

One Year through the Old Testament

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One Year through the Old Testament

Isaiah, con't

October 1: Isaiah 62:6 – 65:25

- 1) Who are the watchmen that referred to in 62:6 that God prepared for his church?
- 2) What follows in 62:8ff seems like he is referring to the nation of Israel, why can't that be true?
- 3) Who is Edom?
- 4) Who is the one who is robed in splendor? (63:1a)
- 5) What is the Lord doing in 63:3-6?
- 6) In 63:7-18 what characteristic of God is emphasized? What about Israel?
- 7) In 63:16, this verses seems to prove that people in heaven don't know who what is going on in the world. Why?
- 8) 64:1-5 shows that God is awesome. What are the different aspects of God are referred to?
- 9) 64:6-7 refer to us. They certainly are not very complimentary, are they?
- 10) In 64:8ff in spite of who we are, how is God's grace so evident?
- 11) In chapter 65 God speaks about Israel that had a very hard time staying faithful to the Lord in spite of his covenant to stay faithful to them. What kind of things did Israel do to irritate the Lord and show unfaithfulness to him?
- 12) The Lord promises to punish the unfaithful and love those who love him.
- 13) How is heaven pictured in 65:17ff?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Lord, it grieves me that anger, strife, and bitterness have become a part of my life. Forgive my sins and renew my spirit so that I will pardon others, correct the mistakes I have made, and be more cheerful toward those around me. Remind me through your Word that your Son's peace provides the needed hope and reason for healing and change. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 2: Isaiah 66: 1-24

- 1) Who is the man that God shows mercy?
- 2) Who is the man that God despises?
- 3) Who is the one that gives birth?
- 4) How are her children treated?
- 5) Who would also become part of the church?
- 6) Heaven and hell are described. How is each described?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Lord, be gracious and kind to all who are in trouble. Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, and give your strength to those who are weary and weak. Do what is best for them according to your gracious will, and keep them faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Jeremiah

October 3: Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:30

- 1) Jeremiah was a prophet during the King Josiah and afterwards. Josiah was the last good king in Judah. What was his family background?
- 2) When did God have a plan for Jeremiah?
- 3) What does this say about life, its beginning and sanctity?
- 4) Jeremiah objected and offered excuses. How did God take care of those excuses?
- 5) What was his job to be?
- 6) An almond tree was the first one to bloom in the spring. What did that mean in respect to the vision that he saw?
- 7) The teapot was boiling and tilting from the north. What did that mean?
- 8) Compared to their former self, what was Judah like now?
- 9) In chapter two God recounts their history. What does he have to say about it?
- 10) Who does God particularly blame?
- 11) What were the two sins God had against Judah?
- 12) What did God do that didn't seem to do any good?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, thank you for my home and family for love and gentleness, for laughter enjoyed and sorrows shared. For daily bread. For the gift of your Son. Help me to be mindful of all your gifts and to rejoice in your goodness. May your peace be with us and your presence protect us. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 4: Jeremiah 2:31 – 4:18

- 1) Of what did God accuse the Judahites?
 - a)
 - b)
- 2) In chapter three to what does God compare his relationship with Israel?
- 3) How did God call the people to repentance?
- 4) What happened on the high hills in both Israel and Judah?
- 5) 3:11 is a real indictment against the people of Judah. What was it?
- 6) Who are the shepherds that God is referring to?
- 7) How would curing of Judah of backsliding be done?
- 8) In chapter four he refers to the circumcision of the heart. That is found in the New Testament also. What does that mean?
- 9) What is God speaking of when he talks about the lion that “has come out of his lair”?
- 10) What does this all mean to us who live in 2003?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus, wonderful Savior and God's own Son, we look to you for rest for our weary souls. As you, on Calvary's cross, sacrificed your body and shed your blood for our forgiveness, so let us, at your altar, receive your same body and blood together with the bread and the wine for the full assurance that we are counted among those you saved. In your Holy Supper we unite with you at the cross and with our fellow believers everywhere, who share the joy and comfort of your salvation. Keep us ever with you in faith by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 5: Jeremiah 4:19 – 6:14

