

**Survey
of
Jeremiah &
Lamentations**

by
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Survey of Jeremiah & Lamentations

**A study of the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

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Survey of Jeremiah & Lamentations

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that covered the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #1

Jeremiah 1:1-2:37

Today we are beginning a study of the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah lived about one hundred years after the time of Isaiah. In the book of Isaiah there are many warnings about future judgment if the people of Judah did not repent and turn from their sins. The people did not listen to the warnings of Isaiah. Instead they continued to practice their sins. As a result, in the early part of Jeremiah we will see that Jeremiah warned the people of Judah that judgment would come upon them very soon. That judgment of Judah happened while Jeremiah was still alive. Most of the people of Judah were either killed or taken away as captives to the country of Babylon. A few were left in Judah and later went to Egypt.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain when God chose Jeremiah to be a prophet.
- Explain the signs that God gave to Jeremiah to prove His call.
- Explain the warning that Jeremiah gave in his first message.

As we begin our study of the book of Jeremiah, we see that Jeremiah was a priest from the town of Anathoth. God called Jeremiah to be a prophet during the time just before the country of Judah and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed by the Babylonians. When God spoke to Jeremiah, God said that He knew Jeremiah before he was born. Here we are reminded of the fact that God knew every person before the world was ever created. Before the time that Jeremiah had been born, the Lord had already chosen him to be a prophet to the nations. In the same way, God chose us and planned for us to tell others about Christ before we were even born.

1. Read Jeremiah 1:1-10 and write what Jeremiah told God when God said that He had called Jeremiah before his birth.
2. Explain why it is important for us to know that God knew every person even before He created the heavens and the earth.
3. Explain why you think that God told Jeremiah that the Lord had chosen Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations before He was even born.

Jeremiah immediately had an excuse when God told him that He had called Jeremiah before his birth. Here we see that Jeremiah is just like many people today. As soon as the Lord spoke to him, he immediately began to think of excuses. Jeremiah immediately answered that he could not speak. He said that he was like a child and would not know what to say. Today we sometimes feel like we do not know what to say when the Lord tells us to witness to another person. As we see here, we see that we are using the same excuse that Jeremiah used when he answered the Lord. God had a wonderful answer for Jeremiah. He said that He would tell Jeremiah what to speak. This is also the reason why we do not need to be afraid to speak for the Lord. He will go with us and give us the right words to speak.

4. Read Jeremiah 1:1-10 and write what God said as He touched the mouth of Jeremiah.
5. Explain why many people feel that they are still like a child and will not know what to speak to others.

6. Explain why you think that many people say that they cannot speak when the Lord calls them to speak for Him.

The answer of the Lord shows us the way that we can be effective when we speak for the Lord. We are to have the Word of God in our mouth and not our own words or opinions. The reason why most Christians are afraid to speak for the Lord is due to the fact that they do not know what to say. If we will learn the Word of God, then when we pray the Lord will bring His Word to our minds and we will be able to speak His Word instead of our own words. Then we will be able to do the work of the Lord. The Lord will be able to use us to pull down and destroy the things that need to be destroyed. The Lord will use us to plant and build the things that need to be built.

7. Read Jeremiah 1:1-10 and write what the Lord told Jeremiah when He touched the mouth of Jeremiah.

8. Explain why Christians do not need to be afraid to speak for the Lord and share His Word with others.

9. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that you are to speak the Word of God instead of give your own opinions to others.

Jeremiah was promised in verse ten that he would be given a message of judgment. God went on to give Jeremiah two signs to show that the Lord had called him to speak these messages of judgment. The first thing that Jeremiah saw was the rod of an almond tree. An almond tree is a tree that has its buds in the spring. God had just said that Jeremiah would speak a message of judgment. Here God showed Jeremiah that the judgment that he would predict would come quickly just as the buds of an almond tree come quickly. God had spoken His Word that judgment was coming and He would soon bring that promised judgment.

10. Read Jeremiah 1:11-19 and write the second sign that the Lord showed Jeremiah.

11. Explain why God said that the fact that the almond tree has its buds in the spring was a sign that the Lord was going to bring judgment on Judah quickly.

12. Explain why you think that God wanted Israel to understand that the judgment about which Jeremiah would speak would come quickly.

This second sign showed from where the judgment of Judah would come. God said that a nation from the north would come against Judah to destroy it. This was a warning of the fact that Babylon would soon come out of the north and destroy Jerusalem and the other cities of Judah. Their armies would soon come down and surround the cities of Judah. Finally the cities would be defeated and destroyed. God also told Jeremiah the reason for this coming judgment. The people had turned away from the Lord. They had offered sacrifices to other gods. They worshiped the idols that they made with their own hands. As God sent Jeremiah with this message of judgment for Judah, God warned Jeremiah that the people of Judah would fight against him.

13. Read Jeremiah 1:11-19 and write what God said would happen when the people fought against Jeremiah.

14. Explain why it was important for the people of Judah to realize that their choice to turn to idols was the reason that the Lord was going to bring judgment on them.

15. Explain why you think that God warned Jeremiah that when he gave them God's message of judgment that the people would fight against Jeremiah.

As Jeremiah was preparing to speak for God, the Lord said several things to encourage him. God told Jeremiah not to be afraid to speak. God said that He would give strength to Jeremiah. He would be with Jeremiah. He would also protect Jeremiah. However, the Lord warned Jeremiah that the people would fight against him. Today we can be sure that the devil will cause people to fight against us if we are doing the work of the Lord. We should expect this opposition as we speak for the Lord. This does not mean that we need to be afraid or stop speaking. We can know that the Lord will be with us just as He was with Jeremiah.

16. Read Jeremiah 1:11-19 and write what God said the people would not be able to do even though they would fight against Jeremiah.

17. Explain why you do not need to be afraid or fearful as you speak boldly for Christ to others.

18. Explain why it is important in your own life to know that you will face opposition from Satan as you do the work of the Lord.

Then Jeremiah was obedient and began to speak for the Lord. As Jeremiah began to speak his first message from the Lord about the coming judgment, the Lord began by reminding the people of the way that they had served the Lord at one time. When God called Moses to lead the people out of Egypt, the people of Israel had seen the power of God. As a result, many of the people followed the Lord. God had led them through the wilderness and they had followed Him. However, the day had come when the people had turned away from the Lord. The people chose to walk after emptiness and their lives became empty.

19. Read Jeremiah 2:1-19 and write what the people did not say when their lives became empty.

20. Explain why God told Jeremiah to tell the people that the reason that their lives had become empty was due to the fact that they walked after emptiness.

21. Explain why you think that God had Jeremiah begin his first message of judgment by reminding the people how the nation had followed the Lord in the past.

The people had not asked where their God was that had brought them out of the land of Egypt. Here we see why their lives had become empty. When people turn away from the Lord, they have nothing to fill the emptiness in their lives. The people had forgotten about all of the wonderful things that God had done for them. Instead of thanking the Lord for the things that He had done for them, the people began to worship idols instead. The leaders who were supposed to teach the people about the Lord did not even know God themselves. Their rulers rebelled against God. The prophets spoke of Baal instead of teaching about the Lord. As a result, the people chose to walk after the things that did not profit.

22. Read Jeremiah 2:1-19 and write what God said He would do because the people had not followed Him.

23. Explain how God said that both the political and the spiritual leaders had turned away from the Lord.

24. Explain why you think that it is important to remind people of the blessings of the Lord in the past.

Even though most of the people had turned their backs to God, He still continued to speak to them. Here we see the love of God for His people. He continued to speak to them instead of forgetting them. The people had turned to gods that could not help them. First they turned away from the true and living God. Then they followed false gods. Instead of coming to the

Lord who offered them living water, they built cisterns so that they could get their own water and store it in the cisterns. Here we see a picture of what people try to do when they make their own gods. God said that these gods would not be able to help the people. False gods can never offer any help.

25. Read Jeremiah 2:1-19 and write what the cisterns of the people were like.

26. Explain why God reminded the people that their false gods would never be able to give them any help.

27. Explain why you think that people will create their own false gods when they turn away from the True and Living God.

Here we see the emptiness of the religions of people. God said that their religions were like broken cisterns that could hold no water. False religions do not offer life to the people who follow them. Instead of trusting in the Lord, the people of Judah had trusted other nations to help them. However, these other nations had not helped Judah. Now the people of Judah were going to receive the judgment for their sins. It was their own wickedness that would cause them to be judged. Because they had turned their backs on the Lord, they would receive the payment for their sins. They would soon learn about the terrible results of turning away from the Lord. Their coming judgment would be the result of their failure to follow God.

28. Read Jeremiah 2:1-19 and write what God told the people that their backslidings would do.

29. Explain why God told the people that the empty religions that the people had developed would not help them.

30. Explain why you think that God described the religions of the people by calling them broken cisterns that could hold no water.

The people of Judah had turned away from the Lord many years before. Instead of serving God, they were serving idols under every tree. God said that He had planted the people of Israel and Judah as good seed. However, they had become like bad seed. Even though the people would try to wash themselves with very strong soap, God said that they would never be able to wash away their sin by their own efforts. They had become like wild animals. Instead of following the Lord, they had followed after strangers who led them the wrong way. Here we see the terrible results of following those who do evil. Soon we will be doing evil also.

31. Read Jeremiah 2:20-37 and write how a thief feels when he is caught.

32. Explain why God said that the people of Israel and Judah had become like bad seed instead of good seed.

33. Explain why you think that God warned the people about the danger of following strangers that would lead them the wrong way.

Just as a thief is ashamed when he is caught, God said that Judah would also be ashamed. This shame would include all of the leaders of the people. Instead of serving the Lord, the people had chosen to call a tree their father. They said that a stone had caused them to be born. They had completely turned their backs on God as they turned to the idols that they had made. The only time that they would call on the Lord was when they were in trouble. Then the people would ask the Lord to help them. Now God told the people to call on their false gods for help when the enemy came against them.

34. Read Jeremiah 2:20-37 and write why God told the Jews not to plead to Him for help in their trouble.

35. Explain why many people today live in shame because of the things that they have done in their lives.
36. Explain why you think that there are many people that will only call on the Lord when they are in trouble.

God had decided that the time for the judgment of Judah had come. He had waited a long time and had given them many opportunities to turn from their sin. However, they had not listened when the Lord had warned them of coming judgment. Instead they had continued to live in their sin. They felt that there was no need for them to come to God. God said that the people of Israel were like a bride that had forgotten her wedding. They had completely forgotten the Lord and were walking in their own ways. Today we also have many people who have forgotten God and are following their own ways.

37. Read Jeremiah 2:20-37 and write whose blood God said was found on the skirts of the people.
38. Explain what God warned the people that they had chosen to forget Him and depend on their false gods instead.
39. Explain why you think that God said that the people were like a bride that had forgotten her wedding.

God said that the blood of innocent people was found on the clothing of the people Judah. We see that they were guilty of stealing from the poor people who could not defend themselves. Even though the people had stolen and killed, they still claimed that they were innocent and had done nothing wrong. They were saying that they had not sinned. Now they were depending on the nation of Egypt to help and protect them from Babylon. God said that Egypt would fail to help them just as Assyria had failed to help them in earlier days. Instead they would be taken as slaves to another land. They would have to walk to that other land with their hands on their heads.

40. Read Jeremiah 2:20-37 and write what God said about the people in whom Judah had placed their confidence and trust.
41. Explain why God said that they would have to walk to another land with their hands on their heads.
42. Explain why you think that the people claimed that they were innocent and had done nothing wrong even though their lives were filled with sin.

Read Jeremiah 1:1-2:37 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #2

Jeremiah 3:1-4:31

The people of Judah thought that they would not be judged for their sins. God had compared His relationship to Judah and Israel to the relationship of a husband and a wife. However, the Jews had turned away from the Lord. They had become just like a woman that was a prostitute. They had turned from God to idols. Israel had been judged earlier. Judah did not learn from this judgment of Israel. Instead the people of Judah continued to worship idols just as the people of Israel had done. Now God said that judgment must come on the nation of Judah if the people of Judah did not turn from their idols and turn back to the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain why God said that the land of Judah had become polluted.

Explain why God called the people of Judah backsliding children.

Explain what God said about the coming invasion of Judah.

God compared His relationship to the Jews to the relationship of a wife. However, God said that the Jewish people had been like an unfaithful wife. They had turned from the Lord and had chosen to serve many different idols. Here we see that God asked them the question about whether He should return to His unfaithful wife. The nations of Israel and Judah had set up idols on many hills throughout the land. They had placed idols along the roads. They had filled the land with their sin and wickedness. They were not ashamed of the fact that they had become a religious prostitute and turned away from the Lord to follow idols.

1. Read Jeremiah 3:1-11 and write what God had withheld to cause them to turn from their sin.
2. Explain why the people Judah were not ashamed of the fact that they had become like a religious prostitute.
3. Explain why you think that God asked the people of Judah if He should return to an unfaithful wife.

Even though God had stopped the rain, the people had continued to live in their sin. They continued to follow their evil ways. As a result, the Lord reminded the people of Judah what had happened to the nation of Israel because they continued in their sin. Israel had also worshiped idols on every high hill. Just like Judah, Israel did not return to the Lord. Because Israel had made the choice not to return to the Lord, God had caused the people of Israel to be carried away to a foreign country. The people of Judah saw what had happened to Israel. Instead of placing their trust in the Lord, Judah had continued to worship idols.

4. Read Jeremiah 3:1-11 and write with whom the people of Israel had become a harlot (prostitute) and committed adultery.
5. Explain why God said that the fact that the people of Israel had been carried away to a foreign country was actually a warning to the people of Judah.
6. Explain why you think that the people of Judah did not listen to the Lord even though they saw what had happened to Israel.

Here we see again that God was referring to Himself as the husband of Israel and Judah. By worshipping idols made of wood and stone, the people of Israel and Judah were committing spiritual adultery because they had turned from God to idols. God said through Jeremiah that the adultery of Judah was even worse than the adultery of Israel. Judah saw the judgment of Israel and should have realized that God was giving them a warning. However, the people of Judah did not pay any attention to this warning. Instead they continued to follow their sinful ways.

7. Read Jeremiah 3:1-11 and write in what way the Lord said that the people of Judah had not turned to Him.

8. Explain why God called the worship of idols adultery.

9. Explain why you think that many people do not listen when they are warned about their sin and continue to follow their sinful ways.

After speaking to the people of Judah through Jeremiah, God began to speak to the people of Israel who had been taken out of their land and taken to a foreign land. God told the people of Israel that if they would return to Him that He would forgive their sins. If they would confess their sins, God promised to forgive them and become their Master and Lord. God promised that He would bring back one or two from each family or city that would return to Him. God said that He would bring them back to Zion (Jerusalem) and bless them again. Here we see that God wanted the people of Israel to know that they could turn back to Him and be forgiven.

10. Read Jeremiah 3:12-25 and write what God promised to give to the people of Israel when He would bring them back to the land.

11. Explain why God wanted the people of Israel to know that they would be forgiven if they would turn back to Him.

12. Explain why you think that God had not forgotten the people of Israel even though they had been taken to a foreign land.

Here we see the true work of a spiritual shepherd. It is the responsibility of that shepherd to feed the sheep of the Lord. In that way the sheep would come to a full knowledge and understanding of the Word of God and the plan of God for their lives. As a result, those who have placed their trust in the Lord will be able to serve Him better. God went on to speak of the days when the nations of Israel and Judah would become one nation again. In that day God said that they will all serve the Lord. They will no longer have a stubborn heart. God promised that in that day He will regather them from all of the lands where they have been taken as captives.

13. Read Jeremiah 3:12-25 and write what they will call God in that day when they return to the Lord.

14. Explain why a true shepherd of the Lord will help the people to come to a full knowledge and understanding of the Word of God.

15. Explain why God promised the people of both Israel and Judah that the day would come when they would be one nation again and God would regather them.

God called to His people and begged them to return to Him. God promised that He would take them back. He would give them faith to replace their lack of faith. God is the only One who can give them salvation. The people had trusted the idols that they had set up on the hills and on the mountains. However, those idols had only deceived and tricked the people. They were unable to help the people. Today we also see that people are serving many different things.

The people of Judah thought that the things that they trusted and served would help them in their lives. Such people are only being deceived and tricked by Satan.

16. Read Jeremiah 3:12-25 and write what God promised He would do for His backsliding children if they would return to Him.

17. Explain why God said that the things that the people trusted to help them will only trick and deceive them instead of help them.

18. Explain why you think that God called to His people and begged them to return to Him in spite of the fact that they had turned away from Him.

God again begged the people of Judah to return to Him. God did not want to judge His people. However, God knew that it would be necessary to judge the people if they failed to turn back to Him. God promised that He would bless His people if they would make the choice to turn back to Him. They would not be destroyed by the other nations. Here we see that God was giving His people one more opportunity to turn from their sins before it became necessary for Him to judge them. God said that their hearts were like hard ground. God urged them to break up the hard ground and open their hearts to Him. Otherwise God said that the judgment of God would come on them like a fire and no one would be able to stop it.

19. Read Jeremiah 4:1-13 and write what God said that the people would do in the land.

20. Explain why God gave the people of Judah one more opportunity to turn from their sin and turn back to Him.

21. Explain why you think that God told the people to break up the hard ground in their hearts and open their hearts to Him.

Here we see that God began to tell the people about the judgment that would come on the land of Judah. God said that an army would come out of the north against the land of Judah. The people would blow the trumpet to warn the people in the villages. The blowing of the trumpet was a warning to the people to flee to the cities that had high walls around them to protect them from the enemy. God said that the people would try to find a place to hide from these armies that would come from the north. However, there would be no escape for the people. Instead God said that there would be great destruction in the land.

22. Read Jeremiah 4:1-13 and write what kind of an animal God said the nation that would destroy Judah would be like.

23. Explain why God said that there would be no escape for the people regardless of where they tried to flee and hide.

24. Explain why you think that God warned the people that when judgment came that there would be a great destruction in the land.

God used a lion to give the people of Judah a picture of King Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, who God promised would bring great judgment on the land of Judah. God said that Nebuchadnezzar would completely destroy Judah. The cities would be leveled and the buildings would be left in ruins. The people would be taken out of the land. When all of these things happened to them, the people would be filled with sorrow. God said that they would realize that the anger of God was against them because of their sins. The hearts of all of the people would be filled with fear as they realized that judgment had come to them. The people had been listening to false prophets who said that they would have peace and safety.

25. Read Jeremiah 4:1-13 and write what kind of a wind God said would blow against the people of Judah.

26. Explain why God warned the people that the cities would be completely destroyed and the people would be taken out of the land.
27. Explain why you think that the false prophets had been promising the people of Judah that they would have peace and safety.

A wind can be very wonderful. The right kind of wind can work like a fan on a hot day. The wind can also clean the air or separate the wheat from the chaff. However, the wind that God said that He would send against Judah would be a very different wind. Instead of a cool wind, God said that the wind would be a very hot dry wind from the desert. This wind would destroy everything that it touched. Here we see that God was using a hot, dry, wind to give the people of Judah a picture of the judgment that would come upon them. The enemy would come quickly and cause great destruction.

28. Read Jeremiah 4:1-13 and write how fast God said that the chariots of the enemy would come.
29. Explain what these verses teach about the judgment that God promised would come on the nation of Judah.
30. Explain why you think that God compared the judgment that would come on the land of Judah to a hot, dry wind from the desert.

God again begged the people to turn from their evil thoughts and put their trust in Him. Because God knew that the people would not turn from their evil, God told how the judgment would come on the nation of Judah. There would come a warning from Dan in the north that the enemy was coming. This warning would let the people know that judgment would soon reach them. This enemy would come to destroy Jerusalem and the other cities of Judah. All of these things would happen to Judah because of the sins of the people. Their own sinful deeds and actions were the cause of this judgment. They could not blame anyone else.

31. Read Jeremiah 4:14-31 and write how Jeremiah felt in his heart as he thought of the coming judgment of the Lord.
32. Explain what God said that the people would know when they heard a warning from the north that the enemy was coming.
33. Explain why you think that God reminded the people of Judah that judgment would come on them because of their own sinful deeds and actions.

Although Jeremiah realized that judgment must come on his people because of their sin, it made him very sad to think of the coming judgment. He could not keep silent as he thought about this coming judgment. Here we see what our reaction should be as we see the sinful world around us. The sin that we see around us should cause us to speak boldly for Christ to warn people of the coming judgment if they do not turn from their sin and place their trust in Christ. The judgment of Judah was very terrible when the armies of Babylon came against the nation of Judah. However, the eternal judgment of the sinful people around us will be even worse. Their judgment will last forever.

34. Read Jeremiah 4:14-31 and write what Jeremiah saw happen to the earth and the heavens.
35. Explain why the sin that we see around us should also cause us to speak boldly and warn people of coming judgment.
36. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that the eternal judgment will be even worse than the terrible judgment that came on the people of Judah.

Here we see a picture of great judgment. God said that the land would become an empty land. This would be followed by great earthquakes that caused more destruction. Even the birds would fly away. The fruitful land would become an empty wilderness. All of the cities would be destroyed. Although the land would become empty, God said that He would not completely destroy the land. Here we see that God was looking forward to a time in the future when He would restore the land and make it like a beautiful garden again. Here we see the love of God for His people. He will never completely forget them.

37. Read Jeremiah 4:14-31 and write where God said that the people of Judah would go when they saw the enemy coming.

38. Explain why God promised that He will one day forgive His people even though He must judge them first.

39. Explain why you think that God said that there would also be natural disasters in addition to the destruction by the enemy.

Next God told what the people of Judah would do when the enemy came. God said that as soon as the people heard that the armies were coming from the north that they would run from their cities. They would try to hide in the woods and in the rocks. Because the people had played the harlot and worshiped other gods, God said that this judgment must come. The people had done everything possible to please their idols and make themselves attractive to the sinful nations. God said that all of their efforts were wasted. The very nations that they thought would help them would now be glad to see them destroyed. God was going to allow them to be destroyed because of their sin.

40. Read Jeremiah 4:14-31 and write how God said that He felt because many of the people had become murderers.

41. Explain why the people had done everything possible to make themselves attractive to the sinful nations.

42. Explain why you think that God warned that the nations that Judah thought would help them would actually be glad to see Judah destroyed.

Reread Jeremiah 3:1-4:31 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #3

Jeremiah 5:1-6:30

Today we will learn more about the reasons why God said that it was necessary for Him to judge Judah. The people thought that they could sin without getting caught. The people did not realize that God could see every sin that they committed. They thought that they could serve false gods and idols and that no one would know. However, God knows every sin that each person commits. God said the Day of Judgment will come for each person who fails to place his or her trust in the Lord. God said that there would be much suffering in the city of Jerusalem during the time that the city was destroyed and the people were taken as captives to another land.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the reasons why it was necessary for God to judge Judah.
- Explain what God said about those who were serving false gods.
- Explain what God said about the coming suffering in Jerusalem.
- Explain what God said about the enemy that would come from the north.

As God began to speak about the reasons why He must judge the nation of Judah, He asked first if there were any people in Jerusalem who looked for the truth and had a desire to do what was right. God said that He would pardon the city and not destroy it if there were people who were really seeking the Lord and desired to follow Him. However, God said that the people were not seeking the Lord. When these used the name of the Lord, they used that name to refer to a promise that they did not plan to keep. They were far from the Lord in their hearts. They refused to listen to God even when He punished them. They were like rocks that could not be changed.

1. Read Jeremiah 5:1-17 and write why Jeremiah said that the people were poor and foolish.
2. Explain why it is also true today that most of the people in the world are not seeking the Lord.
3. Explain why you think that it is important to know that God examines the hearts of people so that He knows their hearts.

The people had all turned away from the Lord. Even the leaders who were supposed to know the Word of God and teach it to the people had turned away from the Lord. They were also walking in their own evil ways. As a result of the example of the leaders, the people had started to commit even more sin. The people had made the choice to serve idols. They committed adultery with the wives of their neighbors. They went to the houses of the prostitutes. Their thoughts and their actions were evil all of the time. Because of their sin, God told the people of Judah that it had become necessary for Him to judge them.

4. Read Jeremiah 5:1-17 and write what God said must be done to the walls of the city as a part of that judgment.
5. Explain what happens in any nation when the spiritual leaders turn away from the Lord and walk in their own evil ways.

6. Explain why you think that the people began to commit even more sin as a result of the example of the leaders.

Many people today think that they can do evil and not get caught. That is the way that the people of Israel and Judah had felt. They had not followed the Lord. Instead they chose to speak against the Lord. They said that others might be judged but that they would escape. They said that they would not be destroyed by the sword. They would not have a famine in their land. When the prophets warned Judah of coming judgment, the people said that the prophets were full of wind. They said that the prophets were not speaking the truth as they spoke to them.

7. Read Jeremiah 5:1-17 and write from where God said that He would bring a nation against them.

8. Explain why the people of Judah thought that the prophets were full of wind when they prophesied of coming judgment.

9. Explain why you think that many people have the attitude that even though others might be judged that they will escape judgment.

God said that the people of Judah had been condemned by their own words. As a result, God said that He was going to bring a nation from a far place to bring judgment on the people. This nation would be a strong and powerful nation that had existed for a long time. These people would speak a different language than the language of Judah. They would destroy all of the food of the people. They would kill or take captive the sons and daughters of the people. They would also take the flocks and herds. They would also destroy all of the crops. All of the strong cities in the land of Judah would also be destroyed.

10. Read Jeremiah 5:1-17 and write what God said that the people of Judah were trusting for their protection.

11. Explain what these verses teach about the consequences that people face when they choose to do evil.

12. Explain why you think that God told the people of Judah that they had been condemned by their own words.

In the middle of this warning of coming judgment, God also gave one wonderful promise. Even though the nation would be judged for their sin, God promised that He would not completely destroy the nation. God said that He would remember that small group of people that had remained faithful to Him. He said that He would not completely destroy the land for their sakes. God also told Jeremiah what to say when the people asked why God had done all of these things to them. God said that just as the people had served foreign gods, now they must serve foreign nations. They would serve these strangers in another land instead of in their own land.

13. Read Jeremiah 5:18-31 and write why God called the people foolish people who were without understanding.

14. Explain why God promised that He would not completely destroy the nation of Judah for their sin.

15. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that God will always keep a small group of people who are faithful to Him.

The people did not see or hear the things that God was trying to tell them. They did not fear God or listen to Him. They did not realize the power of God. God has set the limits for the oceans and the oceans stay within those limits. Even in a terrible storm when the waves make much noise, those limits remain the same. The reason why the people refused to recognize the power of God was due to the fact that they had stubborn and rebellious hearts. Their hearts were hard and they would not put their fear and trust in the Lord. They refused to even recognize that the Lord gave them their crops and their harvests. Instead they depended on themselves.

16. Read Jeremiah 5:18-31 and write what God said that He would withhold from the people because of their sin.

17. Explain why people will refuse to recognize the power of God when they have stubborn and rebellious hearts.

18. Explain why you think that the people did not see or hear the things that God was trying to tell them.

By making the choice to continue in their sins, the people had chosen to miss the good things that the Lord had for the people. This is one reason why many people miss the blessing of the Lord. They cannot be blessed when they have sin in their lives. The people of Judah were very sinful. The rich were cheating the poor. They would trick them and catch them like an innocent bird. They became rich and powerful by deceiving others. They tried to see who could do the most evil. They did not help the children who had no parents. They did not protect the poor. The prophets were not speaking the truth. The priests were worshiping in their own way instead of the way that the Lord had instructed them to worship. That was the way that all of the people wanted it.

19. Read Jeremiah 5:18-31 and write what words the Lord used to describe what had happened in the land.

20. Explain why these verses teach that God must punish people instead of blessing them when they choose to do evil.

21. Explain why you think that people that are controlled by sin have no compassion for the people that are unable to protect themselves.

We see that the Lord told the sons of Benjamin to flee for safety. Usually when danger was coming, the people of Benjamin would go to the city of Jerusalem for safety. This time they were told to flee from Jerusalem. Here we see that the city of Jerusalem was going to be the key target of the enemy that came from the north. This enemy was going to cause great destruction. The country of Judah would be cut off and destroyed. The enemy would take everything that was in Jerusalem just as a flock of sheep eats all of the grass that is in a field. The enemy would fight day and night in their efforts to destroy the city of Jerusalem.

22. Read Jeremiah 6:1-15 and write what the enemy would try to destroy during the night.

23. Explain why the people of Benjamin were told to flee from Jerusalem instead of flee to Jerusalem when the enemy came from the north.

24. Explain why you think that God said that the enemy would fight day and night in their efforts to destroy Jerusalem.

Here we see that Jeremiah warned that the enemy would make every effort to destroy the city of Jerusalem. The enemy would build towers near the city wall so that they could destroy the

people that were on the walls of the city. God also said that even in this time of judgment that the sins of the people of Jerusalem would continue. Here we see that nothing will stop evil people from continuing to sin. Evil people continue to rebel against the Lord. God said that this was the reason why it was necessary for Him to destroy the land and take the people to a foreign country. God said also that the enemy would do a very complete job of destroying the city of Jerusalem. By the time they finished their destruction, nothing would be left.

25. Read Jeremiah 6:1-15 and write how the people of Judah felt about hearing the Word of the Lord.

26. Explain why God said that the people of Judah would continue to live in sin even as the enemy was trying to destroy the city.

27. Explain why you think that many people today continue in their sin and fail to think about the future consequences of that sin.

