

The Book Of Jeremiah



By Charles Willis

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Scripture taken from the

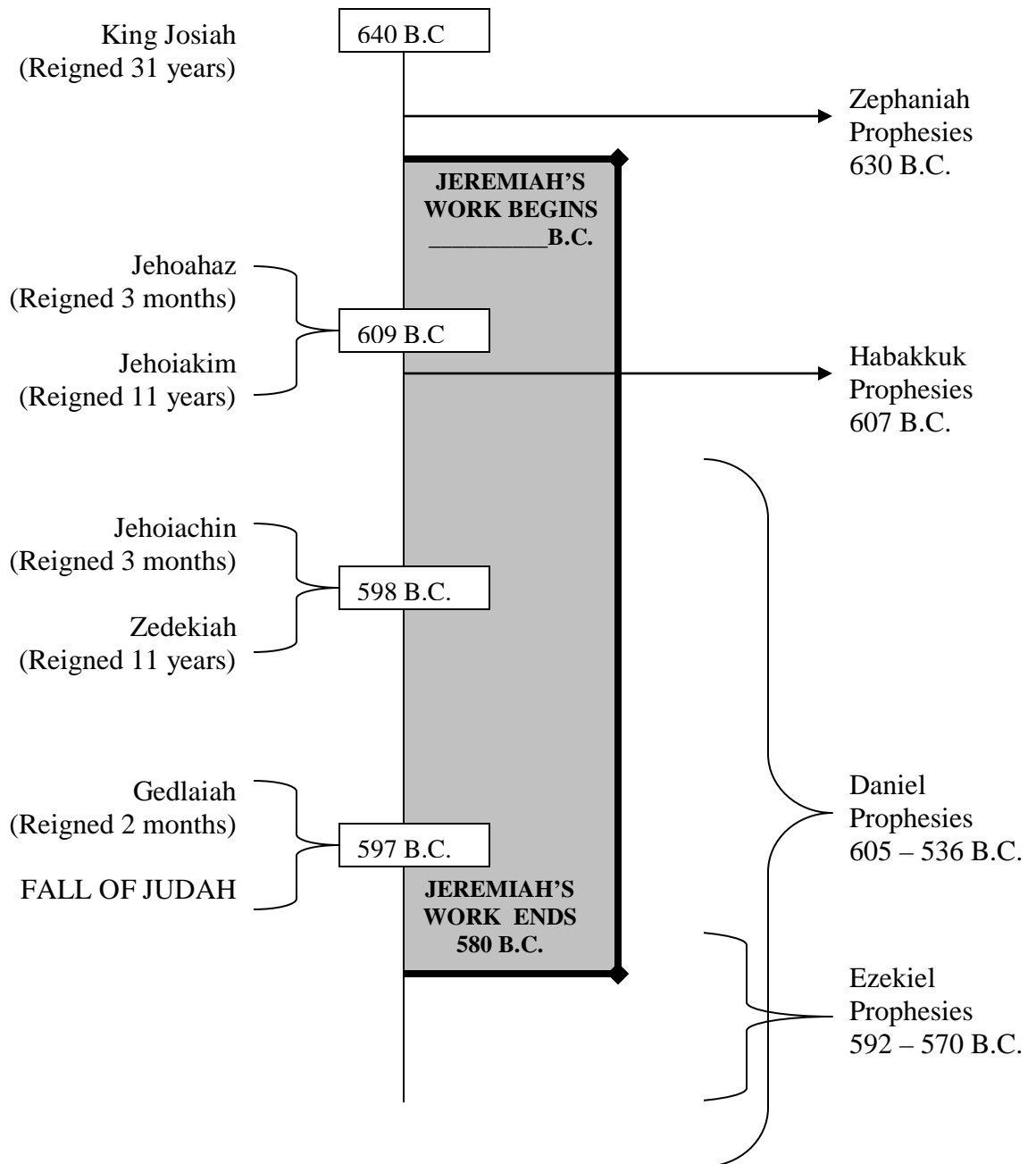
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TIMELINE

