even if we are a special nation to God, that would not spare us from the wrath of God for our wicked deeds. The main challenge was to repent. To turn back to God. God is a God of grace and mercy. No matter how far a person strays in sin, God can forgive, heal and restore.

## Suggestions for Prayer

\* *Thank God for warning you before punishment comes.*

\* *Ask God to help you to pay attention to the warnings that are given.*

## Thought for the day

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Jeremiah 7

Where was Jeremiah called to stand (vs 2)?

Who was this message directed to (vs 2)?

How did God describe Himself (vs 3)? Why do you think He did this?

What did God challenge the people to do (vs 3)?

What would God do if they listened (vs 3)?

What were they not to trust in (vs 4)?

What deeds was God calling them to do in verse 5?

What were three things were they told to stop doing (vs 6)?

What did God say He would do if they listened (vs 7)?

Jeremiah 26

When did God tell Jeremiah to go to the temple (vs 1)?

Where was Jeremiah instructed to stand (vs 2)?

Why did God command Jeremiah to speak all the words and to not hold anything back (vs 3)?

Why do you think Jeremiah would have been a little scared to speak exactly what God said (vs 2)?

What was God's desire (vs 3)?

What two things did God want the people to listen to (vs 4)?

- 1.
- 2.

What else were the people to listen to (vs 5)?

What would God do if the people failed to listen (vs 6)?

## *“Hurting Ourselves”*

**Study:** Jeremiah 7:8-19

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-30

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:9

In the 1920's, Shoe-fitting fluoroscopes started making their way to shoe stores around the United States. These were x-ray machines that were used to help determine the right size of shoes for prospective buyers, mainly children. They were in common use until the 1950's when people started to be concerned about the radiation these machines produced. Eventually, it was discovered that these machines were very dangerous and the radiation had the potential to cause cancer and all types of other issues. What was once touted as a tool that was meant to be a great help, was actually a tool that was unknowingly causing great harm.

Today, we are going to see how God declared that the sins of Israel were causing them great harm. They were not only harming Him, but they were harming themselves.

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

Jeremiah continued to deliver the message of God while standing in the entrance of the temple court yard. One of the greatest complaints that God had towards His children is that they allowed themselves to be deceived. They trusted in the words of the false prophets and the priests who declared nothing would happen to them. God gave a list of all the sins that the Israelites were guilty of. The rebuke in verses 9 & 10 wasn't about the sin necessarily, but the fact that they would sin and then stand before God in the temple and offer sacrifices for these sins. It was one thing if they confessed the sin, repented of it and chose to go a different way, but instead they offered sacrifices to God, asking Him to take away their guilt, but continued in their sinful deeds. God's temple had been turned from a place of holiness and righteousness to a place that sheltered thieves which gave people the “okay” to continue in their wicked ways. A “den of thieves” would have been a reference to a place where criminals gathered together and no one felt guilty about their deeds since they are all involved in committing crimes (vs 8-11).

God challenged them to go to Shiloh (we saw this reference

yesterday) and observe the place where He first established His presence in Israel. They were to observe the emptiness of the land there, reminding them that the once holy and sacred place was now in ruins (vs 12).

Because of their evil actions and their choice not to listen to the repeated warnings that God had given them, God was going to destroy the very things they trusted in. Specifically, God was going to make the great temple to become ruins, just like Shiloh was destroyed. Many of the people would be removed from the land either by death or captivity and what they currently knew as Jerusalem and Judah would be no more (vs 13-15).

It appears that verse 16 was directed towards Jeremiah as God told him not to bother to pray for the people. This would simply be a waste of Jeremiah's breath since God would not listen and would not step in on behalf of His wicked children. What the people of Judah were openly doing in the streets was wicked. God illustrated this by describing how the children, fathers and mothers all took part in preparing sacrifices to offer to false gods (vs 16-18).

God asked a powerful question. He asked if He was the only one they were hurting by their choices. This question was meant to drive home the point that they were not just hurting God. This is revealed when He responded to His own question by clearly stating that their sin was hurting themselves more than it was hurting Him. They were bringing their own problems upon themselves and causing their own harm (vs 19).

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

Do you realize that you are hurting yourself when you choose to sin? God was trying to help the Israelites see that this harm that they were causing was much greater than they realized. This is a powerful lesson for you because the results of sin don't often appear right away and it often doesn't seem that your "little" sins bring any great harm. Ultimately, giving into your selfish desires and sinful pleasure will result in difficulties that you won't want to face. The picture given in this passage was one of a family involving everyone in the false worship. This not only would affect them in their current state, but would set the stage for great difficulties for generations to come if they continued in the same path. As you make decisions and choices today, understand that what you choose to do or not to do today will have great impact tomorrow and possibly for generations to come.