Here we see that the people did not want to hear the Word of the Lord. In fact they hated the Word. As a result, God said that they would feel His judgment. The people would be taken captive whether they were young or old. Their lands would be given to someone else. This would happen to all of the people from the least important person to the ruler of the people. All of the people were guilty. They were all trying to satisfy themselves. None of the people were ashamed of their sins. The prophets and the priests were giving the people a false message. They said that there would be peace. Today we have religious leaders who are just the same. They choose to speak about peace instead of warning the people.

28. Read Jeremiah 6:1-15 and write what the people did not even do when they committed all kinds of abominations (sins).

29. Explain why there will be no peace even though our religious leaders may speak about peace.

30. Explain why you think that the religious leaders chose to give sinful people a false message and promise them peace.

God still called to His people and asked them to walk in His way. That is the only way that the people would have true peace and rest. However, the people refused to listen to the Lord and said that they did not want to walk in the way that God wanted them to walk. When God sent prophets to them to warn them of coming judgment, they refused to listen to the prophets. Here we see that God gave His people many opportunities to turn from their sin before He finally brought judgment upon them. In the same way, God still speaks to the nations and tells the nations that He must bring judgment on His people until there is repentance.

31. Read Jeremiah 6:16-30 and write what the people had done with the words and law of God.

32. Explain why God gave the people many opportunities to turn from their sin before He finally brought judgment on the people.

33. Explain why you think that the people did not want to walk in the way that the Lord wanted them to walk.

The people refused to listen to the Word of God or obey the commandments of the Lord. However, they still continued to bring sacrifices to God. Here we see that the people carried out religious activities but by their lives they chose not to honor God. They were not serving the Lord. As a result, God said that their sacrifices meant nothing. God said that their sacrifices were not pleasing to Him. Instead God said that the people of Judah would stumble

and fall. None of the people would be able to stand. Families would die together. Friends would be destroyed together.

34. Read Jeremiah 6:16-30 and write why the army from the north would not show kindness when they came with their bows and their spears.

35. Explain why many people want to carry out religious activities but they do not want to honor the Lord in their hearts.

36. Explain why you think that the people offered sacrifices to the Lord even though they refused to listen to the Word of God or obey His commandments.

Here we see a little picture of the terrible judgment that God promised would come on the people of Judah when the country was invaded by the army that came from the north. That army would be very cruel. God said that they would show no mercy. They would come prepared to fight and to destroy. When the people of Jerusalem saw the terrible power of the enemy, God said that the people would even lose their strength to fight. They would be filled with sorrow and pain. They would not dare to go to their fields or walk on their roads. The enemy would be everywhere. The people would be filled with sorrow. It would be as if their only son had been killed.

37. Read Jeremiah 6:16-30 and write what God told the people to put on for clothing.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the terrible consequences of sin in the lives of those who are rebellious against the Lord.

39. Explain why you think that God warned the people of Judah that the enemy would show no mercy as they destroyed the land.

God went on to tell Jeremiah to go out and measure the sinfulness of the people of Jerusalem. God wanted to show that His judgments were right and that the people deserved this judgment because of their sin. We see that the people were very rebellious against the Lord. They lied and gossiped about others. All of the people were doing things that were evil. God had tried to refine the people and make them what they should be in their lives and actions. However, the people had completely rebelled against the work of God in their lives. As a result, they left the Lord with no choice except to bring judgment on them.

40. Read Jeremiah 6:16-30 and write why people would call them reprobate (rejected) silver.

41. Explain why God wanted to show why it was necessary for Him to bring judgment on the land of Judah.

42. Explain why you think that the people just continued to live in rebellion.

Reread Jeremiah 5:1-6:30 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #4

Jeremiah 7:1-8:22

In this lesson and our next lesson we will be studying the message of judgment that was given to the people at the gate of the temple. Here we see that the people still came to the temple but their hearts were not right with God. As a result, they were continuing to live in sin. Today we have many people like the people that were in Judah in that day. Many people go to church. They act very religious. However, their hearts are not right with God. Most of them have never repented of their sin and placed their trust in Christ. Such people are religious but they are not serving the Lord. They live in sin and think that nothing is wrong with their lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why temple or church attendance is useless for those who do not follow Christ.
- Explain why many religious people do not listen to God or obey Him.
- Explain why God said that the birds were wiser than the people of Judah.

Today we have many people who pretend to worship God but they are not serving the Lord in their hearts. This same thing was true in the time that Jeremiah gave his prophecies. For that reason, God told Jeremiah to give this particular message of coming judgment in the entrance of the temple. Then all of those people who were only religious and were not following the Lord in their hearts would also receive this warning of coming judgment. Jeremiah began this message by tell the people to hear the Word of the Lord. This shows us that many people can be very religious and even go to church but never hear the Word of God.

1. Read Jeremiah 7:1-15 and write what God said that the people must do in order to continue to live in the city of Jerusalem.
2. Explain why it was important for all of the people of Judah to really hear the Word of the Lord including this message of coming judgment.
3. Explain why you think that people can be involved in many religious activities and never really hear the Word of the Lord.

The people thought that they could do anything that they chose as long as they came to the temple to show that they were religious. Here God used Jeremiah to tell them that temple attendance would not save them. They must let the Lord change their lives. Then they would do the right thing to their neighbor. They would no longer do evil to strangers, children without parents or widows. They would no longer serve other gods. Here we see that the people were doing all of these things. Then they would come and stand in the temple. The people thought that by coming into the temple that they would be made free from their sins. Here we are given a real example of what happens when people are religious but do not serve God.

4. Read Jeremiah 7:1-15 and write what God said that the temple had become in their eyes.
5. Explain why God said that if the people let the Lord change their lives that the Lord would produce changes in their actions.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord wants people to realize that church attendance will never save them from their sins.

God began to remind the people of Judah about the things that had happened to the people of Israel. The people of Israel had also done evil. As a result, their nation had been destroyed and their people were taken away to another land. Now the people of Judah were sinning in the very same ways. They were not listening to the Lord when God called to them. Instead they were continuing to live in sin and pretending to serve God at the same time. This should help us to understand why many people living today are doing exactly the same thing. Such people are religious but they do not have spiritual life because they are depending on themselves instead of repenting of their sin and turning to the Lord.

7. Read Jeremiah 7:1-15 and write where God said that He would cast the people if they continued in sin.

8. Explain what these verses teach about people that are religious but who do not serve the Lord.

9. Explain why you think that many people pretend to serve the Lord while continuing to live in sin.

Then God spoke to Jeremiah and told him not to pray for his people because God said that He would no longer listen. God said that the sin of the people must be judged and that judgment would come very soon. The people were offering sacrifices to their gods. They were doing this and at the same time they were also showing their rebellion against the God. As a result, God said that the time had come for Him to pour out His anger against the sins of the people. When this judgment came, God said that the judgment would include the animals, the trees and the crops as well as the people. That judgment would be a great and terrible judgment.

10. Read Jeremiah 7:16-34 and write what God commanded the people to do that was more important than offering sacrifices and burnt offerings.

11. Explain why God said that the judgment of the land of Judah must come very soon.

12. Explain why you think that God said that the judgment of Judah would be very complete when that judgment came.

Here we see that obedience to the commandments of the Lord is the most important thing that any person can do. When the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, God had told them that it was more important for them to obey His commandments than it was for them to offer sacrifices. At that time God had made them a wonderful promise. God told them that He would be their God and that they would be His people if they would obey His voice. God also promised that things would go well for the people if they would obey His voice. Here we see that God promised blessing to those people who chose to be obedient to Him.

13. Read Jeremiah 7:16-34 and write what the people did instead of listening to the Word of God.

14. Explain why God had promised the people of Israel that He would be their God and they would be His people if they obeyed Him.

15. Explain why you think that God reminded the people of Judah that He had spoken to their fathers about the importance of obedience when they came out of Egypt.

From the time that the nation of Israel came out of Egypt, they people refused to listen to the Lord. God sent His prophets to speak to the people. Instead of listening to the prophets of God, the people made their necks stiff. Instead of doing what was right, each generation was more

evil then their fathers. Here we see a real picture of the stubbornness and rebellion of mankind. Instead of following the Lord, the people of Israel and Judah had turned away from Him. Today people are still the same that rebel against God. They refuse to listen to Him. They do more evil than their fathers did. Human nature has not changed.

16. Read Jeremiah 7:16-34 and write the name to which God said that the Valley of the Son of Hinnom would be changed.

17. Explain why people are often religious but refuse to obey the commandments of the Lord.

18. Explain why you think that human nature had not changed and that as a result most people still refuse to listen to the Lord.

God went on to give Jeremiah a very sad message. The Lord told Jeremiah that even though Jeremiah gave this message to the people, God said that the people would not listen to Jeremiah. The people of Judah had chosen to follow their idols instead of obeying the Lord. They had chosen to do evil instead of placing their trust in God. They were even burning their sons and daughters as sacrifices to their false gods. As a result, God said that their bodies would become food for the birds because of their evil deeds. However, the Lord told Jeremiah to continue speaking to the people even though God said that they would not listen.

19. Read Jeremiah 7:16-24 and write what God said that the land would be like when He brought judgment on the nation of Judah.

20. Explain why it was important for Jeremiah to give this message to the people even though the Lord said that the people would not listen.

21. Explain why you think that the people had become so evil that they were even burning their children as sacrifices to their false gods.

God said that He would completely destroy the land of Judah because of the sins of the people. When that judgment came, God said that the only things that would be left in the land would be the bones of the people. The enemy would kill the people that they did not take as captives. That included the rulers, the religious leaders and the people. When the enemy did come and destroyed the land of Judah, they did not bother to bury the bodies. Instead the birds came and ate the flesh of the dead bodies. As a result, all that was left was the bones. Jeremiah said that these bones would be spread out in front of the false gods that had not been able to help the people.

22. Read Jeremiah 8:1-7 and write what the few people that were not killed would want at that time.

23. Explain why God said that all that would be left in the land would be the bones of the people.

24. Explain why you think that God said that the bones would be spread out in front of the false gods that could not help the people.

God said that when this judgment came that part of the people would be carried away to other countries. Those who would be taken to other countries would wish that they could die. They would not want to live any longer. They would think that the people who had died had received a better judgment than they did. Here we see that the people who reject the Lord and refuse to place their trust in God and serve Him have no hope when the time of judgment comes because they have had no purpose for their lives. We read that the people had continually turned away from the Lord throughout their history. Their lives had held other things more important than

the Lord. Those things that they held as more important were not able to help them in the time of judgment.

25. Read Jeremiah 8:1-17 and write to what the people were holding fast.

26. Explain why God said that the things that the people had trusted throughout their lives would not be able to help them in the time of judgment.

27. Explain why you think the people that reject the Lord and refuse to trust in Him will have no hope in the Day of Judgment.

The people continued to hold fast to the lies that they had heard. They refused to return to the Lord. They spoke things that were evil as they spoke against the Lord. None of the people were sorry for their sin. They just kept following their sinful ways. God said that the birds were wiser than the sinful people of Judah. God said that the birds know when the time has come for them to fly to another place in the spring and in the fall. However, the nation of Judah did not know enough to obey the commandments of the Lord. Instead they continued to follow their evil ways.

28. Read Jeremiah 8:1-7 and write what God said that His people did not know.

29. Explain why God told the people of Judah that the birds were wiser than the people of Judah.

30. Explain why you think that the people of Judah just continued to follow their sinful ways.

The people of Judah claimed that they were very wise. They even said that they had the Word of God. It was true that the people did have copies of the Word of God. However, that did not make them wise. Instead God said that their wise men would be put to shame because they had rejected the Word of God. Today we also have many religious leaders who claim to be wise. Many of these religious leaders have done exactly the same thing that the religious leaders did in the time of Jeremiah. They have rejected the Word of God. God said that people cannot have true wisdom when they have rejected His Word.

31. Read Jeremiah 8:8-22 and write what all of the people of Judah were doing including the prophets and the priests.

32. Explain why many people think that they are wise even when they fail to be obedient to the Word of God.

33. Explain why you think that it is impossible for people to have true wisdom when they have rejected the Word of God.

Here we see that the people thought only of themselves. They did whatever they could to get what they wanted. Their religious leaders claimed to help and heal the people. However, what the religious leaders were doing did not help anyone. The things that they were doing were like someone putting a band-aid on a broken leg. The religious leaders told the people that everything was going fine. We see though that their claims meant nothing because there was no peace either in the land or in the hearts of the people. We also read that the people were not ashamed of the things that they had done. As a result, God said that the religious leaders would fall with the rest of the people when judgment came on the land.

34. Read Jeremiah 8:8-22 and write what the Lord said He was going to do with those evil people.

35. Explain why people will do whatever they can to get what they want when they only think of themselves.

36. Explain why you think that God said that the religious leaders would fall along with the rest of the people when the Lord brought judgment.

God said that He would certainly take the people away from their land. Nothing would be left of their crops. Many of the people would be destroyed. If the people fled to their cities which were protected by high walls, God said that they would die in the cities. They would not escape the judgment that the Lord allowed to come on their land. Because of their sin, the judgment of the Lord would come upon them. It would be a time of great terror. As soon as the armies of the enemy reached Dan which was far to the north, God said that the people would begin to fear and shake. They would realize that the enemy had come to completely destroy the land. In that day God would judge them and would show no mercy.

37. Read Jeremiah 8:8-22 and write what God said about the condition of the people since it was past the time of harvest.

38. Explain what these verses teach about religious leaders that do not teach the people to worship and serve God.

39. Explain why you think that God said that the people would begin to fear and shake as soon as they heard that the enemy had entered the land.

We also see another picture of the sorrow of Jeremiah as he thought about the judgment of his people. He said that his sorrow was so great that it could not be healed. Already he could hear the cry of the people when they would be carried to a country that was far away. However, Jeremiah realized that the people had waited too long. The time of harvest was past. The summer had come to an end. The people had not turned to the Lord for salvation. Jeremiah was filled with sorrow as he realized that his people must be judged by God because of their sins.

40. Read Jeremiah 8:8-22 and write what Jeremiah said about Gilead.

41. Explain why it is important for all people to realize that they need to come to the Lord before the time of harvest is past.

42. Explain why you think that Jeremiah said that his sorrow was so great that it could not be healed.

Reread Jeremiah 7:1-8:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #5

Jeremiah 9:1-10:25

Today we will learn about the sorrow of Jeremiah as he thought about the judgment that God had said would come on his people because of their sins. As the people of Judah faced destruction of their land and their removal to a foreign land, Jeremiah could not help but cry for his people. Here we see again a real picture of the love that we should have for the people around us who are living in sin. We will also see why the false gods that people trust will not be able to help them in the day when they are judged. God is the One who made the earth and He alone is the One who

has the power to either protect or destroy.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell about the sorrow of Jeremiah for his people.

Explain why it was necessary for judgment to come on the people of Judah.

Explain why idols cannot help people in their time of distress.

Explain why God alone is the only One who is able to help mankind.

As we finished our last lesson, we saw the great sorrow of Jeremiah because of the fact that he realized that his people must be judged. We are given some additional information about the sorrow of Jeremiah as we begin this lesson. Jeremiah said that he was filled with such a great sadness because of the coming judgment on the people of Judah that he could cry day and night. His eyes were filled with tears. Every thought of his people made him cry. That was the reason why Jeremiah is often called the weeping prophet. He was filled with sadness as he realized that many of his people would soon die because of their sin. Here we see a real picture of the concern that we should have for our relatives, friends and other acquaintances that have not placed their trust in Christ.

1. Read Jeremiah 9:1-16 and write what the people were doing with their tongues.
2. Explain why Jeremiah was filled with sadness as he thought about the coming judgment that would come on his people.
3. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to have a great concern for your family and friends that are still facing eternal judgment.

We read more about the sins of the people of Judah. They were committing adultery. They were twisting the truth so that the people heard lies instead of the truth. They were going from one evil thing to another. They did not have their trust in the Lord. As a result, they could not trust each other. Everyone was speaking evil of his neighbor. They were also trying to trick and deceive their neighbors. Instead of speaking the truth, they spoke lies. They became tired because they were committing so much sin. They were even deceiving themselves. As a result, they did not even want to hear about the Lord or get to know Him.

4. Read Jeremiah 9:1-16 and write what the Lord said that He would do because of their sins.
5. Explain why people who continue to speak lies reach a point where they begin to believe their own lies.

6. Explain why you think that people cannot trust one another when they are practicing evil themselves.

Because of the sins of the people, God said that He must refine the people of Judah. To refine normally meant to heat metal until the metal was so hot that all of the dirt and other things in the metal were burned. God said that He would use judgment to get rid of the evil that was present in His people. There was no other choice for the Lord because of the continuing sins of the people. The people would speak peacefully to their neighbors. At the same time, they would be planning to destroy their neighbors. God said that such evil could not go unpunished. He must judge their sin. God said that He would make the land empty because of the sins of the people.

7. Read Jeremiah 9:1-16 and write why God said that He would make their land an empty wilderness.

8. Explain why God said that He would refine the people by allowing them to experience judgment until they turned from their sins.

9. Explain why you think that the people would speak peacefully with their neighbors at the same time that they were planning to destroy them.

The will always be people who will blame God for judging evil people. Here we see that God again explained the reasons why Judah must be judged. They had to be judged because of their own sin. They had rejected the Word of God. They refused to obey the voice of the Lord. They would not walk in the ways of God. Their hearts were stubborn. They followed false gods. Here we see that God explained to the people why they must be judged. The people had no one to blame but themselves for their judgment. They had chosen to do evil instead of obeying the Lord.

10. Read Jeremiah 9:1-16 and write what God said that the people of Judah had chosen to walk after.

11. Explain why many people have stubborn hearts that cause them to reject the Lord and refuse to walk in His ways.

12. Explain why you think that God spoke so many times of the reasons why Judah must be judged.

Since God has said that Judah would be judged, God told the people of Judah to mourn and weep. At their funerals, they would have women come to cry and weep. God said that they should call these women to come and weep because judgment was coming soon. Then the entire land would be filled with weeping because of the fact that the entire land would be destroyed. No part of the land would escape the judgment that God would bring. Their houses would be destroyed. The people that lived would be taken out of the land to a foreign land. The people would be filled with shame as they were being taken away from their land.

13. Read Jeremiah 9:17-26 and write the places where God said that death would come to the people.

14. Explain why God said that the entire land of Judah would soon be filled with crying and weeping.

15. Explain why you think that God said that the people would be filled with shame as they were taken out of the land.

Here we see that God said that the people would die wherever they happened to be. Many would die in their homes. The rulers would die in the palace. The children would die in the streets. The young men would die in the center of the town. Others would die in their fields where they were working. When the people died, there would not even be anyone to bury them. Instead their bodies would be left laying in the houses, streets or fields where they fell. Here again we see a terrible picture of the result of the sin of the people of Judah. Sin will always eventually lead to death.

16. Read Jeremiah 9:17-26 and write what the wise men were boasting about.

17. Explain why God said that the people would die wherever they happened to be at the time that the enemy came.

18. Explain why you think that God wanted the people to understand the terrible consequences of their sin.

The people who thought that they were wise were boasting about their wisdom. The people who thought that they had great strength were boasting about their strength. The rich people were boasting about their riches. Here we see a real picture of the pride of mankind. People boast about the things that they can do. They boast about the things that they have. However, God says that we should not boast about such things. Instead we should boast of the fact that we know the Lord. We should boast about the things that the Lord has done and not about the things that we are doing.

19. Read Jeremiah 9:17-26 and write what God told the people that they should glory in if they were going to glory.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the danger of boasting about the things that we can do.

21. Explain why you think that many people in the world are so filled with pride that it causes them to boast about themselves.

God began to talk about the idols that the people of Judah were serving. God urged His people not to follow the way of the sinful nations around them. The people of those nations were trying to determine their fortunes from the stars. As a result, the people of the nations were filled with fear. The people had been deceived by their customs and their idols. God reminded them that their idols were useless. Men had gone out into the forest and cut a piece of wood. Then they cut that piece of wood into the shape of an idol. The people who made those idols then covered their idols with silver and gold to make them look beautiful. Then the people nailed their idols together so that the idols would not fall over.

22. Read Jeremiah 10:1-11 and write how the idols were like a palm tree.

23. Explain why the people had to nail their idols together so that the idols would not fall over.

24. Explain why you think that people become controlled by fear when they try to determine their fortunes by the stars.

Here we see that their idols were able to stand straight because men had nailed braces to the idols to hold them straight. As they stood straight, they looked like a scarecrow in a field. However, those idols could not speak as they stood in the field. People had to carry those idols from one place to another because the idols could not walk. Here we see that idols are completely helpless. They cannot even help themselves. Certainly they will not be able to help anyone else. This is the reason why it is useless to fear and worship idols. They are actually good for nothing.

25. Read Jeremiah 10:1-11 and write how the Lord compares to the idols that people make.
26. Explain how the things that people do to make an idol show that those idols are helpless.
27. Explain why you think that the people thought that their idols would help them when the idols could not even help themselves.

Here we are reminded of the difference between the true and living God and the idols that men make. The idols are nothing. They are made from wood or metal. However, God is very great. His name is very powerful because God has all power. God is the true God instead of a piece of wood that will only deceive people. God is living instead of being a piece of dead wood or metal. The Lord is the Eternal King who will live forever. When God is angry, He can shake the earth. Here we see a real picture of the greatness of God compared to the weakness of idols. The idols will fall when God shows His power because the Lord has all strength and power.

28. Read Jeremiah 10:1-11 and write what God said will happen to the false gods that had not made the heavens and the earth.
29. Explain what you learn about the greatness and power of the Lord from these verses.
30. Explain why you think that it is important to help people understand the difference between the Creator of the heavens and earth and the false gods of people.

The Lord is the One who made the earth by His power. He established the world by His wisdom. By His understanding He put the heavens in place. He is the One who causes the water to fall and then return to the clouds. He is the One who makes the lightning and sends the wind. Here we see just a small picture of the wisdom and knowledge of God. As we compare the knowledge and wisdom of men with God, we see that men are nothing. They are without true knowledge when they depend on their own understanding. They show their lack of knowledge by making dead idols that cannot help them. God said that those idols are worthless and would one day be destroyed.

31. Read Jeremiah 10:12-25 and write the name that is given to the Lord in these verses.
32. Explain why the creation shows us a little picture of the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord.
33. Explain why you think that if people will really look at the creation of the Lord that they will be forced to recognize that there is a Creator.

Here we see that the Lord is the Lord over all things. He is the One who made all things. God made the nations of Israel and Judah to be the nations that would be the nations to receive His special blessing. However, the people did not want to receive these blessings. As a result, they rebelled over and over against the Lord. Now God said that He must send His people out of the land of Judah. He must allow them to suffer until they would be ready to return to Him. When the people were ready to return to Him, then God promised that He would begin to bless the people again.

34. Read Jeremiah 10:12-25 and write what Jeremiah said that he must bear when he heard this message of judgment.
35. Explain why God was willing to allow His people to suffer until they would be ready to return to Him.
36. Explain why you think that God promised that He would begin to bless His people again when they returned to Him.

Jeremiah was filled with sorrow as he heard the message of judgment that God had spoken

about the chosen people of God. He could no longer keep quiet. He realized that the people must be punished for their sin. He had great sadness as he thought of the fact that the sons of his people would be taken out of the land. He also had great sadness as he realized that the shepherds of his people had turned from the Lord and led the people the wrong way. As a result of the failure of the shepherds of the people, the people were like a flock of sheep that were scattered. Here we see that we also have a real warning about what happens when the leaders of a church fail to teach the people the Word of God. The people become like sheep that are scattered.

37. Read Jeremiah 10:12-25 and write how Jeremiah asked the Lord to correct him in his own life.

38. Explain why Jeremiah was filled with sorrow as he heard the message of the judgment of Judah even though he recognized that the judgment was necessary.

39. Explain what lessons you can learn for you own life from the failure of the leaders of Judah.

In his sorrow for his people, Jeremiah prayed to the Lord and asked the Lord to forgive his failures and correct him. Jeremiah realized something that each of us also need to realize. Our own ways will not lead us to success. Instead our ways will only lead to failure. We do not know how to direct our own steps because of the sin in our lives. This is the reason that we need to ask the Lord to direct our steps so that we will go in the right way. Jeremiah also prayed and asked God to judge the nations that God used to judge the people of Judah.

40. Read Jeremiah 10:12-25 and write what Jeremiah said the nations had done to the chosen nation of God.

41. Explain why every person needs to understand that if he follows his own ways that those ways will lead to failure.

42. Explain why you realize that we will not know how to direct our steps when we have sin in our lives.

Reread Jeremiah 9:1-10:25 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #6

Jeremiah 11:1-12:17

As Jeremiah continued to speak to the people of Judah about their coming judgment, there were many of the people who did not like his message. One day the men of the town of Anathoth decided that they did not want to hear the warnings of coming judgment any longer. As a result, they began to plan how they would put Jeremiah to death. Here we see something that will always happen when we are faithful in serving the Lord. There will be people who the devil will use to try and stop us from serving the Lord. We should expect such persecution and be prepared for it because we know that the devil is never happy when the work of the Lord is being done.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the message about the broken covenant.
- Explain what God said about those who tried to kill Jeremiah.
- Tell about the prayer of Jeremiah.
- Explain the answer of the Lord to the prayer of Jeremiah.

As we begin this lesson, we see that God reminded Jeremiah of the covenant that the Lord had made with the people of Israel. In that covenant, God said that the people would be cursed if they did not listen to the words of the covenant and obey them. When God brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt, God spoke to them and told them what would happen if they would not listen to His voice. God also gave them some wonderful promises if they would obey His voice. God promised that He would be their God. God also promised that they would be His people. Here we see that God offered them a wonderful promise if they made the choice to obey Him.

1. Read Jeremiah 11:1-13 and write what kind of a land God promised to give to the people of Israel if the people would obey Him.
2. Explain why God had warned Israel when He brought them out of Egypt about the danger of refusing to listen to His voice.
3. Explain why you think that God gave the people of Israel the choice to obey and be blessed or disobey and receive judgment.

The Lord had given the nation of Israel a wonderful promise and a wonderful land. Then God gave the people a choice. God promised the people that if they would choose to obey Him that they would be able to enjoy all of the blessings of a land that flowed with milk and honey. Now God told Jeremiah to walk through the streets and cities of Judah and remind the people about the covenant that God had made with them. When God brought the people out of Egypt, He also gave them a warning. Throughout their history God had continued to remind His people and warn them what would happen if they did not obey the Word of God. The people had to make a choice.

4. Read Jeremiah 11:1-13 and write what the people did when God gave the people the choice to obey or disobey Him.

5. Explain why Jeremiah was told to walk through the streets of Jerusalem and remind the people of the covenant that God had made with them.
6. Explain why you think that people need to be reminded of their choices and also the consequences of their choices.

Here we see a real picture of the sinfulness of the heart of mankind. Instead of obeying the Lord, people choose to rebel against Him. This was what the people of Judah did. The people of Judah refused to listen to the Lord when God spoke to them. They chose to walk in their own evil ways. Their very thoughts and imaginations were evil all of the time. They broke the covenant that God had made with their fathers. They committed the sins of their fathers. They followed other gods and served them instead of placing their trust in the Lord.

7. Read Jeremiah 11:1-13 and write what God said He would do to the people of Israel and Judah because of their sin.
8. Explain why the thoughts and imaginations of the people of Judah had become evil all of the time.
9. Explain why you think the people of Israel had chosen to break the covenant that the Lord had made with their fathers.

Here we see that no one can escape the judgment of God. When God pays people for their evil actions, it will be a time of great judgment because of the sins of the people. God said that He will not listen when the people called to Him as they were being judged. People must get right with the Lord before the time of judgment comes. When the time of judgment comes, it is too late to prepare at that time. God said that the people would also cry to their false gods. However, God said that they would receive no help from their idols. Their judgment would be completed.

10. Read Jeremiah 11:1-13 and write what God said that the idols would not do for the people in their time of trouble.
11. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of preparing for judgment before that judgment comes.
12. Explain why you think that God said that He would no longer listen to the people of Judah if they called to Him in their time of trouble.

God went on to tell Jeremiah not to pray for the people of Judah. God knew that the people of Judah were going to continue to reject His message just as they had rejected that message many times before. The Lord had chosen the nation of Israel. He had called them by name. However, instead of producing fruit, the people had become worthless. As a result, God said that He had determined to judge the people for their sins. That was the reason why God told Jeremiah not to pray for the people any more. That judgment would come on the people of Judah because they had continued to offer sacrifices to Baal instead of asking for forgiveness for their sins.

13. Read Jeremiah 11:14-23 and write who God said that He had pronounced this judgment against.
14. Explain why God told Jeremiah that the time of judgment for Judah had come and told him not to pray for the people any longer.
15. Explain why you think that God said that the people had become worthless instead of being fruitful.

The men of the town of Anathoth did not like the messages of judgment that Jeremiah was giving to the people. As a result, they decided to kill him. However, the Lord had told Jeremiah that He would be with Jeremiah. As a result, Jeremiah did not try to fight when the men of the city did evil things to him. Instead Jeremiah was like a lamb. He did not fight. Here we have a real example of the way that we should act when people try to do evil things to us because we are being obedient to the Lord. We should not try to get even with them. Instead we should let the Lord judge them.

16. Read Jeremiah 11:14-23 and write what the people were plotting and saying against Jeremiah.

17. Explain why Jeremiah did not try to get even with the people that persecuted him because of his message of judgment.

18. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life not to fight those who might persecute you.