- 1) What is coming for Judah and how is Jeremiah feeling about it?
- 2) 2) This reading is nonstop law. Look at 4:22. What is the very unflattering description of the nation of Judah? How does America compare?
- 3) In 4:30 Judah dresses herself up? What does she have in mind?
- 4) 5:1 tells how totally corrupt Jerusalem is. How bad is it? What does this verse remind you of?
- 5) Who is coming to destroy Judah?
- 6) Judah was in denial. How did she express that?
- 7) In 5:28 how did Judah appear outwardly?
- 8) In 5:31 and 6:13, 14 describe the spiritual leaders. What were they doing wrong?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dearest Jesus, thank you for the opportunity I have to receive the blessings of your Holy Supper. May I properly partake of it and firmly believe that with the bread and wine I receive your true body and blood given and shed for me. May it always remind me of the tremendous price my sins required you to pay. And may I, strengthened in my faith, live as one who has been freed from the power of sin. Thank you for loving me so much, my Lord and my Savior. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 6: Jeremiah 6:15 – 8:7

- 1) God continues to level charges against the people of Judah. How did they treat the prophets he sent to them?
- 2) Look again to the armies from the north. Who are they?
- 3) Because they were coming, what was Judah to do? (6:26)
- 4) What was Jeremiah's position in all this? (6:27)
- 5) How did the people look at the temple superstitiously?
- 6) How was 7:7 used in the New Testament?
- 7) How deep was Judah's apostasy?
- 8) What was God ready to do?
- 9) Look at the depths of their unbelief. (7:31)
- 10) What does chapter 8 speak of?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Savior, help us to pray. Give us confidence in the Father's good will toward us. Make us sure that, for your sake, he delights in our prayers, answers them wisely, and uses them to accomplish his will. Support the praying church by your presence among us and by the petitions you offer on our behalf at the throne of mercy. Breathe into us the Holy Spirit to lead our thoughts along the pathways of your will, and let him pray inside us with deep, unsearchable sighs when we do not know what to pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 7: Jeremiah 8:8 – 9:26

- 1) Give examples of handling God's law falsely. (8:8)
- 2) Notice how often God spoke about prophets who said there was peace and there was none. Why? How would the prophets do that?
- 3) Look at 8:18. What is Jeremiah's hope?
- 4) What does he mean when he says, "Is there no balm in Gilead?"
- 5) See 9:7. How does God refine?
- 6) What does he mean about the women wailing?
- 7) When can he a person boast in the Lord?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, merciful Father, guide me in your ways and keep me in your care. In my daily walk, Lord, help me avoid being misled into sin by my own flesh or by others who oppose your will. When I make wrong decisions and follow bad advice, forgive me, O God my Savior. Instead, show me the way of wisdom and keep on the path with your Son, Jesus. Open my heart to read, hear, and absorb your holy Word: the law to show me my sins, the gospel that shows me my Savior--all to guide me day by day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 8: Jeremiah 10:1 – 11:23

- 1) What were the people doing in 10:3-5?
- 2) How is the LORD different from the idols according to Jeremiah?
- 3) What does the LORD say is going to happen in 10:17-22?
- 4) Jeremiah says a humble and fascinating prayer in 10:23-25. What are key points?
- 5) In 11:1-8 what covenant did the people of Israel break?
- 6) What were the consequences?
- 7) What did God reveal to Jeremiah in 11:18-23?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Gracious Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of children. Let our manner with our children reflect the love you have toward us. Grant us the patience and ability to meet their needs. Give us the wisdom to use your Word effectively as the guide for our personal lives and in the instruction of our children. Grant all parents a measure of love that will not diminish under the burdens of this life. As you are always ready to forgive and to restore us, let us learn to exercise discipline in love, with a readiness to forgive. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 9: Jeremiah 12:1 – 14:10

