

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 55

“A Day for Worship”

Study: Jeremiah 17:14-27

Reading: Romans 14:1-12, Hebrews 10:19-25

Memory: Isaiah 40:25

Over the years my wife and I have tried to make it a priority to take one day off each week. As a pastor and business owner, every week of my life looks a little different and there is always a list of things to be done. If we do not choose to set aside a day, Jen and I often end up working all the time and miss out on spending time together and getting the rest we need. When we go a few weeks without taking a day off, we can feel how it affects our personal lives and our relationship.

Today, we are going to see how God emphasized how important it was for the people of Judah to honor the Sabbath day as a day of rest and worship.

What Does the Bible Say?

The life that Jeremiah was called to was a difficult one. He had been called to share the Word of God and to be rejected by many. He had to experience the destruction of Judah multiple times through the prophecies he received and when it actually happened. He was mistreated by many and experienced great physical, emotional and mental pain. In verse 14, he cried out to God for healing and deliverance knowing God was the One who could bring that to him. He found His hope in God even when those around him mocked him for delivering the Word of God (vs 14-15).

Jeremiah chose to be a faithful shepherd to the people of Judah and didn't abandon the people. He didn't long for disaster to come to them, even though many treated him terribly. He asked for God not to leave him alone and abandon him as many of the people had done. He did not want to be put to shame, but wanted those who spoke out against the name of God to be shamed. He asked God to be his refuge and strength during this terrible time and also asked God to destroy those who continually brought shame to him by rejecting the Words of God that he was called to deliver (vs 16-18).

God was still not done with Jeremiah, even though many people had

rejected him. God told him to go to the gates of the city, starting at one of the main gate that the king would use. Jeremiah was to challenge the people to stop doing work on the Sabbath day. He was to remind them that the same command was given to their fathers, but many of them failed to listen. God's desire was that the people would worship Him the way that He instructed them. When they chose to be busy with other things on the Sabbath day, they would neglect to properly worship Him (vs 19-23).

The people were told that if they chose to listen to God through the words of Jeremiah the gates of the city of Jerusalem would continue to be used for generations to come. Jerusalem would be a place where people from all over would travel to offer their offerings to God and to worship in the temple. This would mean that Jerusalem would continue to be a vibrant city full of joy and feasting for generations to come. Yet, if they chose not to keep the Sabbath day holy the city would be devoured by fire and the glory it once held would be gone (vs 24-27).

How Does this Apply to Me?

I have heard many different thoughts over the years on whether or not New Testament Christians need to keep the Sabbath day. Romans 14 tells us not to pass judgement on other believers for choosing to honor a day more important than other days or not make that day more important. There is no direct teaching in the New Testament stating we have to set aside a Saturday or Sunday for only the worship of God. That being said, the principle of human nature being revealed in this passage is not one to be overlooked. When the Israelites treated the Sabbath like any other day, their desire to worship God faded. Basically, they didn't think that having a day or time set aside to worship God was important and that attitude paralleled the decline in their worship of God. I believe it is very important to have a set time each week to gather together with other believers to worship God. This is not only an example in the Old Testament, but the New Testament reveals the importance of meeting together with other believers on a regular basis. Don't treat the time that your church gathers together weekly as optional. Make that time a priority in your life.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to make regular rest and worship a priority.*

What did Jeremiah ask God to do (vs 14)?

What did Jeremiah say God was (vs 14)? What do you think this meant?

What were many of the people saying about the words Jeremiah declared (vs 15)?

What had Jeremiah not done (vs 16)?

What did Jeremiah say God was (vs 17)?

What did Jeremiah ask God to do (vs 18)?

How do you think the command that Jesus gave in the New Testament to "love your enemies" fits into portions of Scripture like this one?

What was Jeremiah told to deliver his message (vs 19)?

What message was Jeremiah told to deliver (vs 20-21)?

Why do you think God established a Sabbath day (vs 22)?

What did the people fail to do (vs 23)?

What promise was given for keeping the Sabbath (vs 24-25)?

Where would the people come from to worship in Jerusalem (vs 26)?

How would this be a benefit to Jerusalem?

What would God do to Jerusalem if the people chose not to obey (vs 27)?

Why do you think God considered keeping the Sabbath day as an important part of the law?

Do you think the idea of Sabbath rest and worship should still be practiced today? Explain.

