



CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

BIBLE SURVEY

THE UN-DEVOTIONAL

JEREMIAH 1-33

Week 4

Drinking the Cup of Wrath

Jeremiah 25

OPENING
up to the Word

What are the worst consequences you've ever had to endure for a mistake you made? How long did the consequences last?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. How many years had Jeremiah been prophesying to Israel up to this point (v. 3)?
 2. How many years were decreed ahead of time for Israel to be in exile in Babylon (v. 11)?
 3. What would be God's punishment against Babylon for its sins (vs. 12-14)?
 4. By what act (vs. 15-17) would God depict his judgment against many nations?
 5. Do you think Jeremiah was meant to take a real cup to all these kingdoms (vs. 18-26), or was this meant to be figurative?
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LIVING
out the Word

1. Do you remember a time in your life when you paid a stiff price for a specific action?
 2. How did God display his mercy?
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WINDOW
on the Word

"I took the cup...and made all the nations to whom he sent me drink it" (v. 17). It isn't likely that Jeremiah went to all these nations. The cup represents the wrath of God. Jeremiah declared the Lord's judgment on the nations, and Babylon was the instrument of that judgment.

DISASTERS TO COME

Although Jeremiah prophesied the destruction of the Kingdom of Judah, that nation would by no means be the only recipient of God's punishment. Jeremiah 25 lists many other nations guilty of idolatry and other sins of judgment.

1. Judah	Babylon's destruction of Judah (Jer 25:8-11).
2. Babylon	Will be punished for its own individual sins (vs. 12-14).
3. Egypt, Uz and Philistia:	In the southwest (vs. 19-20).
4. Edom, Moab and Ammon:	In the southeast (v. 21).
5. Tyre, Sidon and the coastlands.	In the northeast (v. 22).
6. Dedan, Teman, Buz:	And other nations in the farthest corners of the earth (v. 23).
7. Arabia:	And the desert peoples (vs. 24-25).
8. The North:	All the kings and kingdoms on the face of the earth (v. 26).

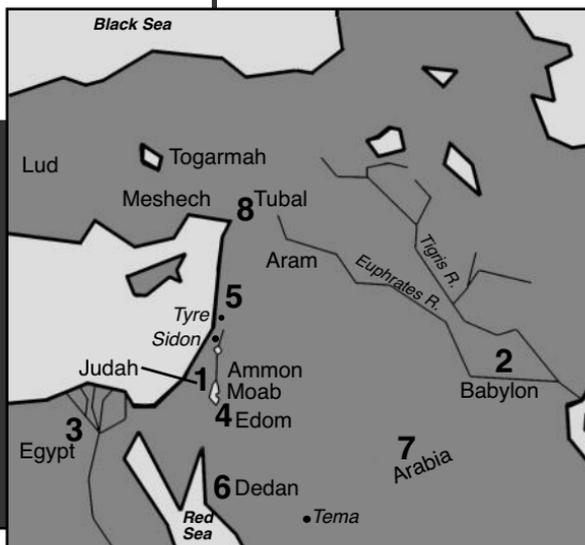


Chart and Map adapted from the *Word in Life Study Bible*

On Trial

Jeremiah 26

OPENING
up to the Word

Have you ever participated in, or watched a trial in a courtroom?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. What hope did God hold out to the people, in spite of the punishment they were bringing on themselves (v. 3)?
2. Where was Shiloh (v. 6) and why was it considered an object of cursing?
3. Who were the ringleaders who were trying to get Jeremiah condemned to death (vs. 7-8)?
4. What did the officials and the people decide about Jeremiah's fate (v. 16), and what was their reasoning?
5. What other faithful prophets are mentioned in this chapter (vs. 17-23)?

LIVING
out the Word

1. If you were put on trial because of the life Jesus has lived in you, who do you think would be your supporters, and who do you think would be your accusers?
2. Our faithfulness is not something we produce—it is the faith we are given, part of God's incredible grace toward us.