<u>United Kingdom</u>	<u>Divided Kingdom</u>	<u>Captivity</u>	<u>Return of God's Remnant</u>
1043 B.C.- 932 B.C.	931 B.C.- 721 B.C.	721 B.C.- Israel taken captive by Assyria	
Saul, David, Solomon	Israel Judah	Judah Remains till taken captive by Babylon in 605 B.C.	536 B.C. Zerubbabel 457 B.C. Ezra 444 B.C. Nehemiah

KINGS OF JUDAH



Call of Jeremiah

1. Use the timeline to mark when Jeremiah worked for the Lord. Use the information in the first three verses.
2. Compare and contrast the following points about Jeremiah's call and our call from God.
 - A. The manner of the calling. (How does it come to us)
 - B. To what are we called?
 - C. "I am a youth" (v.6)
 - D. "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you" (v.8)
 - E. "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth" (v.9)
3. What did it mean to be a prophet of God? What would the job description sound like?
4. Please explain as best you can what is being confirmed to Jeremiah in verse 12.
5. Why has God chosen a prophet at this time?
6. How did God reveal His judgment was going to be carried out?
7. What attitude was Jeremiah commanded to have when instructing and informing the people?
8. How does this compare with how the New Testament instructs the Christian to teach others?
9. How do verses 5-6 relate to the modern concept of abortion?

Israel's Willful Sin

1. What did God remember about Israel's devotion from a youth?
2. How did Israel defile God's land and make His inheritance an abomination? (v.7)
3. Describe and discuss how the following groups had gone astray into apostasy: (v.8)
 - A. Priests: Malachi 2:7
 - B. Levites: 2 Chronicles 17:9
 - C. Rulers: Joshua 1:7-8; Deuteronomy 17:18-20
 - D. Prophets: 1 Kings 18:19
 - E. What responsibility did the people of the land have for following God's word?
How would they have been guilty of apostasy?
4. God said Israel had changed their glory for that which does not profit (v.11).
 - A. Explain this meaning in the context to the Israelites.
 - B. How do men change their glory today for that which does not profit?
5. What were the "two evils" God said the people committed?
6. Why did Israel have trouble with the surrounding nations? (v.14-19)
7. List the seven metaphors used in verse 20-28 to describe Israel's rejection of God.
What specific sin is being discussed?
8. How do Christians today illustrate and demonstrate God's condemning statement on Israel at the end of verse 31?

9. How often does God say Israel had forgotten Him?
10. What did Israel say when they called unto the Lord in chapter 3?
 - A. How does this compare with the attitude of the men who call upon the Lord today in times of trouble?
 - B. What was God's response to this attitude?
11. Jeremiah 3:5 is a passage we need to carefully apply to our own lives.
 - A. What did Jesus say in contrast to this attitude (Luke 22:42)?
 - B. In what specific ways do religious men want to have their own ways today?
 - C. What does God say is the result of this attitude?
12. Jeremiah 2:35 records how Israel said they were innocent. How could they believe they were innocent when God said their sin was so obvious?

God's Judgment on Judah

1. Why was God upset with Judah (3:6-10)? How did Judah commit adultery with "stones and trees" (v.9)?
2. What kind of return did the Lord desire from His people (3:10; 4:1-2)?
3. The word circumcision is used figuratively in 4:4.
 - A. Compare this with Romans 2:29 and explain the meaning.
 - B. How is circumcision used figuratively about the Christian in Colossians 2:11?
4. Discuss 4:14 in light of the modern Calvinistic concept of the Holy Spirit enabling a person to be right in God's sight. This false doctrine teaches that without the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit a man cannot do anything to save himself.
5. How does 4:22 describe those who do not follow God? How would you say it fits as a description of our generation?
6. What phrases tell us the attitude of the sinner's heart? (example: 5:13)
7. God warns of a great nation coming against them. What nation is He preparing to use? (you may wish to reference the time line).
8. God said "wicked men are found among My people" (5:26).
 - A. How are these men described?
 - B. Compare this with similar people described in the New Testament. What are they called in the New Testament?