“The Potter And The Clay”

Study: Jeremiah 18:1-12

Reading: Romans 9:1-29

Memory: Isaiah 40:25

I coached soccer teams for over 20 years and during that time I learned a thing or two about where to position certain players. There have been times where players were convinced about what position they should play and did not like it when I would put them in a different position. Some would simply refuse to play if I asked them to play a different position, thinking that they were above that other position. Sadly, what they failed to realize is that I saw things in them that would allow them to excel on the field when being placed in the right position. Many who refused to play different positions ended up being sub-par players, while those who accepted the position change would normally excel.

Today, we are going to read how God knows what position in life is best for you. He is a master potter and you are simple clay that needs to choose to submit to the hands of the Master.

What Does the Bible Say?

Throughout Scripture God used illustrations to help His people understand the truths He wanted them to learn. In this passage, God told Jeremiah to go to the house of the local potter for this time of teaching to take place. When Jeremiah arrived at the potter’s house, the potter was working at his wheel. Jeremiah observed that the vessel the potter was working on had not turned out the way he planned, so the potter chose to rework the clay into a different vessel that would be better for the clay he was using. The emphasis was that it was the potter’s choice on which vessel he made (vs 1-4).

God applied this illustration to the Israelites revealing that they were like the clay in the hands of the potter. Just as the potter had the right to make whatever he desired out of the clay, God had the right to do what He wanted with the Israelite nation. God had every right to choose to raise up nations and to destroy nations. He could change his mind based on the response of the clay. If the nations he was going to destroy turned

back to Him, He could easily change His plans for that nation (vs 5-10).

The message given to Israel was straight to the point. God was preparing the men of Judah and the city of Jerusalem for destruction. They were like the clay that was not acting correctly in the potter’s hand and would be changed into a vessel that more fit the desire of the potter. Yet, unlike the clay, they had a choice. If they chose to repent and turn back to God, they would be spared from becoming a different vessel. God was not going to disregard them altogether, but was going to change them into a completely different vessel through captivity (vs 11).

Sadly, even though God offered the people of Judah a chance to repent and turn back to Him, He knew that they would reject His offer saying it was a waste of time. Though they were the clay, they thought they could still make their own plans apart from the potter and they chose to live in stubbornness (vs 12).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that you are simple clay in the hands of the Master? When you grasp this understanding, it will help you in every area of life. When things are going bad for you and you struggle to wonder why things are happening, you can find great comfort and encouragement in the fact that God is the potter and He is using those circumstances to mold you and shape you into who He wants you to be. It is very easy to act like the Israelites and stubbornly decide to attempt to form yourself into who you want to be, rather than to let God form you into who He wants you to be. When you do this, you are basically telling God that you know better than He does and you are setting yourself up for failure. When you become a child of God, you give your life to Him to make whatever He wants of you. Choose to be the humble clay that allows the Master to have His will and way in your life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for being your Master Potter.
- * Ask God to help you become moldable clay.
- * Praise God because He knows what is best for you.

Thought for the day

Where was Jeremiah told to go (vs 2)?

What did Jeremiah see (vs 3)?

What happened to the vessel the potter was making (vs 4)?

What did the potter do with the vessel (vs 4)?

What was emphasized about the potter's choice (vs 4)?

What question did God ask the Israelites (vs 6)?

How does He still ask you that same question today?

What do you think it means to realize that you are clay in the hands of God?

What could God choose to declare (vs 7)?

What did God want the nations to do (vs 8)?

What does God want you to do as you live your daily life?

What does God have the ability to do (vs 9)?

What would God do if the nation turned back to Him (vs 10)?

What did God tell the men of Judah and Jerusalem (vs 11)?

What challenge can you glean from this verse?

How did the Israelites respond to this message (vs 12)?

How did they choose to act (vs 12)?

What are ways that you can be stubborn towards the Master?

How can you live a life as a moldable piece of clay?

“Mercy & Justice”

Study: Jeremiah 18:13-23

Reading: Psalm 17:1-15, Matthew 5:43-47

Memory: Isaiah 40:25

One of the great dilemmas that have been faced over the centuries is that between mercy and justice. Every parent at one time or another has battled between when to show mercy and when to show justice. Showing too much mercy can lead to harmful consequences, while showing too much justice without mercy can cause great pain as well. God had both mercy and justice on display at different times and in different ways. He is the only one who can have a perfect balance between the two and the only way you can come close is to seek wisdom and direction from God.

Today, we will read about Jeremiah's request to issue justice to those who wanted to kill him. We will be reminded of the importance of having both mercy and justice.

What Does the Bible Say?