What were they trusting in (vs 8)?

Why was this not a help to them (vs 8)?

What sins were they committing (vs 9)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What did they have the audacity to do (vs 10)?

What did God mean by His house becoming a "den for robbers" (vs 11-ESV)?

Where did God direct them to go (vs 12)?

What point was God trying to make in verse 12?

What three reasons did God give for the impending judgment (vs 13)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What did God say He would do (vs 14)?

What did God use as an example of what He was going to do (vs 15)?

\*\*\**Ephraim was a picture of the northern tribes of Israel.*

What did God tell Jeremiah not to do (vs 16)? Why not?

What were they openly doing (vs 17-18)?

Why do you think God pointed out the fact that they were openly sinning (vs 18)?

Who did God say they were harming?

# “*Outside Facade*”

**Study:** Jeremiah 7:20-34

**Reading:** Matthew 23:1-36

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:9

I have watched a few documentaries on how movies and television shows are made and find it very fascinating that most of what is shown on screen is an illusion. Yes, they do use real buildings at times, but much of what is used are sets designed to look real without being real. They give the appearance of reality on the outside, but they are simply just a stage prop to make the audience believe something that really isn't true.

Today, we are going to see how easy it is to present the idea that we are spiritual without truly being spiritual. We will be reminded of the importance of putting loving obedience to God well before our outward actions of worship and service.

## What Does the Bible Say?

God declared that He was going to pour out His anger on the land. Not only would the people be directly affected, but the animals, trees and plants would also suffer as a result. God then told them to choose to eat their own offerings instead of offering them to Him. From the very beginning of the nation of Israel, when God led them out of Egypt, He had insisted that He didn't just want offerings. What God wanted was their loving obedience. He wanted them to choose to submit to His ways, and if they did, He would be their God and all would be well with them. They chose not to listen to God and ended up doing whatever their hearts desired. Instead of going forwards towards God, they went backwards and away from Him. Even though God continually sent messengers to them to direct them back to Him, they often chose not to listen to God and many never even attempted to change and follow God. The people had become more stubborn and sinful than the generations before them (vs 19-26).

Jeremiah was instructed to tell the people everything God declared, but not to expect them to listen to him. Jeremiah was to tell them that they were a nation who did not want to obey and did not want to learn

anything different than what they were doing. The nation did not seek after the truth and wilfully rejected the truth because it did not fit into what they wanted to believe. As a result of this rejection, God was going to reject His people and this would lead to great heartaches, sadness and mourning (vs 27-29).

The people of Judah didn't hide their sin, but openly and boldly worshiped idols in God's temple. They built high places at Topeth and used the Valley of Hinnom as a place to offer their children as sacrifices to false gods. (It is assumed from the context that Topeth was a reference to the top of the cliff that overlooked the Hinnom Valley.) These actions stirred up the anger of God and these areas would become areas where the enemies of Judah would slaughter the people of Judah. There would be great carnage in that place and the people would be left unburied, becoming food for wild animals and predatory birds (vs 30-33).

The once active land of Judah that had been full of life would become silent. The streets of Jerusalem would no longer be full of noise from the people joyously going about their daily lives. There would be no wedding celebrations, and no normal activities since the city would be left in ruins (vs 34).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Several times throughout Scripture the people of God are rebuked for offering sacrifices to God while choosing to do things their own way. This even dated back to the offerings of Cain and Abel. This reveals to us the tendency of our human nature is to offer things to God to appease Him, but still live the way that we want to live. It is easy for you to think that you are a spiritual person because of what you do rather than who you are. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His day many times for this type of attitude and thinking. All this should show you that it is much easier to do this than you may realize. Church attendance, giving an offering, serving others and even prayer and Bible reading can all be done without a heart of obedience and surrender. All of those things are good for you, but if they aren't founded in a heart of submissive obedience to God, they will not be profitable for you.

### Thought for the day

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What was going to be poured out on Jerusalem and Judah (vs 20)?

How severe was this judgement going to be (vs 20)?

Why do you think this judgment was going to be so severe?

What did God tell them to do with their own offerings (vs 21)?

Why do you think God told them this?

What did God not emphasize (vs 22)?

What did God emphasize (vs 23)?

