

# DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

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## 05-28-2023 // WEEK 21 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **Jeremiah 26 - 48**. Here are a few highlights:

As we read through the book of Jeremiah, remember that Jeremiah is speaking against the sins of the **southern kingdom, Judah**, and its ultimate demise and takeover by the Babylonian empire, led here by King Nebuchadnezzar. In Jeremiah, God calls Nebuchadnezzar: "my Servant." Amazing. This wicked, evil, godless king was a servant in the hands of God, using him as his instrument of judgment against his people, Judah.

Also, please note how often **God says that there will be a remnant**, a group of people that he will set aside, to one day return to the land. Remember that God told Abraham that through him and his seed (Isaac/Jesus) that there would be:

1. A great nation and
2. An eternal land given to them

This is key in remembering the Second Coming of Jesus. Okay, here goes:

- **Chapters 23 - 29:** Jeremiah confronts / challenges the following:
  1. False prophets who say that God would never allow his people to be overcome by such a wicked nation as Babylon. They just preached peace and prosperity and not God's judgment on sin.
  2. How Jeremiah opposed the people of Judah. They didn't want to hear his negative message either.
  3. How Jeremiah opposed the false beliefs of the people, how they had adopted Canaanite religious practices that were not of God.

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But in **chapter 29** you have God's direction to the Jews in Babylon regarding how they should live: start buying houses there, raise families, and seek the welfare of the city (**verse 7**). Also God's promise of a future and hope (**verse 11** - such a famous verse!).

- **Chapters 30 - 33:** Great chapters! They outline **God's promised restoration and redemption of his people**. A promised return to the Promised Land. A new covenant made with these people (fulfilled in Jesus). I love **chapter 32:17-27** and God's promise that nothing is impossible for him. God never takes away anything from us without a promise. A future. A hope. **These chapters are such an encouragement for any of us going through a time of loss or change**. I hope you will reread them!
- **Chapters 34 - 45:** Once again, Jeremiah confronts the people's infidelity and God's faithfulness. But Judah again rejects God's word through Jeremiah. In **chapters 37-39**, you see Judah's and Jerusalem's last days before Babylon breaches the walls and captures them. There is a futile rebellion against Babylon, but it is quickly put down. A remnant tries to escape to Egypt, not obeying what God said to do: stay, wait, believe, and God will provide.

Jeremiah and his assistant Baruch are taken hostage with these people to Egypt. But there, once again, Jeremiah warns that they cannot escape God's judgment. He will use Nebuchadnezzar in Egypt as his instrument of judgment against them. In Egypt, Baruch is frustrated with God for all they have been through. God reminds him that he has lost nothing in comparison with what God has lost (a land, people, nation). Then God has a famous reminder for Baruch: *"Do you seek great things for yourself? SEEK THEM NOT!"* (**45:5**). Baruch must have had a heart for fame. God reminds him that it's not about him, but it's all about God. Being faithful to him. It's a good reminder for all of us as well.

- **Jeremiah 46 - 48:** Jeremiah moves from God's judgment on his own people to the surrounding nations. They too have rebelled against God's order and commands and will face his imminent judgment. These nations are Egypt (**ch. 46**); Philistia (**ch. 47**); Moab (**ch. 48**).

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Okay, that's it for this week! Keep reading. And remember this final thought: **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel are called the major prophets.** Not because they are more important than all the other prophetic books, but because they are simply longer. Hosea-Malachi are the minor prophets because of the smaller length of their books.

Enjoy the journey!