We have read the phrase mentioned in verse 13 a few times in our study of the prophets and it is associated with the idea that the nation of Israel had done something that the pagan nations had not done. God described Israel as a virgin who had done a terrible thing, indicating that the nation had committed fornication with other gods. Their unfaithfulness to God was compared to that of snow melting from mountains and creating streams, yet those things could be counted on to be faithful more than Israel was faithful. The people had forgotten God and made offerings to the false gods. Instead of traveling the well worn paths which made for easy travel, they chose the rocky and muddy side roads of life. This caused their land to be a disgrace and God would soon scatter the people leaving the land desolate. He would turn His back on them in the day of trouble (vs 13-17).

Because Jeremiah was the one who had declared all this, the people chose to plot against him. He had declared that the system they currently knew would all be changed, but they didn't want to believe him. Instead of listening and choosing to change, they decided they would attempt to

kill him to silence his tongue. They made a pact to wilfully reject his words, sealing their own fate (vs 18).

This rejection greatly troubled Jeremiah and caused him to call out to God to keep him safe. He believed his life was in imminent danger and asked God to remember how he had stood up for truth and had simply been the obedient messenger. Jeremiah not only asked God to deliver him from his troubles, but he asked God to deliver his enemies and their families over to be destroyed. He wanted them to suffer because they not only refused the words of God, but were openly and actively defiant against God's prophecies. He recognized that God knew what was going on and how these men had plotted to kill him. He asked God to judge them for their sin and not to show them mercy, since they had not shown any mercy to him while he delivered the messages of God. He asked God to bring upon them the judgement they deserved (vs 19-23).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The plea that Jeremiah gave today is reminiscent of some of the psalms of David where he asked God to taken vengeance on his enemies. Understanding these pleas in light of the command of Jesus to love your enemies and to pray for them is somewhat of a difficult task. From this passage you can see the emotions and the struggles that Jeremiah went through as he faced death threats from the enemies of God. It wasn't easy at times being a prophet and delivering God's messages of judgement. You can also observe that Jeremiah sought after justice and judgement on sin, just as God declared the need for justice and judgement to take place. The pleas that Jeremiah made to God do not appear to be ones of hatred and bitter anger, but ones of justice and a concern for righteousness to rule in the land. It appears that Jeremiah's requests to God were in line with the love of God and the justice of God.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God that He knows the perfect balance in how to treat men.*
- * *Ask God to help you to know when to enact mercy and justice.*
- * *Praise God because He knows what is best for all men.*

Thought for the day

What did God say that Judah should ask the other nations (vs 13)?

Why was Israel described as a virgin (vs 13)?

What horrible thing had they done (vs 13)?

What happens to snow on mountains and streams from the snow (vs 14)?

What do you think this illustration meant?

What had God's people done (vs 15)?

What did the reference to the roads mean (vs 15)?

What happened to their land (vs 16)?

What was God going to do to the people (vs 17)?

What does it mean that He would turn His back on them (vs 17)?

What did many of the people of Judah want to do (vs 18)?

What did the people think (vs 18)?

What did Jeremiah want God to hear (vs 19)?

What question did Jeremiah ask God (vs 20)? Why?

What did Jeremiah want God to remember (vs 20)?

What did Jeremiah ask God to do to the people (vs 21)?

Why do you think he asked this (vs 22)?

What did Jeremiah say God knew (vs 23)?

What did Jeremiah not want God to forgive (vs 23)?

What did Jeremiah want God to do (vs 23)?

“A Broken Vessel”

Study: Jeremiah 19:1-15

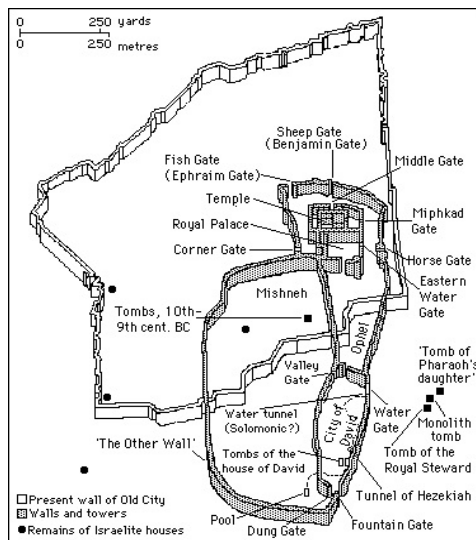
Reading: Proverbs 9:1-12, 2 Peter 3:1-13

Memory: Isaiah 40:25

What Does the Bible Say?