Why do you think God emphasized this (vs 23)?

What would be the result if they chose to follow God's desire?

What did the people not do (vs 24)?

Why do you think they chose this path?

What did God persistently do (vs 25)?

What did the people continually do (vs 26)?

What did God tell Jeremiah the people would not do (vs 27)?

What no longer existed in the land of Judah (vs 28)?

How do you think the same thing can happen today?

Why do you think we are given verse 29?

What had Judah done (vs 30)?

How did they disregard the commands of God (vs 31)?

What was God going to do as a result of their actions (vs 32-34)?

## *“Knowing the Rules”*

**Study:** Jeremiah 8:1-10

**Reading:** Acts 17:10-15, 2 Timothy 2:14-26

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:9

I have refereed or umpired many different sports over the years and one thing I found is that I didn't know nearly as much about the rules as I thought I did. Yes, I knew the general rules of most main sports, but when you become a ref or ump you find that there are all types of circumstances that fall out of the normal playing rules. There have been many times where I had to make a decision about something, but didn't really know what the rule was. This would often drive me to study the rule book because I wanted to do the best job that I could.

Today we will see how the people of Israel declared that the Word of God was on their side, but they really didn't know what it said.

### What Does the Bible Say?

The invasion that Judah was going to experience was not going to be light and mild, but was going to be severe and devastating. Not only would many be killed and their bodies left to be eaten by wild animals (7:33), but the bones of their ancestors would be pulled out of the graves and scattered over the land. Most cultures in those days held the bodies of the dead in high regard. An act like this from a conquering army was done to show their great power and great disdain for their enemies. God noted that these bones would be spread out before the sun, moon and the stars which the people of Judah chose to worship. Things would be so severe and so disgusting that the survivors would wish they were dead to avoid all the carnage and sorrow they would experience (vs 1-3).

God's message to the people continued with a question. He asked what people do when they fall down or when they travel away. He also answered His question by stating that they get back up or they return home. Yet, the people of Judah had fallen into sin and traveled away from God, and failed to get up and return to Him. They lived in a perpetual state of sin, going away from God rather than towards Him. Their evil state wasn't due to a lack of neglect on God's part. He listened to their conversations and it was clear that they refused to acknowledge

that they were doing something evil. Instead of following the course that God had set for them, they planned their own course. He compared them to a horse plunging directly into battle, not knowing that the direction he was headed could lead to his death (vs 4-6).

The animals in nature served as an example of knowing the right time to do something. The birds understood when to migrate away and when to come back, yet the people of Judah could not recognize the simple truth that it was time to return to God. They declared that they were wise people because they had the Word of God, yet their teachers and spiritual leaders were declaring and writing lies. The people honored and respected for their supposed wisdom chose to reject the Word of God and revealed themselves to be foolish. Their wives, their farms and everything they worked for would be taken away and given to strangers, yet they were not wise enough to see this was coming (vs 7-10).

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

Romans 1:22 says, “Claiming to be wise, they became fools.” This is very similar to what God declared through Jeremiah to the people. They claimed they were wise because they had the Word of God, but they chose not to follow it. The reality was that many of them didn’t even know what God said in His Word, and if they did, they willingly chose to ignore the parts they didn’t like. It is very easy to think something about yourself that is not true. It is common for people to get the idea that they are better than they really are. When a person grows in wisdom, they often realize how much they don’t know and it leads them to rely on God even more in their lives. Choose today to realize that you need to get your wisdom from God’s Word by knowing what it says and choosing to obey it.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for giving you great wisdom through His Word.*
- \* *Ask God to help you know and obey His Word.*
- \* *Praise God because He is the source of all wisdom.*

## **Thought for the day**

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What were the enemies of Judah going to do (vs 1)?

Who was this going to happen to (vs 1)?

What would they do with the bones (vs 2)?

Why did God mention the sun, moon and stars (vs 2)?

What would not happen to these bones (vs 2)?

Why would this be such a disgrace?

What would be the attitude of the survivors (vs 3)?

How did God describe Himself in verse 3?

Why do you think He described Himself this way (vs 3)?

Why do you think Jeremiah emphasized this message was from the Lord (vs 4)?

What questions did God ask and answer (vs 4)?

Why do you think the people of Judah stayed on their destructive path (vs 5)?

What do you think it meant that they held tightly to their lies (vs 5)?

What did the people fail to do (vs 6)?

What point was being made by the illustration of the birds (vs 7)?

