



Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Jeremiah 23-40

Ps. 74,79

2 Kings 24-25

2 Chron. 36

Week 33

Daily Reading Plan:

___ Jer.23-27

___ Jer.28-31

___ Jer.32-34

___ Jer.35-37

___ Jer.38-40

___ Ps.74,79

___ 2 Kings 24-25

___ 2 Chron.36

___ REST*

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

Next week:

Habakkuk

Jer.41-52

Lamentations

MEMORY VERSE:

For I know the **plans** I have for you," declares the **Lord**, "**plans** to **prosper** you and not to harm you, **plans** to give you **hope** and a **future**.

Jeremiah 29:11

GOOD PLANS Jer. 29:11

God's good plans for us are as small as an individual, and also larger than all mankind. We have to be able to see both, and that is enormously difficult. The Israelites of Jeremiah's day had a hard time seeing how death and destruction and ridicule and servitude in exile could possibly be a good plan to give them a future and a hope. I have the same trouble when things don't go the way that I would like them to.

But, looking backwards through our Old Testament studies, we can see how God has spent centuries coordinating things and manipulating events to accomplish His purposes. He has repeatedly preserved a remnant which will play a part in carrying out His plan. He has used others who weren't even His followers to help carry out His plans. Can you name a few?

Watching God at work is like watching an artist paint a masterpiece. His strokes of color make no sense to the observer until the painting is nearly done. Then all of a sudden the image becomes clear. We have not yet seen God's whole picture, even from our post New Testament perspective. Even the arrival of the Messiah and the fulfillment of so many prophecies, it is still hard for us to really see what God is up to. He had a plan for the Israelites, He has a plan for all of mankind. He has a plan for each individual. We can have confidence that the things that happen will work to advance God's plan, which of course is ultimately also for our own good if we have aligned ourselves with Him.

That is not to say that we will find the circumstances of the moment any more pleasing than the people of Judah found exile, or than Jesus found His arrest, beatings and crucifixion. Just as we have to trust that God has a good plan for all of mankind that is too big for us to see, we also have to trust our tiny position and purpose within that big plan.

What part are you playing in His plan? _____

How does it give you hope? _____

THE LION'S ROAR Jer. 25

What does God compare Himself to in verses 30 and 38 of Jeremiah 25? _____
Both Assyria and Babylon were represented by lions, much as the United States uses the emblem of the eagle. It was a symbol of royal power in the ancient Near East. Below left is the Assyrian lion, found in the entry of a temple at Nimrud. (Ancient Replicas)



In Babylon, the "Processional Way" went through the Ishtar Gate as it went out of the city. Along the way were 120 molded brick lions, the symbol of their goddess Ishtar. (Ancient Replicas)



I find it quite interesting that God let these "lions" believe that the victory was theirs...for a time. They reveled in their power and great victories, not even realizing that they were playing right into the hands of the real lion. God patiently waited to show the world the lion that really held the power. Real power has no need to be in a hurry about showing anyone who is boss. The time will come that the last hand will be played and the world will know. The cheap imitations that man puts his trust in and feels so strong will crumble when the real lion roars.

**Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."
Revelation 5:5**

YEAR OF JUBILEE

Jer. 25:12 and 2 Chron. 36:21

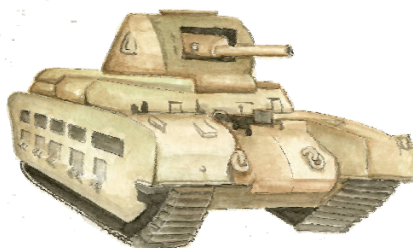
Have you ever had an injury or illness that forced you to rest and recuperate? Only after the fact did you realize that the time of inactivity was actually a blessing that brought you back to your normal activity with a refreshed vigor.

I kind of think that is what the period of exile was for the Promised Land. In Lev. 25, instructions were outlined for a year of rest and restoration after every 49th year. I don't find any evidence that the Israelites had ever actually observed the Year of Jubilee. So God gave the land an enforced rest from the Israelites for the _____ years of their exile in Babylon.

What were the Israelites to do during this time? _____

OUR SOVEREIGN GOD Jer. 27:5

Not long ago I was at a museum that had displays of paraphernalia from all of the wars that the United States has participated in. After the hatchet headed rifle, the grenades, the gas masks, the cannon balls, I had had enough. War just isn't at all pleasant, and I felt squemish about being confronted with its realities. But as we read over and over the prophets' words from God about the threats and inevitabilities of wars, I can't help but notice that God does not seem as opposed to the idea of war as we are. We rail about how senseless and harmful war is, God rails against the sinfulness of mankind by using wars to bring us back to Him. God gives the earth to anyone He pleases and will use even the ungodly as His servants. Nations like Assyria and Babylon rose and fell by God's command, and for the preservation of His people. Do we think we are above the workings of the same God today?



For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. Col. 1:16

FOR ALL MANKIND Jer. 32:20

“You performed miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day, both in Israel and among all mankind, and have gained the renown that is still yours.”