9. 3:10's "returned in deception" sounds a lot like 6:14's "healed...superficially". What does this tell us of the attitude of the people? What warning is implied for us?
10. How is it we reach a point we are unable to blush (6:14-15)? Why is this a condemning statement from God?
11. Explain how 6:16 serves as an example of the appeal the New Caney Church of Christ is making in this community.
12. From this entire reading, list some of the key phrases used to describe the sin which so angered God. How do these compare with the phrases men use today to describe sin?

Hypocrisy in Worship

1. Of what specific hypocritical thing does God condemn Judah (7:8ff)?
2. What were the people doing in worship to idols (specifics)?
3. How does God describe the “religious leaders”? What is the state of spirituality in the land (8:8ff)?
4. Relate and explain Jeremiah’s attitude based on 8:18-9:2. How does this compare with New Testament teaching about the Christian’s attitude for the lost?
5. A general question – Which verse or group of verses would you say best describe today’s society in general?
6. Why did God say He was bringing all these terrible things upon the people? Give a reference from the reading.
7. What does God say He delights in (chapter 9)?
8. God warns the house of Israel to “not learn the way of the nations” (10:2). In what ways should Christians take this warning to heart? What specifics about the “nation” should we not learn?
9. How does God describe the worship of idols (Chapter 10)?

11. This entire passage speaks of the people not seeking the Lord. How does God describe those who do not seek Him? (Example: 7:26 "stiffened their neck")
12. Please explain the meaning of 10:23. How does this relate to the surrounding context of hypocrisy and disobedience?
13. While the people were heavily involved in worshipping idols, they continued to say, "this is the temple of the Lord" (7:4), "we are delivered" (7:10), "we are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us" (8:8), "peace, peace" (8:11). What types of hypocritical phrases might God condemn some in the church of saying?

Breaking The Covenant

1. What is a covenant?
2. What was the covenant between God and the Israelites? What is the covenant God has with us?
3. How was the covenant broken in our text? How would the covenant we live under be broken?
4. How did Israel “provoke” God (11:17)? How do we provoke God today?
5. Based on 11:18-19 about what was Jeremiah surprised? What does this tell us of the attitude of the people?
6. How would we word Jeremiah’s questions in 12:1?
7. How would Christian’s fit the description of those who have God near their lips and far from their mind (12:1)? What New Testament passages describe or warn of this same condition?
8. “No man lays it to heart” is a reference to what (12:11)? What is “it” in context?
9. Please explain the meaning of 12:15. What is revealed about God’s attitude toward the lost?

Results of the Broken Covenant

1. What was the “pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem” (13:9) that the Lord was going to destroy?
2. How did God view those who would not obey him (13:9-11)? How does this relate to believers in Jesus who are unwilling to obey?
3. God is love (1 John 4:8). This being so, please explain 13:14; 14:10 and 14:12.
4. Judah’s exile is foretold in 13:19 and following. Why was this their lot?
5. Chapter 14 finds the people suffering from a drought. Verses 7-8 record Judah’s cries unto God. Do they show remorse, repentance, understanding for why this is happening to them?
6. What did Jeremiah say the prophets were saying? What did God say about this?
7. Jeremiah’s question in 14:19 is a VERY good question. He asks if God will annul the covenant (14:21). From the beginning of chapter 15, what is God’s reply?
8. What did Manasseh do in Jerusalem (15:4)? Is God bringing all this to pass because of the sin of one man?
9. What will God’s attitude be toward us if we “keep going backward” (15:6)?
10. How does Jeremiah describe his own behavior in the midst of corrupt Judah? How does this relate to our behavior as Christians?
11. Did God give Jeremiah any hope for Judah’s salvation (15:19)?

"If you listen to Me..."