WINDOW
on the Word

*The town of **Shiloh** (v. 6), not far from Jerusalem, was at one time a resting-place for the Ark of the Covenant. It had been destroyed in 1050 B.C. by the Philistines, and its ruins were still visible in the time of Jeremiah. Shiloh had been home to Samuel the prophet. For over 100 years after the conquest it was Israel's religious center and the home of Israel's Tabernacle. Jeremiah was warning Israel that Jerusalem wasn't safe just because it housed the Temple, any more than Shiloh had been safe when it housed the Ark.*

MARTYRS IN SCRIPTURE

Abel

Genesis 4:1-8

Killed by his brother Cain because he offered a more acceptable sacrifice to God. Jesus praised him for being a model of righteousness (*Mt 23:35*).

Zechariah

2 Chronicles 24:20-22

A prophet stoned by his countrymen, including king Joash, for rebuking their idolatry. He was also praised by Jesus as one whose “righteous blood” had been unjustly spilled (*Mt 23:35*).

Uriah

Jeremiah 26:20-23

A prophet murdered and hunted down by wicked King Jehoiakim.

John the Baptist

(Mark 6:17-29)

Executed under the orders of King Herod after his wife Herodias demanded John’s death because he criticized their adulterous marriage.

Peter

John 21:18-19

Jesus’ follower and a leader of the early church. Tradition says he was crucified under orders from emperor Nero.

Stephen

Acts 7:54-60

An early evangelist stoned to death by members of the Jewish Council after delivering an incisive speech that implicated them in the death of Jesus.

Unnamed martyrs

Hebrews 11:37
Revelation 17:6

People of faith killed for their unswerving loyalty to God.

Antipas

Revelation 2:13

A little-known person of the early church at Pergamos, whose death encouraged other believers to stand firm for the Lord.

Bow to the King!

Jeremiah 27

OPENING
up to the Word

Have you ever lost your freedom, even temporarily, to an authority or government? What do you think it would be like to lose your freedom, be occupied, or worse, be removed forever from your home country?

DIGGING
into the Word

- 1.** How long did God say all the nations would serve Babylon and its kings (v. 7)?
- 2.** Who would punish those countries that refused to serve Babylon (v. 8)? (a) Babylon herself, (b) God, (c) the Medes and the Persians.
- 3.** If a nation listened and believed God's prophecy and submitted to Babylon, what did God promise them (v. 11)?
- 4.** The false prophets were promising something to Israel that God said wouldn't happen. What were they promising (v. 16)?
- 5.** What did God say the false prophets should do (vs. 18-22)?

LIVING
out the Word

- 1.** Have you ever had to be under the authority of someone you didn't like?
- 2.** Do you feel that others have abused their authority over you? How?
- 3.** Has anyone in authority over you exercised his or her authority graciously? What made them different from the others?

Dueling Prophets

DAY 25

Jeremiah 28

When two spiritual leaders contradict each other, or when one accuses the other of being a false prophet, how do you determine who is right and who is wrong?

1. What was the name of the prophet who contradicted Jeremiah's prophecy (v. 1)?
2. What did he prophesy that contradicted Jeremiah (vs. 2-4)?
3. What did Jeremiah say was the only true sign of a prophet of peace (v. 9)?
4. What dramatic gesture did Hananiah perform to demonstrate that Nebuchadnezzar would never invade Judah (vs. 10-11)?
5. Hananiah quickly received an answer from the Lord regarding his prophecy. What was God's answer (vs. 15-17)?

1. How can you tell when someone is claiming to speak for the Lord, but really isn't?
2. Can you tell a false prophet only by the message, or can the person's character and integrity be a tip-off as well?
3. What are the most important things you look for in a person who claims to speak for God?