Jeremiah prayed to the Lord instead of fighting against the people. Then God said that He would judge the evil men that wanted to kill Jeremiah. God said that the children of those men would be killed either with the sword or they would die from a lack of food. That is exactly what happened when the enemy came and destroyed the cities of Judah. These men and their entire families were killed. Here we are reminded that we do not need to fight or try to defend ourselves. We can know that the Lord will take care of us regardless of what others try to do to us.

19. Read Jeremiah 11:14-23 and write what God said that he would bring on the men of Anathoth.

20. Explain why those who trust in the Lord never need to be fearful of those who hate them and are against them.

21. Explain why you think that God said that He would judge the people of Anathoth for their sin.

Jeremiah realized that God always judged the right way. However, Jeremiah could not understand certain things so he asked the Lord to explain those things to him. That is also what we should do when we do not understand. The first thing that Jeremiah could not understand was the reason that sinful people were allowed to get rich and prosper. He also found it hard to understand why sinful people could have an easy life here on this earth. Today Christians still ask some of these same questions when they see that sinful people are not judged immediately. We will see the answer of God to the questions of Jeremiah when we come to the end of the chapter.

22. Read Jeremiah 12:1-6 and write what happened to the nation of people that God had planted.

23. Explain why we need to ask the Lord to give us understanding when we lack that understanding.

24. Explain why you think that Jeremiah found it hard to understand why evil people could have an easy life for a period of time.

The people that God had chosen to be His own special nation had grown and became a great nation. They had even produced fruit. However, in the time of Jeremiah most of them were

producing bad fruit instead of good fruit. They spoke about God but they did not follow Him. Instead their hearts and minds were far from God. There were very few of the people who trusted the Lord as Jeremiah did. Because of the sins of those who were evil, God said that the whole land would be filled with sorrow. There would be no crops. The animals would also be gone. Nothing would be left in the land because of the sins of the people.

25. Read Jeremiah 12:1-6 and write how even the brothers from the house of his father had treated Jeremiah.

26. Explain why God showed that it is possible for people to speak about God even when their hearts and minds are far from God.

27. Explain why you realize that it is important for the Lord to look on the heart and not just hear the words of people.

Here we see a real picture of the sins of the people. We see that the people had purposely tried to trick the Lord. They did not think that God would know about the evil things that they had done. That was the reason that God had become so tired of their sin. God knew their inner thoughts and attitudes. He knew that the people did not want to serve Him. God knew that they were not telling their true feelings when they said nice things about the Lord. Today we still have people who claim to worship the Lord and yet they do not serve Him.

28. Read Jeremiah 12:1-6 and write what God told Jeremiah to do even if the people spoke smooth words to Jeremiah.

29. Explain why people can never trick God even though they may be able to trick other people by their outward actions.

30. Explain why you think that God had become tired of their sin because He knew their inner thoughts and attitudes.

God went on to speak more about the way that the people of Israel and Judah had treated Him. They had become like a lion that was roaring against the Lord. This was the reason why it had become necessary for God to judge His people. It was the reason why God said that He would allow a foreign nation to have victory over them. In fact God said that the time had come for Him to gather the nations together to come and destroy His people. Instead of serving the Lord, the people had rebelled against God. They had ruined His land with their sin.

31. Read Jeremiah 12:7-17 and write why God said that the whole land would be made desolate.

32. Explain why God said that He would gather the nations together to come and destroy the land of Judah.

33. Explain why you think that God said that He would allow a foreign nation to have victory over Judah.

God is a holy God and He must judge sin. He cannot just ignore sin. As a part of that judgment, God said that the land would be judged also. Instead of having fields that produced wonderful crops, the land would become empty and nothing would grow. Here we see that God was giving Jeremiah an advance picture of the judgment that the Lord planned to bring on the land. God promised that when He sent an enemy against the land of Judah that the entire land would be destroyed. No part of the land would experience peace. Here we see a picture of the completeness of the judgment of sin that God promised to bring on the land of Judah.

34. Read Jeremiah 12:7-17 and write what God said that the people would receive when they planted wheat.

35. Explain why God said that the entire land of Judah would be destroyed when He brought judgment on the land.

36. Explain why you think that God gave Jeremiah an advance picture of the judgment that would come on the land of Judah.

Although the people of Judah would work hard to plant their crops, they would not be there when it came time to gather the harvest. Instead God said that the people would feel the anger of the Lord. God said that He would take the people out of the land. They would be uprooted just as a plant is uprooted from the ground. However, God followed this warning of judgment with a wonderful promise. God said that one day He would bring His people back into the land again. We have seen this promise almost every time that God warned Judah of coming judgment.

37. Read Jeremiah 12:7-17 and write what God said that He will show to the people when He brings them back to their land.

38. Explain why God emphasized so often the fact that one day He will bring the people back into the land.

39. Explain why you think that God said that the nation of Judah would be uprooted just like a plant is uprooted from the ground.

As we read about the promise of the Lord to bring the people back into the land, we see that God promised that He will give each one that comes back into the land a piece of land that will belong to that person. God also told Jeremiah who would be brought back into the land. Only those who chose to follow the Lord instead of false gods would be brought back into the land. God said that those people would learn to follow the ways of the Lord. They would choose to serve Him. As a result, God said that He would build them up and bless them.

40. Read Jeremiah 12:7-17 and write what will happen to those who do not listen to God or obey His Word.

41. Explain why God said that He would build up and bless the people that will choose to follow Him in the future.

42. Explain why you think that God continued to remind the people what He will do in a time that is still future in our own day.

Reread Jeremiah 11:1-12:17 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #7

Jeremiah 13:1-14:22

Today we will learn that God told Jeremiah to do a very unusual thing. God told Jeremiah to buy a new linen sash. Later God told Jeremiah to bury this sash by the river. Then the day came when God told Jeremiah to go and dig the sash out of the ground. When Jeremiah dug the sash out of the ground, the sash had been spoiled and was useless. God said that the sash of Jeremiah was to be a sign to the people of Judah. Jeremiah was also given a message that God was going to stop the rain in the land. As a result, nothing would grow in the land. One of the promises that God had made to the people of Israel when they had come from Egypt was that He would stop the rain if the people turned away from the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what lessons God wanted to teach Judah with the rotten sash.
- Explain what God said about the judgment that would come from the north.
- Explain why the coming of a drought was a warning to Judah.

One day God spoke to Jeremiah and told him to go and buy a new cloth sash. God also told Jeremiah to wear the sash but not to wash it. Jeremiah was obedient to the Lord and did exactly as the Lord had commanded him to do. Later God told Jeremiah to take the sash to the Euphrates River and bury the sash in a hole in a rock. Of course that meant a long trip of several hundred miles for Jeremiah to go to the Euphrates River. Jeremiah again did exactly as God had commanded and buried the sash. After many days God spoke to Jeremiah again. This time God told Jeremiah to go to the Euphrates River again and dig up the sash that he had buried on the earlier trip. Again Jeremiah was obedient to the Lord.

1. Read Jeremiah 13:1-14 and write what the sash was like when Jeremiah dug it out of the ground.
2. Explain what Jeremiah teaches about obedience to the Lord when he traveled several hundred miles to bury the sash.
3. Explain why you think that God had Jeremiah travel several hundred miles to bury this sash near the Euphrates River.

After Jeremiah had dug the sash out of the hole in the ground, he found that the sash was spoiled and useless. Then God explained the purpose that He had for telling Jeremiah to do such an unusual thing. God said that He would destroy the pride of Judah and the city of Jerusalem just as the sash had been destroyed. God said that the people of Judah had become very wicked. They refused to listen to the Word of God. Their hearts were filled with stubbornness and rebellion. They had chosen to follow other gods. They had bowed down to idols. God was going to punish their sin by taking them to a foreign land that was located by the Euphrates River.

4. Read Jeremiah 13:1-14 and write what God said that the people of Judah had become like because of their sin.
5. Explain how God said that the people of Judah had become like the sash that was now rotten and useless.

6. Explain why you think that God wanted to show the people by an example so that they could see how spoiled and useless their lives had become.

Here we see a real picture of the lives of sinful people. When they come to the end of their lives, they will have empty lives which are good for nothing. God said that He had used the sash to show what He wanted His people to be. A sash is very close to a person. God said that He wanted His people to be very close to Him. God wanted the whole nation of Israel and the whole nation of Judah to be close to Him. God wanted to make them a well known nation that would bring praise and glory to God. However, that was not what the people had become.

7. Read Jeremiah 13:1-14 and write why the chosen people of God did not become the kind of nation that God wanted them to be.

8. Explain why God had wanted the people of Israel to be very close to Him so that He could show His love to them.

9. Explain why you think that many people today come to the end of their lives and realize that they have lived lives that are empty and good for nothing.

God also said that the people would boast because they had filled all of their bottles with wine. They thought that they were great because they had so much wine. However, God saw the people of Judah much differently. God said that the entire land was filled with drunkenness. God said that was why the time of judgment had come because the entire land was filled with drunkenness. Fathers and sons would be killed together. God would not show pity on the people. The sins of the people had made it necessary for God to bring judgment on the people.

10. Read Jeremiah 13:1-14 and write what God said that He would not show when He brought judgment on the sins of the people.

11. Explain what God said happens to a nation or group of people who boast about their drunkenness.

12. Explain why you think that the people thought that they were great because of the fact that they had so much wine.

The people of Judah were proud and spent their time boasting. They would not give any glory and honor to the Lord. As a result, Jeremiah warned the people to turn from their sin before God caused them to fall. God had shown Jeremiah the consequences that the people would face because of that pride. Jeremiah was filled with great sadness as he saw the pride of the people. His eyes were filled with tears as he thought about the fact that his people would be taken as captives to a strange country. Jeremiah also spoke to the king and queen and told them not to be proud because they would soon lose their crowns and be removed.

13. Read Jeremiah 13:15-27 and write what God said would happen to Judah.

14. Explain how the tears of Jeremiah as he saw the sins of the people of Judah showed that he had a great compassion for the people.

15. Explain why you think that the pride of the people of Judah caused them to spend much time boasting.

God warned the people again that this judgment would come from the north. The very nation that had once been their friend would be the nation that would make them slaves. When this happened, the people would wonder why they were being judged. Here we see something that people often do. They do not realize that their judgment is the result of their own sin. God said

that judgment was coming on the nation because of the greatness of their sin and there was no way to stop that judgment. God said that there are two things that are impossible to do. A person cannot change the color of his skin. An animal cannot change his spots.

16. Read Jeremiah 13:15-27 and write what evil people think that they can do but God says is impossible.

17. Explain why the people had such great sin in their lives that they did not even realize that they would be judged for their sin.

18. Explain why you think that many people can deceive themselves so that they do not even realize how sinful their lives are.

Today many evil people think that they can change and become good by their own efforts. Here God pointed out the fact that it is completely impossible to do good and live a good life by our own efforts. We will fail every time because our own efforts can never change our lives. The people of Judah had forgotten the Lord. They had believed lies instead. One lie that they believed was that they could change themselves. This is the lie that many people believe. As a result of believing this lie, they deceived themselves. Their lives were actually filled with sin. God said that judgment must come on the city of Jerusalem because of the sin of the people.

19. Read Jeremiah 13:15-27 and write what God said would happen to the people because of their spiritual adultery with their idols on the hills.

20. Explain why people cannot change themselves and make their lives acceptable by their own efforts.

21. Explain why you think many people have believed their own lie and think that they can change themselves when they decide to do so.

God had told the people of Israel in the book of Deuteronomy that He would stop the rain if the people of Israel turned away from Him. The northern country of Israel had experienced a drought of more than three years during the time of Elijah when the land of Israel had no rain. Because Israel had refused to turn from their sins, God finally allowed a foreign nation to take the people of Israel to a foreign country. Now God warned Judah that their judgment would soon come if the people did not repent and turn to Him. God stopped the rain in Judah and they had experienced a very great drought. Because there was no rain, the people were in great sorrow.

22. Read Jeremiah 14:1-9 and write what happened when the people went looking for water.

23. Explain why God had warned the people that if they turned away from Him that He would stop the rain.

24. Explain why you think that the people of Judah did not learn anything from the judgment that God brought against the nation of Israel.

Here we see a real picture of the fact that Judah was already beginning to experience judgment for the sins of the people. The people could find no water when they went to look for water. The ground became so dry that large cracks appeared in the ground. As a result, the farmers were filled with shame because nothing would grow for them. Even the wild animals were affected by the lack of water. The deer would leave their young in the fields to die because there was no grass for the deer to eat. The wild donkeys had their eyes fail them because of the fact that they could find nothing to eat.

25. Read Jeremiah 14:1-9 and write what Jeremiah said that the people had done against the Lord.

26. Explain why God had stopped the rain in the nation of Judah.
27. Explain why you think that God said that the farmers would be filled with shame because of the fact that nothing would grow for them.

Jeremiah realized the terrible sins of his people. He realized that the people were getting exactly what they deserved. He knew that the people had served idols instead of serving the Lord. After Jeremiah mentioned the sins of the people, he said that God was the only hope for the people. Jeremiah realized that without the help of God there was no hope for his people. God is the only One who can save any people in the time of judgment. Then Jeremiah asked God to remember that He had chosen the nation of Israel to be His chosen people. Jeremiah asked the Lord not to forsake the people that He had chosen. Here we see again the concern of Jeremiah for His people.

28. Read Jeremiah 14:1-9 and write by whose name Jeremiah said that the people of Judah were called.
29. Explain why Jeremiah realized that turning to God was the only hope for the people of Judah.
30. Explain why you think that Jeremiah asked the Lord not to completely forsake Judah even though He knew that they deserved judgment.

God said that the people of Judah had gone away from Him. They had chosen to walk after other gods instead of following Him. As a result, God said that He would remember their sins and bring judgment. God also told Jeremiah not to pray for God to spare the people. God said that the time of judgment had come. God had waited for a long time to judge the people of Judah. However, God said that He could wait no longer because of the terrible nature of the sin of the people. God said that He would judge the people of Judah in three ways. Many of the people would be killed by the sword. Many others would die from the lack of food. Many would also die from pestilence or disease.

31. Read Jeremiah 14:10-22 and write what the false prophets had been telling the people of Judah.
32. Explain why God told Jeremiah not to pray any longer that God would spare the land of Judah from judgment.
33. Explain why you think that God said that the people of Judah would die in several different ways as He brought judgment.

Here we see that the false prophets were telling the people exactly what the people wanted to hear. God said that these false prophets had deceived their own minds. Now God said that these false prophets would be killed by the famine or by the sword. Today we are living in a day when many preachers are telling people the things that people want to hear instead of telling them the truth. Such preachers have deceived their own minds. They are telling lies that they have received from the devil. As a result, they are leading people away from God. The people think that everything will be fine because they believe the lies that the false leaders are telling them.

34. Read Jeremiah 14:10-22 and write what God said would happen to the people of Jerusalem who listened to these false prophets.
35. Explain why God said that these false prophets had deceived their own minds.
36. Explain why you think that the false prophets were telling the people what the people wanted to hear instead of telling the people the truth.

Here we see the final result of listening to false teachers. When people listen to false teachers throughout their lives, they will be judged by death. However, this death will be more than physical death. Those who ignore the message of the death and resurrection of Christ and do not repent of their sin will burn forever in the lake of fire. God said that the people of Judah would die in two different ways. Those who remained outside the cities would be killed by the sword because no one would protect them. Those who fled inside city walls would die from starvation because they would have no food. This judgment would also include the prophets and the priests because they had led the people in the wrong way.

37. Read Jeremiah 14:10-22 and write what the people experienced instead of a time of healing.

38. Explain what you learn about false prophets and false teachers from these verses.

39. Explain why you think that God said that this judgment would include the prophets and the priests as well as the rest of the people.

As Jeremiah thought about the judgment that would soon come on his people, he wondered if God had completely rejected Judah. Jeremiah knew that his people were very sinful. He knew that the people did not deserve forgiveness. However, Jeremiah asked God not to completely destroy Judah because of the covenant that God had made with Israel. Here we see that Jeremiah was asking God to keep His Word so that it would be a testimony to the other nations. God was the only One that could give rain. No idol could cause the showers to water the earth.

40. Read Jeremiah 14:10-22 and write why Jeremiah said that they would wait on the Lord and place their hope in Him.

41. Explain why Jeremiah chose to remind God of the covenant that God had made with Israel.

42. Explain why you think that Jeremiah wanted God to keep His Word so that it would be a testimony to the other nations.

Reread Jeremiah 13:1-14:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations
Lesson #8
Jeremiah 15:1-16:21

Today we will learn more about the various reasons why God said that judgment must come on the people of Judah. The people were still deceiving themselves and thought that they would not be judged. Today we have many people that are like the people of Judah. These people think that they can live in sin and still not be judged. However, we see that the judgment of God is certain to all those who reject His word. None will escape that judgment if they fail to place their trust in Christ. We will also learn more about Jeremiah in our study today. We will see how he felt toward the Word of God. Then we will learn the reason why he was not married.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why God said that judgment must come on Judah.
- Explain how Jeremiah felt about the Word of God.
- Explain why God told Jeremiah not to get married.

God said that He would judge the nation of Judah even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before God and speak for the people. Moses had spoken for the people when he was leading the people of Israel through the desert. At that time, God did not destroy the people of Israel because of the prayer of Moses. Samuel also was a great man of prayer. However, God said that the people of Judah had become so evil that He would judge them even if Moses and Samuel both prayed for the people. Here we see a little reminder of the greatness of the sin of the people of Judah. God said that He would send the people to another land because of their sin.

1. Read Jeremiah 15:1-9 and write how many kinds of judgment God said that He would bring against the people of Judah.
2. Explain why God said that He would not spare Judah even though both Moses and Samuel prayed for them.
3. Explain why you think that God wanted to make it clear that the reason He was going to judge Judah was because of the greatness of the sins of the people.

God said that four things would happen to the people of Judah. Through these four things, most of the people would die. Some would be killed by the sword. Some would starve to death. Some would be killed by disease. Some would be taken as captives to foreign countries. God also told about the things that would be involved in getting rid of the bodies of the people who were killed. After the people had been killed, some of their bodies would be dragged away by the dogs. Then their bodies would be eaten by the birds or the wild animals. As a result, even the people of other lands would speak of the terrible judgment of the people of Judah.

4. Read Jeremiah 15:1-9 and write what God said had happened to the people because they had forsaken Him.
5. Explain why God said that the bodies of those who died would be eaten by the birds or the wild animals.

6. Explain why you think that God said that even the other nations would speak about the terribleness of the judgment of Judah.

Because the people had turned away from the Lord and had followed other gods, God said that He would wait no longer to judge and destroy the people. Both the children and the parents would be destroyed. All of this would happen because the people had refused to turn from their evil ways. Women would suddenly become widows because their husbands had been killed. The mother with many sons would have all of her sons killed. The lives of such women would become empty and meaningless even though they had not grown old. Then the few people that were left would also be judged and be destroyed by the sword.

7. Read Jeremiah 15:1-9 and write what God said about the increase in the number of widows.

8. Explain why these verses said that judgment must come on the people of Judah.

9. Explain why you think that God said that when judgment came that both the parents and the children would be destroyed.

As Jeremiah thought about this terrible judgment, he was filled with sorrow because he knew that he must speak this message of judgment to the people. He even wished that he had not been born. Jeremiah was being cursed by all of the people because he continued to speak of coming judgment. People today are just the same as the people in the time of Jeremiah. People do not like to hear that their sins will cause them to be judged. As a result, people may try to stop us when we speak for God. However, that should not cause us to become concerned or unhappy. Instead we should be thankful because God has given us this opportunity to speak for Him. We know that the Lord will use our words to complete His purpose.

10. Read Jeremiah 15:10-21 and write what God said He would give to the enemies because of the sins of the people.

11. Explain why we can be thankful for the fact that the Lord has given us the opportunity to warn people of coming judgment.

12. Explain why you think that people do not like to hear that their sins will cause them to be judged.

The people of Judah had worked hard to gain riches and possessions for themselves. They thought that the money and possessions would make them happy. Many people throughout history have had that same attitude. Now God told the people of Judah that the very things that they had worked so hard to get would suddenly be taken away from them. The people would also be taken away to a foreign land. Today many people in the world are also seeking riches and possessions. These people think that gathering riches will make them happy. However, money and other things can never satisfy. Such things will only cause people to want more things.

13. Read Jeremiah 15:10-21 and write what brought joy and rejoicing to the heart of Jeremiah.

14. Explain why many people throughout history have thought that riches and possessions will make them happy.

15. Explain why riches and possessions can never make people happy in their lives.

Here we see the source of true happiness. The Word of God will bring inner joy into our hearts because the Word of God will give us peace in our hearts. When we place our trust in Christ, we know that we have been given eternal life. No one can take this life away from us. We

have great joy and happiness because we are called the children of God. The Word of God also teaches us how to grow and serve God better. There is real joy as we see that we are growing as Christians. We also have great joy when we see growth in the lives of other Christians. There is also joy when we know that the Lord is showing us how to serve Christ better. The Word of God gives true joy.

16. Read Jeremiah 15:10-21 and write what the Lord promised He would do for Jeremiah in his life.

17. Explain why the Word of God fills your own heart with happiness and joy as you experience the peace of God.

18. Explain why you think that many people in the world are focused on happiness instead of joy.

Because Jeremiah was faithful in his service for the Lord in a very sinful land, he did not have a large group of friends. Evil men did not want to be a friend of Jeremiah. He had to sit alone because of the fact that he spoke for God. However, he was not alone because God was with him. The Lord also gave Jeremiah a wonderful promise. God said that He would make Jeremiah like a metal wall. Although people fought against Jeremiah, they would not have victory over him. God promised that He would be with Jeremiah. God promised to save Jeremiah from those who rejected his message. God promised to deliver Jeremiah from the people that wanted to destroy him.

19. Read Jeremiah 15:10-21 and write out of whose hand the Lord promised to deliver Jeremiah.

20. Explain why God promised Jeremiah that He would deliver Jeremiah from the people that were trying to destroy him.

21. Explain why you think that evil people did not want to spend time with Jeremiah and be his friend.

God told Jeremiah not to get married. There was a reason why God gave this commandment to Jeremiah. God had promised that judgment would soon come on the nation of Judah. When that judgment came, it would be a terrible time for those who had families. God said that both adults and children would die from terrible diseases. God did not want Jeremiah to have great sorrow because of his family. As a result, God told him not to have a family. God said that in the time of judgment that there would not even be anyone to bury the dead.

22. Read Jeremiah 16:1-9 and write what God said about the bodies of those who died during that judgment.

23. Explain why God wanted to protect Jeremiah from great sorrow when God brought judgment on the land.

24. Explain why you think that God said that when the time of judgment came that it would be a terrible time for families.

Here we see another real picture of the judgment that would happen to the people of Judah. Their bodies would be left in the fields to be eaten by the birds and the wild animals. There would not even be people left in the land to bury them. God also told Jeremiah not to mourn or cry for those people who would be killed. God said that these things would happen because He had taken away His peace from the people that He had chosen. Here we see again that we can only have peace when our hearts are right with God. When we are rebelling against the Lord, we can have no peace in our lives.

25. Read Jeremiah 16:1-9 and write what kinds of people God said would die in the land.
26. Explain why God said that the judgment of Judah would be so complete that there would not even be people left to bury the bodies.
27. Explain why you think that God said that He would take away His peace from the people that He had chosen.

Here we see that people would not be able to escape judgment just because they were important. The judgment of God will come on all people who fail to place their trust in the Lord. The rich person will not have enough riches to escape judgment. The political leader will not have any power to protect him from judgment. When the time of judgment comes, there will be no joy or happiness among the people that have failed to repent and turn to the Lord. Instead there will only be sorrow. God said that He would completely eliminate any joy of gladness when He brought judgment on Judah. The same will be true for all people at the final judgment.

28. Read Jeremiah 16:1-9 and write the four voices that God said would cease in the land of Judah.
29. Explain what these verses teach about the sorrow and sadness that will come to all people that choose to rebel against the Lord.
30. Explain why you think that God gave the people that had riches or power a special warning that they would not escape judgment.

God also told Jeremiah what the people would say when Jeremiah gave them this message of judgment. God said that the people would say that they had not done anything wrong. Here we see that people think that they are all right as long as they compare themselves with each other. It is only when we compare ourselves with God that we realize how sinful we are. God told the people that they had followed the sins of their fathers. They had turned away from the Lord. They had followed other gods. They had worshiped other gods and had served them. They had refused to keep the commandments of the Lord.

31. Read Jeremiah 16:10-21 and write how God said that their sins compared with the sins of their fathers.
32. Explain why God said that the people would tell Jeremiah that they had not done anything wrong.
33. Explain why you think that people choose to compare themselves with each other instead of comparing themselves with God.

In addition to committing all of the sins that their fathers had committed, the people in the time of Jeremiah also had very stubborn and rebellious hearts. They walked in their own evil ways and refused to listen to the Lord. Because of their sins, God said that He was going to take them out of their land to a land that they had not known. That would be a day of great judgment because God would show them no kindness in that day. However, God does promise to show kindness to His people in the future. Here we see again that God always gave His people a promise of future blessing when He warned them of coming judgment.

34. Read Jeremiah 16:10-21 and write from where the people will say in that day that the Lord brought them instead of from the land of Egypt.
35. Explain why God said that the people of Judah were very stubborn and rebellious in their hearts.

36. Explain why you think that many people today also have hearts that are filled with stubbornness and rebellion.

In the future when God brings all of the Jews back to the land of Israel, it will be an even greater miracle than the time when God brought them out of the land of Egypt. The Lord will gather them together from all of the countries of the world where they have been scattered. Today we see that part of the Jews have returned to the land of Israel. However, many of the Jews are still having much suffering in other countries. When the Lord brings all of them back into the land in the future, at that time they will all turn to the Lord and serve Him.

37. Read Jeremiah 16:10-21 and write what God said that He would cause the people to know about God.

38. Explain why it will be a greater miracle when God brings the Jewish people back from many lands than the miracle when He brought them out of Egypt.

39. Explain why you think that the Jews will feel that it is even more important when they are brought back from many lands than it was when God brought them out of Egypt.

Once God had reminded the people of Judah of the promise of future blessing, He returned to the subject of immediate judgment. God said that the people could not hide their sins from Him even though they tried. The Lord had seen all of the sins that they had committed. Now the Lord said that He was going to repay them for their sins. God said that this judgment would be so great that the people would never forget it. They had filled the land with idols. God said that once the people experienced this judgment that it would keep them from ever worshiping idols again.

40. Read Jeremiah 16:10-21 and write what God said He would cause the people to know through the judgment that He would bring against them.

41. Explain why many people think that they can hide their sins from God so that He does not see them.

42. Explain why you think that God said that this judgment would be so great that the people would never forget it.

Reread Jeremiah 15:1-16:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #9

Jeremiah 17:1-18:23

Many people throughout history have thought that they have lived lives that are very good. Such people think that their works are good enough to save them. That was certainly true in the land of Judah at the time of Jeremiah. Today we will learn what God has to say about such people. God said that all people are very sinful. People are only deceiving themselves when they think that they are living good lives. God also compared Israel and Judah to a clay pot. God said that His people had become like a cracked pot. However, in spite of all of their sin, God promised that He will one day take the pieces and make Israel a useful pot again.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God said about the heart of man.
- Explain what God said about the Sabbath.
- Explain how God said that Israel was like a clay pot.
- Explain what God said about coming judgment.

As we begin our study of this chapter, we see a picture of the control that sin has over a person that does not have his or her trust in the Lord. The people of Judah were as concerned about their worship of their idols as they were about their children. As a result, God said that He was going to destroy the high places where the people worshiped their idols. God was going to take their riches and give their riches to their enemies. God warned the people of Judah that in addition to losing everything that they had that they would also be taken to a foreign land where they would serve their enemies. That foreign country would be a land that they did not know.

1. Read Jeremiah 17:1-11 and write what God said about those who trust in people instead of placing their trust in the Lord.
2. Explain why sin can become so important to people that it becomes more important than their children.
3. Explain why you think that many people today have a greater concern to sin than they have to care for their children.

Many people have placed their trust in other people instead of trusting in the Lord. When people put their trust in other people, their hearts are turned away from God. As a result, God said that their lives become like an empty desert where nothing will grow. However, there is a completely different result when people place their trust in the Lord. God said that then they are like a tree that grows beside a stream of water. Their roots are always watered from the water in the stream. The heat never bothers such trees. Instead the water keeps those trees green at all times. Such trees produce good fruit even when there is no rain.

4. Read Jeremiah 17:1-11 and write what God said about the heart of a person.
5. Explain why God said that those who place their trust in Him are like a tree that grows beside a stream of water.
6. Explain why you think that God said that those who turn away from the Lord have lives that are like an empty desert.

Here we see that people are tricked by the sin that they have in their hearts. People think that they can do evil and it will not matter. As a result, they think about evil and commit acts of evil continually. However, God reminds us that He can look right into the evil heart of every person. He knows the evil thoughts that people are thinking. God will repay these evil people according to their evil actions. When a bird hatches the eggs of a different kind of bird, the young birds leave the bird that hatched them when the young birds are old enough to take care of themselves. God said that evil people are just like the bird that hatched the eggs. Such people think that they are smart. We see though that when the Day of Judgment comes that they will suddenly realize that they have been fools in the sight of God.

7. Read Jeremiah 17:1-11 and write what the man who gets riches by sin will be called in the end.

8. Explain what you learn about the sinful condition of the hearts of mankind from these verses.

9. Explain why it is important for you to help people understand that the Lord knows the thoughts of their hearts.

Since the heart of mankind is very sinful, our only hope is to place our trust in the Lord instead of placing our trust in ourselves. The Lord has a great and wonderful throne because He is holy. In Him we can find salvation and protection. Christ is the One through whom we can receive eternal life because He is the Living Water. All those who turn away from the Lord and follow their own ways will be put to shame. However, those who turn to the Lord will be healed from their sins. They will receive salvation and eternal life. We also see that the Lord is the One who places joy in our hearts and fills us with praise.

