



Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Zephaniah
Jeremiah 1-22

Week 32

Daily Reading Plan:

- __ Zephaniah
- __ Jeremiah 1-5
- __ Jeremiah 6-9
- __ Jeremiah 10-13
- __ Jeremiah 14-17
- __ Jeremiah 18-22
- __ REST*

*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:

- Jer. 23-40
- Ps. 74,79
- 2 Kings 24-25
- 2 Chron.36

MEMORY VERSE:

The Lord your God is
with you,
he is **MIGHTY** to
save.
He will take great
delight in you,
he will quiet you with
his **love**,
he will **rejoice** over
you with singing."
Zeph. 3:17

THE WORTH OF A LIFE Jer. 1:5

“When does life begin?” is one of today’s big questions. If we were really honest, what we are actually asking is “When does life count?”, which challenges us to define what credentials we are going to use to determine the worth of a life.

I saw a man in India who was missing the lower half of his body. He had a scooter type thing that he pushed himself around on. In the United States he would have lots of options for a “productive” life. In India, there is little he could do other than beg for the means of his survival. What was the worth of his life?

My first grandchild died 5 months after her conception. Her tiny body had perfect little feet with the tiniest of toes. She had a cute little nose and mouth, and though her life was gone I had the reactions of love for her that I suppose all grandma’s experience. No one is quite sure how to grieve for her because to many she never really existed. We never **knew** her. What was the worth of that child’s life?

Not so very long ago, a man in Europe dared to define for his nation what qualities made a life count, made it be worthy of existence. Millions upon millions died according to his definition of their unworthiness. What was the worth of their lives?

It is indeed a very important question, and one that we must look to the Creator of life to answer.

How is the question answered in each of these verses?

Ps. 139:14-16 _____

Is. 49:1 _____

Jer. 1:5 _____

How can we know the plans that God has for each person, born or unborn?

What is the measure of a life’s worth?



GOD'S DELIGHT Zeph. 3:17

Have you ever found yourself in awe of the beauty and diversity of God's creation? When we go to the mountains of Colorado, I am moved by their majesty. They are so huge, and beautiful, rising up beyond where even the hardiest of trees can grow. They have a sort of dignity and solidity that I almost envy. I can understand how God could look at His creation of the world and say "it is good". But God didn't stop with the majestic. A display of rocks and minerals at a museum reminded me that God loves diversity. He thought up brain coral and Herkimer diamonds hidden in the drabest looking of rocks. He made plain old limestone along with the jade and amethyst and turquoise. I think He must have had great fun planning His creation, and then looking down on it.

The thing I forget sometimes though, is that His crowning achievement, the best of the best, was His creation of mankind. I think God delights in the formation of geodes and crystals, but He doesn't have relationship with them in the way He does with us. We are the only part of creation made with the ability to choose Him. We are the part of creation that He wants to live with forever and ever. We are the part of creation designated as His holy temple, the place in the entire vast universe that He desires to dwell. We are the Creator's pet, the favored ones, His pride and joy. We are His delight.

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing." Zeph. 3:17



DIES IRAE Zeph. 1:2-18

Dies Irae (Latin for "day of wrath") was composed by Thomas of Celano in the thirteenth century. It is a hymn included in the Roman Catholic funeral mass. Parts of it have been used in compositions by Mozart and Verdi. Parts of their melodies have become familiar today as the background music that signals impending doom in many movies. (Schippe and Stetson 125)

How do you reconcile God's love for, and delight in us with all the messages of destruction and doom? _____

Scripture gives us a balanced message of both God's love and God's wrath. Why is it so important for us to understand both? _____

Which do you think most people focus on more when they think about what God is like? _____

"BUT GOD, I'M ONLY..." Jer. 1:6-9

Jeremiah didn't feel up to the job that God was calling him to do. After all, he was **only** a child. The actual age of Jeremiah isn't all that important, but his feeling of inadequacy is. How often do we hold back from something because of the onlies? "But God, I am only a woman... only a housewife... only an old lady...only a young woman...only a single....only one person..." The list can go on and on.