*Not much is known about **Hananiah**, and the name is a common one. He was from Gibeon, about six miles northwest of Jerusalem. Gibeon was a town Joshua had assigned to the priests (Jos 21:17-18). Hananiah may have been from a priestly family.*

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

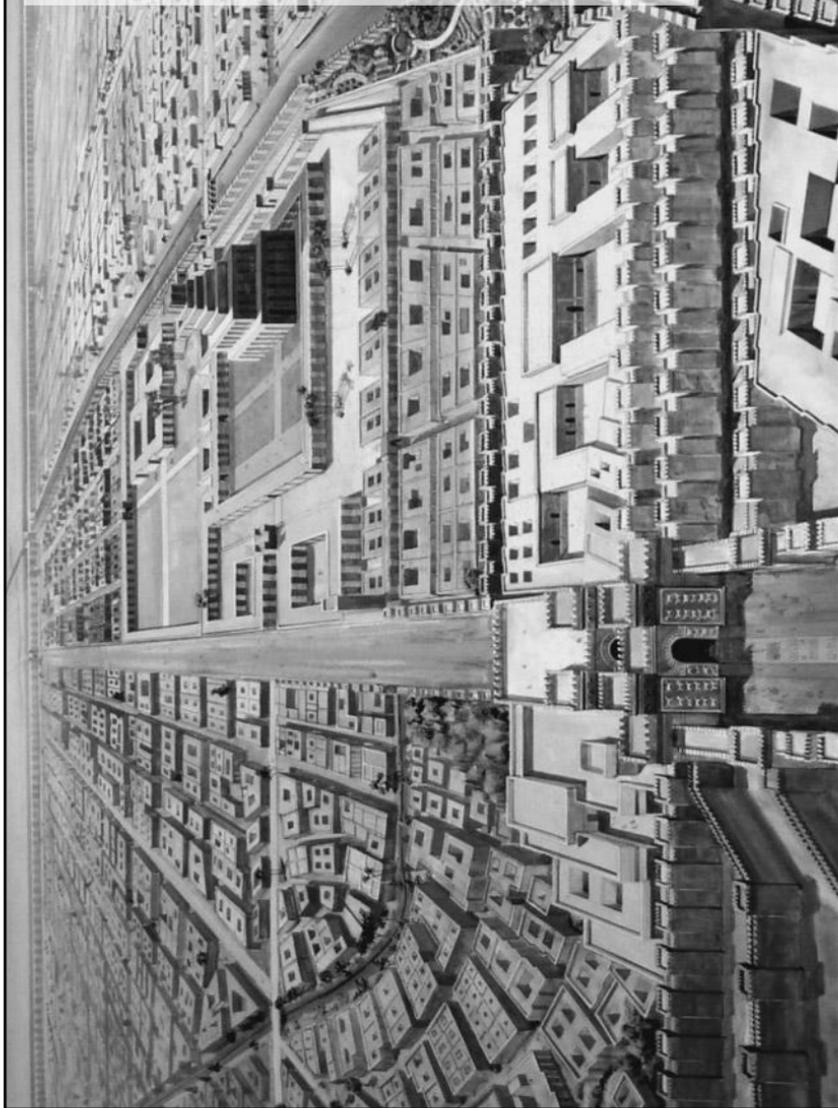
out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

*“This is what
the Lord
Almighty, the
God of Israel,
says to all those
I carried into
exile from
Jerusalem to
Babylon: ‘Build
houses and
settle down;
plant gardens
and eat what
they produce.’”*

Jeremiah 29:4-5



Babylon in the time of Nebuchadnezzar—Artwork by C.W.Taylor

Get Comfortable— Stay Awhile

DAY 26

Jeremiah 29

Have you ever had to move somewhere you didn't want to live? Did your feelings about your new home eventually change?

1. What amazing message did God have for the Jewish exiles in Babylon (vs. 4-6)?
2. God asked the exiles to pray for something in their captivity (v. 7). What good thing would happen if they did?
3. What kind of plans did God have in the future for disobedient Israel (vs. 10-14)? Can we learn anything about God's intentions for us from this passage? Do you feel this is to be taken as a guarantee for Christians of *physical* prosperity?
4. Ahab and Zedekiah (not the king) were not only false prophets, but were guilty of what other sin (v. 23)?

