

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

11/5 – Jer 40-42, Heb 2
11/6 – Jer 43-45, Heb 3
11/7 – Jer 46-48, Heb 4
11/8 – Jer 49-50, Heb 5

11/9 – Jer 51-52, Heb 6
11/10 – Lam 1-2, Heb 7
11/11 – Lam 3-5, Heb 8
11/12 – Ezek 1-3, Heb 9

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

JEREMIAH

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)

Jer40: Nebuzaradan said to Jeremiah: Go back to Gedaliah, who has been appointed over Judah. The captains warned Gedaliah about Ishmael.

Jer41: Ishmael killed Gedaliah and eighty men. Johanan went to fight Ishmael but he escaped. Johanan led the survivors on the way to Egypt.

Jer42: The people asked Jeremiah to pray. The LORD says: If you stay in the land, I will grant you mercy. If you go to Egypt, you will die.

Jer43: Johanan and all the people did not obey the LORD. They went to Egypt. The LORD said: Nebuchadnezzar will ravage the land of Egypt.

Jer44: The LORD says: Why do you provoke me with other gods? The people said: We will not listen. The LORD says: I am going to punish you.

Jer45: When Baruch wrote these words, the LORD said to him: I am going to break what I have built. Do not seek great things for yourself.

Jer46: Of Egypt: There is no healing for you. Prepare yourselves for exile. I will deliver Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar. But fear not, O Jacob!

Jer47: Of the Philistines: Waters are rising from the north. The LORD is destroying the Philistines. How can the sword of the LORD be quiet?

Jer48: Of Moab: Woe to Nebo, for it is laid waste. We have heard of his arrogance. How it is broken! Moab has become a derision to all.

Jer49: The LORD says: Rabbah will become desolate. I will make Edom small. Damascus has become feeble. Flee, O Hazer. I will destroy Elam.

Jer50: Of Babylon: A nation will make her desolate. Judah will seek the LORD. Repay Babylon for all her deeds. A sword against her warriors!

Jer51: The LORD says: I will send a destroyer against Babylon. I will repay them for the evil done in Zion. Read these words in Babylon.

Jer52: Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan burned the temple and took the people into exile. Evil-merodach released Jehoiachin.

LAMENTATIONS

This book is a collection of five poems expressing deep sorrow about the destruction of Jerusalem. The poems, sometimes called laments, are presented as being spoken by the city of Jerusalem and by the writer, who is called "the prophet" in the CEV.

The prophet realized that Jerusalem was being punished because its people had sinned, but the suffering seemed greater than what their sin deserved. Still, there was hope. Someday, God would be merciful again if the people would give up their sins and turn back to him.

OUTLINE

- I. First Lament: Lonely Jerusalem (1)
- II. Second Lament: The Lord Was Like an Enemy (2)
- III. Third Lament: There is Still Hope (3)
- IV. Fourth Lament: The Punishment of Jerusalem (4)
- V. Fifth Lament: A Prayer for Mercy (5)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Lam1: How lonely sits the city! Judah has gone into exile. O LORD, I am despised. Is any sorrow like mine? There is no one to comfort me.

Lam2: The LORD has not pitied Jacob. He has abandoned his sanctuary. My eyes fail with tears. Young and old lie slaughtered in the streets.

Lam3: He has driven me into darkness. But the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases. Let us return to the LORD! You will repay my enemies.

Lam4: The holy stones lie scattered. The children beg for food. The LORD has poured out his fierce anger. O Zion, your punishment will end.

Lam5: Look, O LORD, and see our disgrace! We have become orphans. Slaves rule over us. But you, O LORD, reign forever. Restore us as of old!

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel was a priest and a prophet. He had been taken away as a prisoner to Babylonia, where he lived among the other exiles from Judah. The Lord chose Ezekiel to be his prophet and to preach his message, not only to the exiles in Babylonia, but also to the people still living in Jerusalem. Ezekiel's ministry probably began around 593 BC, during the last years of the kingdom of Judah, and it ended sometime around 570 BC, several years after the fall of Jerusalem. Ezekiel preached before and after this horrible disaster, and so some of his messages threatened judgment and others offered hope.

The book of Ezekiel can be divided into five main parts. The first part describes Ezekiel's vision of the Lord's glory and tells how the Lord appointed Ezekiel to be his prophet. The second part includes several messages warning people of Judah that they will soon be punished for turning away from the Lord. Ezekiel acted out many of these warnings. And the third part of the book includes the Lord's judgments on nearby nations.

The fourth part of the book is made up of Ezekiel's messages after he heard that Jerusalem had been captured. These are messages of hope. The Lord promises he will forgive his people and bring them back to Judah and Jerusalem. Finally, the fifth part of the book is Ezekiel's vision of the new temple in Jerusalem, its regulations for proper worship, and how the restored land of Israel will be divided among the tribes.

