

# His Word in Our Hearts

~ March 2021 ~

Jeremiah 17:7-8

*“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.  
<sup>8</sup> He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream,  
and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green,  
and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
for it does not cease to bear fruit.” (ESV)*

## Daily Bible Reading

1	Jeremiah 1-2	Psalm 48
2	Jeremiah 3-4	Psalm 49
3	Jeremiah 5-6	Psalm 50
4	Jeremiah 7-9	Psalm 51
5	Jeremiah 10-11	Psalm 52
6	Jeremiah 12-13	Psalm 53
7	Jeremiah 14-15	Psalm 54
8	Jeremiah 16-18	Psalm 55
9	Jeremiah 19-22	Psalm 56
10	Jeremiah 23-25	Psalm 57
11	Jeremiah 26-29	Psalm 58
12	Jeremiah 30-31	Psalm 59
13	Jeremiah 32-34	Psalm 60
14	Jeremiah 35-38	Psalm 61
15	Jeremiah 39-43	Psalm 62
16	Jeremiah 44-46	Psalm 63
17	Jeremiah 47-48	Psalm 64
18	Jeremiah 49	Psalm 65
19	Jeremiah 50	Psalm 66
20	Jeremiah 51	Psalm 67
21	Jeremiah 52	Psalm 68
22	Lamentations 1	Psalm 69:1-18
23	Lamentations 2	Psalm 69:19-36
24	Lamentations 3	Psalm 70
25	Lamentations 4-5	Psalm 71

## Reading Jeremiah:

Jeremiah is the longest book in the Bible in terms of number of words. The ministry of Jeremiah extended from about 627 to 585 B.C. He served under the last five kings of Judah—Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah. He also ministered at the end of his life to the band of refugees who wound up in Egypt.

The southern kingdom of Judah fell during Jeremiah’s prophetic ministry (586 BC), having been threatened for many years by outside powers—first Assyria and Egypt and then by their eventual conquerors, Babylon.

More than any other OT prophet, Jeremiah shares the depth and details of his personal life and struggles.

Jeremiah has a pretty bad reputation: judgment, tears, judgment, tears—and then more judgment. He lashed out against the sins of his countrymen, especially for their idolatry, which sometimes even involved sacrificing their children to foreign gods. Jeremiah teaches us that human beings are rebels against God.

But Jeremiah loved the people of Judah in spite of their sins, and he prayed for them. The covenant was broken. Judgment is imminent. What can be done?

As covenant breakers, they won’t go unpunished. But Jeremiah doesn’t stop with judgment. He declares that God is not finished with his people, and he has determined to make a new covenant with them. God keeps his promises, and his people will one day enjoy all of the blessings of renewal and restoration.

This covenant won’t be like the last one. God will do for his people what they’re unable to do for themselves. He’ll give them a new heart, and fulfill his promise of regeneration for all within the covenant family, who will have a new heart and a will with the ability and desire to obey God.

The book of Jeremiah also provides us the clearest glimpse of the new covenant God intended to make with His people once Christ came to earth. This new covenant would be the means of restoration for God’s people, as He would put His law within them, writing it on hearts of flesh rather than on tablets of stone. Rather than fostering our relationship with God through a fixed location like a temple, He promised through Jeremiah that His people would know Him directly, a knowledge that comes through the person of His Son, Jesus Christ (Jeremiah 31:31–34; see also Hebrews 8:6).

Redemption comes through pain, not through avoiding it. By his words and suffering he points to the sovereign grace of God in his control over world history and his faithfulness to his covenant that will be fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

## **Reading Jeremiah, cont.**

### ***Outline of Jeremiah:***

- I. Call of the Prophet (ch. 1)
- II. Warnings and Exhortations to Judah (chs. 2 - 35)
- III. Sufferings and Persecutions of the Prophet (chs. 36-38)
- IV. The Fall of Jerusalem and Its Aftermath (chs. 39-45)
- V. Judgment Against Ten Nations (chs. 46-51)
- VI. Historical Appendix (ch. 52)

## **Reading Lamentations:**

Have you ever visited a war memorial, like the Vietnam Wall, or the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier? Or some historical memorial to some tragedy? I made many visits to the Oklahoma City bombing memorial. Memorials honor history and send a message. They are designed to help people remember, to mourn, and to learn. Lamentations is a memorial to a great tragedy that should be remembered and learned from.

The book is a poetic memorial—a recounting and a warning. It rehearses the suffering and the grief connected to the fall of Jerusalem, and it cautions us about what happens when human rebellion reaches a “red line.”

Lamentations identifies the depravity of God’s people as the cause of divine judgment. It elevates the right of a holy God to discipline his people—even using a pagan nation as his instrument. The book is shocking. It is sobering.

This powerful expression of godly grief is composed of five laments, corresponding to our five chapters.

At the heart of this lament over the effects of sin in the world, are the most well-known verses of hope (Lamentations 3:22–25). This statement of faith standing strong in the midst of the surrounding darkness shines as a beacon to all those suffering under the consequences of their own sin and disobedience.

Lamentations reminds us of the importance not only of mourning over our sin but of asking the Lord for His forgiveness when we fail Him. Turn to Lamentations 3:17–26, where you’ll find someone aware of sin’s consequences and saddened by the results but who has placed his hope and his trust in the Lord.