10. Read Jeremiah 17:12-27 and write the question that the people were asking Jeremiah when He spoke to them.

11. Explain why the Lord promises that those who turn to Him will be healed from their sins.

12. Explain why it is important for you to share with others how they can have the Living Water that Christ has provided for all who put their trust in Him.

The people in the days of Jeremiah did not believe that God was speaking to Jeremiah. Jeremiah had been faithful to the Lord and had been warning the people of Judah about coming judgment. He was not anxious to see God bring judgment on his people. Instead he spoke the Word of God so that the people would have an opportunity to turn to the Lord. Jeremiah knew that the Lord would be his help in the day of judgment. Jeremiah knew that God would judge the people who did evil to him. He knew that God would bring that judgment because those people had sinned and done evil.

13. Read Jeremiah 17:12-27 and write the place where the Lord told Jeremiah to stand and speak so that the rulers would hear.

14. Explain why Jeremiah warned the people of coming judgment even though He was not anxious to see God judge his people.

15. Explain why you think that it is important for you to warn people of coming judgment even though you do not want to see them judged.

God had a message that He wanted all of the people of Jerusalem to hear. Because the gate was the place where people went into and out of the city that was a place where Jeremiah could

speak and all of the people would hear his message. The people of Jerusalem were not obeying the commandment of the Lord and keeping one day holy for the Lord each week. Instead the people were working on the Sabbath. They would haul their loads of crops into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. God had commanded the people not to work on the Sabbath day in the Law of Moses. However, the people refused to obey the commandments of the Lord.

16. Read Jeremiah 17:12-27 and write what God promised would happen to the city of Jerusalem if the people would obey the commandments of God.

17. Explain why the people refused to obey the commandment of the Lord and chose to work on the Sabbath.

18. Explain why you think that Jeremiah chose to speak at a place where all of the people could hear his message.

God actually gave the people a choice. If the people chose to obey God and keep the Sabbath holy, God said that He would keep the people in the land forever. However, if the people chose to refuse to obey the Word of God and did not keep the Sabbath holy, God said that the people would be judged and taken out of the land. Today we no longer have the Sabbath (Saturday) as our day of rest that we keep holy for the Lord. Instead we keep Sunday as our day of worship and rest because of the fact that it was on Sunday that Christ arose from the dead. This is why we call Sunday the Lord's Day.

19. Read Jeremiah 17:12-27 and write what God said that He would do to the gates of Jerusalem if the people continued to work on the Sabbath.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of keeping one day each week holy to the Lord.

21. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to set aside one day for the Lord each week.

God told Jeremiah that He would give Jeremiah another picture of what the Lord was going to do. Jeremiah was told to go to the house of the potter. A potter is a person who makes clay pots from clay. When Jeremiah came to the house of the potter, the man was making a clay pot. However, as the potter worked to make the pot, a crack appeared in the pot. As a result, the pot was no good. If the clay would have dried the pot would have been useless. Since the clay was not yet dry, the potter took the clay pot and squeezed it into a lump of clay again. Then he took that lump of clay and made a new pot from it.

22. Read Jeremiah 18:1-12 and write who decided what kind of a pot to make with the clay the second time.

23. Explain why the potter took the cracked pot and squeezed the clay back together and made a new pot from the clay.

24. Explain why you think that God is even able to take a person that has had a very sinful past and make their lives like a new clay pot.

Here we see that it was the man who made the pot who decided what kind of a pot to make the second time. God is the One who had brought the Jews into existence and chose them to be His special nation. However, the Jews had turned away from the Lord and had become like a broken pot. Here God was saying that He can remake them the way that He chose to make them. He could destroy them because of their evil or He could remake them into a nation that would love and serve Him. God said that He held them in His hand and could do with them as He chose because of their sin and rebellion against Him.

25. Read Jeremiah 18:1-12 and write what God said that the people had said that they would do.
26. Explain why God wants to take all of our lives and remake them as He chooses so that our lives will be useful.
27. Explain why you think that God gives people an opportunity to become useful again even if their lives have been useless.

Here we see a real picture of the rebellion of mankind against God. The people had chosen to rebel against God and do evil. As a result of their rebellion against God, it had become necessary for God to judge the people of Judah. Before God could bless that sinful nation, God said that He must judge that nation if the people refused to turn from their sin. Today the nations of the entire world have become like the nation of Judah was in that day. At one time in some nations of the world, many of the people served the Lord. However, like Judah, the people as a whole have turned away from the Lord and have become like a broken clay pot. If people and nations continue to live in rebellion against the Lord, it will become necessary for God to judge the nations just as He has judged Israel and Judah.

28. Read Jeremiah 18:1-12 and write what way the people of Judah said that they would walk when the Lord urged them to return to Him.
29. Explain what these verses teach will happen to any nation that continues to rebel against the Lord.
30. Explain why you think that nations where many of the people once served the Lord have turned away from Him.

God never judges people without telling them why they are being judged. We have the entire Bible to tell us why God will judge us if we continue to live in sin. God gave the reason why He said that He must judge the nation that He had chosen. The people had forgotten God. Instead the people were serving false gods. They were walking in the wrong ways. Here we see a real picture of people today. People have become so busy with their own activities that they have forgotten the Lord. Other things have become more important to them and they have begun worshiping those things instead of worshiping the Lord. Those things only lead people further away from the Lord. As a result, most people have walked in the wrong ways and are leading others to these wrong ways.

31. Read Jeremiah 18:13-23 and write what God said that He would make the land of Judah because of the sin of the people.
32. Explain why many people have become so busy with their own activities that they have forgotten God.
33. Explain why you think that people often begin to serve possessions or other things when they turn away from the Lord.

Here we see that God promised to judge the land as well as the people. At one time the land of Israel was a very rich land. When God took the people out of the land and scattered them among the nations, God also judged the land. God stopped the rain and the land became an empty desert. For more than twenty-five hundred years most of the land has been useless and good for nothing. The people have also been scattered among the nations and have not had a land that they could call their own during most of that time. Even when the people did have their land for a short time, most of the Jews were living in other countries. Here we see a real picture of what happens when people rebel against the Lord.

34. Read Jeremiah 18:13-23 and write what the people of Judah said when they heard this message of judgment against them.
35. Explain why God also stopped the rain in the land of Judah when He took the people out of the land.
36. Explain why you think that God caused the land of Israel to become an empty desert when it had once been a land of milk and honey.

The people of Judah did not like the message of judgment that Jeremiah spoke to them. Instead of studying the Word of God, they had been listening to priests who were speaking their own ideas. They were listening to false prophets who were telling the people what they wanted to hear instead of telling them the truth. Today we have many religious leaders who are just like the religious leaders of Judah. Such leaders are speaking their own ideas. They tell the people the things that the people want to hear instead of speaking the Word of God. As a result, many people are not studying the Word of God and serving Him. Instead they are rebelling against the Word of God.

37. Read Jeremiah 18:13-23 and write what kind of a plot the people of Judah decided to devise to stop Jeremiah from speaking.
38. Explain what happened to the people of Judah when they listened to false teachers instead of listening to the Word of God.
39. Explain why you think that the people enjoyed listening to priests that spoke their own ideas and prophets that were false prophets.

Those who hated the message of Jeremiah spoke evil against him. As a result, Jeremiah asked God to judge these evil people. Here we learn a real lesson for our own lives. When people do evil things to us because we speak for God, we should ask God to judge them instead of fighting against them ourselves. Our responsibility is to speak for God. If we are faithful in speaking for God, we know that God will be faithful and judge evil people. As Jeremiah said, the Lord knows all of the evil things that sinful people do.

40. Read Jeremiah 18:13-23 and write when Jeremiah asked God to judge these sinful people.
41. Explain why it is important in our own lives to leave all judgment to the Lord instead of trying to judge others ourselves.
42. Explain why you think that those who hated the message of judgment that Jeremiah was speaking began to speak evil of him.

Reread Jeremiah 17:1-18:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #10

Jeremiah 20:1-21:14

In our last lesson we saw that God compared the nation of Judah to a cracked pot. God promised that He would make a new pot from the old cracked pot. In our lesson today we will learn that God said that He must completely break the old pot before He could make a new pot from the broken pieces. God explained that this meant that He must judge Judah just as He had judged Israel before He could make Israel a nation that would serve Him again. We will also learn about Jeremiah being persecuted again because he spoke this message of judgment to the people.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why God said Judah must be judged and broken like a clay pot.
- Explain why the people chose to persecute Jeremiah.
- Explain how Jeremiah felt after he was persecuted.
- Explain what God said about King Zedekiah.

Jeremiah was told to go and buy a clay pot. Then Jeremiah was told to take the clay pot and some of the leaders of Judah and go to the Valley of Hinnom. There Jeremiah was to break the pot in front of the leaders of Judah and tell them that God was going to destroy the nation of Judah just as Jeremiah had destroyed the clay pot. God told Jeremiah to break this pot in the Valley of Hinnom for a particular reason. In the Valley of Hinnom was a place called Topheth. It was at Topheth that the people of Judah were offering their children as human sacrifices to their gods. The people of Judah had killed many children at Topheth.

1. Read Jeremiah 19:1-15 and write what God said that Topheth would be called instead of the Valley of Hinnom.
2. Explain why God told Jeremiah to break the pot in the place where the people were offering their children as human sacrifices.
3. Explain why you think that God wanted the leaders to see Jeremiah break the pot before he gave them the message.

Here we see a little picture of the terribleness of the worship of false gods. The people were offering their own children as sacrifices to these false gods. They loved their false gods more than they loved their own children. Today people are still the same. Parents will neglect their children and let them go hungry while the parents serve the gods of alcohol, drugs or some other thing. The parents are more concerned about satisfying themselves than they are about caring for their children. God warned the leaders of Judah that judgment would come. Their false gods were leading them to put their own children to death. As a result, God said that the evil men of Judah would be killed by their enemies because of their sin.

4. Read Jeremiah 19:1-15 and write what God said would happen to their bodies when they were killed.
5. Explain why God said that one of the reasons why He must judge Judah was due to the fact that they were sacrificing their children to their false gods.

6. Explain why you think that many parents choose to serve their false gods even when it is destroying their children.

Here we see another real picture of the judgment that God said that He would bring against Judah. Many of the people would be killed because of their sin of sacrificing their children to idols. Then their bodies would be eaten by the birds and the wild animals. The cities of Judah would also be completely destroyed. Before the cities were destroyed, God said that the people would become so hungry that they would even eat their own children. Here we see again a warning of the great judgment that will come on the people who choose to rebel against God.

7. Read Jeremiah 19:1-15 and write what God told Jeremiah to tell the leaders that God would do to the people and to the city.

8. Explain why God said that before the people were killed that they would become so hungry that some of them would even eat their own children.

9. Explain why you think that God wanted to show the people the sinfulness of their own hearts.

Here we see the completeness of the judgment that God planned to bring against the people of Judah. Nothing would be left of the city of Jerusalem. All of the houses of the people would be destroyed. All of the houses of the rulers would be destroyed. There would be a complete destruction of Jerusalem because the people had chosen to serve other gods and offer sacrifices to idols. When Jeremiah returned from warning the leaders about the coming judgment, he went to the temple. There Jeremiah warned all of the people about the coming judgment. However, the people also refused to listen to the warning of Jeremiah.

10. Read Jeremiah 19:1-15 and write what the people had done with their necks when they had heard the message of coming judgment.

11. Explain why God said that the judgment of Judah would be so complete that nothing would be left.

12. Explain why you think that the people of Judah refused to listen to the warnings of Jeremiah about judgment.

There were many people in Judah who did not like the messages about judgment that Jeremiah was giving. One of the people that became very angry was a man by the name of Pashhur. Pashhur was the leader of the Jewish religion. Here we see something that often happens. Many times it is the leaders of religions who work the hardest to stop those who serve the Lord. The reason for this is easy to understand. Religious people think that they can make themselves better by their own works. God says that the works of man are good for nothing. As a result, religious people do not like those who speak for God and share His Word.

13. Read Jeremiah 20:1-8 and write what Pashhur had done to Jeremiah.

14. Explain why it is often the leaders of false religions that work the hardest to stop those who serve the Lord.

15. Explain why you think that most religious people think that they can make themselves better by their own works.

Here we see a real picture of the hatred of religious people for the Word of God. Because Jeremiah had spoken the Word of God, Pashhur had him beaten. Then he put Jeremiah in stocks. Stocks are pieces of wood in which holes have been cut for the arms and legs of a

person. It is very painful for a man to have his hands and feet placed in stocks after he has been beaten across the back. It was the goal of Pashhur to make Jeremiah suffer as much as possible. The next day Jeremiah told Pashhur that God had given Pashhur a new name. The new name meant terror on every side.

16. Read Jeremiah 20:1-8 and write the name that God called Pashhur after he had beaten Jeremiah and put him in stocks.

17. Explain why Pashhur wanted to make Jeremiah suffer as much as possible after Pashhur heard his prophecies.

18. Explain why you think that evil people want to get even with those who speak against their sin by making those people suffer.

God said that Pashhur would be a terror both to himself and to his friends. Because of the evil that Pashhur had done, God said that he would see his friends killed by the swords of the enemy. He would also see all of the riches of the city of Jerusalem taken away by the armies of Babylon. Then Jeremiah told Pashhur that he and his entire family would be taken as captives to the land of Babylon. There Pashhur and his family would all die. Then Jeremiah spoke of his sorrow because of the fact that people spoke evil of him every time that he spoke for God.

19. Read Jeremiah 20:1-8 and write what Jeremiah told the Lord when Jeremiah complained about the suffering that he was experiencing.

20. Explain why most religious people do not like those people who speak from the Word of God.

21. Explain why you think that God promised that Pashhur that he and his friends would be judged for their evil.

Since the leaders were doing evil to Jeremiah and making him suffer, Jeremiah decided that he would not speak the Word of God any more. However, Jeremiah could not keep quiet. He said that the Word of God was like a fire burning inside of him. It was impossible for him to keep quiet. He had to speak for God to the people. Here we see the way that the Word of God should control our lives. Our greatest desire in life should be to speak for God. If God has complete control of our lives, we will not be able to keep quiet. Instead we will be anxious to share the Word of God with others so that they can know what the Lord has said.

22. Read Jeremiah 20:9-18 and write what Jeremiah said that the Word of God was like in his heart.

23. Explain why Jeremiah said that the Word of God was like a burning fire in him and he could not keep quiet.

24. Explain why it is your desire to have the privilege to share the Word of God with others so that they can know what God has said.

The people were speaking many evil things against Jeremiah. However, Jeremiah had someone to help him when people said evil things about him. He knew that the Lord was with him. He knew that the Lord would judge those who were persecuting him. The Lord even knows the thoughts of those who are doing evil. As a result, Jeremiah knew that he could trust the Lord regardless of what happened. He knew that he could sing praises to God in spite of the persecution. He knew that God would deliver him from the evil men that were against him.

25. Read Jeremiah 20:9-18 and write what Jeremiah said about the day that he had been born.

26. Explain why Jeremiah knew that he could trust the Lord regardless of what happened in his life.

27. Explain why you are thankful that you know that you can also trust the Lord regardless of what happens in your life.

Although Jeremiah knew that the Lord would take care of him, there were still times when he became discouraged. Here we read about one of those times. Jeremiah was so discouraged that he began to wish that he had not been born. To Jeremiah, it seemed that everything that was happening to him only brought him more sorrow. It was due to this discouragement that Jeremiah felt that he could no longer speak the Word of God. However, the Word of God soon took away the discouragement of Jeremiah. As a result, he could not keep quiet. Instead he had to speak the Word of God.

28. Read Jeremiah 20:9-18 and write what Jeremiah said that he had come out of the womb to see.

29. Explain why the Word of God will also encourage you when you are going through times of discouragement.

30. Explain why you think that there are times in the lives of most Christians when they have periods of great discouragement.

For the past twenty chapters of the book of Jeremiah, we have seen that the Lord warned the people of Judah many times about the coming judgment if they would not turn from their sins. However, the people of Judah refused to listen to the warnings of God. Instead the people continued to live in their sin. As a result, the Lord finally brought the king of Babylon against Judah. Suddenly the king of Judah realized that his land was in a very dangerous situation. Then the king asked the priest to pray that God would protect them. Many people are like the king of Judah. They only cry out to the Lord when they face a situation that they cannot handle in their own strength. Instead of protecting the nation of Judah, God sent Jeremiah with a message for the king.

31. Read Jeremiah 21:1-14 and write for whom God said that He would fight in the coming battle.

32. Explain why people often ask others to pray for them when they are facing great problems in their lives.

33. Explain why you think that the king suddenly asked the priest to pray to God to protect them after ignoring all of the warnings of Jeremiah.

The people of Judah thought that they could live in sin and still expect God to help them when danger came. This is the same way that many people think today. They think that they can live in sin and still expect God to bless them. Instead God told the king and the people of Judah that He would fight against them. God said that He would cause the weapons of Judah to become useless when the people tried to fight against Babylon. The men and their animals would all be killed. Some of the people would die from disease. Some would die from hunger. Some would be killed by the swords of the enemy. Nearly all of the people would be killed. Only a few of the people would live.

34. Read Jeremiah 21:1-14 and write what God said that the people must do in order to live.

35. Explain why God told the people of Judah that their weapons would become useless when they tried to fight against Babylon.

36. Explain why you think that many people that are living in sin still expect God to help them when danger comes.

Here we see that there was only one way for the people of Judah to remain alive. That was to go out of the city of Jerusalem and surrender to the armies of Babylon (the Chaldeans). All of those who chose to surrender would be allowed to live. Their lives would be given to them as a prize. Those who surrendered would be taken to Babylon. God said that these judgments would happen to Judah because God had set His face against the people to do evil. He was going to allow them to be destroyed by the armies of Babylon. The city of Jerusalem would also be burned with fire. Many people are like the people of Judah. They think that they can sin and not get caught. Here we see that judgment will certainly come to all those who do evil.

37. Read Jeremiah 21:1-14 and write the special message that God gave Jeremiah to give to the king of Judah.

38. Explain what kind of a warning these verses give to those people who choose to continue to live in sin.

39. Explain why you think that God said that the only people that would be allowed to live would be those who surrendered to the Babylonians.

Then God gave a special message for the king of Judah. The king was warned to do what was right and just or he would receive an additional judgment. Here we see a real warning to those who are leading others. We are given a great responsibility when we are given the opportunity to lead others. If we lead others the wrong way, we will receive a greater judgment. God promised the leaders of Judah that nothing would stop His anger against the leaders of Judah if they continued to lead the people of Judah the wrong way. This warning should be a warning to everyone that is in a position of leadership. God will hold every leader accountable for the way that they lead others.

40. Read Jeremiah 21:1-14 and write how God promised that He would punish the people of Judah.

41. Explain why those who are given opportunities to lead others will receive greater judgment if they lead the people the wrong way.

42. Explain why you think that God will hold every leader accountable for the way that they lead others.

Reread Jeremiah 19:1-21:14 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #11

Jeremiah 22:1-23:40

The last four kings of the land of Judah all did evil and did not follow the Lord. As a result, all of those kings were judged by God. In our lesson today, we will learn what God said about the judgment of each of these evil kings. Here we see another real warning to evil leaders who are leading the people the wrong way. The Lord will hold them accountable for the way that they have led others. Although all four of these last kings were evil, God promised that one day a king would come to rule who would not be evil. That king is Christ. God also promised that He will bring the people back into the land when Christ rules on the earth. In that day all of the Jews will turn to the Lord and serve Him.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God promised would happen to each of the last four kings of Judah.
- Explain what we learn about Christ, the future king.
- Explain what God said about false prophets.

Zedekiah is the first king that we will study about in our lesson today. God gave Zedekiah a choice. God told him to do what was right instead of continuing to do evil. God told the king to help the people that needed help. That included the people whose husbands or fathers had died. It included the strangers from other countries. God promised that He would protect the entire country if the king would do what was right. God promised the king that his family would be allowed to continue to rule the country. The king and all of the people would be allowed to live if the king would obey the Word of the Lord.

1. Read Jeremiah 22:1-12 and write what God said would happen to the king if he chose not to obey the Word of God.
2. Explain what God told Zedekiah were things that a ruler should do as a leader of his country if he wanted to lead his people the right way.
3. Explain why you think that God said that one of the responsibilities of a good leader is to help the needy.

Here we see that God gave the king and the people of Judah a choice. They could turn to the Lord or they could choose judgment. God promised that judgment would come to the king and to the entire nation if the people failed to place their trust in the Lord. The whole land would become empty. The land would become like a desert and the cities would have no one living in them. The people of the other nations would realize that the Lord was the One who had brought this judgment against the people of Judah. The people of other nations would realize that Judah was being judged because they had turned away from God and chose to serve other gods.

4. Read Jeremiah 22:1-12 and write the name of the second king who God said would be judged.
5. Explain why God said that the other nations would recognize that God had brought this judgment on the nation of Judah.
6. Explain why you think that the people of the other nations would realize that this judgment came on Judah because Judah had turned away from the Lord.

God told Jeremiah not to cry for the people who had already died. It was too late for those people. Instead Jeremiah was told to show his sorrow for the people who had been taken out of the land of Judah and taken to a foreign land. One of those who had been taken to another land was Shallum (Jehoahaz). God said that Shallum would not be allowed to return to the land of Judah. He would never see again the land where he had been born after he was taken from that land. Instead he would die in a foreign land. Here we see again the judgment of a sinful king.

7. Read Jeremiah 22:1-12 and write the name of the father of Shallum.

8. Explain what you learn about the judgment of the Lord from the judgment of the two kings mentioned in these verses.

9. Explain why you think that God said that the judgment of Shallum would include the fact that he would never see the land of Judah again.

The Lord said that Jehoiakim was another king that would be judged by the Lord. He had built himself a house in a way that was not honest. He did not pay the men who had built that house for him. Jehoiakim was only concerned about getting what he wanted. He did not do the things that were just and right. Instead he killed innocent people to get what he wanted. He also did evil and cheated the people. As a result, God said that part of his judgment would include being buried like a donkey instead of a king. His body would just be taken and thrown outside the walls of the city of Jerusalem.

10. Read Jeremiah 22:13-30 and write the name of the son of Jehoiakim that would also be judged.

11. Explain why God said that part of the judgment of Jehoiakim would be that he would be buried like a donkey.

12. Explain why you think that Jehoiakim gives us a picture of a ruler that only lived to please himself.

Coniah (also called Jeconiah or Jehoiachin) saw the judgment of the kings that had lived before him and should have listened to the Word of God. However, he refused to obey the Word of God. Instead he chose to follow the evil ways of those who had ruled before him. Here we see another warning to those who are leaders. If we lead people the wrong way, we are guilty and will be judged for the way that we led the people. We are guilty and will be judged if we lead people the wrong way instead of teaching them to worship and serve God. As a result of the evil leadership of Coniah, the people of Judah all continued to do evil. God said that Coniah would not be allowed to continue as the king. God would judge him. God said that He would allow the armies of Babylon to capture Coniah and the entire nation and take them away as captives to a foreign land.

13. Read Jeremiah 22:13-30 and write what God would happen to Coniah and the other people in the land where they would be taken.

14. Explain why God said that a leader that leads the people the wrong way will be judged for the way that he has led those people.

15. Explain why you think that the people of Judah continued to do evil throughout the time that these four kings ruled Judah.

Because Coniah refused to obey the Word of the Lord, God said that there would never be another person from his family who would be a ruler in Judah. This is the reason that the

family of Mary in Luke 3 from which Christ came did not include the name of Coniah. Christ came from a different son of David than the rest of the kings of Judah. He had to come from a different son of David in order to complete the promise that is given here. As we see the way that these kings rejected the Word of God, we see that God closed this section by begging the people to hear the Word of the Lord. Today this is still the need of people everywhere. They need to hear the Word of the Lord.

16. Read Jeremiah 22:13-30 and write what God told the earth to do.

17. Explain why the sins of Coniah made it necessary for Christ to come from a different son of David.

18. Explain what these verses teach about your responsibility to help people hear the Word of the Lord.

God said that the leaders of Judah had been like a group of evil shepherds. Instead of leading the people to worship and serve the Lord, they had taught the people to worship idols. As a result, the people were like a flock of scattered sheep. God said that He would judge the leaders for their evil deeds. Then God went on to give a wonderful promise. God promised to gather a group of His people out of all of the nations where they had been scattered. God said that one day He would bring these people back into the land. At that time God said that He would cause the people to be fruitful and to increase.

19. Read Jeremiah 23:1-8 and write what kind of shepherds God promised to give to the people in that day.

20. Explain why God said that an evil leader is like an evil shepherd that allows the sheep to be scattered.

21. Explain why you think that God frequently reminded the people that He will one day gather the people of Israel out of all of the nations where they are scattered.

Today the people of our nation and most other nations have become like the people of Judah in the time of Jeremiah. One of the reasons for much of the sin and rejection of God today is the fact that the pastors of many churches have failed to feed the people the Word of God. As a result, there are very few strong Christians who are able to stand firmly for the Lord. Christians must be fed and taught from the Word of God and then shown how to apply the Word to their own lives in order to become strong Christians. God promised that the day would come in the future when the Jews would have a shepherd who would feed the people. This will happen when Christ rules on the earth.

22. Read Jeremiah 23:1-8 and write what name will be given to the Lord in that day.

23. Explain why it is important both to teach the Word of God and then show people how to apply that Word in their daily lives.

24. Explain why you think that many pastors have spent much time giving their own opinions instead of spending that time explaining the Word of God.

From the time of Jeremiah, the people of Israel and Judah have never had real peace and safety. Instead they have been scattered in many foreign countries. Only when Christ rules the earth will the Jews have real peace. That will be such a great day that the people will no longer speak about the way that the Lord led them out of Egypt during the time of Moses. Although that was a great day, this future day will be an even greater day in the history of Israel. Instead the people will speak of the way that the Lord has gathered them from all of the nations of the

world. The people will be thankful to God. They will realize that the Lord is the One who has made it possible for them to live in peace and safety in their own land.

25. Read Jeremiah 23:1-8 and write what the people will do when the Lord brings them out of all of the countries.

26. Explain what these verses teach that Christ will do for the Jews in the future when He comes to rule.

27. Explain why you think that the Jews will feel when the Lord gathers them out of the various countries and gives them peace in their own land.

During the time of Jeremiah, there were many false prophets who claimed to speak for God. God said that He was against these false prophets. They had not spoken for God. Instead these false prophets had lived in sin and caused the people to live in sin. The false prophets served Baal instead of serving the True and Living God. They committed adultery. They walked in ways that were wrong. They encouraged those who were doing evil. None of the false prophets turned to God from their sin. In the sight of God there were as sinful as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. God said that He would judge these false prophets because they had filled the land with evil.

28. Read Jeremiah 23:9-28 and write what these people were speaking instead of the Word of the Lord.

29. Explain why God said that the false prophets had led the people to do evil both by their teaching and by their example.

30. Explain why you think that God said that He would judge the false prophets because of the way that they had led the people astray.

Instead of warning the people of coming judgment for sin, these false prophets were speaking of peace. Today many religious leaders are the same. They speak of peace instead of warning people about the results of sin. Such leaders think that they can bring peace between people by their own efforts. There will be no peace as long as the hearts of people are controlled by sin. The only way to have peace is through Jesus Christ. This is due to the fact that He gives inner peace to those whose hearts are right with God because their sins are forgiven.

31. Read Jeremiah 23:9-28 and write what God said would have happened if these false prophets would have spoken the Word of God instead of giving their ideas about the way to have peace.

32. Explain why the false prophets had a false message when they were telling the people that they would have peace.

33. Explain why you think that religious leaders that are leading the people the wrong way think that they can bring peace between people through their own efforts.

Here we see the power of the Word of God. The Word of God will speak to people and convict them of their sins. These false prophets were saying that they had a dream from God. God said that these dreams were causing the people to forget God. God said that these men should speak the Word of God because the Word is the truth. Here we see the way for us to be effective in speaking for the Lord. We must speak the Word of God instead of speaking our own opinions. Only as we speak the Word of God will we see real changes in the lives of others.

34. Read Jeremiah 23:9-28 and write how God said that the prophets should speak His Word.

35. Explain what these verses teach about the words of false prophets.

36. Explain why you think that it is important to realize that we will only be effective in teaching others if we are teaching the Word of God.

God spoke again about the power of His Word. God said that His Word is like a fire that cannot be stopped. It is like a hammer that smashes rocks. If the false prophets would have been speaking the Word of God, they would have seen real results. As a result, God said that He was against these false prophets because they had failed to speak the Word of God. They had led the people the wrong way by their lies. God went on to tell the people how to answer these false prophets who claimed to speak for the Lord. When we meet such people we are to tell them that God promises to punish all those who claim to speak for God when they are actually rejecting the Word of God.

37. Read Jeremiah 23:29-40 and write what God said that these false prophets had done to the Word of God.

38. Explain why it is important to warn false teachers who are rejecting the Word of God that they will face judgment.

39. Explain what these verses teach about the power of the Word of God to produce genuine change.

Here we see a real example of the thing that false prophets always do to the Word of God. They change the Word and make it say what they want it to say instead of accepting what God says in His Word. Today there are many false religious leaders that are changing the Word of God. They take a verse by itself and do not study the verses that are before or after that verse. As a result, they do not teach what that verse actually says. Instead they use that verse to try and prove their own false teachings. One day they will have to answer to the Lord for what they have taught.