1. How is the coming calamity against Judah described in 16:9?
2. Based on 16:10, what knowledge of God's Law did the people have? How did they come to this point?
3. Select a phrase or phrases from chapter 16 that describe the sin of Judah, but which could also be said of men in religious groups today.
4. "They have polluted My land" (16:18). How can men today similarly "pollute" the church?
5. 17:1 speaks of an "iron stylus with a diamond point". Why does God use this figurative language about writing on the tablets of their heart? How was God going to write down their sin? What is the meaning?
6. 17:4 "you have kindled a fire in My anger which will burn forever".
 - A. Was God's anger forever against the people of Judah? How do you explain 16:15?
 - B. Verse 5-8 give blessings and curses. What are they?
 - C. Explain the comparisons that begin: "he will be like..."
7. 17:12-18 appears to be a statement of Jeremiah. What did the people keep saying to him? How will those who forsake God be put to shame?
8. God commanded Jeremiah to teach the truth about the Sabbath. What was the resulting attitude of the people?
9. From 17:24-27 describe the power of the word "if". How is this word used in the New Testament about our salvation?

Signs with Pottery

1. What point did God make in the first sign at the potter's house (18:1-12)?
2. How did the people forget God (18:15)? How is it we can forget God and not follow the ancient paths?
3. 18:18 is an interesting verse. Though the people chose to not listen to Jeremiah, what DID they think about the things he said?
4. What was God's point in the second sign dealing with pottery (19:1-13)?
5. What specific sin had the people committed in forsaking God (19:4-5)?
6. What was Pashur's response to Jeremiah's preaching?
7. God now identifies the nation of _____ which He will use to bring Judah down.
8. Chapter 20 ends with Jeremiah saying "days have been spent in shame". What caused him to think this?
9. What was like "a burning fire shut up" in his bones? Should we have this sort of fire in us?
10. "The Lord is with me like a dread companion" (20:11). What was the result of the Lord being with him? How does this compare with Romans 8:31?

God is Against the Kings of Judah

1. What did Zedekiah want Jeremiah to say? What did the Lord tell Zedekiah (21:1-7)?
2. "I set before you the way of life and the way of death" (21:8).
 - A. What choice did God give the people in this instance?
 - B. "The city" is not named. What city might we suppose it to be?
 - C. How does God set before us the way of life and the way of death?
3. From 21:13-14 describe the mind-set of the inhabitants. How significant was it that God said "I am against you"? Punishment was given according to what?
4. What instructions did God give the King of Judah in 22:1-5?
5. How was the house of the King of Judah like "Gilead" to God (22:6)?
6. God says "to know" Him (22:16) is to do what?
7. Jehoiakim would not listen to the Lord. This was a practice from his " _____ " (22:21). He was going to be ashamed and humiliated because of his " _____ " (22:22). How important is it to learn obedience at an early age? Will anyone be ashamed and humiliated in the judgment day? Why?
8. How had the Kings of Judah not "tended" their flock? 23:4 speaks of a good shepherd being raised up. Who might this have been?
9. The beginning of chapter 23 revolves around the remnant that will be saved. How was this promise of God fulfilled?
10. How was Judah going to be saved and Israel dwell securely?

False Teachers

1. The Lord says both _____ and _____ are polluted (23:11).
2. What were the prophets in Samaria doing that God found offensive? Those in Jerusalem?
3. The pollution of the prophets spread to "all the land" (23:15). Compare these statements about the prophets with the role of the elder in the local church. Consider third John's statements about Diotrophes. Who does God hold accountable for knowing the truth?
4. From 23:25 and following, describe what the false prophets were doing and saying. God says these "do not furnish this people the _____" (23:32).
5. "Every man's own word will become the oracle" (23:36). Can this be seen in the world today? How?
6. What truth does God tell Jeremiah by use of good figs and bad figs (chapter 24)?
7. How long did Jeremiah teach the word of the Lord (25:3)? What does this reveal about God's patience with men?
8. Of what significance is the "70 years" spoken of in 25:12?
9. What was "the cup of the wine of wrath" that all the nations listed were made to drink from? What was Jeremiah to prophesy against them?
10. What does the end of chapter 25 reveal about God's wrath? How do we anger the Lord today? What will be the result of His fierce anger on us?