1. When bad things happen to you, do you ever feel God has completely abandoned and given up on you? What promise of God can we cling to at this time (Heb 13:5)?

2. Can God bless you even when you are suffering for your sins? Can you think of a personal example?

3. Jeremiah 29:11 is one of the most popular and most quoted verses in many churches and ministries. It is completely removed from its historical context so that it seems to be a promise for God to all people at all times.

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

Thy Kingdom

Come

Jeremiah 30

OPENING
up to the Word

When you think of the future—what wonderful thing do you dream will happen to you or your family? _____

DIGGING
into the Word

1. The Lord told Jeremiah that the days were coming when something wonderful would happen to Israel and Judah. What would happen (v. 3)?

2. Before those wonderful days, there would be the “time of trouble for Jacob” (v. 7). What do you think this refers to?

3. Jeremiah said that God would one day raise up David as king of Israel (v. 9). Who does this refer to?

4. Jeremiah pronounced five predicaments in which the Jews found themselves (vs. 12-13). What were they?

5. What would be rebuilt and stand in its proper place (v. 18)? _____

LIVING
out the Word

1. What will you be most happy to leave behind in this life and gain in the next?

2. What do you think is the greatest difference between God’s kingdom (both in its present and future tense) and this present world?

WINDOW
on the Word

Notice the close proximity of the phrase “the Lord their God” with “**David their king**” (v. 9). This seems to be speaking not of a literal resurrection of David, but of a king from the Davidic line. Many commentators feel this must refer to Christ, the true King. Among the Jews, the name David came to be synonymous with royalty.

Jeremiah 31

Are there people in your life whom you seem to favor over others because they are so dear to you? What makes someone special to you?

1. What message had God given to Israel in the past that bore repeating (v. 3)?
2. What does the saying “the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge” mean (vs. 29-30)?
3. What kind of a covenant was God going to make with Israel (v. 31), and how has that covenant affected you?
4. What changes would the new covenant usher in (vs. 33-34)?
5. What would have to happen before God would ever reject all the descendants of Israel (v. 37)?

1. Do you ever wish you had the ability to make everything perfect for someone you love?
2. What would you change in the lives of those you love the most if you had the power?

“A woman will surround a man” (v. 22) is a difficult verse to understand, and it has given rise to many different interpretations. Some say it refers to a woman courting a man instead of the other way around, a woman protecting a man or women protecting Israel in time of attack so the men could keep working. There are many other interpretations as well. Perhaps it was a Hebrew proverb intended to describe something amazing and hard to believe.

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

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LIVING

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WINDOW

on the Word

Real Estate Investing for the Future

Jeremiah 32

OPENING
up to the Word

Have you ever bought any land (or known someone who has) and seen it greatly increase in value?