Realizing our inadequacies can be a good starting place, as long as it doesn't become our stopping place. How did God answer Jeremiah's "I'm only..."? _____

What are some places that you feel disqualified because you are "only"? _____

What is God's answer to you in 2 Cor. 9:8-15? _____

What are some ways that you have seen Him supply you with the skills and resources that have enabled you to serve Him? _____

GOOD ROOTS Jer. 17:7-8

The trunk, branches, leaves and fruit of a tree are what we see and appreciate, but it is the underground root system that is vital for its survival. It is a storehouse for the food reserves necessary for new leaves in the spring. The roots absorb and transport water and minerals from the soil to the rest of the tree. They extend two to four times the diameter of the top of the tree and provide an anchor for the whole tree. (Sillick and Jacobi) A seedling might only have two to six feet of root length, but a mature oak tree has a root system that may be hundreds of miles in length. ("Tree Roots") Roots need water,



minerals and oxygen, as well as space, to grow. The tree reflects the health of the root system.

As the Creator of trees and roots and you and me, God knows that we work much the same. How can we be like the tree whose roots extend out to the stream? _____

I AM THE CLAY ... Jer. 18

One of my children just bought a block of clay with her birthday money. She was so excited about all the possibilities as she unwrapped the pretty drab looking hunk, that she chattered with anticipation about all the things that formless stuff would become. Not everyone shared her enthusiasm, unable to see in it what she saw.

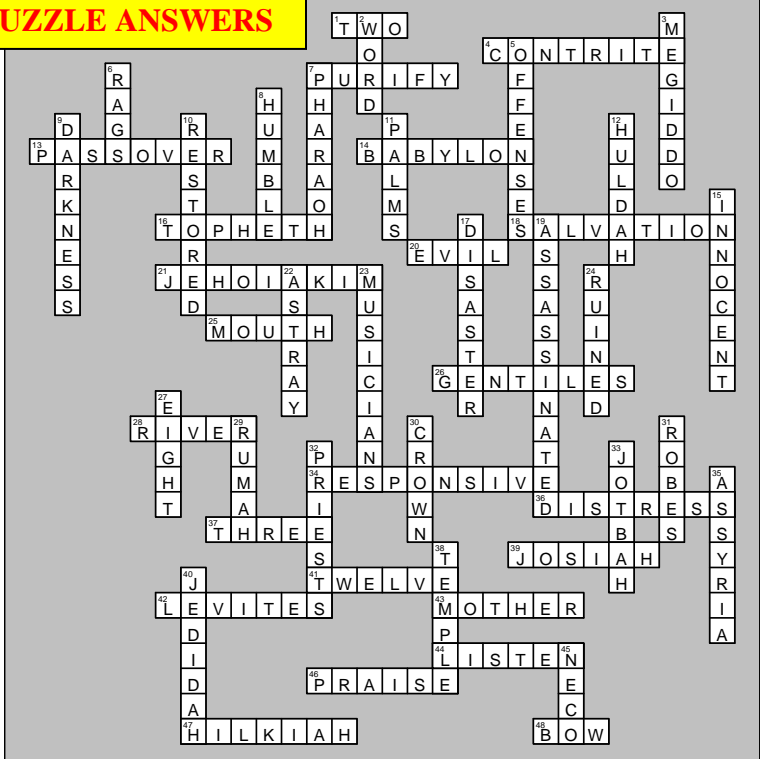
How like God that must be. He has a picture in His mind of what we can be in His hands as the Master Potter. As long as we remain pliable, we can be smashed down and reshaped an endless amount of times until it comes out right.

That was God's message to Israel. They, like all the nations, are clay in His hands. He will use whatever painful disasters and tools needed to shape them into His image for them. The job of the clay is only to yield.