Jeremiah was told to go to the potter's house, buy a clay jar and take it with him to the Valley of Hinnom near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. He was also to ask some of the elder priests to join him there. The reason it was called the Potsherd gate is because this is where all the broken pottery and other trash from the land would be taken. The Valley of Hinnom was basically the trash dump of the day and is referenced in the New Testament as Gehenna, which is translated as hell. By New Testament times there was a continual fire that constantly burned the trash from the city (vs 1-2).

This was to be done to be an example of the judgement that God was brining on the people. Jeremiah told the leaders that the judgement would be so severe that it would cause all those who heard it to tingle. It was made clear that this judgement was a result of the choice of the people of the land to forsake God and to make offerings to other gods. Some of those offerings took place in the Valley of Hinnom where children were sacrificed to false gods. Their actions in this valley were completely opposite of what God desired for His people. Jeremiah declared that the valley would be renamed as the Valley of Slaughter. The word “Topheth” meant drums and some have suggested that it was called that because of the drums that were played to drown out the cries



Jerusalem around 605 B.C. The Dung Gate is most likely the Potsherd Gate.

of those being sacrificed (vs 3-6).

The renaming of the valley was a reference to the great slaughter of the people that would take place as many of the bodies would be dumped in the valley. They would be left there to be eaten by the birds and wild animals. Jerusalem would be left in ruins as a monument to their foolish rejection of God. All who would pass by the city would shake their heads because of the great disgrace that happened there. The time preceding the final destruction of the city would be so awful for the people that they would turn to eating human flesh in an attempt to survive. Though they would try to wait out the siege, it was going to be no use because there was only death and destruction waiting for them once Babylon finally conquered the city (vs 7-9).

Once Jeremiah finished explaining all this, he was to break the clay jar so the elders could see and understand that God was going to do the same to the people. Once the jar was broken, it couldn't be put back together again. The city would become like the garbage dump of Hinnom, full of death and destruction. The magnificent palaces of the leaders which were used to offer sacrifices to false gods would become rubble and left in ruin. Jerusalem would be a defiled place, just like the Topheth (vs 10-13).

God then instructed Jeremiah to go up to the entrance of the temple and prophesy in the presence of all who were there. He was to tell the people that God was going to bring judgement on them because they had become stiff necked and refused to hear the words God had declared (vs 14-15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

While the main theme of this passage is judgement, I see great and incredible mercy. This was not the first warning that God gave, but He gave many, many warnings. All of this was done to get the attention of the people in an attempt to help them see their wickedness and turn back to God. Yet, they failed to listen. What was once a beautiful and glorious city would soon become a complete disgrace and would be uninhabitable for many years. The way in which the people would die would not be pleasant, but would be a horrible time. All of this was clearly spelled out to the people, yet they failed to believe that God would do what He said. Proverbs 9:10 tells us that “The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” One of the things the Israelites failed to do is to fear God and the result was foolish choices which ended in destruction.

What was Jeremiah to go and buy (vs 1)?

Who was he to take with him (vs 1)?

Where were they to go (vs 2)?

What was God going to do (vs 3)?

Why was God going to bring judgement (vs 4)?

What had the people of Israel done in the Valley of Hinnom (vs 5)?

What was the valley going to be called (vs 6)? Why?

What was God going to do to Judah and Jerusalem (vs 7)?

What was going to happen to the dead bodies of the people (vs 7)?

What was the city going to be made into (vs 8)?

What was going to happen to the people when the city of Jerusalem was under siege (vs 9)?

What was Jeremiah told to do (vs 10)?

What did this symbolize (vs 11)?

What would the city become like (vs 12)?

Why would this be such an awful thing?

What would be destroyed (vs 13)?

Where was Jeremiah told to go next (vs 14)? Why?

What was Jeremiah told to declare (vs 15)?

Why do you think God repeated Himself over and over again?

“Never To Have Been Born”

Study: Jeremiah 20:1-18.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:1-27

Memory: Isaiah 40:25

One of my favorite Christmas movies is “It’s A Wonderful Life.” In it, the main character, George Baily, declared, “I wish I had never been born.” The whole movie is based around the impact that his life had on the lives of so many others, and that if he had not been born, the world would be a completely different place.

Today, we are going to see that the thought “I wish I had never been born” is not new, nor was it original in that movie. We will read how Jeremiah expressed that very same thought.

What Does the Bible Say?