Jeremiah 32:20

God’s miracles have occurred for all the world to see. Cultures around the globe have stories of creation, the flood, parting oceans, a long day, etc. that are surprisingly similar to the Biblical accounts. The miraculous expressions of God’s power may have occurred in the context of the Israelites, but they didn’t go unnoticed by the surrounding world. Even those who have not recognized God’s identity have been able to see His handiwork.

JEREMIAH’S PERSISTENCE

How many years had Jeremiah spoken God’s words in Jer. 25:3? _____

How much positive response had he gotten in those years? _____

What made Jeremiah keep going? If he would have used any of our measures of a successful ministry, he would have thrown in the towel early on. When we suffer declining numbers, or other indications of the ineffectiveness of our efforts for God’s Kingdom, we usually think its time to move on to something different. Why did Jeremiah see things differently? Should we? _____

List some of the obstacles that Jeremiah encountered in Jeremiah 23-40: _____

A PLACE FOR FEAR Jer. 32:40

Mention fearing God and someone in the crowd is sure to be quick to clarify that what we really mean by “fear” is “respect”. That is true to an extent, but I have some concern that we try to soften God to make Him more palatable for modern sensibilities. In lessening our sense of fear, we lessen who God really is. To do that makes Him a powerless God who is not worth our worship. God encourages us to fear Him over and over and over in Scripture.

Why? _____

What comment does God make about fear in Jer. 32:40? _____

What is your attitude about fearing God? _____

And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,
Deut. 10:12

How does fear of God relate to love of God? _____

What are some things that you find fierce about God? _____



Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.
Jeremiah 33:3

What a promise! Did you ever take a test where you wished for someone smarter than you to be sitting there whispering answers to you? That is exactly what God is promising; not necessarily the answers we want or expect, but the ones that He knows we need. All we need to do is call to Him. Just ask and He will tell you things that will blow your heart and mind! He will tell us things that we could not even have imagined or thought to search out on our own. How?

PUZZLE CLUES (taken from the NIV translation)

Across

1. Zedekiah was Jehoiachin's 2 Chron. 36:10
3. a yoke of this instead of a wooden one Jer. 28:13
5. what happened to Hananiah because of false prophecy Jer. 28:16,17
7. the people who were left in Jerusalem 2 Kings 24:14
8. a righteous one will sprout from David's line Jer. 33:15
11. Zedekiah and Ahab spoke these in God's name Jer. 29:21
13. God's plans will give us this Jer. 29:11
15. filled with God's wrath Jer. 25:15
18. Jeremiah's advice to King Zedekiah Jer. 38:20
19. assassinated Gedaliah 2 Kings 25:25
20. what God will do with Judah's wounds Jer. 30:17
22. amount of time Jeremiah remained in prison Jer. 37:16
23. what Jehoiakim did with Jeremiah's scroll Jer. 36:23
26. Nebuchadnezzar was God's Jer. 25:9
31. God's word is like one Jer. 23:29
33. survivors of this city will be objects of ridicule Jer. 24:8,9
35. God's has been driven away Jer. 23:2
38. God showed Jeremiah baskets of these Jer. 24:1
39. copies of the deed were put in a clay one Jer. 32:14
40. a name for Babylon Jer. 25:26
41. where Jeremiah was put Jer. 38:6
45. Jeremiah did this for 23 years Jer. 25:3
46. what the people of Judah were to do to Babylon Jer. 27:11
48. scattering God's sheep Jer. 23:1
50. number of years of servitude to Babylon Jer. 25:12
51. what Jeremiah told the people to do Jer. 26:13
52. instead of sorrow Jer. 31:13
54. used as a distortion of God's Word Jer. 23:36
55. God's was burned to the ground Ps. 74:7
56. we will find God when we do this with all our heart Jer. 29:13
57. a new one is coming Jer. 31:31

Down

1. a prophet who spoke the same things as Jeremiah did Jer. 26:20
2. all of its territory taken by Babylon 2 Kings 24:7
4. what the Lord will do Jer. 25:30
6. mock God Ps. 74:22
8. will fill the people Jer. 31:14
9. the Recabite family Jer. 35:7
10. what God will inspire Jer. 32:40
12. took Jehoahaz to Egypt 2 Chron. 36:4
13. can't from God Jer. 23:24
14. Jeremiah bought one at Anathoth Jer. 32:8
15. proclaimed the temple to be rebuilt 2 Chron. 36:23
16. Judah had to leave hers 2 Kings 25:21
17. will be brought back Jer. 23:3
21. God's will be in the minds and hearts of His people Jer. 31:33
24. these from Judah are the good figs Jer. 24:5
25. commit adultery and live a lie Jer. 23:14
26. Zedekiah's were slaughtered before his eyes Jer. 39:6
27. God brought to His people Jer. 32:23
28. where the temple furnishings will be Jer. 27:21,22
29. king of Babylon Jer. 24:1
30. appointed governor of Judah Jer. 40:7
32. Judah did not _____ to God Jer. 25:7
34. what Jeremiah sent to the exiles Jer. 29:1
36. what Jerusalem was under 2 Kings 25:2
37. wanted to put Jeremiah to death Jer. 26:11
42. Jerusalem Ps. 79:1
43. where Jeremiah was to write the words God spoke Jer. 30:2
44. he and his officials are bad figs Jer. 24:8
45. where Baruch wrote what Jeremiah dictated Jer. 36:4
47. what Babylon will become Jer. 25:12
49. everlasting _____ brought to Jerusalem Jer. 23:40
53. Jeremiah was told to wear one Jer. 27:2