- 1) In 12:1-4 Jeremiah makes a complaint before God. What is it?
- 2) How does God answer?
- 3) 3) How does God refer to his people and what will he do to them? (12:7)
- 4) Who brought ruin in Judah?
- 5) What was the point of the object lesson of the linen cloth?
- 6) The filled wineskins were compared to Judah. What did that represent?
- 7) Jeremiah unlike Isaiah lived at the time of the Captivity. In 13:15ff, what is there no doubt about?
- 8) How would the Lord himself feel as his people were taken away?
- 9) In 13:22 he says if they are going to ask themselves why that all happened, would they say it was punishment or was it chastisement?
- 10) What was Judah suffering from as chapter 14 begins?
- 11) What is Jeremiah's plea?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, I thank you for gift of grandparents. In their love I see a picture of your love. Thank you for their wisdom which comes with the passing of years. Thank you for the time they generously give to children and grandchildren. Help us not to be in such a hurry that we cannot spend time with them. Teach us to number our days so that we use the days and hours you give us to show our grandparents how much we love and appreciate them before it is too late. Forgive us our failures to do this through your Son, Jesus, our Savior, and keep every generation in the one true faith so that we can look forward to an eternal reunion in heaven. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 10: Jeremiah 14:11- 16:15

- 1) Again, note how the blame for the spiritual state of Israel was blamed on the false prophets. What similarities do you see in our present day?
- 2) In 14:20 Jeremiah intercedes and confesses national sins. What does he mean when he says, "For the sake of your name do not despise us?"
- 3) Look at the beginning words of chapter 15. How angry is God with the people of Judah?
- 4) Manasseh was the most wicked of the kings of Judah. What did Manasseh do that made Judah abhorrent?
- 5) How was Jeremiah feeling as he lived among the ungodly?
- 6) A conversation takes place between God and Jeremiah in 15:10-18. How did Jeremiah show that he loved the Lord?
- 7) What was God's promise in 15:19ff?
- 8) In chapter 16 the LORD explains why Jeremiah's life would be so tough. Why would it?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, almighty and all wise Father, we pray you to help all our friends who are looking for meaning in life. Our friends see a world running amok and doesn't understand why. Our friends experience sadness and don't see any way to be sure of happiness. Our friends live but are looking for the meaning of life. Help our friends, dear God, to see the answers to their questions in the good news of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Guide them to look to the cross of Calvary for answers and to the empty tomb of Jesus. Fill our friends with the comfort of the full forgiveness that comes from Jesus. Let them experience the joy of knowing that Jesus lives and wishes to walk with them through life here and accompany them into heaven's glories after this life. Guide them on their walk secure in your love and care. We ask this for Jesus' sake. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

October 11: Jeremiah 16:16 – 18:23

- 1) What is the foolishness of trying to hide things from God? (16:17)
- 2) How were the people of Judah also offensive to their children?
- 3) 17:8,9 are very powerful verses. Why?
- 4) Why is making life's goal to become rich such a vain and foolish practice? (17:11)
- 5) What job did God have in mind for Jeremiah? (17:19ff)
- 6) What sin was prevalent that God addresses?
- 7) What lesson was to be learned from the potter in chapter 18?
- 8) In what way did the people of Judah persecute Jeremiah in 18:18?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying--and all for your love's sake. In Christ we pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 12: Jeremiah 19:1 – 21:14

- 1) In chapter 19 Jeremiah is told again to give an object lesson. What did it involve?
- 2) Baal worship involved child sacrifice. What was the irony of the siege of Jerusalem and how many tried to survive?
- 3) Jeremiah did his prophesying in Topheth and then returned to Jerusalem and the temple. Why did that take courage?
- 4) The temple and all who were there was so corrupted that they didn't recognize Jeremiah as a true prophet. How was he ridiculed?
- 5) How do true preachers today receive the same kind of treatment within the "house of the Lord?"
- 6) In 20:7ff Jeremiah expresses frustration and discouragement. What did he resolve to do?
- 7) Why couldn't he carry out his resolve?
- 8) How can we sing of the Lord's judgment on people?
- 9) How did the appeal of Passhur and King of Zedekiah backfire?
- 10) What was the unusual advice Jeremiah gave to the people of Judah?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have accomplished our salvation, creating us, redeeming us, and sanctifying us. Now we ask you to keep us in the fellowship of the saints and to bless your church everywhere. Grant that your Word may be taught in all its clarity and purity. Open hearts to receive it, and raise up more men, women, and children who know their Savior and worship you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 13: Jeremiah 22:1 – 23:20

