

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

10/22 – Jer 7-8, 1 Tim 2
10/23 – Jer 9-10, 1 Tim 3
10/24 – Jer 11-13, 1 Tim 4
10/25 – Jer 14-16, 1 Tim 5

10/26 – Jer 17-19, 1 Tim 6
10/27 – Jer 20-22, 2 Tim 1
10/28 – Jer 23-24, 2 Tim 2
10/29 – Jer 25-26, 2 Tim 3

** Summaries/outlines from The Holy Bible, Contemporary English Version, ©1995 by the American Bible Society.

JEREMIAH

The world of Jeremiah's time was full of wars as new empires conquered the old ones. The tiny kingdom of Judah was caught in the middle, and during Jeremiah's lifetime, Babylonia conquered Judah and ended its freedom as a nation.

Jeremiah began bringing the Lord's message to the people of Judah when he was young, possibly less than 20 years old. He continued until 586 BC, when the Babylonians captured Jerusalem. Some of the people of Judah soon forced him to go with them to Egypt, where he continued to speak to them for the Lord.

Many of Jeremiah's messages include the date when they were originally spoken. But when his friend Baruch helped him put the messages into writing, they did not arrange the messages by these dates. Usually the messages are grouped together because they are about similar subjects.

Jeremiah acted out many of his messages, so that the people would know exactly what the Lord was saying.

Time after time, Jeremiah said God was going to punish Judah. But because he also said the people of Judah should surrender to the Babylonians, his enemies accused him of being a traitor. They had him thrown in prison and even tried to have him killed. Jeremiah complained to God about his problems, and these complaints are now known as his "Confessions."

Jeremiah often reminded the people of Judah that they had broken their agreement to worship only the Lord. And so the Lord was going to punish them by letting the Babylonians take them away to Babylonia. But the Lord had also promised to bring his people back to their land someday, and at the time the Lord would make a new agreement with them.

OUTLINE

- I. God Chooses Jeremiah to Speak for Him (1)
- II. God Will Punish the People of Judah and Jerusalem (2-26)
- III. Jeremiah Against the Lying Prophets (27-29)
- IV. God Will Someday Bring His People Back to Their Land (30-33)
- V. Scenes from Jeremiah's Ministry (34-38)
- VI. The Fall of Jerusalem and Later Events in Judah (39-42)
- VII. Jeremiah in Egypt (43-44)
- VIII. A Message for Baruch (45)
- IX. The Lord Speaks About the Nations (46-51)
- X. Another Account of the Fall of Jerusalem (52)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Jer7: Proclaim at the temple: Has this house become a den of thieves? I sent prophets but you did not listen. Judah will become desolate.

Jer8: Why do these people refuse to return? They have no shame. The LORD has doomed us because we have sinned. Is there no balm in Gilead?

Jer9: No one speaks the truth. I will scatter these people, says the LORD. The sound of wailing is heard from Zion. I act with justice.

Jer10: Do not learn the ways of the nations. The LORD is the true God. Listen, a great commotion from the north! They have devoured Jacob.

Jer11: Both Israel and Judah have broken my covenant. I will bring disaster. Do not pray for them. I will punish those who seek your life.

Jer12: O LORD, why do the wicked prosper? I have left my house. Many shepherds have ruined my vineyard. I will uproot my evil neighbours.

Jer13: The LORD told me to hide a sash in the rocks. So I will ruin the pride of Judah, says the LORD. All Judah will be carried into exile.

Jer14: There is no water in the cisterns. O LORD, do not forsake us! I will destroy them by sword and by famine. Can any idols bring rain?

Jer15: Send these people away from my presence! Who will mourn for Jerusalem? O LORD, I suffer insult for you. I am with you, says the LORD.

Jer16: The LORD said to me: Do not marry or have children. Why has the LORD pronounced evil against us? You have followed your evil hearts.

Jer17: Cursed are those who trust in man. Blessed are those who trust in the LORD. If you keep the Sabbath, Jerusalem will remain forever.

Jer18: The LORD said: Go to the potter. You are clay in my hand, O Israel. My people have forgotten me. O LORD, they have dug a pit for me.

Jer19: The LORD said: Buy a clay jar. These people have burned sacrifices to foreign gods. Then break the jar. So I will smash this nation.

Jer20: Pashhur put Jeremiah in the stocks. Everyone mocks me. But the word of the LORD is a fire in my bones. Cursed be the day I was born!

Jer21: Zedekiah enquired about Nebuchadnezzar. The LORD says: Whoever stays in the city will die. Nebuchadnezzar will destroy it with fire.

Jer22: Proclaim at the palace: I will make you a desert. Shallum will not return. They will not lament for Jehoiakim. Coniah is cast away.

Jer23: I will raise up a righteous Branch, says the LORD. The prophets fill you with false hopes. I did not speak, yet they have prophesied.