What did the people declare (vs 8)? How were they very wrong (vs 8)?

What would happen to the wise men (vs 9)? Why?

What was going to happen to their possessions (vs 10)?

Who was this going to happen to (vs 10)?

# “A Band-Aid”

**Study:** Jeremiah 8:11-22

**Reading:** Matthew 19:16-30, Ezekiel 13:8-16

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:9

**W**hen my wife and I first moved to Michigan, we took opportunity to visit many of the local churches. We had a variety of experiences in these visits, but one stood out to me in particular. It was one of the larger churches we visited, but we walked away with a sorrowful feeling. We compared the whole experience to providing a pain pill for a problem, rather than surgery to fix the problem. Many people walked away from that service feeling better about themselves from the positive emotions that were presented during the service, but sadly, the Gospel message which produces true change and hope had been watered down.

Today, we are going to see the results of Israel’s choice to listen to the false teachers rather than the true prophets of God.

## What Does the Bible Say?

One of the great dangers of false teaching is that it provides a temporary relief, but doesn’t really solve the deeper issues that bring true healing. The false teachers in Jeremiah’s day declared that everything was going to be okay, producing peace, but this peace would not last. This type of mentality allowed them to continue in their sin without fear or shame. They no longer blushed with embarrassment when their sin was seen, but openly practiced sin. This attitude would lead to great punishment and the nation would be overthrown (vs 11-12).

This destruction would be complete even to the point where the trees and plants would no longer produce fruit and all the blessings that God had originally given them in the promise land would fade away. As this judgement would begin, the people would see the approaching armies and would make the choice to flee to the fortified cities. They would realize that Jeremiah was right and would know their fate was sealed. They would make the choice to die with a group of people rather than alone in their fields. They would finally come to terms with the fact that God was judging them for their sin. The day would come when they would admit

that they would not have the peace prophesied by the false prophets, but the terror that was declared by Jeremiah and the other true prophets (vs 13-15).

The snorting of the enemy horses would be heard in Dan, a reference to the northernmost territory of Israel, and would travel south with such a large and powerful force that it would cause the whole earth to shake. They would destroy or devour everything that was in their way and would have little problem conquering the cities in the land, killing many of the inhabitants of those cities. God compared this invasion to a brood of poisonous snakes that could not be tamed. They would “bite” the people, which would lead to certain death (vs 16-17).

Though Jeremiah was called to deliver this message, it was no pleasure for him. It grieved his heart to see the sin of the people and the promised destruction from God. He saw visions of the people weeping and it broke his heart to see the destruction that would take place. The people would cry out wondering why God had abandoned them. God would respond to their cry by declaring that they had provoked Him to anger with their worthless idols. The declaration of the people about the harvest time and summer was a reference to a summer that had passed and failed to produce any crops. The people anticipated the end of summer and the produce of the fields. When summer was gone and no crops were harvested, their hope was also gone (vs 18-20).

This grief was overwhelming for Jeremiah as his heart hurt for the people and what they were all going to experience. There was no medicine or physician that could bring healing to this pain. It was going to be great and nothing would make it better (vs 21-22).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

One of the great reasons that Judah faced the problems they did is because they believed the false teachers. After all, their message was much easier to hear than the one Jeremiah was declaring. It fit in much better with what they wanted to hear, but the false teaching was like placing a band-aid over a gushing wound. Sadly, this is what many churches present today. Instead of the hard and convicting truth of the Gospel, people are filled with thoughts of peace and love. Instead of declaring the judgement of God for sin, people are allowed to live in their sin without realizing the great consequences. Why? Because this attracts many more people. The true message of the Gospel is hard at times, but it also brings the true healing that people need.

How did God describe the teaching of the false prophets (vs 11)?

How do you see this same type of teaching today?

What does it mean that they did not know how to blush (vs 12)?

What was God going to do as a result (vs 12)?

What would not be found (vs 13)?

What point does this illustration in verse 13 make?

What were they going to do when the enemy army was approaching (vs 14)?

What did they say God had done (vs 14)?

What did not come (vs 15)?

What could be heard (vs 16)? What does this indicate?

What would the Babylonians do (vs 16)?

What did God say He was sending (vs 17)?

What do you think was meant by this?

How did this make Jeremiah feel (vs 18)?

What would the people ask (vs 19)?

How would God respond (vs 19)?

What would the people realize (vs 20)?

What pain would this cause (vs 21)?

Would there be any relief from this pain (vs 22)?

## 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!" 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"*