- 1) Jeremiah was given a command from God. What was it?
- 2) Just before the fall of Judah there was a quick succession of kings. The title of them being on David's throne was used. What did that mean?
- 3) The LORD spoke with regrets over what happened to Judah. How is that expressed?
- 4) Shallum was the fourth son of Josiah. Jehoahaz was his king name. What would happen to him?
- 5) God defines what a king really is. What is it?
- 6) Chapter 23 is a great chapter from Jeremiah. When there were shepherds that didn't do the job the LORD wanted them to do, what did the Lord do?
- 7) What is significant about the Messiah's title "the Lord our Righteousness?"
- 8) What is the special warning given to false prophets? How will they be held more accountable?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, almighty and all wise Father, we pray you to help all our friends who are looking for meaning in life. Our friends see a world running amok and doesn't understand why. Our friends experience sadness and don't see any way to be sure of happiness. Our friends live but are looking for the meaning of life. Help our friends, dear God, to see the answers to their questions in the good news of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Guide them to look to the cross of Calvary for answers and to the empty tomb of Jesus. Fill our friends with the comfort of the full forgiveness that comes from Jesus. Let them experience the joy of knowing that Jesus lives and wishes to walk with them through life here and accompany them into heaven's glories after this life. Guide them on their walk secure in your love and care. We ask this for Jesus' sake. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

October 14: Jeremiah 23:21 – 25:38

- 1) According to these words of Jeremiah, how does one tell if someone is coming in the Lord's name? In other words, how do you tell if someone is really from God?
- 2) Why is a false prophet so dangerous?
- 3) Historically we can see that Jeremiah lived during the time of the exile. Imagine being in the middle of the rock and hard place. It was Jeremiah's job to tell the people why and that they had nailed their own coffin shut. He had an extremely hard job to do.
- 4) What was the object lesson about the good and bad figs all about?
- 5) Why do you think the people of Judah would be seventy years in Babylon?
- 6) Obviously the Lord is a God of anger. How do you answer someone who wants to believe that God is only a God of love?
- 7) Who would be the object of his anger?
- 8) What was Jeremiah to prophesy?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Father in heaven, where will it all end? - this terrorism and killing, this flaunting their opposition to the morality which You have prescribed for us, this hatred and anger and bitterness which we see all around. Where will it all end, this advancement in technology which opens the door to unfathomable possibilities, such as exploration of the universe and on and on? In the face of all these uncertainties we are assured by Isaiah (Is.55:8ff) "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." In the face of all these uncertainties, one thing remains certain. You are in control. You have a plan. And by grace You have made us part of that plan which is by faith in Christ Jesus. We have Your assurance that "in all things God works together for the good of those who love him." With this assurance we can face all uncertainties with confidence. God grant that for Jesus' sake. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

October 15: Jeremiah 26:1 – 27:22

- 1) Jeremiah was told to prophesy. Some might listen and others might not. What does that have to say to us?
- 2) How did Judah react to his message?
- 3) How did some of the elders in the land show themselves to be more spiritual than the prophets and priests?
- 4) On what did the elders base their decision?
- 5) How did this all sit with King Jehoiakim?
- 6) What did Jeremiah say that the people should do in regard to Babylon that seemed to be unusual?
- 7) Are there times when God has said that to his people?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sleep. It's a great blessing to clear our minds with you, praise you for the blessings of the day, ask for forgiveness, and bask in the glow of your power and saving grace. Thank you for the time for our bodies and minds to rest, heal, and grow. Thank you for the love you show us in Jesus, who humbled himself to be born as a frail human--someone who needed to sleep just as we do. Jesus, you died a bitter, painful, lonely death for us. Help us remember this limitless love you lavished on us. Help us grow up in our faith and our understanding of your will for us as Christians. Send the Holy Spirit to remind us of everything you have commanded us, and show us how to best apply your principles to our lives as Christians in a hostile, unchristian world. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 16: Jeremiah 28:1 – 29:32

- 1) Notice that there was no shortage of prophets during Jeremiah's time. Why was Jeremiah the unpopular one?
- 2) How did Jeremiah say a true and false prophet could be identified?
- 3) What was false about Hananiah?
- 4) What was chapter 29 of Jeremiah?
- 5) The Children of Israel were taken off into captivity in three waves. Jerusalem wasn't destroyed until 586 BC. Obviously who was Jeremiah addressing in this chapter?
- 6) As the people were living in exile, what was the advice given to them?
- 7) How long would the exile last?
- 8) 29:11 is a red letter verse. Why?
- 9) Where was the Lord?
- 10) What does he say to those who were left in Jerusalem?
- 11) How does Jeremiah show himself to be a Lone Ranger?
- 12) What is the relevance of these verse for today?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God our Father, by your mercy, the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection, we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 17: Jeremiah 30:1 – 31:26