When the Lord speaks to Ezekiel, he calls him "son of man." Although this expression shows that Ezekiel is a mere human, it also shows that he has been appointed to preach the Lord's message to the people of Judah and Jerusalem.

One of the most familiar passages in the book is Ezekiel's vision of the valley full of dried-out bones. Ezekiel watches the Lord's Spirit blow life into the dead bodies, and he sees them come back to life.

OUTLINE

- I. Ezekiel Sees the Lord's Glory and is Chosen to be His Prophet (1:1-3:27)
- II. Ezekiel Acts Out the Coming Destruction of Judah and Jerusalem (4:1-5:17)
- III. Disaster is Near (6:1-7:27)
- IV. The Lord's Glory Leaves Sinful Jerusalem (8:1-11:25)
- V. Messages of Doom for Judah and Jerusalem (12:1-24:27)
- VI. Judgment on Foreign Nations (25:1-32:32)
- VII. Ezekiel Must Warn the People to Turn from Their Sinful Ways (33:1-20)
- VIII. The News of Jerusalem's Fall (33:21-22)
- IX. The Lord Promises to Bring the People Home and to Restore Judah (34:1-37:28)
- X. Gog Will be Defeated and Israel Will be Restored (38:1-39:29)
- XI. Ezekiel Sees the Future Temple in Jerusalem (40:1-46:24)
- XII. The Stream Flowing from the Temple (47:1-12)
- XIII. The Borders of the Restored Land and Its Division Among the Tribes (47:13-48:35)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Ezk1: I saw visions of God. Out of a storm came four creatures. I saw wheels within wheels. Above them was a throne and the figure of a man.

Ezk2: He said to me: "Son of man, stand up." The Spirit entered me. He said: "I send you to rebel Israel." Before me was a scroll of woe.

Ezk3: He said to me: "Israel will not listen." I came to the exiles. The LORD said: "I have made you a watchman. I will open your mouth."

HEBREWS

Many religious people in the first century after Jesus' birth, both Jews and Gentiles, had questions about the religion of the early Christians. They were looking for evidence that this new faith was genuine. Jews had the miracle of crossing the Red Sea and the agreement made with God at Mount Sinai to support their faith. But what miracles did Christians have? Jews had beautiful worship ceremonies and a high priest who offered sacrifices in the temple so that the people would be forgiven. But what did Christians have? How could this new Christian faith, centered in Jesus, offer forgiveness of sins and friendship with God?

The letter to the Hebrews was written to answer exactly these kinds of questions. In it the author tells the readers how important Jesus really is. He is greater than any of God's angels, greater than any prophet, and greater even than Moses and Joshua. Jesus is the perfect high priest because he never sinned, and by offering his own life he has made the perfect sacrifice for sin once for all time. By his death and return from death he has opened the way for all people to come to God.

This letter has much to say about the importance of faith. The writer points out that what Jesus offers comes only by faith. And this faith makes his followers sure of what they hope for and gives them proof of things that cannot be seen. The writer praises God's faithful people of the past and encourages those who follow Jesus now to keep their eyes on him as they run the race.

OUTLINE

- I. The Greatness of God's Son (1:1-4)
- II. Jesus is Greater than Angels (1:5-2:18)
- III. Jesus is Greater than Moses and Joshua (3:1-4:13)
- IV. Jesus is the Great High Priest (4:14-7:28)
- V. Jesus Brings a Better Agreement (8:1-9:22)
- VI. Jesus' Sacrifice is Once and for All (9:23-10:31)
- VII. Some of God's People Who Had Great Faith (11:1-40)
- VIII. Follow the Example of Jesus (12:1-13:19)
- IX. Final Prayers and Greetings (13:20-25)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Heb2: We must pay closer attention. The author of salvation tasted death for everyone. He was made like us to make atonement for our sins.

Heb3: Jesus has more honour than Moses. He is the Son over God's house. Therefore, "Do not harden your hearts as they did in the rebellion."

Heb4: Let us fear lest anyone fails to reach the promised rest. The word of God judges the heart. So we boldly approach the throne of grace.

Heb5: Every high priest from among men is subject to weakness. Christ is a high priest in the order of Melchizedek. You still need teaching.

Heb6: Let us press on to maturity. It is impossible to restore those who fall away. The promise of God is a steadfast anchor for the soul.

Heb7: Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek, who had no end. Our Lord became a priest through indestructible life. He is always able to save.

Heb8: We have a high priest who ministers in the true tent. He mediates a better covenant. He says, "I will write my laws on their hearts."

Heb9: The high priest enters the Most Holy Place once a year with blood. Christ entered the true holy place once for all by his own blood.

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).