Standing for Truth in the Face of Conflict

1. God told Jeremiah: "Do not omit a word" (26:2). What was the penalty if Jeremiah did leave out a word (Ezek. 3:17-21)? What is our penalty for omitting portions of God's word?
2. What was the reaction of the people to Jeremiah's relaying God's word? What was Jeremiah's response?
3. Some of the elders rose up and compared Jeremiah to which two prophets? "We are committing a great _____ against ourselves". Who stood with Jeremiah and prevented the mob from taking him?
4. Why did Jeremiah prophesy "why will you die" to king Zedekiah? What is the context and meaning?
5. Who did Jeremiah prophesy that the people should not listen to? What test did he propose for these men?
6. What message did the prophet Hananiah bring to Jeremiah in the house of the Lord (28:1ff)?
7. In chapter 27 God instructed Jeremiah to wear what? How long did he walk about with this on (28:10)?
8. What happened to Hananiah? Why?
9. In Jeremiah's first letter to the exiles in Babylon (chapter 29), how does God reveal He will fulfill His promise of a remnant returning?
10. To find God we must search for him with _____
(*more than one word*)

11. What would happen to those who were not taken into exile because they would not listen to God? What will happen to us if we do not listen to God?
12. Name the two false prophets who prophesied in Babylon. How did they die? How does this relate to Daniel's prophecy?
13. Shemaiah the Nehelamite sent letters "in his own name" (his own authority) to those in Jerusalem. Jeremiah says Shemaiah made the people trust a lie. Death to Shemaiah and his descendants was God's punishment. What did God say Shemaiah preached? What about all those in the world today teaching error – what does God think of them and those who follow them?

Restoration of the Lord

1. God's anger and displeasure with Israel's idolatrous practices did not diminish during the captivity. How much did He punish the nation of Israel? What does God say of them in 30:15?
2. Why did God restore the nation (30:18-22)?
3. What was God's attitude toward the people (31:3, 9, 10, 20)?
4. How did God ransom and redeem the remnant (31:11)? How did God ransom and redeem us?
5. 31:22-30 teaches who will be restored?
6. When will the restoration of the Lord take place (31:31-34)? [Consider also 31:1 "at that time" which refers back to 30:24]
7. Why did God have Jeremiah buy some land? What was taking place at the time of the purchase? What New Testament passage(s) support this concept of obeying and praying to God even when we don't understand all the "whys"?
8. Why did God's anger settle on Israel and Judah (32:30-35)?
9. 33:15 says a "righteous branch of David" will spring forth. What is this a prophecy of and where is it fulfilled?

10. Chapter 30-33 are referred to as "the Book of Consolation" because it contains the most hopeful expressions in the entire prophecy. Within these four chapters are many wonderful prophecies which demonstrate when God's promises of restoration would ultimately be fulfilled. Many of these have a two-fold meaning. The fleshly meaning can be traced in the history following the return of Ezra and Nehemiah. The spiritual can be traced through Jesus Christ. Read the related passages below and be prepared to discuss in class how each prophecy is fulfilled. (*chart taken from "Jeremiah and Lamentations", p. 89, by Robert Harkrider*)
- A. Shall serve David 30:9; 33:14-16 (Jer. 23:5-8; Lk. 1:31-33; Acts 2:30-36)
 - B. Ruler comes from their midst 30:12 (Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:6)
 - C. Ye shall be My people 30:22; 31:7, 14, 33; 32:38; 33:24 (2 Cor. 6:14-18)
 - D. Fulfilled "in the latter days" 30:24 (Dan. 2:28; Is. 2:2-4; Hosea 3:5; Jer. 48:47; 49:6, 39; Acts 2:16-17; Heb. 1:1-2)
 - E. Israel shall return to Zion 31:6 Is. 2:2-3; Micah 4:6-7; Jer. 3:14-18; 32:36-44; Heb. 12:22-23)
 - F. A remnant shall be saved 31:7 (Is. 10:20-22; Rom. 9:27-28; 11:5)
 - G. Weeping at His birth 31:15 (Matt. 2:17)
 - H. A new attitude 31:29-30 (Gal. 6:5-8; Rom. 2:6-11; 14:12)
 - I. A new Covenant (31:31-34 (Heb. 8:8-11; 10:16-17; Jer. 50:5)
 - J. Seed of Israel ceaseless 31:35-37 (Gal. 3:26-29; 6:16; Rom. 9:7-8)
 - K. Jerusalem will not fall 31:38-40 (Dan. 2:44 Heb. 12:22-28)
 - L. Perpetual King and Priest 33:17-18 (Zech. 6:12-13; Heb. 7:25-28; 9:11-12; 10:10-14; 8:1)