- 1) Jeremiah also had good news to say. What was it?
- 2) Of what does Jeremiah speak in 30:4-11? Is this Israel or the Church?
- 3) What is the promise in 30:16?
- 4) What is the meaning of 31:1-6
- 5) What was significant about 31:15? What period of time is he referring to?
- 6) How are Jeremiah's words everyone's story in 31: 16-22?
- 7) 31:26 says this was a vision he received during the night. Why did it cause him to rest well?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth, you tell us in your word, "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." I thank you for the changing seasons. You have made everything beautiful in its time. Open my eyes to see the special beauty of each season. This fall I ask you to bless the farmers with an abundant harvest so we may have food on our tables. Send the cooling rains to those places which have experienced drought. Help us to receive all of your gifts with glad and thankful hearts. In the name of your Son, Jesus, who promises us a new heaven and new earth, I pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 18: Jeremiah 31:27 – 32:44

- 1) What do these verses have to say about getting punished for the sins of others?
- 2) 31: 31-34 are often used on Reformation Sunday. Why is it a good choice?
- 3) How do we know that God is not really speaking of the nation of Israel in 31: 36,37?
- 4) What does it seem that Zedekiah thought that Jeremiah had the power to do? (32)
- 5) What does buying a field in the midst of what Jerusalem was going through signify?
- 6) The Lord lets off steam in 32:26ff. Why did he allow Jerusalem to be destroyed?
- 7) In the midst of all his anger, what does he always remind the Children of Israel of?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for the blessings you have showered upon our land. Thank you for your gift of prosperity in days of peace and protection in days of war. Thank you for our natural resources, our talents, and our abilities. Thank you for giving us freedom of worship and all other freedoms we possess. We confess that we are sinners and deserve nothing. Nevertheless, for Jesus' sake, we ask you to accompany us with your forgiving grace. Bless our government, prosper the work of our hands, and especially enable us to fulfill our responsibilities as citizens of your kingdom of grace and to be conscientious citizens of this good land. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 19: Jeremiah 33:1 – 34:22

- 1) Jeremiah was in the courtyard and being held as a prisoner of King Zedekiah. The year was 588 BC. While the immediate future for Jerusalem didn't look good at all, what does this chapter say about long-term?
- 2) In the latter verses of this chapter is he speaking about Jerusalem as the city or as the church or as both?
- 3) 33:14-16 are red-letter verses. They obviously prophesy Christ's coming. Who is the subject?
- 4) What is the significance of the title "the Lord our Righteousness?"
- 5) How does God make it clear that he is going to come?
- 6) In chapter 34 there is a warning of the imminent destruction by Babylon. What promise did God make to Zedekiah?
- 7) What did God want to see done?
- 8) How did the people carry this out?
- 9) What happens when we oppose the Lord?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear God, compassionate Father, you have found us spiritually blind and deaf because of our sin and opened our eyes and ears to the truth of your salvation in Christ. Thank you for your forgiving love. Now in thankfulness and reflecting the hope of our salvation, we desire to show love also to those who have similar physical weaknesses. Help us in our service so that in our labor of love we glorify your name and build up the saving faith of those we reach. We ask this in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 20: Jeremiah 35:1 – 36:32

- 1) What was the great lesson Jeremiah taught Judah from the Recabites?
- 2) The Lord promises that His Word will not return to him void. How did the Recabites obviously give encouragement to Jeremiah?
- 3) How do the faithful do the same for us?
- 4) Who was Baruch? What was his job?
- 5) Chapter 32 shows that there were people who did follow the Lord but were spineless when it came to standing up to the king. How would you have done if you have done if you were in Elnathan's, Delaiah's or Gemariah's sandals?
- 6) How blatant was Jehoiakim's rebellion against the Lord? Is there a lesson for us?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). What a precious gift you have given to us in Your Word. It is a lamp to show us the way and a light to brighten the path that leads to our home in heaven. Awaken in us by Your Spirit a new desire to hear and learn that Word. Bless the efforts of the congregations in Sunday schools and Bible classes for teens and adults to provide opportunities to hear and learn your word. Move parents to take advantage of these agencies of the church as they seek to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Let the light of Your word shine ever more brightly in our homes, in our churches, and in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