How did the Israelites respond to the invitation to avoid disaster in Jer. 18:12? _____

How soft would you say your clay is? _____

**WEEK 31
PUZZLE ANSWERS**



FIRE IN MY BONES Jer. 20:9

Why was Jeremiah angry at God (v. 7,8)? _____

Have you ever felt a burden to speak like Jeremiah describes in v. 9? _____

Was it worse for Jeremiah to speak, or not to speak? _____

What did Peter and John claim in Acts 4:18-20? _____

How often do you speak about what you have seen and heard? _____

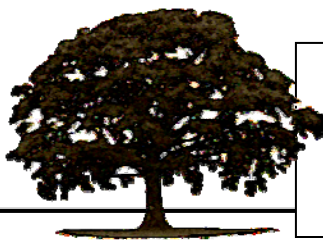
THE WILD VINE Jer. 2:21

God calls them a “wild vine”, not a label that we usually use for the rebellious child. But we understand the hurt He is expressing as He describes the way He had planted His children of “sound and reliable stock”. They had every reason to come out okay. He had shown them the right way. Even the perfect Parent had children that chose a different and unhealthy path.

PUZZLE CLUES (taken from the NIV translation)

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ 1. Jeremiah's dad Jer.1:1 | _____ 23. people instructed to look for the ancient ones Jer. 6:16 |
| _____ 2. God knew Jeremiah before he was formed here Jer. 1:5 | _____ 24. God will put them before His people Jer. 6:21 |
| _____ 3. "I am only a _____" Jer. 1:6 | _____ 25. how the people were to deal with each other Jer. 7:5 |
| _____ 4. what God did to Jeremiah's mouth Jer. 1:9 | _____ 26. city God destroyed because they did not listen Jer. 7:12,13 |
| _____ 5. direction from which disaster would come Jer. 1:14 | _____ 27. will be removed from their graves Jer. 8:1 |
| _____ 6. following idols made the Israelites this Jer. 2:5 | _____ 28. will be taken away Jer. 8:13 |
| _____ 7. what God's people exchanged for worthless idols Jer. 2:11 | _____ 29. not to be trusted Jer. 9:4 |
| _____ 8. what the Israelites did to God's land Jer. 2:7 | _____ 30. can do neither harm nor good Jer. 10:5 |
| _____ 9. substitute for living water Jer. 2:13 | _____ 31. will be abandoned Jer. 12:7 |
| _____ 10. devoured Judah's prophets Jer. 2:30 | _____ 32. Jeremiah was told to wear a linen one Jer. 13:1 |
| _____ 11. what God says He is Jer. 3:14 | _____ 33. what Jeremiah did with God's words Jer. 15:16 |
| _____ 12. will be called the throne of the Lord Jer. 3:17 | _____ 34. what the Lord examines Jer. 17:10 |
| _____ 13. God will give the cure for this Jer. 3:22 | _____ 35. the one who trusts in man Jer. 17:5 |
| _____ 14. need circumcised Jer. 4:4 | _____ 36. what we are in God's hands Jer. 18:6 |
| _____ 15. has brought punishment Jer. 4:18 | _____ 37. God's people continued with their own Jer. 18:12 |
| _____ 16. number of honest people that would cause God to forgive Jerusalem Jer. 5:1 | _____ 38. what God's word was like in Jeremiah's heart Jer. 20:9 |
| _____ 17. the people refused to do this Jer. 5:3 | _____ 39. must be done to save life Jer. 21:9 |
| _____ 18. both Israel and Judah were Jer. 5:11 | _____ 40. king during Zephaniah's day Zeph.1:1 |
| _____ 19. God's words in Jeremiah's mouth Jer. 5:14 | _____ 41. the ones who will be punished Zeph. 1:12 |
| _____ 20. the hearts of God's people Jer. 5:23 | _____ 42. will not be able to save Zeph. 1:18 |
| _____ 21. what Jerusalem pours out Jer. 6:7 | _____ 43. will be left desolate Zeph. 2:13 |
| _____ 22. what Jeremiah gave Jer. 6:8 | _____ 44. will be rescued Zeph.3:19 |

"Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.
Jeremiah 6:16



For comments or questions,
contact me at
victoryrd@hotmail.com
or for more studies visit
www.downvictoryrd.com



PUZZLE PAGE

WEEK 32

O X N P U C T Q S F S W B K H W C N J Z U D B S P Y E Y U L I S I W A D C F R V
I Q C C Z L G L L N H J N T Z Y G A V R U I Y J K K W W T X Y N X Z U F W V P Q
Q A Y J B A R J E U T S V K Z V N V N C J D G R B U I S O B S T A C L E S Y R Z
P T L P A Y D W C I S T E R N S R F L D N F U L E C E P K Z P N N R P O D Y B V
O B K J P O R O K F S P J K R L P Y Q X A K G W K V E M A L U S A Q T I O Q H U
H N V W T K O U Y B N B E V R S R M L W K U W E R B P L A N S L K I U L M B I J
H E A R T S W L C Q E A Q X J Y F Y R Q R E D A G Z Y H O W X Z N M A G C N E M
E I D R M J S Y R P B C M W U M J Y E J O N H A S S Y C V B N G J B H W V S F U
W D C F J H S R Y P G K V D L Y P B E X E W K Y R Y O K D O N W R T X H E M N B
I K F C W Z M O L C L S Q A U G I S D S B E S B Q X W R R O U O H N J X B X X O
P L T P L A O L O G P L Y F G X F A S V J H W U L F O T X Y T A O E R S Z W A T
J Z O E C T R G D X M I K B R C B Y S L T Q M V Q J H J K H D T L P L S E N F Y
T J A K E D F L E Y H D B L V A B A J A O Q K Y N F J B E G R T I E P E B V U R
U Z T H A T E R S I G I I R I G U T P P V V T P Q K U R B T S N H R J N I U N Y
C E M A A Y I D R H B N J N W F Z R W M O W L Q O C S I N O S A S A S K Y S M I
P G G W J R D E U Y J G C V C P V U U E L C L Z K R Q D A P M J Y Z E R I F X L
N E Q C C E B F C V G S N K Z W W G G M M N M I Y E H G L G K V Y Q H D M N E Z
L H N H L M H L T P Q J E R U S A L E M I D B Z W C N O E I B A U J B D Y E S O
Y V A M O A I M Q L I O L L L F P W B S D N G T F P M Z X Y H J L U R A L I S T
T B M W O D I Q G V E K E W M J K L X W M K V Z Q T E H F X I C G W A I N O C E
K H V Q K Y F D R S B B H E E A F F D J L Y O G Y G S Y N K L Y Q M D D V D G O
O D L P T I R U O I T C A O W O W Y P E Y V C F N W O I A J W N M I N D A M V D
E S X Q S O X Q B L C T W T Z Z D S E T M X N W H F K A O I R U T H M Y G I L U
G L I T E Y F Q H N S A B W C T K H J Q X B W H Z X Q I Y N S O S X E R L R O A
A T E G N K A Z F L L Q X Y W U I K I K S V T V N Q M T R K G N O T S U I E V L
T B P N O E C N A T I R E H N I D E M Y U W E Z Y W U L J J L J W T W K S B N Y
R I X C B J V A Q F F A X U V E P N X S R L Z B W P J Q H X H D M F C J J E E E
P G N I N R A W V U X G Z U B A H F O X R Q O P R D P E E O W Y B Q B N Y L Z L
W S K Q P O M D V B Y L E W X F V R A C E V Q A U D N G Z O Q O O L T A L L D T
I L H X P T S U L E C Q U T Q H Z U B Y N R X S Y H O A X K L W W N Z F O I P N
W S B S P O Y L V A S V J Q I B F E C C D E L W I L I S B R L G V B Q F H O H R
N T N E C A L P M O C W I L A U J C H T E S Z T A J P I D S J Z D I J B K U K E
N R T C L I R K J F H F K C F Q G I O U R O E H V T M G E J U E J J W K I S W H
K I N D S Y J B D D F I S S E L H T R O W P N O M M X Y W U D H F H R B O Q I T
Q W N M H T O E B S A X L W P Z T S E S O I S J V P Q K Y S P N G K Z E C N O D
M V E E C N S C U H O U U A L X Q R C O R N Y K X Z A R E T M D Z P O W Z Q E V
J H H S V W I H M W Y G S E V D I T E N T D E F I L E D B L B P C G U I E N L S
N A J Y T E A G H R Q E G X Q F V K I O M M I V Y Z N K S Y G D W G A F W C F X
K S Z L Y Y H W Z Q E F C S R G D A O N M G D W G L U F H T I A F N U M W H T Z
P O E G V M O F U H R I F A P O E D R H P M K C O A W J X R D T O U C H E D H N