40. Read Jeremiah 23:29-40 and write what kind of a judgment God said He would bring on these people because they have changed the Word of God.

41. Explain why false teachers will usually take a verse out of its context to try and prove their false teachings.

42. Explain why you think that false teachers change the meaning of the Word of God when they do use the Word of God.

Reread Jeremiah 22:1-23:40 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations
Lesson #12
Jeremiah 24:1-25:38

God warned the people of Judah about some of the things that would happen when Judah was judged by Babylon. God used some figs to give a picture of one of the things that would happen to the people. Part of the figs were very good and part of the figs were very bad. As we study this lesson, we will learn what these good figs and these bad figs represented. We will also learn about a promise that God made about the future. Although it was necessary for God to judge His people, God still remembered the promises that He had made to His people. We will also learn what God said about those nations that did evil to the Jews.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the meaning of the figs.
- Explain the promise that God gave the Jews about the future.
- Explain what God said about the nations.

The king of Babylon came to fight against the land of Judah and the city of Jerusalem. He defeated the people of Jerusalem. Then the king of Babylon took many of the skillful workers in Jerusalem back to Babylon to work for him. Soon after this happened, God showed Jeremiah two baskets of figs. The figs in the first basket were very good. In fact there were like the first figs that ripen. The figs in the other basket were very bad. In fact those figs were so bad that they could not be eaten. God said that the good figs were a picture of those people that were taken away from Jerusalem by the Chaldeans to the land of Babylon.

1. Read Jeremiah 24:1-10 and write why God said that He took these people out of the land of Judah.
2. Explain why the king of Babylon took many of the skillful workers in Jerusalem as captives.
3. Explain why you think that God said that the good figs represented the people that were taken away to Babylon.

God said that He had sent these people out of Jerusalem to the land of Babylon for their own good. Because of the sins of the people of Judah, it was necessary for God to judge the nation of Judah. However, God had chosen some of the people of that nation to serve Him. Here we see that God had caused these people to be taken as captives to Babylon so that they would not be killed when the nation of Judah was judged. God said that after He had judged the evil people of the nation of Judah that one day He would bring the people who served Him back into the land again. In that day God promised that He would bless the people that served Him.

4. Read Jeremiah 24:1-10 and write what kind of a heart God promised to give to the people in that day.
5. Explain why the skillful workers were taken as captives to Babylon for their own protection.
6. Explain why you think God wanted to preserve a group of people that were faithful to Him.

God promised that the day would come when those who were carried away captive would know and serve Him. In that day God said that the people would really place their trust in Him. They

would serve God with their whole hearts. Here we see a real picture of the way that God wants us to serve Him. Then God went on to explain the meaning of the bad figs. The bad figs were a picture of the people that were left in the land of Judah. Their lives were filled with evil. As a result, God said that the people in the land were just like the bad figs. God said that these evil people must be destroyed. Some would be killed by the sword. Others would die from lack of food. Some would die from disease. Some would be driven to other countries.

7. Read Jeremiah 24:1-10 and write what God said that all of the people would be in all of the places where He drove them.

8. Explain why God said that one day those who were taken away as captives would serve Him with their whole hearts.

9. Explain why you think that God said that the bad figs represented the evil people who must be judged and destroyed for their sins.

Here we see that God said that the people would all be spoken against in the lands where the Lord would drive them. As we compare the two groups of people mentioned in this chapter, we learn an important lesson for our own lives. The people who were carried away as captives may have thought that the Lord had forgotten them. Later they realized that God had carried them away to protect them. Sometimes we think that some of the things that happen to us are bad. As a result, we may lose the joy in our Christian lives for a time. Here we see that we should be filled with joy at all times because God will use the things that may seem bad at first for our own good.

10. Read Jeremiah 24:1-10 and write what God said He would do to those who were like the bad figs.

11. Explain why we can rejoice in all situations in our lives even when some things seem bad from our point of view.

12. Explain how you think that the people that had been taken away as captives felt when they realized that God had taken them away for their own protection.

The Lord had been warning the people of Israel and Judah about coming judgment for many years. There had been many prophets who had warned of coming judgment. That judgment had come to Israel. Jeremiah and some of the other prophets had continued to speak to the people of Judah for many years. However, the people had not listened to the true prophets. Instead they had closed their ears to the warnings of judgment. Today we also have many people who do not listen to those who are speaking for the Lord. Instead they continue to walk in their sinful ways.

13. Read Jeremiah 25:1-11 and write from what the prophets had warned the people to turn.

14. Explain why God had sent many prophets to warn the people of Judah of coming judgment.

15. Explain why you think that the people of Judah had closed their ears to the warnings of coming judgment.

The people had not listened to the prophets. They had not turned from their evil ways. Instead they continued to serve the idols that they had made with their hands. They had worshiped the works of their own hands. As a result, God said that He would soon bring judgment from the north. The king of Babylon would come and completely destroy the land of Judah. God even called the king of Babylon His servant because he would be carrying out the judgment that the Lord had promised. This reminds us again that God can use evil kings and countries to complete His plan.

16. Read Jeremiah 25:1-11 and write how long God said that the people would serve the king of Babylon.

17. Explain why God called the king of Babylon His servant because he would be carrying out the judgment that the Lord had promised.

18. Explain why you think that the people continued to worship the works of their own hands even though God warned of coming judgment.

God said that He would cause the land of Judah to become completely empty for a period of seventy years. There would be no joy or voice of gladness in the land. There would not be any weddings because there would be no one to get married. No work would be done in the land during that period. There would be no light in the houses. Here we see a real picture of complete emptiness in the land. God said that the land would remain empty for seventy years. All of the people who remained alive would be servants to the people in other countries.

19. Read Jeremiah 25:1-11 and write how long God said the people would serve the king of Babylon.

20. Explain why God said that He would take all of the people out of the land of Judah for seventy years.

21. Explain why you think that God said that He would cause the land to be completely empty for a period of seventy years.

Although God used the nation of Babylon to judge Judah, God did not forget that Babylon was also a very evil nation. God said that Babylon would also be judged after it had been allowed to judge the nation of Judah. God said that the judgment of Babylon would be even greater than the judgment of Judah. God said that Judah would be an empty waste land for seventy years. Here we see that God promised that Babylon would become an empty waste forever. Never again would anyone live in Babylon. Even today the people who live in the area where Babylon once stood will not stay at night where the city of Babylon stood.

22. Read Jeremiah 25:12-26 and write who these verses say prophesied against Babylon.

23. Explain why God said that the judgment of Babylon would be much greater than the judgment of Judah.

24. Explain why you think that God said that no one would ever live again in the city of Babylon when it was judged.

The Lord used Jeremiah to speak the message about the judgment that would happen to the city of Babylon. God said that Babylon would be judged the same way that it had judged other nations. The people of Babylon would become the slaves of the kings of other countries. They would receive terrible judgments from these other nations. Here we are reminded that people reap exactly what they sow. People cannot continue to live in sin and expect to escape the judgment of God. God is a holy God and as a result He must judge sin.

25. Read Jeremiah 25:12-26 and write what God said He would send among the people to judge them.

26. Explain why it is important for all people to realize that they will reap exactly what they sow.

27. Explain why you think that God often reminded the people that they could not continue to live in sin and expect to escape judgment.

God went on to give a list of the nations that He would judge because of their evil. As we come to the end of the list of the nations that God said He would judge, we see that God said that one day all of the nations of the earth would be judged. Here we see that the Lord is speaking of a future judgment as well as the judgment of Babylon. There has not been a time yet when all of the nations of the earth have been judged. However, God promised that there will come a time in the future when all of the nations of the earth will be judged.

28. Read Jeremiah 25:12-26 and write who God said would be judged in Egypt along with Pharaoh.

29. Explain why it is necessary for God to judge each of the nations because of their own evil.

30. Explain why you think that God said that all of the nations of the earth would be judged in the future.

As God spoke of the judgment of all of the nations of the earth, He asked a question. God asked why the nations thought that they could escape judgment when God even judged the nation that He had chosen. Certainly the other nations must know that God would judge them just as He judged the nation that He had chosen to be His own chosen nation. God said that one day He will bring a sword against all of the peoples of the earth. We know that this judgment will happen at the time when God judges the world just before Christ returns to rule on the earth. At that time every person who has not placed his or her trust in Christ will be destroyed.

31. Read Jeremiah 25:27-38 and write how the wicked will be destroyed by the Lord.

32. Explain why God warned the nations that they would not escape judgment since He even judged the nation that He had chosen.

33. Explain why you think that God looked far forward to the future judgment of all of the nations of the earth.

In one day we read that God will judge the people from one end of the earth to the other. There will be so many people destroyed that there will be no one left to cry for them. There will be no one left to gather the bodies or bury them. Instead the bodies will be left to lie on the ground where they fall. Here we see a real picture of the great judgment that will come upon the earth when God judges the people of the earth. Very few people will remain on the earth when Christ comes to rule. Only the small group of people who have placed their trust in Christ will live in that day.

34. Read Jeremiah 25:27-38 and write why God told the shepherds to cry and weep.

35. Explain why God said that there would be no one left to gather the bodies and bury them when He brings judgment on the nations.

36. Explain why you think that God will preserve a small group of people even when He brings judgment on all of the nations.

Here we see another real warning to the leaders of the people. God had given them a position of leadership so that they could guide the people the right way. Instead of guiding the people in the right way, the leaders had walked in sin and caused the people to sin. Now God told the evil leaders that they would be judged. They would be killed or scattered in foreign lands.

Today we also have leaders who practice evil and lead the people in the wrong way. Some of these leaders even pretend to be Christians. However, the Lord looks at their hearts.

37. Read Jeremiah 25:27-38 and write what God said that the shepherds of the people would do when He brought judgment upon them.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the judgment of evil leaders.
39. Explain why you think that God said that the leaders had both walked in sin themselves and also caused others to sin.

God promised that when He judged the leaders that they would not have any place to escape. Instead they would be trapped by their own sin. God would bring a complete judgment upon them which they could not escape. God said that He would do this because of His anger against sin. Here we are reminded again that God is a holy God who cannot look with favor at sin. He cannot allow sin to go unpunished. Because of the sins of the people of Judah, God judged the people of Judah. The land of Judah felt the fierce power of the enemy. The land also felt the fierce anger of the Lord. As a result, the land became an empty wilderness.

40. Read Jeremiah 25:27-38 and write why the peaceful homes of the people were destroyed.
41. Explain why God said that the leaders would not have any place to escape when the Lord brought judgment upon them.
42. Explain why you think that God makes it clear that He is a holy God that cannot look with favor at sin.

Reread Jeremiah 24:1-25:38 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #13

Jeremiah 26:1-28:17

The religious leaders of Judah did not like the messages of judgment that Jeremiah continued to give them. As a result, the religious leaders decided that Jeremiah must be killed. Instead of listening to the Word of God, the religious leaders decided to kill the man who spoke the Word of God. Here we are reminded again that it is often the people who lead false religions that are most eager to try and stop the Word of God and the people who are doing the work of God. In our study in this lesson we will also read about a false prophet who told the people what they wanted to hear instead of telling the people the truth. God said that such false prophets would be judged.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain why the religious leaders wanted to kill Jeremiah.

Explain how Jeremiah was protected from the religious leaders.

Explain the meaning of the yoke that Jeremiah put around his neck.

Explain what God said about Hananiah, the false prophet.

One day the Lord told Jeremiah to go to the temple and speak to the people. The Lord knew that the message that He gave Jeremiah to speak would not make him popular with the people. However, the Lord told Jeremiah not to leave out one word of the message that the Lord had for the people. The Lord also gives us the same instructions. We have been given the Word of God. Now we are not to change a single word that God has given us. The Word of God is His inspired Word. Instead we are to speak boldly for Christ and tell others what the Word of God teaches.

1. Read Jeremiah 26:1-9 and write what God promised to do if all of the people turned from their evil ways.

2. Explain why the Lord told Jeremiah not to leave out one word of the message of judgment when he spoke to the people.

3. Explain why you think that it is important for you to make sure that you do not change a single word of the message that the Lord has given you to share with others.

In spite of their continuing rebellion, we see that God again offered the people a choice. They had the opportunity to turn from their sins and enjoy the blessing of God. However, if the people refused to turn from their sins, God said that He would bring judgment against them. God had sent many prophets to warn the people to turn from their sins. Instead of listening to these prophets, the people had closed their ears and refused to listen. Now Jeremiah was to speak to the people again and give them that same message. The people did hear Jeremiah but they refused to listen and turn from their sin. They did not like it when Jeremiah said that their city would be destroyed.

4. Read Jeremiah 26:1-9 and write what the people said to Jeremiah when he finished giving them this message from God.

5. Explain why God again offered the people a choice to repent and turn from their sins or choose to experience the judgment of the Lord.

6. Explain why you think that God told Jeremiah to give the same message and warning of coming judgment again.

Instead of listening to the Word of God and obeying it, the people decided to kill Jeremiah. Here we see a real picture of the sinfulness of mankind. The people thought that they could stop the judgment of God by killing the man who spoke for God. This is a real trick of the devil. He tries to make people think that they can escape judgment. In this way, the devil tries to keep people from placing their trust in Christ. Here we see that the devil wanted the people to kill Jeremiah so that he could not warn the people of coming judgment any longer.

7. Read Jeremiah 26:1-9 and write what the priests and the prophets said to Jeremiah when he finished speaking to the people.

8. Explain why the people of Judah had deceived themselves so that they thought that killing Jeremiah would stop the judgment that God promised through Jeremiah.

9. Explain why you think that the devil will also try to stop you from sharing the Word of God as you speak for God.

Although the devil tried to stop Jeremiah, the Lord protected him from the people. The Lord will also protect us and care for us as we are faithful in speaking for Christ. We read that God led some men to protect Jeremiah when the false prophets and priests wanted to kill Jeremiah. As a result, the life of Jeremiah was protected. The princes heard that the false prophets and priests were planning to kill Jeremiah. Then the princes came to hear what Jeremiah had to say. Again Jeremiah spoke and warned the people to turn from their evil ways. He told them that they would be destroyed if they did not turn from their evil.

10. Read Jeremiah 26:10-24 and write what Jeremiah told the people that they would bring on themselves if they killed him.

11. Explain why it is important to know that God is with us when we are faithful in speaking for Christ.

12. Explain why you think that God led the princes to protect Jeremiah when the priests and prophets wanted to kill him.

The princes and the people realized that Jeremiah was telling the truth and did not deserve to die. They told the priests and false prophets not to kill Jeremiah. Here we see again that it is often the religious leaders who do not know Christ that speak against the people who speak for God. Those people who have only an empty religion hate Christ because they know that they must choose whether to serve Christ or continue to follow their empty religion. They cannot serve both Christ and their false religion. We also see that there were some of the people of Judah that did serve the Lord. They were willing to speak for Jeremiah and try to protect him from the religious leaders.

13. Read Jeremiah 26:10-24 and write the name of the man who really spoke for Jeremiah to protect him.

14. Explain why those who are leaders of an empty religion hate it when others are faithful in speaking the Word of God.

15. Explain why you think that God had raised up a group of people that trusted the Lord and led them to protect Jeremiah.

Here we see a man who was willing to stand up and speak for what he knew was right. He was

willing to do this even though it might mean danger for himself. Here we see a real example for our own lives. As Christians, we need to stand for what is right even though it may not make us popular with many of the people. We also see the results because one man was willing to stand and speak for what he knew was right. We read that Jeremiah had his life spared because one man did what was right and stood with Jeremiah. We will also see that the Lord will produce some wonderful results in the work of the Lord if we do the things that we know are right.

16. Read Jeremiah 26:10-24 and write who had prophesied to the people during the time that Hezekiah was the king.

17. Explain why we should do what is right even though it does not make us popular with many of the people.

18. Explain why you know that the Lord will carry out the work of the Lord when you are willing to stand and speak for the Lord.

One day God gave Jeremiah a message for the nations that surrounded the nation of Judah. God told Jeremiah to make yokes and send a yoke to the king of each of these surrounding countries. A yoke was usually placed around the neck of an ox so that the ox could pull a heavy load. However, God had a different purpose for these yokes. God wanted these yokes sent to the king of each of the nations to show the kings of those nations that they should allow the nation of Babylon to take control of their nations. God said that He had given these nations to Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon.

19. Read Jeremiah 27:1-22 and write how God said that He would punish these nations if they refused to accept the yoke of Babylon.

20. Explain why Jeremiah was told to send a yoke to the kings of each of the nations that surrounded Judah.

21. Explain why you think that God told the kings of each of the nations that surrounded Judah that they should allow Babylon to take control of their nations.

Here we see that God was giving the people of these other countries a choice. If they would choose to serve the king of Babylon, God said that they would be allowed to remain in their own lands. However, if they made the choice to refuse to serve the king of Babylon, God said that they would be killed in one of several ways. Some would be killed by the swords of the armies of Babylon. Some would starve to death because they would have no food. Some of the people would die from disease. Jeremiah also warned these kings not to listen to the fortune tellers, astrologers, and others who would try to predict the future. God said that these people would speak lies. People who claim to be able to tell the future are controlled by the devil and they will tell the lies of the devil so that the devil can lead them the wrong way.

22. Read Jeremiah 27:1-22 and write what king of Judah also received these same instructions.

23. Explain why God even gave the people of the nations that surrounded the land of Judah a choice and told the consequences of each possible choice.

24. Explain why you think that God told Jeremiah to warn the kings of the surrounding nations not to listen to fortune tellers, astrologers and others who try to predict the future.

Jeremiah also warned the king of Judah what would happen if he refused to be ruled by the king of Babylon. The leaders of Judah were listening to false prophets. These false prophets said that everything would be fine for Judah. They said that the king of Babylon would soon return

the gold that he had taken from Jerusalem. Here we see the reason why so many people listen to false prophets and false teachers. These false leaders tell the people what the people want to hear instead of telling them the truth. People often do not like to hear the truth because the truth hurts. As a result, they choose to listen to false teachers instead.

25. Read Jeremiah 27:1-22 and write what Jeremiah told these prophets to do if the Word of God was really in them.

26. Explain why the false prophets in Judah were telling the people that the king of Babylon would soon return the gold that he had taken from Jerusalem.

27. Explain why you think that people that are false prophets will tell the people what they like to hear instead of telling them the truth.

Here we see that these false prophets were told to pray to the Lord and ask the Lord for help if they really trusted the Lord. Jeremiah said that otherwise God had promised that everything that had been left in Jerusalem would also be carried away to Babylon. Today some Christians get worried and anxious about the future. Then they start depending on themselves and their own ways to try and solve their problems. Here we see the real way to find the solution to any problems that we face. We are to pray to the Lord and trust Him to solve our problems instead of trying to solve them in our own way. He knows how to solve every problem.

28. Read Jeremiah 27:1-22 and write what Jeremiah said would happen to the vessels that remained in the temple at Jerusalem.

29. Explain why it is important to pray and ask the Lord to solve our problem instead of worrying when we face a problem.

30. Explain why you think Jeremiah told the false prophets to pray to the Lord for help if they actually trusted in the Lord.

One of the false prophets did not like the words of Jeremiah. He decided to show Jeremiah that Jeremiah was wrong and he was right. During this time, Jeremiah was wearing a wooden yoke around his neck to show the people that they should submit to the control of Babylon. One day this false prophet spoke to all of the people in the temple and said that God had broken the yoke of Babylon. He said that those who had been taken as captives to the land of Babylon would soon be brought back to the land of Judah. Here we see that the false prophet was claiming that Judah would soon have peace and all of their problems would be solved.

31. Read Jeremiah 28:1-17 and write the name of the false prophet who spoke against Jeremiah.

32. Explain why God told Jeremiah to wear a wooden yoke around his neck as a message to the people.

33. Explain why you think that this false prophet said that God had broken the yoke of Babylon.

Hananiah was making many great boasts. Jeremiah said that there was a way to prove whether the words of Hananiah were true or false. Jeremiah said that if the words of Hananiah were true, then the country would have peace. If his words were not true, then the country would have war. Here we see that the words of a true prophet will agree with the Word of God. Today we also have some people who claim to be prophets. We can use the same test for these people. If they are really speaking for God, their words will agree with the Word of God. However, if they are teaching things that do not agree with the Word of God, we know that they are false teachers.

34. Read Jeremiah 28:1-17 and write what kind of yokes Jeremiah said that God would make since Hananiah had broken the yokes of wood.

35. Explain why it is important to understand that the words of a true prophet will always agree with the Word of God.
36. Explain why it is important to make sure that the people to whom you listen speak the Word of God and not their own opinions.

Here we see the answer of God to a false prophet. God said that the Word of God would come true just as the Lord had spoken that Word. This is a promise that each of us have today as Christians. We know that we can count on the fact that the Word of God will come true exactly as the Lord has spoken it. We can depend on His promises. As a result, we can look forward to the future with joy and happiness instead of fear. We know and understand that the Lord is in control of all things. Nothing can happen unless God allows it to happen.

37. Read Jeremiah 28:1-17 and write what Jeremiah told Hananiah that he was causing the people of Judah to believe.

38. Explain why you are thankful that you know that you can depend on everything that is written in the Word of God to happen exactly as God has spoken it.

39. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that the Lord will keep His promises exactly as He has spoken them.

God also had a message for Hananiah. God said that Hananiah had taught the people of Judah to rebel against God and trust in a lie. Here we see two things that always happen when people follow false teachers. First we see that they will rebel against the Lord. God says that we are either for Him or against Him. Second, those who choose to follow false teachers are being deceived by a lie. This lie comes straight from the devil. God also said that Hananiah would die because of his false words. Jeremiah gave this warning to Hananiah in the fifth month of the year.

40. Read Jeremiah 28:1-17 and write when Hananiah died.

41. Explain why people will rebel against the Lord if they listen to and accept the teachings of false teachers.

42. Explain why you think that those who choose to follow false teachers are easily deceived by the lies of these false teachers.

Reread Jeremiah 26:1-28:17 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations
Lesson #14
Jeremiah 29:1-30:24

Part of the people of Judah had been taken as captives to the land of Babylon. One day God spoke to Jeremiah and told him that the Lord had a message for the Jews who had been taken as captives to Babylon. In our study today we will learn what God had to say to the Jews who were in the land of Babylon. We will see that the Lord had a wonderful promise for those Jews even though they were captives in another land. God also told the people what they were to do if they wanted to have their prayers answered. Then we will learn about some of the things that God promised will happen in the future. As we study these things, we will be reminded again that God will never forget His promises to the Jews.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Jeremiah told the captives in Babylon to build houses.
- Explain what God said about the false teacher named Shemaiah.
- Explain what is meant by the time of Jacob's trouble.
- Explain what God promised the nation of Israel about the future.

One day God spoke to Jeremiah and told him to send a message to the people who had been taken as captives to the land of Babylon. These people were working as slaves in Babylon but they hoped that they would be allowed to return very soon to the land of Judah. However, God knew that the people would not return right away. This is the reason that God had told Jeremiah to send a message to the Jews who lived in Babylon. The Jews that were captives in Babylon were told to build houses and plant gardens. They were to get married and have families. Here we see that God was showing the people that they would be in Babylon for a long time.

1. Read Jeremiah 29:1-14 and write what the people were told to seek for the city in which they were living.
2. Explain why Jeremiah was told to tell the captives in Babylon to build houses and plant gardens.
3. Explain why you think that God wanted the captives in Babylon to know that they would be there for a long time.

Here we see an important lesson for our own lives. The Jews were foreigners in the city of Babylon. However, they were still to be concerned about the people of that city. In fact God told them to pray for the people of that city. The only way that people can have true peace is when they place their trust in Christ. Here we see that wherever we are that we should tell the people of that place how they can have peace with God. We are to introduce people to Christ, the Prince of Peace. This is true whether people belong to our tribe or race or to some other tribe or race. We are to have a share in bringing people in the place where we live to peace through the blood of Christ.

4. Read Jeremiah 29:1-14 and write how long God said that the people would be in the land of Babylon.

5. Explain why God told the Jews that they were to pray for the people in the city of Babylon.
6. Explain why you think that it is also important for you to pray the salvation of the people in the cities around you.

We see that God promised the Jews that He would bring the people back from Babylon after a period of seventy years. God said that those who would come back would call on God and would pray to Him. God promised that He would listen to the people when they called on Him. God also promised the people that they would find Him and know Him when they searched for Him with their whole heart. Here we see that our hearts must be right with God in order for God to answer our prayers. This is why it is important for us to confess any sin in our lives immediately.

7. Read Jeremiah 29:1-14 and write from where the Lord promised that He would gather all of the people.
8. Explain what promise God gives to those who will really seek Him and serve Him.
9. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to seek the Lord with your whole heart.

God also told the people that were living in Babylon what would happen to those Jews who were still living in Judah. God said that all of the people living in Judah would suffer. Some of the people would die in battle. Some would die from a lack of food. Some would die from disease. The people that were left would be scattered among many nations. In those lands the people would speak evil of the Jews. God said that all of these things would happen because the people would not listen to the Word of God. When God sent prophets among the people, they refused to listen to those prophets. Instead the people continued to walk in their evil ways. That was the reason why God said that He was planning to bring judgment upon the people of Judah.

10. Read Jeremiah 29:15-32 and write what Jeremiah told the people in captivity to do with the Word of the Lord.
11. Explain why God told the people the judgments that they would face if they continued to walk in their evil ways.
12. Explain why you think that God wanted the people of Judah to know the consequences of their evil so that they could choose to turn to the Lord.

God wanted the Jews that were living in Babylon to listen to the Word of the Lord because they had been listening to false prophets. These false prophets were very sinful. They were living in immorality and committing adultery with the wives of their neighbors. They claimed to speak for God and spoke lies instead. As a result, the people had been led the wrong way because they had believed the lies of these false prophets. Because of the sins of these false prophets, God said that He was going to cause the king of Babylon to judge them. These false prophets were killed by the king of Babylon in front of all of the people. Then they were burned with fire.

13. Read Jeremiah 29:15-32 and write the name of the man who was sending letters in His own name claiming that the Lord had made him the priest instead of Jehoiada.
14. Explain why those people who are false prophets often commit more sins than the people to whom they are speaking.
15. Explain why you think that God said that the false prophets would experience their judgment in front of all of the people.

Here we see that Shemaiah claimed to be a leader that had been appointed by God. However, God did not send him. God said that Shemaiah would be judged because he appointed himself instead of letting God show who should be the leader. God said that Shemaiah would have no children and that he would not get to see the way that the Lord would bless His people. Here we see the importance of choosing leaders who meet the qualifications of God for leadership. In the New Testament God gives many instructions about how to help people become qualified in order to be leaders in the church. We need to make certain that we qualify people according to the qualifications in Scripture and then appoint them as leaders. We must avoid appointing leaders before they meet those qualifications.

16. Read Jeremiah 29:15-32 and write what Shemaiah had taught the people that were living in Babylon.

17. Explain what these verses teach about people who become leaders who are not appointed by God.

18. Explain why you think that it is important to help people become qualified for spiritual leadership before we appoint them as leaders.

The Lord went on to look past the present judgment that Judah was experiencing to the future great judgment that is called the time of Jacob's trouble. During that period of time God will do several things. He will make the nations of Israel and Judah one nation again. God also promises that He will bring the people back from all of the nations where they have been scattered. The day will come in the future when the Jews will possess the land of Israel and no one will try to take the land away from them. Israel has never yet had a day of real peace. There have always been some nations who are trying to destroy the Jews.

19. Read Jeremiah 30:1-17 and write what day is called great so that there will be no other day like it.

20. Explain why the future great judgment called the time of Jacob's trouble will happen before Israel will experience real peace in their land.

21. Explain why you think that the other nations of the world have always tried to destroy the Jews.

The time of Jacob's trouble also known as the tribulation will be a time of great suffering for the Jews. However, God promises that He will care for His people during that time of great suffering. God promises that in that day that He will break the yoke of these foreign nations off of the neck of the Jews. When God breaks the yoke of these foreign nations, the Jews will not serve strangers any longer. Instead the whole nation of Israel will serve the Lord. Christ, the One who comes from the family of David, will rule over them in that day.

22. Read Jeremiah 30:1-17 and write what the people of Jacob will be like when they return from the lands of their captivity.

23. Explain why God promises that He will break the yoke of the foreign nations off the neck of the Jews.

24. Explain why you think that in his message of judgment Jeremiah was told to tell the people that the day would come when the whole nation of Israel would serve the Lord.

Today many of the Jews are living in fear because they know that their lives are in danger. When Christ rules on the earth, the Jews will know that they are safe. In that day they will be

able to rest in peace. Their hearts will be quiet because Christ is ruling. In that day God promises that He will make a full end or completely destroy the nations that have done evil to the people of Israel. At the same time God promises that He will never completely destroy Israel. Here is a wonderful promise to the nation of Israel. God promises that He will never forget His people.

25. Read Jeremiah 30:1-17 and write what God said about the bruise of Israel.

26. Explain why God said that the day will come when He will completely destroy the nations that have done evil to the nation of Judah.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord wants all people to know that their hearts can be quiet when they trust in the Lord.

The nation of Israel has a wound that cannot be cured by mankind. For that reason the nations have rejected the nation of Israel and have persecuted the people of Israel. No one has been a real friend and help to the people of Israel. Even those nations that have helped them for a period of time have eventually forgotten them. However, it will be just when a lack of human help makes everything look impossible for the Jews that God will be ready to help them in their time of trouble. God promises that in that day that He will help the nation of Israel. God promises that He will heal Israel and give them health.