October 21: Jeremiah 37:1 – 38:28

- 1) Why would Zedekiah send Jehucal to Jeremiah to pray when he was not committed to the Lord? What was Jeremiah to Zedekiah?
- 2) What bad news was Jeremiah to give to the king of Judah?
- 3) What accusation was leveled against Jeremiah?
- 4) How did Zedekiah show he seemed to soften? Was that enough?
- 5) How did the message which Jeremiah was sent to speak seem to undermine any will to fight for Jerusalem?
- 6) How was Jeremiah punished?
- 7) Zedekiah was obviously facing crisis and came to the Lord's prophet to help him. What message did Jeremiah deliver?

Important thoughts from the reading:

When I am in distress, dear Lord, I ask you to listen to the cry of my heart. I neither can nor will prescribe the time and the way in which my distress might be removed. I will wait for you to determine the when and how of my relief. Strengthen my faith and give me patience to bear my trouble so that at last I may be glad when you visit me with your grace and remove my distress. Dear Father, you have never forsaken your children; do not forsake me now. You cheer the hearts of your despairing children; lift me up at your appointed time. I leave all to your wisdom, love, understanding, and goodness. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 22: Jeremiah 39:1 – 41:18

- 1) The year is 586 BC. What is happening?
- 2) Why did Zedekiah do a foolish thing?
- 3) What did the exile consist of?
- 4) How did God protect Jeremiah?
- 5) Was Nebuzaradan a believer?
- 6) What did Nebuzaradan give Jeremiah the option to do? What did Jeremiah choose to do? Why?
- 7) What effect did the appointment of Gedaliah have on the also-ran's who were left behind?
- 8) Who was Ishmael? Why was he such a curse?
- 9) Why didn't someone like Ishmael learn a lesson from all that had happened to Judah?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God of peace, I turn aside from an unquiet world, seeking rest for my spirit and light for my thoughts. I bring my work to be sanctified, my wounds to be healed, my sins to be forgiven, my hopes to be renewed. In you through your Son there is perfect harmony. Draw me to yourself, and silence the discords of my wasteful life. Your greatness is beyond my highest praise. Take me out of the loneliness of self, and fill me with the fullness of your peace. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 23: Jeremiah 42:1 – 44:23

- 1) Gedaliah was killed by Ishmael. The people who ran Judah had been taken off into Babylon. While they were the remnant, they came to Jeremiah with what request?
- 2) What was so good about Jeremiah's answer to them?
- 3) Why do you think Jeremiah was answered ten days later?
- 4) What didn't the people want to hear? How did they react?
- 5) Even the remnant did not learn a lesson. They went to Egypt thinking they would be spared the attack of Nebuchadnezzar. What was really going to happen?
- 6) How did Judah continue to sin against God?
- 7) How does America react to national disasters? Do we learn lessons or does it all go over our heads?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the selfless service of those who gave their lives to protect our nation, preserve our freedoms, and restore peace in the face of brutal aggressors. Grant relief to those who continue to experience emotional or physical agony from their days of combat. Give us a sense of responsibility for their welfare. Comfort those who mourn for loved ones who died while performing their duty to our country. Enlist all who are in our military forces into your church militant, that they may pledge eternal loyalty to Christ, our King, and know his peace. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

October 24: Jeremiah 44:24 – 47:7

- 1) Imagine how discouraging it must have been for Jeremiah to pronounce the reality of the Babylonian Captivity and not have anyone believe. Add to that the fact that it actually happened and there was still no acknowledgement from the people to whom he preached while he was in Egypt. What kind of things do we tend to treat flippantly that God warns us about?
- 2) Yet through this whole ordeal how would the name of the Lord be glorified?
- 3) Chapter 45 is not written in chronological order and mentions Baruch. Who is he? What was the promise God gave to him?
- 4) Chapters 46-51 are prophecies about the nations. What does Jeremiah see take place with Egypt in chapter 46?
- 5) What does this say about the power of God?
- 6) Why is the prophecy about the fall of Egypt so important to the people of Judah?
- 7) Chapter 47 is spoken against the Philistines. Where did they live?
- 8) Who would destroy them?
- 9) How is the Lord the ruler of the nations?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, you know our human weaknesses and frailties. You know our needs and cares. We do not in any way deserve your help, Lord, but we truly need it. Therefore we come to you. Grant us peace of mind, so that we may face the difficulties that now confront us. Strengthen our weak faith, lead us with your strong hand, and work things out so that they serve our eternal good. In Jesus' name. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 25: Jeremiah 48:1 – 49:22

