



Faith Lutheran Church + Grand Blanc, MI + www.faithgb.org

Bible Reading Journey

Key Study Points by Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

Each day, using the notes on this page:

- Pray for Spirit-filled insight as you read God's Word.
- Look for Law and Gospel themes that point us to Jesus.
- Apply the readings to your life.
- Pray to Jesus, as the readings inspire you, for yourself, your family, your church and your world.

Historical Context: Jeremiah, with his scribe Baruch, recorded God's Word from 628 to ~580 BC, the period from good King Josiah of Judah through its fall and exile to Babylon.

Law & Gospel Themes: Jeremiah, though only a youth, is called to speak the word of the LORD that has been put in his mouth (1:9). This gives his word powerful authority to condemn sin (1:19). Marriage imagery is used to condemn Judah for rejecting the LORD, her Bridegroom (3:2&20; 9:2). Yet, the LORD is still willing to forgive the sincerely penitent (4:1-4). A true prophet, such as Jeremiah, grieves over the

destruction of his people (4:19). False worship and sacrifice are condemned (7:21-26). We can only please God when we have genuine, humble faith in Him. Everything of our making is worthless for salvation (9:23f). Although God sometimes allows the wicked to prosper, He does not owe Jeremiah or us an explanation for His ways since He alone is God (Ch 12).

Life Application Starters: Page 1220 of TLSB is a great summary of what constitutes faithful preaching from the prophets and now from preachers and teachers

today. The focus is always on Jesus and salvation through Him alone. Who, today, is able to speak the Word of God with power? You? Can we, and do we need to, fully understand God's Word before we speak it? Are not and drought today signs of God's coming judgment?

Prayer Starters: For boldness to speak God's Word of Law and Gospel no matter our age or training. That our Christian marriages will portray our loving relationship with the LORD. That all who hear and see us will know Jesus as Savior. For faithful worship and sacrifice of ourselves to the LORD.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Jeremiah 3:1-4:31

Tuesday: Jeremiah 5:1-6:30

Wednesday: Jeremiah 7:1-8:22

Thursday: Jeremiah 9:1-10:25

Friday: Jeremiah 11:1-12:17

Saturday: Jeremiah 13:1-14:22

February's Memory Verses:

Jeremiah 9:23, "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches..."

Jer. 15:16, "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy."

Jeremiah 15:20, "And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD."

Jeremiah 17:7f, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, ...for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 31:34b, "For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Author of Jeremiah: Prophet Jeremiah with scribe, Baruch **Date:** 628-~580 BC, the final years of kingdom of Judah

New Insights:

Questions to Pursue Further:

Insights from My Accountability Partners:

My Personal Prayers:

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Law & Gospel Themes: Jeremiah "consumes" God's Word as the source of true joy and delight (15:16). When Jeremiah laments over his accusers, the LORD assures him they will not prevail (15:20). Jeremiah was called by God to give up marriage, funerals and feasting as a sign that such things will disappear in the coming judgment (Ch 16). God is the "potter" who has made us, so He has the right to destroy

us. The LORD declares, "I swear by myself," because there is no power greater than Him by which He might swear (22:5). SEE the charts of Messianic prophecies on Pg. 1245 of TLSB. Better than dreams, we have God's Word to proclaim (23:28). False prophets like Hananiah lull people into complacency over sin by speaking of God's judgment as a minor "slap on the wrist." (Ch28)

Life Application Starters: Do you consume God's Word like a delightful feast? How is it better? Why is Jeremiah's abstinence from marriage such a profound statement

of judgment against Judah? Whereas false gods or prophets may swear "by heaven" or "all that is good," why is God's "swearing by Himself" such a comforting Word of His power & care for you? How terrible will Judgment Day be for unbelievers?

Prayer Starters: To delight in God's Word as we daily consume it. That we would cherish the gifts of secure marriage and family life under the protection of the LORD. To courageously warn sinners of the terrible judgment of the LORD. To joyfully share, NOW, Jesus as our Messiah and Savior from sin, death and hell.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Jeremiah 15:1-17:27

Tuesday: Jeremiah 18:1-19:15

Wednesday: Jeremiah 20:1-22:30

Thursday: Jeremiah 23:1-40

Friday: Jeremiah 24:1-25:38

Saturday: Jeremiah 26:1-28:17

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Law & Gospel Themes: This week's readings from Jeremiah jump back and forth in time, but all speak of God's discipline & restoration of Judah. Ch29 speaks hope to the exiles in Babylon, even though their exile will last 70 years. Chs 30-33 are a "book of comfort" from Jeremiah to the exiles. Within these chapters are several Messianic prophecies (30:12 & 22, 31:15 & 30-34, 33:11, 15 & 18). 31:30-34 is a

warning of judgment for sin, but a comfort for those who are covered by the blood of Jesus. Each is responsible for his own sin. King Zedekiah fears the threats of men more than God and suffers a terrible end because of it. Jeremiah fears the LORD more than man and is spared because of it.

Life Application Starters: When have you felt like God's discipline would never end, even though it was short in the span of eternity? How does Jeremiah's "book of comfort" still give us hope today? When and how have you been tempted to

fear the threats of men more than trusting the promises of God? What comfort is there in knowing you will not be judged for anyone's sins but your own? Was Jeremiah a real man who actually suffered so much without losing faith? How could that be?

Prayer Starters: For perseverance when the LORD's discipline endures. To quickly return to the LORD in sincere penitence when His Word convicts us of guilt. To trust in Jesus as the Messiah who HAS come and HAS saved us and WILL come again and WILL deliver us from the exile of sin.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Jeremiah 29:1-32

Tuesday: Jeremiah 30:1-32:44

Wednesday: Jeremiah 33:1-26

Thursday: Jeremiah 34:1-35:19

Friday: Jeremiah 36:1-37:21

Saturday: Jeremiah 38:1-40:16

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Lamentations was written by Jeremiah just before its fall ~587 BC.

Law & Gospel Themes:

Rather than seeing their woes as a reason to repent and turn to the LORD, Judah follows their own reason and flees to Egypt for protection from Babylon, taking Jeremiah along. They even persist in idolatrous worship of the "queen of heaven." (44:17) Jeremiah condemns their evil and is likely

martyred for it in Egypt. His scribe, Baruch, is preserved for remaining faithful while Judah is destroyed by Babylon even in Egypt. Chs 46-51 contain God's judgment against the gentiles: Egypt, Philistines, Moab, Ammonites, Edom (whose great wisdom failed them), Damascus, Kedar, Hazor, Elam and mighty Babylon. The "LORD of hosts" (51:14) is above the universe. Judah "laments" the result of her sin, her destruction in 587 BC.

Life Application Starters:

When we're disciplined, do we ever dig in our heels and pursue our sin all the

more? What great nations have fallen? ...will fall? What kingdom alone will stand? Is it okay to lament over suffering? Where should it lead us? Will Jesus ever fail to hear and save us? How can this message help us connect with the world around us?

Prayer Starters: That we would not foolishly try to save ourselves in our own way when we get into trouble, but that we would turn to the LORD and His ways alone. To boldly warn those who trust in themselves or any human power that they should trust only in the LORD. For Jesus to hear our cries for help and deliver us.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Jeremiah 41:1-43:13

Tuesday: Jeremiah 44:1-45:5

Wednesday: Jeremiah 46:1-49:39

Thursday: Jeremiah 50:1-51:64

Friday: Jeremiah 52:1-34

Saturday: Lamentations 1:1-22

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