Prophecies against Zedekiah (part 1)

1. What did God reveal would happen to Zedekiah (34:1-7)?
2. What covenant did the people enter with Zedekiah? What was God's Law concerning slavery among the Jews? (see 34:8-16)
3. What "release" or "liberty" does God proclaim for Judah (34:17-22)?
4. From the events of chapter 34, and the attitude of God, what can we learn about the patience of God?
5. What example does God make of the Rechabites in chapter 35?
6. What application can be made toward those who abide by the teaching of Joseph Smith, John Calvin, Martin Luther or some other man (chapter 35)?
7. How do men fail to listen to God (35:14-17)? How can we in the church be guilty of possessing the same attitudes of the Israelites?
8. Why did God declare "Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me always" (35:19)?
9. Who wrote down the dictation of Jeremiah and wrote a scroll (chapter 36)? What does this chapter reveal about his character?
10. What was God's intention of having this scroll read to the king? What was Jehoiakim's response (chapter 36)? What was the attitude of his court who heard the reading?
11. What is God's intention of having words of warning included in the New Testament? How do men respond to passages like 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, Hebrews 2:1-3, Rev. 20:12-15, John 12:48-50 and many others?

Prophecies Against Zedekiah (part 2)

1. What was the attitude of the people toward Jeremiah (37:2)? How does this compare with prevailing attitudes today towards God's word?
2. Why was Jeremiah arrested (chapter 37)?
3. Who removed Jeremiah from the prison, hid him and provided for him? What question does this person ask of Jeremiah (37:17)?
4. Who despised what Jeremiah was saying to the extent they wanted him dead (chapter 38)? What was the King's attitude toward them (38:5)?
5. Which Egyptian saved Jeremiah's life? How?
6. Jeremiah pleaded with king Zedekiah to obey the Lord (38:20). What did God want him to do?
7. What were the horrible consequences for disobeying on this occasion?
8. What was the result of Ebed-melech's trusting in the Lord (chapter 39)?
9. What are our consequences for disobeying or trusting God today?

Jeremiah Remains In Judah

1. Nebuzaradan was a pivotal figure in the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - A. Why does he say this happened (40:1-3)?
 - B. What does this tell us of God's use of nations to bring about his will?
2. Who was appointed by Nebuchadnezzar to rule in the land of Judah?
3. What was this ruler's attitude about a threat on his life?
4. What further calamity strikes the remnant of Judah which remained in the land (chapter 41).
5. From Jeremiah 42:1-6 describe the drastic change in the attitude of the people. What caused this change?
6. Why was God willing to relent concerning the calamity that was befalling the people (v.10ff)?
7. Compare these events with Jonah 3:1-10.
8. Examine the following passages to determine God's attitude about relenting toward us.
 - A. 2 Peter 3:9-15
 - B. 2 Corinthians 6:1-3
 - C. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9
 - D. Matthew 25:31-46