28. Read Jeremiah 30:1-17 and write what the Lord promised Israel that He will one day do for their wounds.

29. Explain what God promises to do in the future for the nation of Israel in these verses.

30. Explain why you think that God promises the Jews that He will be their help when everyone else has forgotten them.

God also told what will happen in that day to the nations that have persecuted Israel. Their lands will be destroyed and their possessions will be taken by other countries. Some of these nations treated Israel in the right way for a short period of time. However, they did not have a true love for Israel and quickly forget the good and did evil to Israel instead. Even though these nations forgot Israel, God will never forget His people. God has always loved the people of Israel even though their sins have made it necessary for Him to punish them.

31. Read Jeremiah 30:18-24 and write what God promises to do for the captivity of Jacob.

32. Explain why God has always loved the people of Israel even though their sins made it necessary for Him to punish them.

33. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to have a real love for the Jews.

In these verses we see that God gives many wonderful promises to the people of Israel. God promises that He will bring them back to their own land. God promises that He will show kindness to their homes. He also says that He will rebuild the city of Jerusalem. Then we read that the palace of the king will be given its right place. God will fill the hearts of the people with thanksgiving. Their voices will be joyful as they speak. God also says that He will multiply His people so that they will become a great and important nation. They will be established as the people of God who stand before Him.

34. Read Jeremiah 30:18-24 and write what God said that He will do to those who do evil to the Jews.

35. Explain why God says that the day will come when He will rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

36. Explain why you think that God promised that He will fill the hearts of the people so that they can be joyful when they speak.

Here we see that God promises to punish all those who try to do evil to the Jews in that day when they are brought back into the land. In that day they will have a ruler that will come from their own nation. That leader will be Christ. Christ is the One who goes between God and men. In that day the Jews will truly be the people of God. They will all worship and serve God in that day. It will be a great and wonderful time when the people of God worship and serve Him. In the same way we are also to worship and serve the Lord in our own day.

37. Read Jeremiah 30:18-24 and write what God promises that He will be when the people again become His people.

38. Explain what it means for us to truly worship and serve God.

39. Explain what you think that it will be like when both the Jews and the Gentiles worship and serve the Lord together.

God has promised to bless His people in the future when they turn back to Him. However, the judgment of God must come before God can bless His people. We realize again that God is a holy God and cannot look on sin. Instead all sin must be judged. The judgment of the Lord is like a great and terrible storm. No one can stand against His judgment. No one can stop that judgment. God will continue to bring His judgment until He has completed His purposes in judging sinful people. They God will show His mercy to all those who have placed their trust in Christ.

40. Read Jeremiah 30:18-24 and write when we will be able to understand these things.

41. Explain why the judgment of the Lord is compared to a great and terrible storm.

42. Explain why you think that God is looking forward to finishing His judgment so that He can show His mercy to His people.

Reread Jeremiah 29:1-30:24 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations
Lesson #15
Jeremiah 42:1-32:44

Almost the entire book of Jeremiah was written to warn the Jews of coming judgment. Today we will study about something quite different than the message of judgment. We will learn about the time when the Lord will take away the sorrow and sadness of the people of Israel. Instead the people will be filled with joy. God also says that He will make a New Covenant with the people of Israel. This covenant or agreement will be different than the covenant that God made with the people of Israel during the time of Moses when God brought them out of the land of Egypt and gave them the Law. As we study this lesson, we will learn how the New Covenant is very different than the Old Covenant.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why joy will replace sorrow in Israel.
- Explain the meaning of the New Covenant.
- Explain why Jeremiah bought the field of Hanamel
- Explain how the Lord answered the prayer of Jeremiah.

In our last lesson we learned how Israel will become a nation of peace after it has experienced much suffering. In this lesson we will learn about the joy of the people when God gives them this peace. At that time all of the Jews will serve the Lord. God says that He has loved the Jews with a love that will last forever. Here we see the reason why God has never forgotten His promises that He made to the Jews. God has a love for the Jews that continues regardless of how sinful the Jews are. Nothing can destroy that love. God loved the Jews with a very great love even when they hated Him and turned away from Him to worship idols. Today we also know that the Lord loves us with this same great love.

1. Read Jeremiah 31:1-22 and write what God promises to do for Israel in the future because of this everlasting love.
2. Explain why it is important that God told the Jews that He loved them with a love that will last forever.
3. Explain why it is important in your own life to also know that Christ loves you with a love that will last forever.

God promised to make Israel a great nation again. He promised that the day will come when He will give them good crops. In that day all of the people of Israel will praise the Lord. God will gather them from all of the nations where they have been scattered. God says that He will gather Israel like a shepherd gathers his sheep. Here we see a beautiful picture of the concern of God for Israel. A true shepherd will search for his sheep even in a terrible storm because of his love for the sheep. In their day of sorrow the people of Israel will have that sorrow replaced with joy because of all of the wonderful things that God will do for Israel when they recognize Him as their shepherd.

4. Read Jeremiah 31:1-22 and write what God said would be heard in Ramah before that day when God will replace the sorrow of Israel with joy.

5. Explain why it is important for the Jews to know that one day God will regather them from all of the nations where they have been scattered.
6. Explain why you think that God says that He will gather Israel like a shepherd gathers his sheep.

This verse about sorrow in Ramah is quoted in the New Testament when Herod killed the babies in the area of Bethlehem in his efforts to destroy Christ. Here we see that there was sorrow at the first coming of Christ. The people were not prepared for His coming. However, the first coming of Christ does offer hope to the Jews because it means that Christ will come again. Because the people of Israel were not prepared for Christ when He came the first time, they had to be disciplined as a much loved child so that they would make their hearts right with the Lord. God says that even though He disciplined His people, He still remembered them and had not forgotten them. In fact He will never forget the people that He has chosen.

7. Read Jeremiah 31:1-22 and write what kind of a daughter the Lord said that Judah was in the time of Jeremiah.
8. Explain why it was necessary for God to discipline the Jews and bring judgment on them even though He loved them.
9. Explain why you think that the people of Israel were not prepared to receive Christ when He came to the earth the first time.

God went on to tell Jeremiah that He would bring back the people of Israel from all of the places where they are scattered. He will cause the people to live in their own land and rebuild their cities. Those who are tired will be given strength by the Lord. Those who are sad will become joyful. The Lord will watch over His people. He will plant them and build them into a beautiful people. They will no longer feel that they are eating sour grapes. Here we see another picture of the great changes that God will make in the land of Israel when Christ comes to rule on the earth.

10. Read Jeremiah 31:23-40 and write what God promises to make with Israel and Judah in that day.
11. Explain what the Lord promises that He will do when He brings the people of Israel back into their own land.
12. Explain why you think that the second coming of Christ to rule on the earth will be a great time for the nation of Israel.

Here we see that God promised that He is going to make a New Covenant with His people. This covenant will be very different than the covenant that God made with Israel when the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt. In the covenant that God made when the people came out of Egypt, the people were given certain laws to obey. God told the people then that they would be disciplined and taken out of their land if they did not put their faith and trust in Him. The people showed their lack of faith by serving false gods and disobeying the commandments of the Lord. This was the reason that it became necessary for God to discipline His people.

13. Read Jeremiah 31:23-40 and write where God says that He will write His law when He completes this New Covenant with His people.
14. Explain what God means when He says that the New Covenant means that He will put the law of God in their hearts.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord also wants us to have His law in our hearts as we serve Him.

Here we see again that the Lord has not forgotten His promises to His people. One day all of the people will know His Word. At that time all of the Jews will serve God. His Word will be in their hearts. All of the Jews will know the way that God wants them to live. No one will even need to teach them. Instead all of the Jews will serve the Lord and obey His Word. We see that this is something that the Lord promises will happen in the future. It has not happened yet. It will not happen until Christ rules on the earth. In that day, God will forgive the sins of His people. Then He will forgive their sins and never remember them again.

16. Read Jeremiah 31:23-40 and write what God promised will be done to the city of Jerusalem in that day.

17. Explain why the Lord promised that He will never remember the sins of the people of Israel again once He has forgiven those sins.

18. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that the Lord no longer remembers or holds your sins against you.

Here we see that God gave several promises to show that He will never break the New Covenant that He will make with Israel. God said that people would have to be able to measure the heavens and the foundation of the earth before He would break His Word. People who study the stars today say that their telescopes cannot even find the edge of the stars. Every time that they have thought that their telescopes have reached the edge of the stars, they have discovered that there are millions of other stars out beyond those that they have seen. God also promised that He will rebuild the city of Jerusalem so that it will never be destroyed. The Jews can look forward to the fact that one day in the future the Lord will fulfill this promise.

19. Read Jeremiah 31:23-40 and write what the Lord said will never happen to the city of Jerusalem again once the Lord comes to rule.

20. Explain what you learn about the New Covenant that the Lord will make with Israel from these verses.

21. Explain why you think that God chose to say that people would have to be able to measure the heavens and the foundation of the earth before He would break His Word.

One day the king of Babylon came to fight against Judah and the city of Jerusalem. The king of Judah refused to surrender to the king of Babylon. As a result, the army of Babylon surrounded the city of Jerusalem. Since Jeremiah had told the king of Judah to surrender to the Babylonians or be captured, the king put Jeremiah in jail. Jeremiah had told the king that the king would be taken as a slave to Babylon if he tried to fight against the king of Babylon. One day while Jeremiah was in jail, the son of his uncle came to visit him. God told Jeremiah to buy what Hanamel wanted to sell to him.

22. Read Jeremiah 32:1-25 and write what Hanamel asked Jeremiah to buy from him.

23. Explain why Jeremiah told the king of Judah that it was useless for him to try and fight against Babylon.

24. Explain why you think that the king put Jeremiah in jail because of the fact that Jeremiah had earlier told him to surrender to the king of Babylon.

Hanamel wanted to sell the land because he could see that the Babylonians were going to

capture it. However, Jeremiah believed the promise of God that the people would one day return to the land. As a result, he bought the land to show the people that he believed the promises of God. He did this in front of witnesses so that everyone would know that he believed the promises of God. Here we see a real example of the faith of Jeremiah in the promises of God. Jeremiah gave Baruch the deed to the land and told him to put the deed in a clay pot so that the deed would not be destroyed. Baruch was told to hide the clay pot because the land would be possessed for many days before the Jews would gain control of the land again.

25. Read Jeremiah 32:1-25 and write how much money Jeremiah paid to buy the land of his uncle.
26. Explain why it was important for Jeremiah to buy the land of Hanamel in front of a group of witnesses.
27. Explain why you think that Baruch was told to put the deed to the land in a clay pot and then hide the clay pot.

As Jeremiah prayed to the Lord, he spoke of the greatness and power of the Lord. He also spoke of the way that God had brought the people into the land in the time of Moses. Then Jeremiah spoke of the way that the people had refused to obey the commandments of the Lord. Finally Jeremiah spoke of the fact that God had told him to buy the field even though Anathoth had already been captured by the Babylonians. As we see the obedience and prayer of Jeremiah, we learn a real lesson about faith. Jeremiah was willing to buy the land because he had complete faith in the promises of God.

28. Read Jeremiah 32:1-25 and write Jeremiah did after he gave the deed to the land to Baruch.
29. Explain what you learn about faith for your own life from the example of Jeremiah in this passage.
30. Explain why you think that Jeremiah spoke of the fact that the people had refused to obey the commandments of the Lord as He prayed to the Lord.

God gave Jeremiah a wonderful answer to his prayer. God told Jeremiah that nothing was too hard for the Lord. God is the One who has all power and can do all things. God said that He was going to use His power to allow Babylon to take control of the city of Jerusalem. The Babylonians would burn the city of Jerusalem because the people had used the roofs of their houses to offer sacrifices to Baal. The people had also done many other evil things. This was true of both the leaders and the people. The people had completely turned their backs on God and had refused to listen to his instructions.

31. Read Jeremiah 32:26-44 and write what the people had caused their sons and daughters to do.
32. Explain why it important for every Christian to realize that there is nothing that is too hard for the Lord.
33. Explain why you think that God said that the Babylonians would burn the houses because the people had used the roofs of their houses to offer sacrifices to Baal.

Molech was one of the false gods that the people of Judah served. The people had made a metal idol called Molech. When they were going to offer a sacrifice to the idol of Molech, they would build a fire under the metal of the idol until the metal became very hot. Then they would place their children on the hot metal of the arms of the idol. In this way, many of their children

died a very painful death. These were some of the sins that caused part of the people to die from disease or a lack of food. Here we see that sin brings death. People cannot escape the penalty for their sins except through the blood of Christ. However, God does not stop with judgment only.

34. Read Jeremiah 32:26-44 and write what God promised to give to the Jews when they would become His people.

35. Explain why these verses help you to understand why it was necessary for God to judge the people of Judah for their sin.

36. Explain why you think that many of the people of Israel caused some of their children to die a very painful death when they offered them as sacrifices to their god Molech.

Here we see that God gave a very wonderful promise to the people of Judah. God said that after their judgment was complete that God would bring the Jews back to their land. He would make them safe from their enemies. He would cause all of the people to put their trust in Him. In that day God said that the Jews would then serve the Lord forever. We have already seen that God promised to make a New Covenant with the Jews. Here God made it clear to the people that the New Covenant would last forever. In that day God will be filled with joy because He can do good things for the people that He has chosen. Here we see that it is the desire of the Lord to do good things to those people who are obedient to Him.

37. Read Jeremiah 32:26-44 and write what God said that He will do in the future instead of bring evil on the people of Judah.

38. Explain how these verses teach us that a person can experience the blessings of the Lord.

39. Explain why you think that God made it clear to the Jews that the New Covenant will last forever.

God also gave a promise to do good for His people after He has judged them. God said that He will never forget that He has promised to do good to His people. Just as God brought judgment on the people during the time of Jeremiah, God also promised that He will bring blessing on the people in the future. Even though God was taking the people out of their land in the time of Jeremiah, He promised that one day they would live in their land again. They will be able to buy land in the cities or in the mountains. In fact that will be able to buy land any place that they choose in that day.

40. Read Jeremiah 32:26-44 and write what God said that He will do in that day to those who are in captivity in other places.

41. Explain why the Jews can look forward to the promises that the Lord made to the people in this chapter.

42. Explain why you think that God promised the Jews that He will do good to them in the future even though it was necessary to judge them for their sin.

Reread Jeremiah 31:1-32:44 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #16

Jeremiah 33:1-35:19

In our last lesson we saw that God promised the people of Judah that the day would come when He would bring the Jews back into their own land. Today we will learn about another reason why the Lord will do this. When David was the king of Israel, God promised that One would come from the family of David who would rule the nation of Israel forever. Of course this meant that God must protect the nation of Israel in order to have someone rule over the people of Israel forever. Here we will see that God must bring the Jews back into the land of Israel in order to keep His promise to David. In the last part of our lesson today, we will learn some tremendous lessons about obedience from the family of the Rechabites.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson you should be able to:

- Explain what God promised to Judah in this chapter.
- Explain what you learn about the covenant that God made with David.
- Explain what God said would happen to Jerusalem.
- Explain what we learn about obedience from the Rechabites.

One day while Jeremiah was in prison, the Lord spoke to him. The Lord reminded Jeremiah that God was the One who had formed the earth and made it. He was also reminded that the Lord is the One who is in control of all things on the earth. Because God is in control of all things, He is able to answer all of our prayers. For this reason, God gave Jeremiah a wonderful promise. God also gives us the same promise. Today God says that if we will call on Him that He will answer our prayers. In fact, God will answer our prayers in such great and wonderful ways that we will be amazed. This is a real promise about the way that God answers prayer.

1. Read Jeremiah 33:1-14 and write what God said He had done because of the wickedness and sin of the people of Jerusalem.
2. Explain why God answers our prayers in ways that are far beyond what we can even imagine.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for every Christian to know that God promises that if we call upon Him that He will answer our prayers.

In the time of Jeremiah, God had to hide His face from the city of Jerusalem because of the sins of the people. As we know God cannot look with favor at sin. However, God said that He would answer the prayers of Jeremiah by one day curing the people of their sins and causing them to have health. This is a promise of spiritual health. In that day God said that the people will have a great understanding of peace and truth. God will bring the people back into their own land and cause them to become a great nation again. In that day the Lord will forgive and pardon their sins. As a result, the name of God will be honored by all nations throughout the earth.

4. Read Jeremiah 33:1-14 and write what kinds of voices will be heard in that day.
5. Explain why it is even more important to have spiritual health than it is to have physical health.

6. Explain why you think that God gave Jeremiah a promise that God would one day answer the prayers of Jeremiah by curing the people of their sins.

Here we see a little picture of the joy that will be on the earth when the Lord brings His people of Israel back into their own land. The people will be filled with praise and rejoicing. They will realize that the goodness and mercy of the Lord will last forever. Instead of a land of emptiness, the land will become a place where shepherds will cause their sheep to eat and lay down in peace. God said that the day will come when He will cause all of these things to come to pass. Here we see that the promise of the Lord is the reason that we know that these things will come to pass.

7. Read Jeremiah 33:1-14 and write what God promised that He will one day do for the land of Israel and the land of Judah.

8. Explain what God promised the people of Judah about the future of the people in these verses.

9. Explain why you think that God wants the Jews to know that one day He will give them true peace.

As we come to the next group of verses, we read more about these promises to Judah. We see that there will come one from the family of David who will rule in that day when Israel experiences the peace of God. Of course we know that Christ is the One who will rule in that day. When Christ rules on the earth, we know that He will rule in the right way. People will not be able to trick or deceive Him. God also says that Judah and the city of Jerusalem will live in safety in that day. God then promised that there will always be one from the family of David to rule the people of God. Here we see that Christ will be a ruler that will rule forever.

10. Read Jeremiah 33:15-26 and write who God said will offer sacrifices forever.

11. Explain why it is important for both Jews and Gentiles to know that Christ will be the ruler that rules forever.

12. Explain why you think that God promised David that there would be One who would come from his family that will rule forever.

God went on to tell the people of Judah that the covenant which He had made with David would never be broken. God said that the only way His covenant with David could be broken would be if people could have the power to change the time of the day and the night. Of course we know that no human being has the power to control the sun and the earth. As a result, we know that the promise that God made to David will never be broken. God will keep His Word that He promised to David. God also said that people cannot count the stars or the sand on the shore of the ocean. God said that He would cause the number of the descendants of David to be in number like the stars and the sand.

13. Read Jeremiah 33:15-26 and write what the people were saying about the families that God had chosen.

14. Explain why it is important to know that God will keep the promise that He made to David about one from his family.

15. Explain why you think that God made it clear that no person could change the covenant that He made with David.

Many people were saying that God had forgotten His promises to the nations of Israel and

Judah. They said that God had broken His promises and that they were no longer in effect. Today we have many people who are still saying the same thing. Many people today say that God has forgotten the Jews. God has an answer in these verses to all those who say that He has forgotten the Jews. God said that He will not break His promises as long as the earth and the heavens remain. Here we see that the only way that God could break His promises to the Jews would be if the heavens and the earth came to an end. If that happened, there would be no one left at all. God will certainly keep His promises to the Jews forever.

16. Read Jeremiah 33:15-26 and write how God said that He will fulfill the promise that He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

17. Explain what God promised the Jews in these verses that will continue to affect the Jews forever.

18. Explain why you think that it is important for every Christian to understand that the Lord will not forget the promises that He made to Israel.

One day the army of Babylon came to fight against the city of Jerusalem. While the armies were fighting, God sent Jeremiah with a message to the king. God told the king of Judah that He would allow Babylon to destroy the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem would be burned with fire. However, Zedekiah would not be killed. Instead he would be taken as a captive to Babylon. There Zedekiah would be a servant to the king of Babylon and he would be allowed to die in peace. Here we see the kindness of the Lord to the king of Judah. God allowed the king of Judah to die of old age rather than to be killed by the swords of the Babylonians.

19. Read Jeremiah 34:1-22 and write what kind of a covenant Zedekiah made with the people of Jerusalem.

20. Explain why God showed kindness to Zedekiah by allowing him to die of old age instead of being killed by the Babylonians.

21. Explain why you think that God wanted the king to know in advance that Jerusalem would be burned with fire.

Here we see that the king caused the people of Jerusalem to agree to let all of the Jews who were slaves go free instead of keeping them as slaves. The people told the king that they would free all of their Jewish slaves. However, the people broke their word and made the other Jews slaves again. Then God spoke and reminded the people of what He said when they came out of the land of Egypt. He had told them that they were to free their Hebrew slaves at the end of seven years. However, the people had not obeyed God. Now the Jews living in the time of Jeremiah had promised to obey the command of God. Then they broke their word instead. As a result, God promised the people a terrible kind of liberty.

22. Read Jeremiah 34:1-22 and write what kind of liberty God promised to the Jews living in the city of Jerusalem.

23. Explain why God had told the people of Israel that they were to free their Hebrew slaves at the end of seven years.

24. Explain why you think that the people made a promise to free their Jewish slaves and then turned right around and broke that promise.

Instead of forgetting the sins of the people of Judah, God said that they would receive the very same evil that they had done to others. Because the Jews did not give their slaves freedom, God said that He would cause many of the Jews to be killed. They would be killed by the swords of

the army of Babylon, by disease or by hunger. Those who were not killed would be taken to foreign countries where they would become the slaves of the people of other nations. Here we see that God promised that they would receive exactly what they were giving to others.

25. Read Jeremiah 34:1-22 and write what God said would happen to the bodies of the people that died.

26. Explain why God said that the Jews would either be killed or become slaves themselves because they had not kept their word and freed their slaves.

27. Explain why you think that it is important for every person to understand that he or she will reap exactly as he or she has sown.

In order to show that they promised to obey the Word of God, the people made a blood covenant. They took a calf and cut it into two pieces. Then they walked between the two pieces of the calf. A blood covenant was a promise that the people would never break their covenant. However, the people did break their covenant with the Lord. As a result, God said that the people would be punished. Those who were killed would be eaten by the birds and the wild animals. Those who were not killed would be taken as captives to foreign countries. Finally the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed and burned with fire. Here we see a real warning about the results of failing to obey the Word of God.

28. Read Jeremiah 34:1-22 and write what God said that He would allow the Babylonians to do when He caused them to return to the city.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the danger of keeping our promises to the Lord.

30. Explain why you think that the people made a blood covenant with the Lord and then broke their blood covenant.

Although most of the people in Jerusalem had failed to obey the Word of God, there was one group of people who were obedient to the Lord. These people were called Rechabites because they came from the family of Rechab. One day God told Jeremiah to invite the Rechabites to the temple and offer them wine. Jeremiah did as he was told and set out large pitchers of wine in front of the Rechabites. Here we see that God was revealing the faith of the Rechabites because the Lord wanted to use their faith as an example to the other people. Many times the Lord will also allow tests in our lives to reveal our faith to others.

31. Read Jeremiah 35:1-19 and write what the Rechabites said when Jeremiah invited them to drink the wine.

32. Explain why Jeremiah was told to set large pitchers of wine before the Rechabites and invite them to drink the wine.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord wanted to use the Rechabites to teach the rest of the people of Judah about the importance of obedience by their example.

Rechab had told his family that they should never drink any wine forever. He had also told them never to build houses but to live in tents instead. The Rechabites had always obeyed these words even though Rechab had died many years before. Now they were not going to disobey and break their promise just because temptation was placed in front of them. Even though the people around them were living in sin, they wanted to live for the Lord. Today we also have many temptations around us. We also see many people living in sin. However, the Lord wants us to stand firm when we are tempted. We are able to stand firm when we depend upon the strength that Christ gives instead of depending on our own strength.

34. Read Jeremiah 35:1-19 and write where the Rechabites were living when God used Jeremiah to test them.
35. Explain why the Rechabites gave the people of Judah a real example of choosing to live for the Lord.
36. Explain why it is more important for you to obey your promises to the Lord than to follow the crowd when you are tempted to sin.

The sinful leaders of Judah knew that the Rechabites were obeying the command of Rechab. Now God pointed to the example of the Rechabites. The Lord asked the leaders why they would not listen to His words as the Rechabites had listened to the words of Rechab. The people were following other gods. They were not thankful and did not listen when the Lord spoke to them. Here God pointed out the fact that the Rechabites were obedient to their father even when it would have been easy to follow the rest of the Jews and live in sin.

37. Read Jeremiah 35:1-19 and write what God said that the people of Judah had not done when He called to them.
38. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the example provided by the Rechabites.
39. Explain why you think that God used the example of the Rechabites to point out to the rest of the people that there were not listening to the Lord.

The Lord had a very different message for the Rechabites than He had for the rest of the Jews. God had warned the rest of the Jews of coming judgment because of their sins. Now God spoke of the obedience of the children of Rechab. He spoke of the fact that they had obeyed the word of their father even when they were tempted to disobey. As a result, God promised that there would always be men from the family of Rechab who would stand before Him. This meant that there would always be men from this family who will serve God.

40. Read Jeremiah 35:1-19 and write how long God said men from the family of Rechab would stand before Him
41. Explain why God promised the descendants of Rechab that they would enjoy the blessings of the Lord because of their obedience.
42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that you will also experience the blessings of the Lord when you are obedient to the Lord.

Reread Jeremiah 33:1-35:19 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #17

Jeremiah 36:1-37:21

One day God spoke to Jeremiah and told him to write down all of the things that God had spoken to him. God wanted the people of Judah to hear the warnings of coming judgment again so that they would have one more opportunity to turn from their sin before God brought judgment upon them. Here we see one more example of how long the Lord is willing to wait before He brings judgment against sin. When the king heard about the things that God had spoken to Jeremiah, the king ordered his men to bring the scroll that Jeremiah had written and read it to him. The king was very angry when he heard what God had said. We will learn what the king did when he heard the message of the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why God told Jeremiah to write out the message to the people.
- Explain how the king reacted when he heard the Word of God.
- Explain what Jeremiah said to the king.
- Explain why Jeremiah was placed in prison.

Jeremiah had been warning the people of Judah for several years that judgment would soon come from the Lord. However, the people had not listened to the warnings of Jeremiah. Instead they continued to live in their sin. As a result, God told Jeremiah to write all of these warnings on a scroll so that the people would be given one more opportunity to turn from their sins. Jeremiah obeyed God immediately. Jeremiah called Baruch and had him write as Jeremiah spoke to him. When the scroll was completed, Jeremiah told Baruch to read the scroll to all of the people. Jeremiah knew that all of the people would be gathering together in Jerusalem for an important Jewish fast.

1. Read Jeremiah 36:1-19 and write where Baruch was told to read this letter to the people.
2. Explain why God showed His great love and mercy by giving the people of Judah one more opportunity to turn from their sin.
3. Explain why you think that God wants you to continue to share the Gospel with others so that they will have one more opportunity to turn from their sin.

Here we see that the people of Judah were having a fast. They were gathering during the time of that fast at the temple. This reminds us of the fact that the people were religious but they were not serving the Lord. God wanted to give them one more opportunity to begin serving the Lord instead of only following their empty religious activities. Baruch obeyed Jeremiah and went to the temple. There he began to read the words that God had spoken to Jeremiah. As he read, he made certain that all of the people could hear and understand. In this way none of the people of Judah could claim that they had not been warned about coming judgment.

4. Read Jeremiah 36:1-19 and write who went and told the princes about the words that Jeremiah had spoken to Baruch to write.
5. Explain why the people were very religious even though they refused to be obedient to the Lord.
6. Explain why you think that God wanted all of the people to hear the words that God had spoken to Jeremiah.

When the princes heard the words that Jeremiah had written, they were immediately filled with fear. Then the princes wanted to know how Baruch had known what to write. Baruch explained that Jeremiah had pronounced the words and he had written them down. Here we see the way that many of the books of the Bible were written. God spoke to men and told them what to write. Then those men either did the writing or had someone else do the writing as they pronounced the words. In this way God caused the original writing to be perfect and without error.

7. Read Jeremiah 36:1-19 and write what the princes told Baruch to do while they went and told the king what Baruch had written.

8. Explain what you learn about the way that God caused the Bible to be written according to these verses.

9. Explain why you think that God caused those who wrote His original words to write them so that they were perfect and without error.

The princes said that they would go and tell the king the words that Jeremiah had written. However, they were afraid that the king would be angry. As a result, they warned Jeremiah and Baruch to go and hide before they took the scroll to the king. Then the princes went and told the king about the words that Jeremiah had written. The king immediately asked a man by the name of Jehudi to go and get the scroll and read the scroll to him. Jehudi got the scroll and began to read the things that Jeremiah had written. The king and all of the princes listened as he read.

10. Read Jeremiah 36:20-32 and write where the king was sitting as Jehudi read the Word of God to him.

11. Explain how God was fulfilling His purpose to warn all of the people in Judah by getting the king to read what Baruch had written to the king and the princes.

12. Explain why you think that the king wanted Jehudi to get the scroll and read what Baruch had written to the king.

The king was sitting in his winter house by the fire. As the king heard the Word of God read, he became very angry. In fact he became so angry that he took out his knife and cut off the columns of the scroll after they had been read to him. Here we see the way that many people act when they hear the Word of God. Instead of listening to the Word of God and turning from their sins, they try to destroy the Word of God. They think that the judgment of God will not come on them if they can destroy the Scriptures that speak of that judgment. Of course we know that judgment will come whether people listen to the Scriptures or try to destroy them. The actions of people will not stop the judgment of God against sin.