Jeremiah’s declarations in the Valley of Hinnom and in the court of the temple were not received well by many, but particularly not by one of the chief priests name Pashhur. He decided he had enough of Jeremiah’s predications of doom and gloom and ordered that Jeremiah be beaten and placed in the stocks near the upper gate of the temple. Most likely these stocks had holes for the hands, feet and neck and were set up in a way to cause pain and public humiliation. Jeremiah spent the night in these stocks. When he was released the next day, Jeremiah told Pashhur that the Lord did not refer to him as Pashhur, but named him “Terror on Every Side.” This was because of the terror that he and all those around him would face when Babylon invaded Judah. Pashhur and those who sided with him would be captured, tortured and killed. The wealth they had obtained because of their positions and all of their prized belonging would be taken from them and given into the hands of the Babylonians. Passur was told that he and his family would be taken to Babylon and would die there with all of his family. This was because they did not believe and fought against the prophecies that told them exactly what God was going to do (vs 1-6).

In verse 7, Jeremiah recorded his emotions as he cried out to God after this event. Jeremiah felt that God had deceived him. Jeremiah had been faithful to deliver the truths of God and his reward was pain and

public humiliation. Every time Jeremiah spoke, he seemed to anger someone and it had become pretty miserable to be continually rejected. Jeremiah thought about quitting the ministry of prophecy, but when he tired to keep quiet about what God was saying, it burned like a fire in his bones and he simply couldn't hold back (vs 7-9).

Many around Jeremiah whispered about planning his fate and tried to denounce what he was saying. These negative opinions were not only shared by his enemies, but were infiltrating his close friends. Even though things were not going easy for him, Jeremiah was going to choose to trust in God. He knew that in the end, he would overcome and those who rejected him would be put to shame. He then called out to God asking God to pour out his vengeance upon those who rejected the message he was declaring. He wanted to sing to the Lord and rejoice in Him because He knew God would deliver Him (vs 10-13).

Though Jeremiah declared his trust in the Lord, He was also human and also expressed great discouragement. In verse 14-18 he expressed the idea that he wished he had never been born. He poetically pictured the news given to his father about his birth as a terrible day, rather than a joyous one. He felt the misery and pain that life brought him as a faithful prophet and wondered why he was living. If no one chose to listen to him and repent, he felt as if he was wasting his time (vs 14-18).

How Does this Apply to Me?

One of the great things about Scripture is that it reveals both the ups and downs of many of the servants of God. The men and women you read about in the Bible were not super-human, but ordinary people like you and I. They experienced extreme highs and great lows. They knew what it was like to witness great miracles and the mighty working of God, yet they also knew what it was like to bear immense persecution and suffer for doing what was right. In this passage, Jeremiah was expressing his deep emotions after continual rejection. The more he declared the truths of the Word of God, the harder things became for him. This reminds us that following Christ is not always easy. It also helps us see that we as humans will be emotional at times and feel great despair when things don't turn out the way we like. Just like Jeremiah, we can express great praise to God and at the same time feel great frustration with our current situation. This does not mean you should dwell in emotional frustration, but does help you know that you are not alone when you go through the ups and downs of life.

Who was Pashhur (vs 1)?

What did Pashhur do to Jeremiah (vs 2)?

What did God do for the name of Pashhur (vs 3)?

Why did He change his name (vs 4)?

What was going to happen to Pashhur and those who sided with him (vs 4)?

What was going to happen to the wealth of the city (vs 5)?

What was going to happen to Pashhur and his family (vs 6)?

What did Jeremiah express in verse 7?

What had sharing God's Word done for Jeremiah (vs 8)?

What did Jeremiah say he tried to do (vs 9)?

Why wasn't he able to do this (vs 9)?

What did Jeremiah know was going on (vs 10)?

What did the people want to do to Jeremiah (vs 10)?

What did Jeremiah recognize about the presence of the Lord (vs 11)?

What did Jeremiah want to see (vs 12)?

What did Jeremiah recognize about God (vs 13)?

How do you think Jeremiah could say what he did in verse 14 after what he said in verse 13?

What do verses 14-18 express?

Have you ever felt this way? If so, explain why.

“Prophecies Come True”

Study: Jeremiah 52:28-29, 2 Kings 24:1-16, 2 Chronicles 36:5-10

Reading: Numbers 23:19-24, Luke 21:29-33

Memory: Isaiah 40:25

Anticipation can be a good or bad thing, based on what you are anticipating. For instance, if I have a vacation planned, I love anticipating and looking forward to that time. If I have a major project planned or a busy time of life coming up, the anticipation I experience isn't that enjoyable. Eventually, the time that I am anticipating comes. Sometimes it is far more enjoyable than I ever imagined it would be and some times it is way worse than I anticipated. The simple fact is that it came.