Calamity Predicted For Disobedience

1. What was the attitude of the people toward the voice of the Lord through Jeremiah (43:1-7)?
2. Men are not so bold today as to say the word of God is a lie. What DO men say that indicates that is their belief? Have the attitudes of men really changed much?
3. With what title does God speak of Nebuchadnezzar (43:10)? Why is this important?
4. What was God's message to the Israelites in Egypt (chapter 43)?
5. Why did God destroy Jerusalem and all the cities of Judah (44:1-6)?
6. What were the people now doing in Egypt (44:7-10)?
7. Give two examples of how men have similarly not become contrite today, despite the history of the Israelites recorded for our learning.
 - A.
 - B.
8. God again warns of utter destruction of the remnant in Egypt (44:15-19). What is the sentiment of the people toward Jeremiah and God?
9. How did God intend to demonstrate what was truth (44:28-29)?
10. How do these readings agree with "God is love" (1 John 4:8) and He is "longsuffering" (2 Peter 3:9)?
11. Are there any New Testament equivalent phrases for "I am watching over them for harm and not for good" (44:27)?

Prophecies Against Nations

1. What message did God have for Baruch?
2. What was the prophecy regarding Egypt (46:2-12)?
3. What was the prophecy concerning Babylon (46:13-24)?
4. Who is verse 25 referring to when it says "those that trust" Pharaoh?
5. What two messages did God have for Israel (46:27-28)?
 - A.
 - B.
6. What was the prophecy concerning Philistia (47:1-7)?
7. What was the prophecy concerning Moab (48:1-47)?
 - A. Who was "Chemosh" (48:7, 13, 46)?
 - B. What was God's attitude toward Moab (48:36)?
 - C. What final word of hope is given (48:47)?

8. What was the prophecy concerning Ammon (49:1-6)?
9. What was the prophecy concerning Edom (49:7-22)?
10. What was the prophecy concerning Damascus (49:23-27)?
11. What was the prophecy concerning Kedar and Hazor (49:28-33)?
12. What was the prophecy concerning Elam (49:34-39)?
13. Who is in control of the nations even today? What point should be made in regard to the battles nations fight (such as the U.S.'s involvement in military engagements)?

Prophecies Against Babylon

1. Who were "Bel" and "Marduk" (50:2)?
2. What is stated as being a result of the calamity on Babylon (50:4-5)?
3. From 50:7 do we learn anything about God's attitude toward those who mislead others?
4. Clearly (from previous chapters) God was using Babylon to accomplish His will. Why is He now declaring their destruction (50:11-13, 28-29; 51:49)?
5. 50:20 finally mentions a "remnant".
 - A. Where will this remnant live?
 - B. What will be their attitude toward God's Law?
6. How has archeology confirmed the prophecy of 50:38-40 and 51:36-37? Remember Babylon was the location of the "hanging gardens", and 51:13 states they "dwell by many waters".
7. Who were the "people...from the north" and the "remote parts of the earth" that would be used to destroy Babylon (50:41)?
8. Why is this warning about Babylon given to the Israelites (51:6-9)?
9. How does Jehovah compare with idols (51:15-20)?
10. What instructions were given to Seraiah (51:59-64)? What does this tell us about Seraiah's faith and conviction? What was His position (52:24)?

Fall Of Jerusalem / Review

1. What was the military plan that led to the destruction of Jerusalem (52:1-11)?
2. What physically became of Jerusalem (52:12-17)?
3. Name three items from the temple riches that you found surprising or of surpassing value which were taken as booty. (52:17-23)
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
4. What became of Seraiah and the other leaders of Judah?
5. How many people were carried away into exile (52:28-30)?
6. What is significant about Jehoiachin while in exile? Why does the account end with this information (52:31-34)?

REVIEW

What is the theme of the book of Jeremiah?

Why was God so upset with the people of Judah?

What attitudes did they repeatedly demonstrate?

What grand lessons are taught about which we need to make applications?

What is your impression and understanding of Jeremiah as a person?