Jer24: The LORD showed me two baskets of figs after the exile to Babylon. The good figs are the exiles. The bad figs are those who remain.

Jer25: You did not listen, says the LORD. So I will summon Babylon. Make the nations drink my cup of wrath. The LORD will roar from on high.

Jer26: The LORD said: Speak in the courts. The priests seized Jeremiah to kill him, but the officials refused. Uriah had been put to death.

1 TIMOTHY

Timothy traveled and worked with Paul, and because of their shared faith, Timothy was like a son to Paul. Timothy became one of Paul's most faithful co-workers, and Paul mentions Timothy in five of his letters.

Although this letter is addressed to Timothy personally, it actually addresses many of the concerns Paul had with the life of the entire church. Guidelines are given for choosing church officials, officers, and leaders.

Christians are to pray for everyone and to remember: "There is only one God, and Christ Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God" (2:5).

OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
- II. Instructions for Church Life (1:3-3:13)
- III. The Mystery of Our Religion (3:14-4:5)
- IV. Paul's Advice to Timothy (4:6-6:21)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

1Tim2: Let prayers be made for all those in authority. God wants everyone to come to the knowledge of the truth. Let women learn in silence.

1Tim3: An overseer must be respectable and manage his family well. Deacons must be dignified and not greedy. Godliness is a great mystery.

1Tim4: In later times some will depart from the faith. Have nothing to do with godless myths. Devote yourself to Scripture and to teaching.

1Tim5: Put widows over sixty on the list. Younger widows should marry. Elders who rule well are worthy of double honour. Keep yourself pure.

1Tim6: Those who contradict the teaching of Christ understand nothing. The love of money is a root of evil. Fight the good fight of faith.

2 TIMOTHY

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul is more personal than in his first one. Timothy is like a "dear child" to Paul, and Paul always mentions him in his prayers because he wants Timothy to be a "good soldier" of Christ Jesus and to learn to endure suffering. Paul mentions Timothy's mother and grandmother by name in this letter and reminds Timothy how he had placed his hands on him as a special sign that the Spirit was guiding his work.

Some who claimed to be followers of the Lord had already been trapped by the devil, and Paul warns Timothy to run from those temptations that often catch young people. He tells Timothy to keep preaching God's message, even if it is not the popular thing to do. He should also beware of false teachers.

Paul knows that he will soon die for his faith, but he will be rewarded for his faithfulness, and he reminds Timothy of the true message.

OUTLINE

- I. Greetings and Prayer for Timothy (1:1, 2)
- II. Do Not be Ashamed of the Lord (1:3-18)
- III. How to be a Good Soldier of Christ (2:1-26)
- IV. What People Will Be Like in the Last Days (3:1-9)
- V. Keep Being Faithful (3:10-4:8)
- VI. Personal Instructions and Final Greetings (4:9-22)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

2Tim1: Paul, to Timothy my son. Fan into flame the gift of God. Share in suffering for the gospel. Hold to the standard of sound teaching.

2Tim2: No soldier gets entangled with civilian affairs. Present yourself to God as an approved worker. Cleanse yourself for honourable use.

2Tim3: In the last days people will be proud and unholy. As for you, continue in what you have learned. All Scripture is inspired by God.

Getting to Know God Through His Book - 4 Questions - Ask...

Insight—what does the passage say? Paraphrase the main point(s) and the commands to follow, promises to claim, examples to follow (or avoid), etc.

Question—what don't I understand? Need to know more about? How does this passage make me feel?

Praise—what does this passage teach me about God? Turn what the passage says into praise for the Lord's goodness, power, holiness, wisdom, etc.

Apply—what is God saying to me from this passage? Confess how you have not followed it. Pray, asking God to help you obey. Get quiet and ask God to speak to you.

Journal—write out your prayers, thoughts, responses to God and His Word

HOW TO PRAY

Scripture is God speaking to us. Prayer is us speaking to and listening to God. Jesus gave us the model in the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6). Keep your relationship fresh with the Lord by both reading and praying - two way communication. Remember to look up like Jesus did when He prayed.

1. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name – focus on God, adore, praise, thank Him – long to see His glory and honor.
2. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done – ask for what you know will please Him, pray back the Scripture – that is His will.
3. Give us this day our daily bread – ask for your needs and others to be met.
4. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us – ask for forgiveness, from God, and from others you may have hurt. Ask God to help you forgive and restore others too. Ask Him to get rid of bitterness and have love & compassion for those who have hurt you.
5. And lead us not into temptation – ask God to take over your day, protect you and others from evil.
6. For thine is the kingdom, power & glory – end by re-focusing on God, His kingdom, power, and glory!
7. Listen – ask God to speak to you by His Spirit – always test what you hear by His Word.
8. Pray the Blind Bartimaeus Prayer (Mark 10) – Tell God what you feel, what you want, and ask God what you should do to get what you want (if what you want is right).