- 1) Jeremiah prophesies against Moab. Where was Moab?
- 2) What was Moab's relationship to Judah?
- 3) In 48:7 Chemosh is mentioned. Who is Chemosh?
- 4) The Ammonites also have a prophecy spoken against them. Who is Molech in 49:1?
- 5) What was the irony of who would judge her? (49:2)
- 6) Who is Edom in 49:7?
- 7) How were they related to Israel?
- 8) How complete would be the judgment against her?
- 9) What kind of country was Edom from 49:16?
- 10) What is the message for America?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, you created our world and society to be orderly and to have authority figures. You created our world and society in this way to bring your blessings to us. We give you thanks for the order and the authority that our parents brought to our growing up, for those blessings have served us well. Bless our parents during these times of their lives and give us a respect and love that lasts beyond the years of childhood. Teach us to imitate the love your Son felt for his mother even when that love was inconvenient. Bless our loving, just as the love of our parents blessed our living. For Jesus' sake we pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 26: Jeremiah 49: 23 – 50:46

- 1) Jeremiah also prophesies against Damascus. What are Hamath and Arpad?
- 2) Ben-Hadad was a name like Caesar. It was a reference to leaders of Damascus.
- 3) Kedar refers to nomadic tribes that Nebuchadnezzar would defeat.
- 4) In 49:34 the prophecy is pinpointed to have taken place when Zedekiah was king in Judah. That is the year 597 BC. Elam was a country east of Babylon.
- 5) Chapter 50 is a prophecy against Babylon even though God would use them to discipline and call his people to repentance. Who are Bel and Marduk? (50:2)
- 6) Who would cause Babylon trouble?
- 7) What are the reasons that Babylon would fall?
- 8) In 50:17 Israel's miserable history because of her sin is visited. What does he say happened to Israel?
- 9) Yet what would the Lord do?
- 10) The Lord says he is against the arrogant one. Why?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, thank you for my home and family for love and gentleness, for laughter enjoyed and sorrows shared. For daily bread. For the gift of your Son. Help me to be mindful of all your gifts and to rejoice in your goodness. May your peace be with us and your presence protect us. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 27: Jeremiah 51:1 – 51:53

- 1) Of what does God assure Israel and Judah with these words?
- 2) Look at 51:9. Why couldn't Babylon be healed?
- 3) Who are the Medes? (51:11)
- 4) How are idols described?
- 5) In 51:36 Jeremiah refers to lakes and rivers. The Babylonians had built many to cause them to prosper, but what was God going to do to them?
- 6) Look at 51:49. Why did Babylon fall?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Merciful Father, many on our prayer list are in need of a miracle of your healing. We know, O Lord, that all healing comes from you and trust that you will hear his prayer and ours to keep him in your loving care. Comfort our loved ones in the knowledge that what you have promised you will do, that their lives are in your hands now and into eternity because of Jesus. Give them the assurance that you have heard their prayers and ours even if the answer differs from what we hope. And never let our loved ones lose the hope that keeps us looking to the eternal glory that is ours in Christ. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 28: Jeremiah 51:54 – 52:34