13. Read Jeremiah 36:20-32 and write who hid Jeremiah and Baruch when the king sent men to kill them.

14. Explain why the anger of the king caused him to cut off the columns of the scroll after they were read to him.

15. Explain why you think that many people have the same attitude as the king and want to destroy the Word of God.

Here we see that the Lord is the One who protects those who have placed their trust in Him. God did not allow the king to find out where Jeremiah and Baruch were hidden. However, God

did have something to say about the king. We also see that God protects His Word and people cannot destroy it. God told Jeremiah to write the words that he had written before. Here we see that God caused Jeremiah to remember exactly what had been written. This is another example of the fact that God protected His Word so that there were no errors in the original writings. The entire Bible is the Word of God and was without any errors in the original writings.

16. Read Jeremiah 36:20-32 and write what God said the king of Babylon would do because the king had burned the scroll.

17. Explain why God caused Jeremiah to remember exactly what he had written so that the Word of God would not be destroyed.

18. Explain why you think that God has always protected His Word even though many different people have tried to destroy it.

Here we see that God spoke about the judgment that would come on the nation of Judah because the king and the people refused to listen to the Word of God. God also said that there would never be another person from the family of King Jehoiakim who would be a king in Judah. Instead his family would be punished because of the sins of the king. Here we see that our sin affects our entire family. When we sin, we cause our families to suffer also. We also read that Jeremiah rewrote the words that had been destroyed by the king. In addition, God told Jeremiah to add many other things as he was writing.

19. Read Jeremiah 36:20-32 and write what Jeremiah and Baruch wrote in addition to what the king had destroyed.

20. Explain what you learn from these verses about the judgment of those who try to destroy the Word of God.

21. Explain why you think that God said that there would never be another person from the family of Jehoiakim that would sit on the throne of David.

As we come to chapter thirty-seven, we see that Jehoiakim was taken as a captive to Babylon. Here we see that the judgment of God came very quickly for Jehoiakim. As a result, Zedekiah became the king of Judah instead. However, Zedekiah would not listen to the Word of God either. Instead the king and the people continued to walk in their sinful ways. Here we see the fact that many people will not turn from their sins even when they see the judgment of others. Although they see the judgment of others, they do not think that judgment will come to them. We also see something else that many people do when they are living in sin.

22. Read Jeremiah 37:1-10 and write what the king asked a messenger to go and tell Jeremiah to do.

23. Explain why Zedekiah did not turn from his sin even though He saw the judgment of Jehoiakim.

24. Explain why you think that people do not turn from their evil ways even when they see the way that God judges other people.

The new king wanted to continue to live in sin. At the same time he wanted Jeremiah to pray that God would help the nation of Judah. The king could not pray himself because he was living in rebellion against God. However, he thought that God would protect him if someone else prayed for him. About the same time the king of Egypt sent his army to Jerusalem. As a result, the Babylonian army that was surrounding Jerusalem moved away. Of course the king of Judah thought that he was now safe. He felt that he could depend on the army of Egypt to

protect him from the Babylonians. Here we see another example of a man placing his trust in other people instead of placing his trust in the Lord.

25. Read Jeremiah 37:1-10 and write what God told Jeremiah to tell the king about the army of Pharaoh.

26. Explain why many people want someone else to pray for them when they are living in sin.

27. Explain why you think that many rebellious people want some connection to God even when they are unwilling to repent of their sin.

Here we see that God warned the king what would happen because he had depended on men instead of depending on the Lord. Although the army of Egypt had helped him once, it would not help him again. Instead the armies of Babylon would return again. This time the Babylonians would fight against the city of Jerusalem and capture it. Then they would burn and destroy the city with fire. God said that the king and the people were only tricking themselves if they thought that the Babylonians would not destroy them. God said that the Babylonians would destroy Jerusalem even if the Babylonians only had a few wounded soldiers.

28. Read Jeremiah 37:1-10 and write why God told the people of Judah not to deceive themselves.

29. Explain what you learn from these verses about people who put their trust in men instead of the Lord.

30. Explain why you think that many people choose to deceive themselves instead of listening to what God has to say.

When the Babylonian army moved away from Jerusalem because of the army of Egypt, Jeremiah decided to return to the area of Benjamin. That was the area of the country where Jeremiah had lived as a boy. As Jeremiah started to go toward the land of Benjamin, he was stopped by a soldier. The soldier said that Jeremiah was trying to sneak away and escape. He said that Jeremiah wanted to go and join the army of Babylon. Jeremiah said that was not true. However, the soldier refused to listen to Jeremiah. Instead the soldier brought Jeremiah to the princes.

31. Read Jeremiah 37:11-21 and write what the princes did with Jeremiah.

32. Explain why Jeremiah was accused of trying to sneak away from Jerusalem and join the army of Babylon.

33. Explain why you think that many people will accuse others falsely and refuse to listen to others.

Here we see that when we speak the truth, there will be some people who do not want to hear and believe the truth. Such people will try to do evil to us when they are given the opportunity. That was exactly what happened to Jeremiah. Of course, we do not need to be afraid when sinful people try to do evil things to us. We know that Christ is with us and will give us strength when people do evil things to us. Even if people put us in jail, God will give us opportunities to speak for Him in jail. That was what happened to Jeremiah. After Jeremiah had been in jail for many days, someone wanted to talk to him.

34. Read Jeremiah 37:11-21 and write who took Jeremiah out of the prison so that he could talk to him.

35. Explain why it is important to know that the Lord is with us and will go through any time of testing with us.

36. Explain why you think that God can even use the evil actions of others to give us new opportunities to share the Word of God with others.

The king brought Jeremiah out of prison so that he could hear the Word of the Lord. Even though the king did not have his trust in the Lord, the king knew that the Word of God was right. Today we have many people who are like the king. Although they have not yet placed their trust in Christ, many people realize that the Word of God is true. If we will continue to speak the Word of God to such people, the day will come when many of these people will place their trust in Christ. Our responsibility is to continue to speak the Word of God faithfully even when people do not place their trust in Christ immediately.

37. Read Jeremiah 37:11-21 and write the message that Jeremiah said that the Lord had for the king of Judah.

38. Explain why many people know that the Word of God is right even though they are presently unwilling to place their trust in Christ.

39. Explain why you think that the king wanted to speak to Jeremiah even though the king did not like what Jeremiah had to say.

The message that Jeremiah had for the king was not a happy message. It was the same message that we have seen throughout the entire book of Jeremiah. God said that judgment would soon come and the king would be captured by the king of Babylon. Then Jeremiah asked the king to show kindness to him. He asked the king not to place him back in the dungeon of the prison. The dungeon was a part of the prison that was damp and dark. As a result, a person could get sick or catch a disease very easily in the dungeon.

40. Read Jeremiah 37:11-21 and write what the king commanded should be given to Jeremiah each day.

41. Explain why Jeremiah was faithful to the Lord and continued to share the message of coming judgment even when people did not want to accept that message.

42. Explain why you think that Jeremiah asked the king to show kindness to him and not return him to the dungeon.

Read Jeremiah 36:1-37:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations
Lesson #18
Jeremiah 38:1-39:18

In our last lesson we learned that some of the men of Judah did not like the message that Jeremiah had given them from the Lord so they put him in prison. Some of the men were very angry and so they asked the king if they could kill Jeremiah. The king told them that they could do with Jeremiah as they chose. Then those evil men took Jeremiah and put him in a muddy pit. However God protected Jeremiah so that he did not allow Jeremiah to die. In our lesson today, we will learn how the Lord protected Jeremiah when these evil men tried to kill him.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why these men wanted to kill Jeremiah.
- Explain how the Lord protected Jeremiah.
- Explain what happened when the city of Jerusalem was captured by Babylon.
- Explain how the Lord rewarded the man who helped Jeremiah.

God had given Jeremiah a message for his people that many of the people of Judah did not like. Jeremiah told the people that they were faced with a choice. They could choose to fight against the Babylonians or they could choose to surrender to the Babylonians. God said that if the people chose to fight that they would be killed in one of three ways. They would be killed by the sword, by starvation or by disease. However, if the people chose to surrender to the army of Babylon, they would be allowed to have their lives as a prize. If the people chose to fight, they would die. If they chose to surrender to the Babylonians, they would live.

1. Read Jeremiah 38:1-13 and write what God said would happen to the city of Jerusalem.
2. Explain why God told Jeremiah to explain the choices that Judah faced and the consequences for the people of each choice.
3. Explain why you think that God wants us to help people to understand their choices and the consequences of each of those choices.

Here we see that God promised that the army of Babylon would capture and destroy the city of Jerusalem. This was the message that the princes did not like. They said that Jeremiah was discouraging the people so that they would not fight to protect their city. As a result, the princes asked the king for permission to kill Jeremiah. They felt that if they killed Jeremiah that he would not be able to discourage the people from fighting any more. He would no longer be able to speak the Word of the Lord. The princes said that Jeremiah was trying to hurt the people instead of help them.

4. Read Jeremiah 38:1-13 and write what the king answered the princes about their request to kill Jeremiah.
5. Explain why the princes said that Jeremiah was trying to hurt the people instead of helping the people.
6. Explain why you think that the princes felt that Jeremiah was discouraging the people by telling the people what the army of Babylon was going to do.

Here we see that the king of Judah would not do what he knew was the right thing to do. Instead he allowed the princes to do what they chose to do with Jeremiah. Then the princes took Jeremiah and put him in a dungeon. The dungeon was a deep hole in the ground. The bottom of the hole was filled with mud. Jeremiah sank into the mud when the princes put him in the dungeon. The princes were sure that Jeremiah would soon die in the dungeon. However, there was a man who was concerned about Jeremiah. He asked the king for permission to take Jeremiah out of the dungeon.

7. Read Jeremiah 38:1-13 and write the name of the man who asked if he could take Jeremiah out of the dungeon.

8. Explain why the princes decided to kill Jeremiah by throwing him into a deep hole in the dungeon filled with mud.

9. Explain why you think that the princes wanted to make Jeremiah suffer in the hole filled with mud before he died.

Ebedmelech was a servant from a foreign country. However, he was concerned about Jeremiah. He received permission to take Jeremiah out of the pit in the dungeon. Then he took thirty men with him. They tied rags around ropes and told Jeremiah to put the ropes with the rags under his arms so that the ropes would not hurt him. Then the thirty men pulled Jeremiah out of the mud and out of the pit. Here we see a man who was willing to do what God wanted him to do even though he knew that it would not make him popular with the princes. Here we see a real example for our own lives about the importance of doing what is right even when it is not popular.

10. Read Jeremiah 38:1-13 and write from what country Ebedmelech came.

11. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the example that was given to us by Ebedmelech.

12. Explain why you think that Ebedmelech was willing to do what was right even though he knew that the princes would be angry.

After Jeremiah had been taken out of the muddy pit, the king sent for him secretly. The king wanted to find out from Jeremiah what was going to happen to him because he knew that Jeremiah would tell the truth. Before Jeremiah would tell the king anything, he made the king promise him two things. First, the king had to promise not to kill Jeremiah. Then the king had to promise that the men who did not like Jeremiah would not be allowed to do anything to him. After the king promised Jeremiah these two things, Jeremiah told the king that he would be allowed to live if he would surrender to the king of Babylon.

13. Read Jeremiah 38:14-28 and write what Jeremiah said would not happen to Jerusalem if the king surrendered.

14. Explain why Jeremiah made the king promise him two things before Jeremiah would tell the king what was going to happen.

15. Explain why you think that the king knew that he could depend on Jeremiah to tell him the truth even when other men would not tell the truth.

Here we see that Jeremiah said that the king would live and the city would be protected so that it was not destroyed by fire if the people would surrender. Jeremiah also warned what would happen if the king made the choice not to surrender. Jeremiah said that if the king made that choice that he would be killed and the city would be burned with fire. The king also had

another fear. He was afraid that he might be tricked by some of the evil Jews and killed even if he did surrender to the Babylonians. Jeremiah told the king that God would protect him if he surrendered.

16. Read Jeremiah 38:14-28 and write what God promised the king if the king would obey the Word of the Lord.

17. Explain why the king was filled with both the fear of the Babylonians and also fear of the Jews.

18. Explain why you think that people that depend on their own strength will often be controlled by fear in their lives.

Here we see that the king was given a wonderful promise if he would be obedient to God. We are also given wonderful promises when we choose to be obedient to the Lord. Just as the king was promised blessing if he would obey the Word of the Lord, we can know that the Lord will also bring blessing in our lives if we will obey the Word of God. Here we see three ways in which the king was promised he would receive blessing if he was obeyed to God. First, God told him that his soul would live. Today all who place their trust in Christ are promised eternal life. Second, God told the king that it would be well with him. God also says that it will be well for us in our lives. God promises that He will help us in every problem that we face. We never have to stand alone. God also promised protection for the family of the king.

19. Read Jeremiah 38:14-28 and write what the king told Jeremiah when he had finished speaking to the king.

20. Explain what you learn about the blessings of obedience to the Lord from these verses.

21. Explain why you think that it is important to help people to understand the kinds of blessings that the Lord gives to those who are obedient to Him.

After Jeremiah had finished speaking to the king, the king told him not to tell anyone what he had said to the king. If anyone asked Jeremiah what he had said to the king, he was only to tell them that he had asked the king not to send him back to the dungeon. The king promised to protect Jeremiah so that no one would kill him. Soon after Jeremiah was taken back to the prison, the princes came to ask him what he had told the king. When Jeremiah told the princes that he had asked the king not to send him back to the dungeon, the princes were satisfied and did not bother Jeremiah any more.

22. Read Jeremiah 38:14-28 and write how long Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.

23. Explain why the king told Jeremiah to only tell the princes that he had asked the king not to be sent back to the dungeon.

24. Explain why you think that the princes wanted to know what Jeremiah had told the king.

The king did not listen to the words of Jeremiah. Instead he decided to fight against the king of Babylon. One day the army of Babylon came and surrounded the city of Jerusalem. For eighteen months the soldiers in Jerusalem were able to keep the army of Babylon from capturing the city. However, one day the army of Babylon captured the middle gate of Jerusalem. Then the king of Judah and his soldiers realized that they could not stand against the army of Babylon any longer. Once the Babylonians were inside the city of Jerusalem, it would only be a short time before they would conquer the entire city.

25. Read Jeremiah 39:1-10 and write what the king and his soldiers did that night when they realized that they could not defend the city any longer.

26. Explain why the Babylonians were willing to surround the city for such a long period of time in order to conquer Jerusalem.
27. Explain why you think that the king decided to fight against Babylon even though Jeremiah had told him the consequences if he made that choice.

Here we see people depending on their own plans again. Because the king did not listen to the message that Jeremiah had given him, he was now forced to flee and try to escape. However, God had said that the king and the city would be judged if the people tried to fight instead of surrendering. The king did not escape. The army of Babylon quickly caught up with him. Then the army of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah right in front of his eyes. Then they put out the eyes of the king and took him as a blind slave to Babylon. Here we see the results of disobedience. Because the king failed to listen to the Word of God, he and his entire family were judged. In fact the entire nation received a worse judgment.

28. Read Jeremiah 39:1-10 and write who the captain of the guard of Babylon left in the land of Judah.
29. Explain what you learn about the results of disobedience from these verses.
30. Explain why you think that the king refused to listen to the message of Jeremiah even though he knew that Jeremiah spoke the truth.

The city of Jerusalem also suffered because the rulers and the people did not obey the Lord. The palace of the king was burned. Then the homes of all of the people were burned. The walls of the city of Jerusalem were destroyed so that there was no protection for the city. There were very few people left in the city because most of the people had been killed. Then most of the people that did remain alive were taken to Babylon. The head of the Babylonian army did show kindness to some of the people of Jerusalem. The very poor people who had nothing were allowed to remain in the land of Judah.

31. Read Jeremiah 39:1-10 and write what the head of the Babylonian army gave to the poor people that were allowed to remain in the land of Judah.
32. Explain why the Babylonians burned the building and destroyed all of the walls of the city of Jerusalem.
33. Explain why you think that the Babylonians allowed the very poor people to remain in the land of Judah.

We also see that the Lord had not forgotten about Jeremiah. The king of Babylon had heard that Jeremiah had encouraged the people to surrender. As a result, the king of Babylon decided to show kindness to Jeremiah. The king told the leaders of the Babylonian army to show kindness to Jeremiah. In fact the king gave instructions that Jeremiah should receive whatever he wanted. Here we see that God was using the king of another nation to show kindness to Jeremiah. This was his reward for speaking the Word of God even when people did not want to listen. The leader of the Babylonian army took Jeremiah out of the prison and allowed him to live in his own house in the land of Judah.

34. Read Jeremiah 39:11-18 and write to whom Jeremiah was told to speak while he was still in prison.
35. Explain why the king of Babylon chose to show kindness to Jeremiah.
36. Explain why you think that the king gave instructions to give Jeremiah whatever Jeremiah wanted.

Ebedmelech was the man who had asked the king if he could take Jeremiah out of the muddy pit after the princes had thrown him into the pit. Now we see that God had not forgotten Ebedmelech. God told Jeremiah to speak to Ebedmelech and tell him how God was going to reward him because he had helped Jeremiah. Here we see a wonderful promise for our own lives. The Lord will remember us and reward us if we serve Him faithfully. God is faithful and He will not forget us if we have been faithful in our service to Him in our lives.

37. Read Jeremiah 39:11-18 and write what Ebedmelech was promised would not happen to him.

38. Explain why God will reward all those who are faithful in their service to the Lord on this earth.

39. Explain why you think that the Lord will never forget those who put the Lord first in their lives.

As Jeremiah spoke to Ebedmelech in the prison, he told him what was going to happen to the city of Jerusalem. Ebedmelech learned that God planned to judge the city because of the evil of the people. However, God had some wonderful promises for Ebedmelech. God said that He would deliver and protect Ebedmelech in the day that He destroyed the city of Jerusalem. God said that He would protect Ebedmelech from the men who would try to cause him to be afraid. God also promised that Ebedmelech would not die by the sword. His life would be given to him as a prize.

40. Read Jeremiah 39:11-18 and write why God said that He was going to do all of these things for Ebedmelech.

41. Explain why God promised Ebedmelech that He would protect him from the men who would try to cause him to be afraid.

42. Explain why you think that the Lord told Ebedmelech that his life would be given to him as a prize.

Reread Jeremiah 38:1-39:18 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #19

Jeremiah 40:1-42:22

In our last lesson we learned that the city of Jerusalem was captured by the army of Babylon. Most of the people of Jerusalem were either killed or taken as captives to the land of Babylon. However, a few of the people were allowed to remain in the land and the king appointed a man by the name of Gedaliah to be their ruler. One day a man named Ishmael killed Gedaliah and a group of other men. As a result of these murders, Jeremiah warned that the judgment of God would come on the people. However, the people decided to go to Egypt because they thought that would make it possible for them to escape judgment.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain what happened to Jeremiah when Jerusalem was captured.

Explain what happened when the ruler of Judah was murdered.

Explain what Jeremiah said about coming judgment.

Explain how the people thought that they could escape that judgment.

After the Babylonians had captured the city of Jerusalem, Jeremiah was asked where he wanted to live. Here we see one of the ways that God was rewarding Jeremiah for his faithfulness in warning the people of coming judgment. The leader of the Babylonian army told Jeremiah that he could go to Babylon or he could remain in the land of Judah. He was also told that the Babylonians would take good care of him in Babylon. However, he told Jeremiah that if Jeremiah chose to remain in Judah, he could live any place that he chose. Here we see that the Lord was causing the Babylonians to show real kindness to Jeremiah. Jeremiah had been faithful as he spoke for the Lord. Now the Lord was rewarding him.

1. Read Jeremiah 40:1-15 and write where Jeremiah went to live.
2. Explain why God led the Babylonians to show kindness to Jeremiah and give him the choice of where he wanted to live.
3. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord does not forget those who faithfully serve Him but promises rewards for faithful service.

The Babylonians appointed a man by the name of Gedaliah to be the ruler of the land of Judah. He was told by the Babylonians that he was to rule over all of the poor people that were allowed to remain in the land. Gedaliah told the poor people of Judah that everything would be well with the people if they would serve the Babylonians. They would not need to worry or be afraid as long as they did not rebel against the Babylonians. Gedaliah also encouraged the people to plant their fields and harvest their crops. Here we see that God was using the Babylonians to make it possible for the poor people that remained in the land to be able to live in peace.

4. Read Jeremiah 40:1-16 and write what the Jews in the countries surrounding Judah did when they heard that Gedaliah had been appointed the ruler of Judah.
5. Explain why Gedaliah encouraged the poor people that remained in Judah to plant their fields and harvest their crops.

6. Explain why you think that God caused the Babylonians to make it possible for the poor people to live in the land in peace.

Here we see that all of the Jews who had escaped into the surrounding countries when the Babylonians captured Jerusalem returned to the land of Judah when they heard that Gedaliah had been appointed the ruler of Judah. One day a man by the name of Johanan came and warned Gedaliah that someone was planning to kill him. However, Gedaliah refused to listen to the warning. Today many people are just like Gedaliah. They refuse to listen to the warning that they will be judged when they die if they fail to place their trust in Christ.

7. Read Jeremiah 40:1-16 and write the name of the man who Johanan said was planning to kill Gedaliah.

8. Explain why Gedaliah refused to listen to the warning that there was someone who was planning to kill him.

9. Explain why you think that many people fail to listen when others warn them about coming judgment for their sin.

Gedaliah felt that he was safe and did not need to listen to the warning that someone was trying to kill him. Johanan had told him that a man by the name of Ishmael was the man that planned to kill him. One day Gedaliah invited Ishmael and ten men who followed Ishmael to join him for dinner. As they were eating, Ishmael and his followers killed Gedaliah along with the other Jews and the Babylonians that were with Gedaliah. Although Gedaliah had been warned that Ishmael was planning to kill him, he invited that very person to eat with him. Today we often do the same thing by choosing friends that we know will lead us the wrong way. If we want to follow the Lord, we need to choose our close friends wisely.

10. Read Jeremiah 41:1-18 and write how many men came to see Gedaliah the day after he was killed.

11. Explain why many people fail to listen when someone warns them about the eternal judgment that they face.

12. Explain why you think that Gedaliah invited the very person that he had been warned wanted to kill him to have dinner with him.

Here we see a real picture of the inner character of Ishmael. In addition to killing Gedaliah, he killed many other people including seventy of the eighty men that came to visit Gedaliah. There was no reason for him to kill many of these people because they had done nothing wrong. The reason that Ishmael did not kill ten of the men was due to the fact that the ten men offered to give Ishmael food. Here we see that he was only concerned about getting what he could for himself. He did not care whether he did right or wrong as long as he got the things that he wanted. Today many people think the same way that Ishmael thought. Their chief goal in life is to get what they want and to satisfy themselves.

13. Read Jeremiah 41:1-18 and write what Ishmael did with the people in Mizpah that he did not kill.

14. Explain how Ishmael showed that he was only concerned about what he could get for himself.

15. Explain why you think that many people today are like Ishmael and their greatest desire is to satisfy themselves.

Ishmael took the people that remained Mizpah as captives. Johanan was the man who had warned the ruler about Ishmael. Now Johanan was concerned about the people who had been taken captive by Ishmael. He knew that their lives were in danger. As a result, he took all of the men who remained in the land and went to fight against Ishmael. Here we learn an important lesson for our own lives as leaders. The lives of the people around us are in great danger. They will die and experience eternal judgment unless they repent of their sin and trust Christ as their Savior and Lord. As leaders we need to train and equip all Christians so that all Christians are equipped to witness and teach those who are the captives of the devil. If all of the Christians will speak for Christ in the places where they live, work and spend their free time, we will see many people turn from the power of Satan to the Lord.

16. Read Jeremiah 41:1-18 and write where Johanan and the men with him found Ishmael and the people that he had taken as captives.

17. Explain how the danger of those who do not know that Christ came to set people free from sin applies to your own life.

18. Explain why you think that as a leader it is important for you train and equip other Christians so that they are equipped to witness and teach those who are captives of Satan.

Because Johanan used all of the men left in the land of Judah to fight against Ishmael, he and those men saw the Lord give them victory. They were able to free all of the people who had been captured by Ishmael. Ishmael and eight men who were with him were the only ones who were able to escape from the men of Judah. Then Johanan called all of the people together. He told them that he was afraid that the Babylonians might come and destroy them because Gedaliah had been killed. As a result, he suggested that the people leave the land of Judah and flee to another country so that they would not be destroyed by the Babylonians.

19. Read Jeremiah 41:1-18 and write to what country the people still living in the land of Judah decided to flee.

20. Explain why the Lord used the concern of Johanan to free all of the people that had been captured by Ishmael.

21. Explain why you think that Johanan suggested that the people move to another country because of his fear of the Babylonians.

Here we see a real picture of people today. They think that they can escape their problems by running away from them. However, they find that they now have other problems in the place to which they run. The people decided to call Jeremiah and hear what he had to say about their plan to flee to Egypt. Then they asked Jeremiah to pray for them. They said that they wanted the Lord to show them how to walk and tell them what to do. We will see in our next lesson that the people did not really mean what they said. There we will see that the people decided to go to Egypt even though the Lord told them to stay in the land of Judah.

22. Read Jeremiah 42:1-12 and write what Jeremiah he would answer the people after the Lord spoke to him.

23. Explain why many people are quick to run from their problems instead of learn to face their problems and deal with them in the strength that the Lord gives.

24. Explain why you think that the people claimed that they wanted the Lord to show them how to walk and tell them what to do even though they did not mean it.

Here we see that Jeremiah promised to speak whatever words the Lord told him to speak to the

people. This is the way that the Lord wants us to speak. We are to speak the Word of the Lord instead of speaking our own words or giving our own opinions. When Jeremiah told the people that he would tell them what the Lord said, the people all said that they would do exactly what the Lord told them to do. The people promised to obey the Word of the Lord whether that Word was good or bad. Then Jeremiah began to pray that the Lord would show him what to tell the people. We read that Jeremiah prayed for several days before the Lord told him what to say.

25. Read Jeremiah 42:1-12 and write how many days it was before the Lord answered the prayer of Jeremiah.

26. Explain why it is important to speak the Word of the Lord to the people and not give our own opinions.

27. Explain why you think that that the people all said that they would do exactly what the Lord told them to do.

When the Lord spoke to Jeremiah, He had a wonderful message for Jeremiah to give to the people. Jeremiah immediately called all of the people and told them to gather together so that he could give them the message of the Lord. God gave the people a wonderful promise if they would remain in the land of Judah and not go down to Egypt. God said that He would build them and make them a strong people again. He would plant them firmly so that no one could destroy them. Here we see that the Lord promised them real blessing if they would obey Him and remain in the land.

28. Read Jeremiah 42:1-12 and write what the Lord told the people about the king of Babylon if they would be obedient to the Lord.

29. Explain why God promised the people that He would build them and make them strong again if they would obey Him.

30. Explain why you think that God always promised blessing to the Jews if they would obey Him.

God told the people that remained in the land of Judah that they did not need to be afraid of the king of Babylon. Three reasons are given why those who trust in the Lord do not need to be afraid. First, God promised to save those who place their trust in Him. Second, God promised to deliver them from those who were against them. Finally, God promised to show His mercy and kindness by causing others to be kind to them. God also told the people what would happen to them if they chose to disobey the Lord and go down to Egypt.

31. Read Jeremiah 42:13-22 and write what God said would happen to the people if they chose to go to Egypt.

32. Explain why God promises all people that He will save those who place their trust in Him.

33. Explain why you know that the Lord will show His mercy and kindness to those who obey Him.

God knew what the people had been saying about Egypt. They said that no one could fight against them if they went to Egypt. They also thought that they would have plenty to eat in Egypt. Here we see a real trick of the devil. He tries to cause us to think that we will get what we want by following our own desires instead of obeying the Lord. That was what Satan was doing to the people of Judah. However, God told the people that they would not get what they wanted if they went to Egypt. Instead some would be killed by the sword and others would die from a lack of food. Then still others would die from disease.

34. Read Jeremiah 42:13-22 and write how many of the people God said would escape judgment if the people went to Egypt.
35. Explain why the people of Judah thought that life would be perfect for them if they went to Egypt.
36. Explain why you think that Satan wants to try and cause us to follow our own desires instead of seek the will of the Lord.

God warned the people that none would escape judgment in Egypt. Here we see that it is impossible for any person to escape the judgment of God if we fail to obey the Word of God. Many people think that they do not need to worry about judgment. However, God promised that judgment will certainly come. God said that His judgment would come on the people if they went down to Egypt. God also said that the people would become a curse if they went to Egypt. None of the Jews would ever have the opportunity to return to their own land again because the judgment of God would come on them in the land of Egypt.

37. Read Jeremiah 42:13-22 and write what the Lord said that the people of Judah had done in their hearts.
38. Explain what these verses teach about the results of disobedience.
39. Explain why you think that God warned the Jews that none of them would return to their own land if they went down into Egypt.

The Lord knew that the people did not plan to keep their promise to obey the Word of the Lord. He knew that the people had already decided in their hearts to go to the land of Egypt. The Lord reminded the people of their promise to obey His Word. God said that He had given His Word to the people. Now the people faced a choice. They could choose to obey the Word of the Lord and be blessed or they could choose to reject the Word and be judged. Today this is still the same choice that God offers to all people. People either choose to follow Christ or they have already chosen to reject Him.

40. Read Jeremiah 14:13-22 and write how the Lord said that the people would die if they decided to go into the land of Egypt as they desired to do.
41. Explain why God often used Jeremiah to help the people see the consequences of both good choices and evil choices.
42. Explain why you think that God reminded the people that the choice that they made would determine the results (consequences) that they would receive.