Today, we are going to see how prediction after prediction talked about the invasion of Babylon into Jerusalem. We are going to read today how the anticipated invasion finally came, though there was still more to come.

What Does the Bible Say?

Piecing together an exact time line of events is a little difficult at times because of the way the Bible was written. For instance, the beginning of 2 Kings 24 talks about a time period that spans around eight years in the first seven verses. During that time, many other recorded events took place which we have been reading about. Jehoiakim paid tribute to Nebuchadnezzar from around 605 B.C. to around 602 B.C. He then chose to stop the tribute, but since the nation was now quite weak and unprotected by Babylon. They were open to raiders from surrounding countries who took advantage of them. 2 Chronicles 36 similarly condenses the 11 years of the reign of Jehoiakim into 8 verses.

2 Kings 36:6 says that Jehoiakim was taken in chains to Babylon. It is assumed that this was during the 605 B.C. invasion. Jeremiah 52 stated that over 3,000 individuals were also taken which would have included Daniel and his friends. Nothing is recorded about Jehoiakim's return to Jerusalem. We don't know how he got back to Jerusalem or any other details. Jeremiah 22:19 predicted that he would die a disgraced death and be buried outside the city gates like a donkey (Jeremiah 52:28-29, 2 Kings 24:1-4, 2 Chronicles 36:5-7)

The writer of 2 Kings made it clear that the Egyptians were now out of the picture when it came to power over Judah and that Babylon was now the world power (2 Kings 24:5-7, 2 Chronicles 36:8).

Jehoiachin, the son of Jehoiakim, took over as king of Judah in place of his father. He had a very short reign that was filled with evil. He had a chance to help turn the nation to God, but instead chose to keep going the same direction as his father had gone (2 Kings 24:8-9, 2 Chronicles 36:8).

It appears that Jehoiachin didn't want to submit to Nebuchadnezzar so once again, the Babylonians besieged the city of Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar eventually arrived at the city and Jehoiachin decided to surrender. It appears that he made some type of agreement for his life to be spared since he was taken back to Babylon as a prisoner with his family and many of the leaders. For the second time, they raided the temple and took more of the valuable items. It appears this time, they didn't leave any of the treasures. Many of these had been in the temple since the time of Solomon, a period of over 300 years. Nebuchadnezzar also brought over 10,000 captives back to Babylon with him. He took the strongest individuals, leaving only the poor and weak in the land. It appears he was hoping to avoid any more rebellion and wanted the Israelites to be completely submissive to him (2 Kings 24:10-16, 2 Chronicles 36:9-10).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Over and over the prophets had repeated the continual warnings of God's judgement. He gave the Israelites chance after chance to repent. Even the invasions from foreign nations show the patience of God. They were invaded by Egypt, then Babylon, then foreign nations around them then again by Babylon a few years later. Even at the point where we are at in the time line, there was still time for Israel to repent before complete destruction would occur. God is patient, but He will keep His word. The Old Testament not only gives us the historical information about Israel, but also gives us insight into the character of God. God is so loving and patient, but that love and patience has a limit.

Thought for the day

2 Kings 24

What did Nebuchadnezzar do (vs 1)? What was the result?

What did Jehoiakim do after 3 years?

What did God do to Judah (vs 2)? Why?

Why did this cause this to happen (vs 3-4)?

What happened when Jehoiakim died (vs 6)? What do we know about his death?

What happened to Egypt (vs 7)?

Who reigned over Judah after Jehoiakim (vs 8)?

How is his reign described (vs 9)?

What did Nebuchadnezzar do (vs 10)?

Why do you think he did this?

What do verses 10-11 reveal about how a city was often attacked?

What did Jehoiachin choose to do (vs 12)?

What did Nebuchadnezzar take from Jerusalem (vs 13)?

Why would he cut the gold vessels into pieces (vs 13)?

What does this reveal about why nations would attack other nations?

What was made clear at the end of verse 13?

Who did Nebuchadnezzar take captive (vs 14)?

Why do you think that Nebuchadnezzar captured Jehoiachin instead of killing him (vs 15-16)?

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!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? 14 Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. 16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. 17 All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. 18 To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? 19 An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. 20 He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move. 21 Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; 23 who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. 25 To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.