- 1) Chapter 51 is the last of Jeremiah's prophecy. Chapter 52 is like an historical appendix.
- 2) As chapter 51 ends the prophet says his last about the destruction of Babylon. He tells Seraiah, Baruch's brother, to take the prophecy to Babylon and proclaim it there. What was he to do as an object lesson?
- 3) Chapter 52 is some interesting history. How did Zedekiah show himself to be a rebellious king against God as well as Babylon?
- 4) The Babylonians laid siege to the city. What effect did that have upon the Jerusalem?
- 5) Notice how Babylon did not spare anything in the city of Jerusalem including the temple. How was that a smart move strategically but totally stupid spiritually?
- 6) Yet what does that prove about the body of Christ?
- 7) You can see that the exile did not include all the people of Judah, but who were included?
- 8) How was Jehoiachin blessed?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, our Father, you have blessed us and our country. You have provided armies for our protection and safety. In your providence, the men and women in those armies have placed their lives at risk, and many have died for our peace. Let us not take such a wonderful and costly blessing for granted, but move us to remember those fallen troops with thanks. Help us to live worthy of the peace that they fought to preserve. Make us brave to defend that peace into the future. O Lord, keep us mindful also of the unspeakable price that you paid for our eternal peace through your Son, and keep us in that peace now and forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Lamentations

October 29: Lamentations 1:1 – 2:19

- 1) Lamentations is credited to Jeremiah. There are some items that we don't see in the English translation. In chapters one, two and four the first letters of each verse begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet and proceeds all the way through. Chapter three does the same with every third verse. The poems of Lamentations are read in mid-July in Jewish synagogues in anniversary of the destruction of the temple in 587-586 BC.
- 2) What is Jeremiah obviously lamenting?
- 3) How total is Jerusalem's defeat?
- 4) Why was she defeated?
- 5) 1:10 was the worst part of her defeat. What did that entail?
- 6) Who is blamed for her status?
- 7) What does 1:22 say about where wickedness needs to be placed and who has to deal with it?
- 8) 2:14 tells us that the false prophets just didn't quit. Why not?
- 9) Why was the destruction of Jerusalem a good thing?
- 10) How can troubles and problems be a good thing?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, when Satan tempts us to feel that You don't hear our prayers, and that only a miracle could solve all our problems, then cause us to look about and see miracles all around. As Jesus reminds us in the parable (Matthew 6:25ff), the same almighty God Who feeds the birds and Who colors the flowers will also provide for His children. And let Your Holy Spirit remind them of the greatest miracle of all, the miracle of salvation, that God did not spare His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. Let that be our assurance that God does hear our prayers and that He also answers our prayers in the best possible manner and the proper time. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

October 30: Lamentations 2:20 – 3:66

- 1) How bad was the situation in Jerusalem when the city was besieged?
- 2) Chapter three personalizes the situation in Jerusalem. How did Jeremiah feel as the city was going through the trial?
- 3) As a prophet of the Lord Jeremiah had to endure much. What did he have to endure?
- 4) 3:22 – 33 are some of the most comforting words in the book. How does the context set this up?
- 5) In 3:26 he makes the point that it is good to be tested early in life. How was that true in yours?
- 6) 3:31 is a gracious promise. What is it?
- 7) How great is the Lord? (3:37,38)
- 8) What is 3:40-43?
- 9) There is a great Gospel message found in 3:58.

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Jesus, you suffered great pain when you died for me on the cross. Help all who are in my pain and grief. Look on them with mercy and remember that we are made of only dust. Bear them up in your arms and grant them relief from these burdens. When the pain is more than they can bear, carry them on eagle's wings. We thank you that you are a compassionate Savior who feels pain as if it were your own. We thank you that you have been touched by our infirmities. Help us in our depression. Revive our spirits. Lead us safely through this dark valley in life. We commit our bodies and souls and all our cares into your nail-pierced hands. Be with us and grant us your peace. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

October 31: Lamentations 4:1 – 5:22

- 1) He refers to the people of Judah as people who were “once their weight in gold” now as pots of clay. What does he mean?
- 2) How were they worse than the jackals?
- 3) How was the destruction of Jerusalem worse than the destruction of Sodom?
- 4) Because of the siege what awful things happened in the city?
- 5) Who was largely responsible for the state that Jerusalem was in?
- 6) The last chapter of Lamentations – chapter 5 – is depicted by loss. What are the losses that Jerusalem suffered?
 - a. 5:2
 - b. 5:3
 - c. 5:6
 - d. 5:9
 - e. 5:11
 - f. 5:15

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus, you have promised your church that you will soon return in glory to deliver us from all our troubles and sorrows. We long for your appearing and pray "Come, Lord Jesus!" We rejoice that you have shortened these perilous last days for the sake of your elect. For that mercy we thank you! And when you come, grant that we may be found faithful, trusting in the salvation you have given us and making good use of our time of grace. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.