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



PUZZLE PAGE

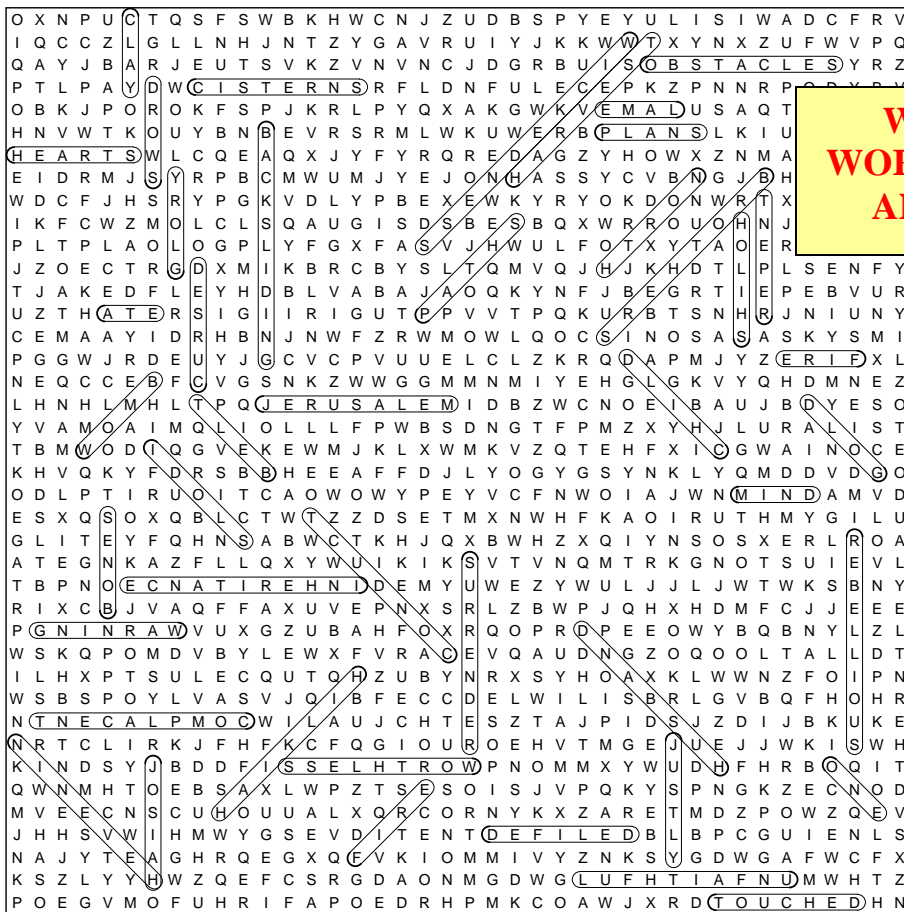
WEEK 33

TEMPORARY REPENTANCE Jer. 34:8-16

What had the people in Jerusalem agreed to do? _____

What happened in v.11? _____

What is your response to someone who agrees to do something for you and then decides not to?



**WEEK 32
WORDSEARCH
ANSWERS**



NEBUCHADNEZZAR – the warrior
 In his very first year as king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar led his army into Judah and carried off many captives (2 Kings 24:1-9). Then, when Zedekiah became king of Judah, he rebelled which resulted in another invasion (2 Kings 24:10-20) by Nebuchadnezzar. Finally, after another rebellion, he destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple (2 Kings 25:1-21).

FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE Ps. 79:9

Do I ask God to deliver me for His name’s sake or mine? I’m afraid that when I ask for relief from my troubles, it has little to do with God’s glory and much to do with my personal comfort! Yet, my purpose in life is to bring Him glory, in **everything** that I do.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31

Name some ways that I can glorify God with my day to day activities? _____

NEBUCHADNEZZAR – the builder

Nebuchadnezzar may have been best known for his building and beautification programs in the great cities of the Babylonian empire, especially Babylon itself. He built streets and strengthened the walls and is credited with beautiful hanging gardens.

WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

THE LION’S ROAR p.2
 "Assyrian lion." [Ancient Replicas](http://www.ancientreplicas.com/assyrian-lion.html). 11 Aug 2007
 <http://www.ancientreplicas.com/assyrian-lion.html>.

"Assyrian lion." [Ancient Replicas](http://www.ancientreplicas.com/babylon/striding-lion.html). 11 Aug 2007
 <http://www.ancientreplicas.com/babylon/striding-lion.html>.

HOW DO WE COMPARE?
 In what ways do you think our nation is like the people of Judah? _____

 In what ways do you think our nation is like the Babylonians? _____