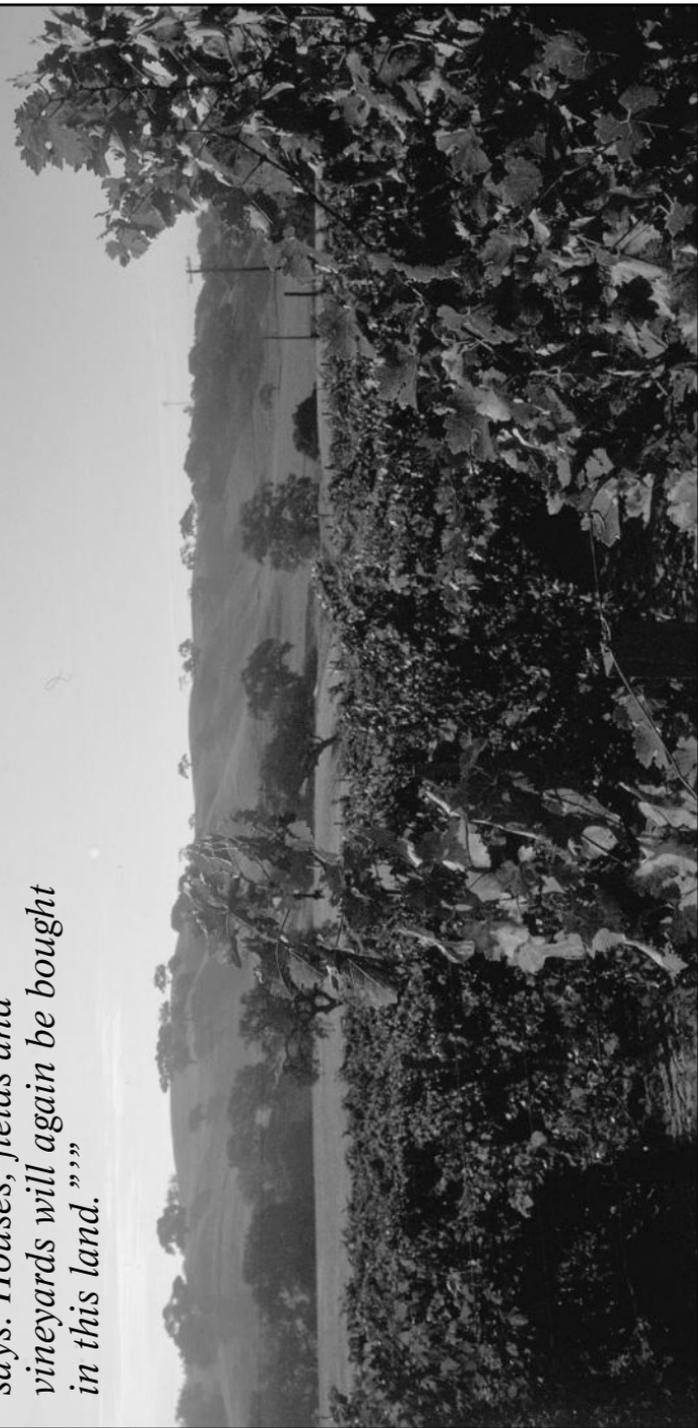
DIGGING
into the Word

1. Who was going to offer Jeremiah an opportunity to buy some real estate (vs. 6-7)?
 2. Why did God want Jeremiah to buy the field from his relative (vs. 13-16)?
 3. What did God accuse Israel of doing—even when he reached out to them repeatedly in mercy (vs. 32-35)?
 4. How long would God's future covenant with Israel last (v. 40)?
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LIVING
out the Word

1. What are some things that we will lose in this life, but gain in the next?
2. Like Jeremiah, we are called by God to invest in future realities that will not pay off in this world. Can you think of several such future realities?
3. What are the most precious physical commodities in your world, and how do they compare with the blessings of God's eternal kingdom?

““For this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.””





““I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before.””

Jeremiah 33:7

Promises That Can't Be Broken

DAY 30

Jeremiah 33

Do you remember a time in your life when someone promised you something special, yet did not deliver? Do you remember a time when someone made you a special promise and *did* deliver? How did you react both times?

1. Where was Jeremiah confined when he received this message (v. 1)?
 2. What did God promise to tell Jeremiah (v. 3)?
 3. How would all the nations respond to God's extravagant blessing of Israel (vs. 7-9)?
 4. Who or what is the *righteous Branch* (v. 15)?
 5. What would have to happen before God would break his covenant to have a descendant of David reign (vs. 20-21)?
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1. What is the best promise anyone ever made to you?
 2. Why is that promise more important than all the others?
 3. What promise of God means the most to you, and why?
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Righteous Branch (v. 15) is just one of many terms Jeremiah used to describe the coming Messiah, the descendant of David. For example, in 2:13, he is described as the "spring of living water;" in 31:10, he is called a "shepherd" and in 50:34, he is called the "Redeemer." Note Luke 1:31-33.

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