BROKEN CISTERNS Jer. 2:13

What two sins had God's people committed? _____

What would be an example of a broken cistern for us today? _____

BABYLON

As the Assyrian Empire began to struggle, the Chaldeans and Medes united (with the marriage of Nebuchadnezzar to the daughter of Cvaxares king of the Medes) to attack Nineveh, which collapsed in 612 BC. The Chaldeans (also called the Babylonians) then made their move to take over the territories of the former Assyrian Empire.

The city of Babylon itself existed in ancient times, but was greatly improved by King Nebuchadnezzar . The largest city of that day, it covered 3,000 acres, and was surrounded by a wall ten miles long and wide enough for two chariots to pass each other. The inner city was 500 acres and was protected by three walls and a moat. Of the gates to the city, the Ishtar Gate, next to Nebuchadnezzar's Palace, is the best preserved. (Hoerth and McRay 61-64)

The ruins of ancient Babylon were ordered rebuilt by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. He fancied himself the next Nebuchadnezzar and built himself a palace next to the ancient city. Like the Biblical Nebuchadnezzar, he aspired to conquer Jerusalem. (Rabbi Simmons)



SHILOH Jer. 7:12

Shiloh became Israel's first holy city at the conclusion of Joshua's conquest of the Promised Land. The tabernacle was erected there and remained until the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant (1 Sam. 4:1-11) at Ebenezer and apparently also destroyed the city of Shiloh. Archaeology shows that the city had been destroyed by fire and never significantly inhabited again. The Bible does not mention it again except in reference to its past. ("The Destruction of Shiloh" 1200)

How is Shiloh referred to in Jer. 7:12? _____

I find it interesting that a considerable amount of money has been raised today to rebuild the temple at Shiloh.

How does that fit with Bible prophecy? _____

Do you think it is likely to happen? _____

**They dress the wound of my people
as though it were not serious.
"Peace, peace," they say,
when there is no peace.
Jeremiah 8:11**

**"but let him who boasts boast about this:
that he understands and knows me,
that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth" Jer. 9:24**

WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

DIES IRAE p. 2

Schippe, Cullen, and Chuck Stetson. The Bible and Its Influence. Front Royal, VA: BLP Publishing, 2006.

GOOD ROOTS p. 3

Sillick, J.M. and W.R. Jacobi. "Healthy Roots and Healthy Trees. " Colorado State University Extension – Horticulture 25 June 2007 1-3. 27 July 2007 .

"Tree Roots." Forestry Extension. Jan 2005. Iowa State University Forestry Extension. 28 Jul 2007 <<http://www.forestry.iastate.edu/topics/misc/roots.html>>

BABYLON p. 6

Hoerth, Alfred, and John McRay. Bible Archaeology. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.

Simmons, Rabbi Shraga. "Babylon's Fallen Tyrant." Aish.com 1-2. 25 July 2007 <http://www.aish.com/jewish/issues/jerusalem/Babylons_Fallen_Tyrant.asp>.

SHILOH p. 6

"The Destruction of Shiloh." Archaeological Study Bible. 2005.