Reread Jeremiah 40:1-42:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #20

Jeremiah 43:1-45:5

In our last lesson we learned that the people that remained in the land of Judah asked Jeremiah to pray to the Lord and find out whether they should go to Egypt or not. The people promised Jeremiah that they would do whatever the Lord told them to do. The Lord told Jeremiah that the people would be safe as long as they remained in the land of Judah. However, God said that would not be true if they chose to go to the land of Egypt. Instead God said that if they chose to go to the land of Egypt that they would not escape the judgment of the Lord. As we study our lesson today, we will learn about the choice that the people of Judah made.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what the people decided when they heard the message of God.
- Explain what Jeremiah told the Jews who were in Egypt.
- Explain what Jeremiah told Baruch.

The leaders of the people in Judah had promised Jeremiah that they would do exactly as the Lord told them to do. However, we see that these leaders were only telling lies. As soon as Jeremiah finished telling the people that they should not go down to the land of Egypt, the leaders called Jeremiah a liar. They began immediately to make plans to go to Egypt. Today many people are like these leaders. Such people claim that they plan to obey the Lord. However, they obey the Lord only as long as the plan of God agrees with the plans that they have already made in their minds. As soon as they decide that they want to do something else, they do what they plan even though they know that they are disobeying God.

1. Read Jeremiah 43:1-13 and write who the leaders said was telling Jeremiah what to say instead of the Lord.
2. Explain why many people only obey God as long as the plans of God agree with the plans that they already have in their own minds.
3. Explain why you think that people are quick to disobey the Lord when the Lord asks them to be obedient to Him.

Here we see that the people were trying to cover up their rebellion against God by blaming someone else. The leaders said that Baruch was the one who did not want the people to go to Egypt. They said that Baruch wanted to see them killed by the Babylonians. Here we see an example of the kind of lies that people will tell in order to avoid obeying the Word of God. If the king of Babylon would have come and killed all of the Jews, he would have killed Jeremiah and Baruch along with the rest of the people so the words of the people actually made no sense. When the leaders of Judah made their decision to rebel against God, they began making immediate plans to go to Egypt. They decided to take all of the people to Egypt with them including Jeremiah and Baruch.

4. Read Jeremiah 43:1-13 and write why God said that the people of Judah really went to Egypt.
5. Explain why many people try to cover up the fact that they are in rebellion against the Lord.

6. Explain why you think that many people try to cover up their rebellion against the Lord by blaming other people instead.

When the people arrived in the land of Egypt, they went to the city of Tahpanhes. Tahpanhes was the city where the ruler of Egypt lived. When the people arrived at that city, God spoke to Jeremiah and told him to do a very unusual thing. Jeremiah was told to take some of the men of Judah with him so that they could see what he did. Then Jeremiah was told to take large stones and hide them in the clay that was in the place where bricks were made. This place where bricks were made was very close to the palace where the ruler of Egypt lived.

7. Read Jeremiah 43:1-13 and write who Jeremiah said would set his throne on top of the stones that Jeremiah had hidden in the clay.

8. Explain why Jeremiah was told to take some of the men of Judah with him when he hid the large stones in the clay.

9. Explain why you think that God sometimes had people do certain things to give other people a visual object lesson.

Here we see that God gave a promise that the king of Babylon would come and capture the nation of Egypt. God said that most of the people of Egypt would either be killed or taken as captives to Babylon. When the king of Babylon came to the land of Egypt, God said that the Babylonian king would destroy the idols and gods of the Egyptians. Then the houses of the gods would be burned with fire. Here we see that God warned that the land of Egypt would be completely destroyed just as the land of Judah had been destroyed. Because the Jews had rebelled against the Lord, they would be killed along with the people of Egypt.

10. Read Jeremiah 43:1-13 and write what the king of Babylon would do with the images at Bethshemesh.

11. Explain what these verses teach about the results of rebellion by the people of Judah against the Lord.

12. Explain why you think that God said that the Jews that had rebelled against the Lord would be killed with the people of Egypt.

One day God spoke to Jeremiah and gave him a message for the Jews that were now living in the land of Egypt. God reminded the Jews of the fact that Jerusalem had been completely destroyed because of the sins of the people. The entire land of Judah was now an empty waste and no people lived there. God also gave the reasons why He had brought this terrible judgment on the land of Judah. The people had burned incense to false gods. They had served false gods. These false gods were the gods that God had told the people to destroy when they first came into the land of Israel. However, the people had not destroyed these gods. Instead they had chosen to serve and worship these idols instead.

13. Read Jeremiah 44:1-14 and write what God had told the people of Israel and Judah through the prophets.

14. Explain why God told the people that He had brought judgment on the people and land of Judah.

15. Explain why you think that God reminded the people that they had chosen to serve the very gods that He had told them to destroy.

God had told the people how much He hated their worship of false gods. However, the people

would not listen to God when He spoke. They closed their ears to the Lord. Then they went and burned incense to these false gods. This was the reason that God showed His anger against the sins of the people of Judah. This was the reason that the city of Jerusalem had been destroyed. Now the city of Jerusalem and the entire country of Judah had become an empty and waste land because the people had offered incense to false gods and served these false gods.

16. Read Jeremiah 44:1-14 and write what the people were now doing in the land of Egypt to provoke God.

17. Explain why God said that the entire land of Judah along with the city of Jerusalem had now become an empty waste.

18. Explain why you think that the people had closed their ears to the Lord and refused to listen to Him.

Here we see that the people had not yet learned from the judgment of Judah and Jerusalem. As soon as the people had reached Egypt, they started worshipping the false gods of the Egyptians and offering incense to their idols. There had been no change in their hearts. Today many people are just the same. As soon as they recover from the results of their sins, they go right back to their sins again. Today God will sometimes use an accident, a sickness or the death of a close relative to warn people of coming judgment if they do not turn from their sins. However, many people quickly forget these warnings and return to their sins.

19. Read Jeremiah 44:1-14 and write how God said that He would punish the people that were now serving idols in Egypt.

20. Explain why people quickly forget the warnings of judgment that the Lord gives to them.

21. Explain why you think that the Jews quickly forgot the warnings that they had received about coming judgment.

Then Jeremiah told the people about the judgment that God was going to bring on them because of their sin. God said that He had set His face for evil against the Jews that were now living in the land of Egypt. They would be killed the same ways that the Jews who were in Jerusalem had been killed. Some would be killed by the sword. Others would die from lack of food. Some would die of disease. The way that they died was not as important as the fact that they did die because of their sins. Today all people will also die and be judged for their sins if they do not repent of their sin and place their trust in Christ for salvation.

22. Read Jeremiah 44:1-14 and write how many of those who escaped to Egypt would ever return to the land of Judah.

23. Explain why God said that the people living in Egypt would be killed in the same ways as the people in Judah had been killed.

24. Explain why you think that God said that He had set His face for evil against the Jews who were now living in Egypt.

We go on to read how the people responded when they heard the Word of God. Instead of asking the Lord to forgive their sins, the men whose wives were offering incense to idols said that they would not listen to Jeremiah. They did not care that Jeremiah was speaking exactly what God had told him to speak. They said that they would do as they chose to do and it did not matter to them what Jeremiah said about their sins. These people were going to go their own way even if it meant that they would experience the judgment of God. Until Christ brings conviction to the heart of a person, that person will always choose to go his or her own way instead of following the way that the Lord wants that person to go.

25. Read Jeremiah 44:15-30 and write what the people said that they would do instead of obey the Lord.

26. Explain why the people refused to listen to Jeremiah and told him that it did not matter to them what Jeremiah said about their sins.

27. Explain why you think that people will always choose to go their own way until the Lord brings conviction to their hearts.

Here we see a real picture of many people today. They say that they are going to do as they choose and no one will stop them. Such people say that they can serve the gods that they want to serve. In these verses we see that the Jews in Egypt thought that they could worship their idols and that God would not be able to judge them. They thought that they could laugh in the face of God and He would not be able to do anything about their rebellion and mocking. As we see the attitude that these people had as they worshiped their false gods, we see what happens when people have totally rejected the Lord and continued in their rebellion against Him.

28. Read Jeremiah 44:15-30 and write to whom the people said that they would burn incense.

29. Explain why people reject the Lord and turn from Him even when they have been warned of coming judgment.

30. Explain why you think that people often laugh and mock when they hear that God will judge their rebellion.

After the people finished telling Jeremiah that they did not plan to obey the Word of God, Jeremiah spoke to the people again. He reminded the people of what had happened to the city of Jerusalem because the people had chosen to follow false gods and offer incense to idols. He also reminded the people to think about what the city of Jerusalem was like at that very minute. All of the houses had been destroyed. The walls of the city had been broken down. Nothing was left of the city except pieces of rubble. No one lived in the city of Jerusalem any more. All of these things had happened to Jerusalem because the people had not obeyed the Lord. They had not listened to the Word of God.

31. Read Jeremiah 44:15-30 and write what God said had happened to the people of Judah because they had not obeyed the Word of God.

32. Explain why the false gods that the people had worshiped in Jerusalem had not been able to help them when judgment came.

33. Explain why you think that Jeremiah reminded the people of the way that the city of Jerusalem had been judged.

Then Jeremiah told the people that they had made their choice and the judgment of God would come exactly as God had promised. God said that the Jews who were in Egypt would not be given another opportunity to speak in the name of the Lord while they were in Egypt because God would bring judgment upon them. They would reap the consequences of their sinful choices. God had His eyes on the Jews who were in the land of Egypt. However, the Lord was not watching the people so that He could show His love and kindness to them. Instead God was watching them and preparing to bring judgment upon the people.

34. Read Jeremiah 44:15-30 and write what God said about a small number of the Jews.

35. Explain why God said that the Jews in Egypt would not be given another opportunity to repent of their sin.

36. Explain why you think that God said that the reason that He was watching the people was due to the fact that He was planning to bring judgment upon them.

Even though we see a real picture of the judgment of God, we also see a picture of the mercy of God. For His own sake, God said that He would allow a small group of Jews to return to the land of Judah. God also said that the people would know that the Word of God would be completed. He said that He would give them a sign to show that His Word was true. God said that the sign that He would keep His Word was the fact that the Jews in Egypt would be punished by God right in Egypt. God also said that the ruler of Egypt would be captured by the king of Babylon just as the king of Judah had been captured by the king of Babylon.

37. Read Jeremiah 44:15-30 and write the name of the particular Pharaoh that was ruling Egypt at that time.

38. Explain how you know that God will keep His Word.

39. Explain why you think that God said that the judgment of the Jews in Egypt would happen right in Egypt.

God also had some words for Baruch. Baruch was complaining because he did not think that everything was going the way that he wanted things to go. God told Baruch that He was the One who built things and tore them down. For this reason Baruch should not worry because the Lord was in control of all things. Then God asked Baruch if he was complaining because he wanted things for himself. This is the reason why we usually complain. We complain because we do not get the things that we want. God told Baruch not to desire things. God said that instead the desire of Baruch should be to do the will of the Lord. That should be our desire also. We should not complain or be concerned about satisfying ourselves.

40. Read Jeremiah 45:1-5 and write what God promised to give to Baruch wherever he went because he trusted the Lord.

41. Explain why Baruch needed to be reminded that God was the One who was in control of all things.

42. Explain why you think that it is easy for some Christians to begin to complain today.

Reread Jeremiah 43:1-45:5 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations

Lesson #21

Jeremiah 46:1-48:47

Throughout the book of Jeremiah, we have been studying the warnings that the Lord gave through Jeremiah about the judgment of the nation of Judah. In this lesson we will turn from the judgment of Judah to the judgment of the foreign nations. In our study today, we will learn about the judgment of the nation which had done evil to Judah and Israel many times during the early history of those nations. Egypt had made the people of Israel work as slaves for many years when the people of Israel lived in the land of Egypt. As a result, the nation of Egypt is the first nation that is promised judgment. In this lesson, we will also learn about the judgments of Philistia and Moab.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study.

By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God said about the judgment of Egypt.
- Explain what God said about the judgment of Philistia.
- Explain what God said about the judgment of Moab.

In our last lesson we learned about the promise of judgment to the Jews that God promised for those Jews who had gone to Egypt. In our lesson today we see that God turned from the judgment of the Jews in Egypt to the judgment of the nation of Egypt. The nation of Egypt was a very proud nation. The rulers of Egypt thought that they were so powerful that no other nation could destroy them. In fact the armies of Egypt thought that they could defeat the armies of Babylon or any other powerful nation. They boasted that they could go up and cover the earth. They said that they could conquer any city and capture the people that lived in that city.

1. Read Jeremiah 46:1-28 and write who God said would defeat Egypt.
2. Explain what these verses teach about the pride of the people of the Egypt.
3. Explain why you think that pride causes many people and nations to think that no one can defeat them.

Egypt was a very proud nation but God said that He would allow the nation of Babylon to destroy the pride of Egypt. God warned the people of Egypt to prepare for judgment because God said that the judgment of Egypt would come very quickly. The army of Babylon would come against Egypt and the army of Egypt would not be able to stand. God gave the reason why they would not be able to stand. God said that He would drive the army of Egypt and cause the men to fall on each other. God said that the largest city of Egypt would be destroyed and became an empty waste in which no one lived.

4. Read Jeremiah 46:1-28 and write from what direction the Lord said that the judgment of Egypt would come.
5. Explain why God said that He would drive the army of Egypt and cause the soldiers to fall on each other.
6. Explain why you think that God said that He was the One that was in control of the judgment of Egypt.

The power of the north that would come against Egypt was the nation of Babylon. When the Babylonians came against Egypt, they came just like a bunch of grasshoppers. There were many of them and they were like a group of men cutting down the trees of a forest. God said that He would cause the nation of Egypt to be captured by the army of the north. In that day God said that He would punish the rulers of Egypt and destroy their gods. The gods that the Egyptians had trusted would not be able to help them in that day. Of course that was due to the fact that their gods had no life in them. Instead God said that Egypt would be captured by Babylon.

7. Read Jeremiah 46:1-28 and write what God promised would happen to Egypt after these things happened.

8. Explain why God warned the nation of Egypt that their gods would not be able to help them in the day when God brought judgment on them.

9. Explain why you think that many people are deceived and think that lifeless gods can help them in their times of trouble.

Here we see that God promised that He would not completely destroy the land of Egypt. God said that the day would come in the future that the Egyptians would live there again. God also gave a wonderful promise to the Jews. God promised that one day He would also bring back the Jews from the places where they had been scattered. He promised that one day they would have rest in their own land. In that day God said that there would be no one to make the people of Israel afraid. God also said that He will completely destroy the nations where the people of Israel have been scattered. However, God promised never to destroy Israel. Instead God said that He would only punish Israel because of the sins of the people.

10. Read Jeremiah 46:1-28 and write into whose hand the Lord said that He would deliver the Egyptians.

11. Explain when God will complete these promises that He gave to Israel through Jeremiah.

12. Explain why you think that God reminded both Egypt and the Jews that God would cause them to experience future blessing.

Then God began to speak about the judgment of the Philistines. The Philistines had tried to destroy the nation of Israel many times. Here God promised that the Philistines would be destroyed instead. God said that a nation from the north would come against them. That nation would be so powerful that it would roll over them like a flood. Nothing would be able to stop this army from the north that would come against them. The people in the cities would cry and be filled with sorrow because they had no one to protect them. All the people would hear would be the noise of the armies that were coming against them.

13. Read Jeremiah 47:1-7 and write how the fathers would care for their children in that day.

14. Explain why God said that the people of Philistia would cry and be filled with sorrow because they had no one to protect them.

15. Explain why you think that God had waited a long time to bring this judgment on the Philistines.

Here we see a real picture of the terribleness of the judgment of the Philistines. Everyone would be forced to run to try and save their lives. The fathers would be forced to run so quickly that they would even be unable to protect their children. They would also be too weak and tired to help their children. When we realize that the parents would not even be able to help their

children, we realize that the judgment of the Philistines would be very terrible. Very few of the Philistines would even escape that judgment as most of them would be killed.

16. Read Jeremiah 47:1-7 and write who God said would be the person that would destroy the land of the Philistines.

17. Explain how any group of people feel when they are forced to watch their children die.

18. Explain how you think that the Philistine parents felt when they were too weak and tired to even try and help their children as they ran for their own lives.

Although God used a nation that came from the north to fight against the Philistines, here we see that it was actually the Lord who really destroyed the Philistines. It was the Lord who led the army from the north to come and fight against the Philistines. It was the Lord who made the cities of Gaza and Askelon become cities that had nothing because they were completely destroyed. Someone might ask why the Lord brought such great judgment against these cities. These cities were judged for their own sin. The reason for that judgment was to fulfill the promise of the Lord that these cities would be completely destroyed.

19. Read Jeremiah 47:1-7 and write whose sword the Lord said would destroy the Philistine cities.

20. Explain why it is important to understand that God is the One who allowed this judgment of the Philistines to happen.

21. Explain why you think that God wanted to make certain that these cities were completely destroyed.

Next God turned to the judgment that would come on the nation of Moab. Moab had also been a very proud and sinful nation. The people of Moab depended on their works and their money to save them. Since many people today are trusting in these same two things, the judgment of the nation of Moab should also be a warning to these people. God said that the people of Moab would be taken to a foreign nation. Every one of their cities would be destroyed. The result would be that the valley in which the people of Moab had lived would become an empty waste. God said that He would bring a curse on those who refused to destroy Moab.

22. Read Jeremiah 48:1-25 and write what the nation of Moab had been like even since it was a young nation.

23. Explain why the judgment of the nation of Moab should be a warning to many people that are living today.

24. Explain why you think that many people depend on their works or their money to save them from destruction.

Because of the riches of Moab, the people had lived to satisfy themselves. The lees are the things that are left in the bottom of a bottle of wine. God said that the people of Moab had been able to sit and satisfy themselves without being disturbed by the armies of the other nations. Here God said that He would now cause the people of Moab to wander among the nations. They would not live at ease any longer. The people of Moab thought that they were strong soldiers. Instead God said that the nation would be completely destroyed and those who thought that they were strong soldiers would be killed. God had spoken and their judgment was sure.

25. Read Jeremiah 48:1-25 and write when God said that this judgment would come on the nation of Moab.

26. Explain what God said would happen to the life of ease that the people of Moab had enjoyed for many generations.
27. Explain why you think that God said that those who thought that they were strong soldiers would be killed.

Here we see that God promised that the judgment of Moab would come quickly. God had waited for a long time to judge the sins of Moab but now He would wait no longer. He would cause the cities of Moab to be destroyed. He would take away the pleasure and ease of the people. The people would be filled with sorrow as they saw their land completely destroyed. Here we see that they would be sad because their possessions would be destroyed. We never read that they would have sorrow because of their sins. We also see that the Lord promised that His judgment would be complete. Nothing would escape that judgment.

28. Read Jeremiah 48:1-25 and write what God said would happen to the arm of Moab.
29. Explain what these verses teach about those people who depend on pleasure and their own works instead of depending on the Lord.
30. Explain why you think that people have sorrow when their possessions are destroyed but do not have sorrow for their sin.

Moab had boasted against the Lord and had done evil to the nation of Israel. Here we see that God said that Moab would become like a drunken man. It would fall in its own vomit. When that judgment came, Moab would no longer be a proud nation. We see a picture of the pride of Moab before God brought judgment upon them. They were very proud. They thought that they were better than all of the other nations. They would boast of their riches and strength. They looked down on others and considered themselves better than the people who were not as rich as they were. This is a real picture of many people today. They think that they are better than their neighbors because they have more riches or possessions than those who live around them.

31. Read Jeremiah 48:26-47 and write what God said would be taken from the fields of Moab.
32. Explain why the people of Moab were so proud that they looked down on the people of the other nations.
33. Explain why you think that many people today are filled with pride because of their riches or their possessions.

Here we see what God promised would happen to the nation of Moab when God brought His judgment upon that nation. It would not be filled with happiness any longer. The people would be filled with sorrow instead of joy. There would be no shouting in the land any longer. God also said that He would destroy all those who offered incense to false gods and idols. We also read that the riches of the people would be destroyed and they would be left with nothing. As a result, the people would be filled with sorrow as they experienced judgment.

34. Read Jeremiah 48:26-47 and write why God said that Moab would be destroyed from being a people.
35. Explain why God said that He would destroy all of the people of Moab who worshiped false gods and idols.
36. Explain why you think that all people will have their happiness turned to sorrow when judgment comes upon them.

God said that He would bring a judgment on Moab that would be a very complete judgment.

The walls of the city would be destroyed. The people would be captured or killed. The hearts of the men would be filled with fear. God said that He would do all of these things to Moab because the people had lifted themselves up against God. They had boasted about their own strength instead of putting their trust in the Lord. Here we see a real warning to people who are not putting their trust in the Lord today. They will also experience the judgment of the Lord.

37. Read Jeremiah 48:26-47 and write the three things that the Lord said that would be upon the people of Moab.

38. Explain what these verses teach about what will happen to those who lift themselves up against the Lord.

39. Explain why you think that people often boast about their own strength instead of placing their trust in the Lord.

We also see a real picture of what people are like when they do not have their trust in the Lord. Their hearts are filled with fear. Here we see that the people would have so much fear in their hearts that they would fall into pits in the ground as they tried to escape. Those who escaped the pits would be caught in snares. God also said that He would cause some of the people to be destroyed by fire. Those who escaped death would be captured and taken as captives to foreign lands. None of the people would go free when the Lord brought His judgment against Moab.

40. Read Jeremiah 48:26-47 and write what God promised about bringing the people of Moab back into their own land in the last days.

41. Explain how God said that the people of Moab would react because of the fear that they had in their hearts.

42. Explain why you think that people will panic and even bring destruction on themselves when their lives are controlled by fear.

Reread Jeremiah 46:1-48:47 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations
Lesson #22
Jeremiah 49:1-50:46

In our last lesson we learned a little about some of the nations that God said that He would judge because of the way that they had treated Israel and Judah. Today we will learn about some of the other nations which God said that He would judge. One of the nations that God said that He would judge was Babylon. We will study about the judgment that God promised to bring on Babylon both in this lesson and our next lesson. As we have studied the book of Jeremiah, we have seen that Babylon was the nation that was used by God to judge the nation of Judah. However, the nation of Babylon was also a very sinful nation. As a result, God promised that He would also judge Babylon.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God said about the judgment of Ammon and Edom.
- Explain why God said that the kingdoms of Syria, Kedar, Hazor and Elam must be judged.
- Explain what God said about the judgment of Babylon.

The people of Ammon came from the family of Lot, the nephew of Abraham. When Ammon became a strong nation, they took part of the land that belonged to the nation of Israel. As a result, God said that judgment would come upon the people of Ammon. God said that the cities of Ammon would be destroyed and burned with fire. All of the leaders of Ammon would be captured and taken as captives to a foreign land. The people of Ammon were like the people of Moab. They were trusting in their riches instead of placing their trust in the Lord. Now God said that He would bring great fear upon the people of Ammon and cause them to be driven out of their land.

1. Read Jeremiah 49:1-22 and write what promise God made to the nation of Ammon about the future.
2. Explain why many nations have chosen to place their trust in their own riches instead of placing their trust in the Lord.
3. Explain why you think that God said that He would bring great fear upon the people of Ammon when they were driven from the land.

In the book of Genesis, we read that Isaac had two sons. Jacob was the youngest and it was from Jacob that the nation of Israel came. In fact the Lord changed the name of Jacob to Israel. The oldest son of Isaac was Esau. God also caused a nation to come from the family of Esau. That nation became known as the nation of Edom. God said that He would bring judgment on the nation of Edom because of the sins of the people of Edom. God said that the people of Edom would not be able to hide in the day that He brought judgment upon them. The people of Edom thought that they could escape judgment because they thought that no army could capture their main city.

4. Read Jeremiah 49:1-22 and write where the people of Edom were living.
5. Explain why God continued to remind the people that there would be judgment for sin if people did not turn from their sin.

6. Explain why you think that God had caused a nation to come from each of the sons of Isaac.

The people of Edom had built a very strong city called Petra. That city had been cut out of solid rock. There was only one way to enter the city. That was through a narrow opening which could be easily protected by only a few men. The people of Edom thought that no one could destroy their city in the rock. As a result, they became very proud. God said that the people of Edom had been deceived by their pride. God was able to destroy them even though they had a very strong city. God said that He would make their city an empty waste. In fact God said that the city of Petra would become like the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

7. Read Jeremiah 49:1-22 and write how many men God said would be left in the city when God judged it.

8. Explain why the people of Edom thought that no one would ever be able to defeat them.

9. Explain why you think that people easily deceive themselves when they are controlled by pride.

The city of Petra was a center of trade. All of the camel caravans had to pass through the area controlled by the city of Petra. As a result, the people of Petra became rich from the travelers who traveled through their territory. One day God caused people to start using a new road for their camel caravans. The new route did not come near the city of Petra. As a result, the people of Petra were finally forced to leave their city because there was nothing that the people could do to earn a living any more. In this way God judged the city and caused it to become an empty waste. Then God also judged the people that had lived in that city because of their sins.

10. Read Jeremiah 49:1-22 and write what God said that the hearts of the mighty men of Edom would become like.

11. Explain how the Lord kept His promise to judge the people of Edom by causing the main city to become an empty waste.

12. Explain why you think that God used the changing of the trade route as a way to bring judgment on the people of Edom.

God also spoke about the judgment of several other nations. God said that He would bring sorrow on the nation of Syria and its capital, Damascus. We see that God said that the people would be filled with fear. It is interesting to notice how many times we read about fear as we study the judgment of the nations. When people do not have their trust in the Lord, they are filled with fear whenever something negative happens in their lives. They have no one to whom they can turn so fear takes control of their lives. Here we see that without the Lord people are always driven by fear. That is exactly what happened to Damascus when God brought judgment upon that city. God caused the young men and the soldiers of Damascus to be killed.

13. Read Jeremiah 49:23-39 and write whose palaces were destroyed by the fire that destroyed Damascus.

14. Explain why people are always driven by fear when their lives are controlled by fear.

15. Explain why you think that people are immediately filled with fear when something negative happens in their lives.

The Arabians (the people of Kedar) did not live in cities with large walls like most of the people in Judah and the surrounding nations. Instead the Arabians lived in tents. This made it easy for

them to move from place to place so that they could find food for their flocks. God said that He would use the king of Babylon to bring judgment upon the Arabians. When the king of Babylon came against the Arabians, God said that the king would take the tents, the animals and all of the other possessions of the people. Then the king would cause the people to be scattered in many places so that they would not be able to become a nation again. Their land would become desolate and empty and only the wild animals would live there.

16. Read Jeremiah 49:23-39 and write how long God said Habor would be a desolation.

17. Explain why God said that the flocks of the Arabians would be replaced by the wild animals.

18. Explain why you think that even though the Arabians lived in tents that they still did not escape the army of Babylon.

God also spoke of the judgment on Elam. The people of Elam were strong. However, God said that He would break their bow so that they would no longer be strong. God also said that He would scatter the people of Elam among all of the nations of the world. God said that He would judge them with the sword and destroy them. At the same time God promised that He would bring them back into their land in the last days. Here we see a real picture of the love of God for all nations. Even though God says that He will punish the nations for their sin, God also promises to bring the people back into their own lands in the last days.

19. Read Jeremiah 49:23-39 and write what directions God said that He would scatter the people of Elam.

20. Explain why God told several nations that He will bring them back to their lands in the last days.

21. Explain why you think that God promised to bring these nations back into their own lands in the last days.

As we have studied the judgments that God promised would come on the nations, we see that God said that He would use the nation of Babylon to bring judgment on many other nations. However, the people of Babylon did not place their trust in the Lord because God gave them these victories. Instead the people of Babylon did evil. As a result, God also promised to bring judgment on the nation of Babylon. God said that the judgment of Babylon would be a complete judgment. The gods of the Babylonians would be destroyed. The animals and the people would be captured. The city and the land would be destroyed and no one would live there.

22. Read Jeremiah 50:1-20 and write what God promised that Israel and Judah would one day do together.

23. Explain why God said that He would judge Babylon after He had used Babylon to judge the other nations.

24. Explain why you think that God chose to use the nation of Babylon to judge so many other nations before He judged them.

Here we see that the Lord was looking ahead to one of the great things that is going to happen in the future. God said that one day Israel and Judah will become one people again. In that day they will also serve the Lord. They will never turn away from God again in that day. However, God said that His people were like lost sheep who had been led the wrong way by their shepherds. They have gone from place to place and have found no rest. They have been

destroyed by the people of other nations. Now God warned His people to get out of Babylon before He brought judgment on the city of Babylon. Today we are also told to come out from the sinful people and live for the Lord. We are not to share in their sins.

25. Read Jeremiah 50:1-20 and write what God promised to bring against the nation of Babylon to destroy it.

26. Explain why God described the people of Israel and Judah like lost sheep that had been led the wrong way by their shepherds.

27. Explain why you think that God warned the Jews living in Babylon to get out of that city before He brought judgment on Babylon.

The nation of Babylon had become fat at the expense of the other nations. Now God said that they would lose all that they had taken from the other nations. The other nations would bring them down to nothing. God said that the kings of Assyria and Babylon had become like lions in the way that they had destroyed the people of God. As a result, God said that they would be punished because of what they had done to the chosen people of God. Then God promised again that He will remember His people and one day bring them back into their land. God said that people will look for the sins of Judah in those days. However, they will find none. Instead God will pardon His people because they have placed their trust in Him.

28. Read Jeremiah 50:1-20 and write where God said that His people would eat when He brings them into their land again.

29. Explain what God promises that He will do for Israel and Judah in the future in these verses.

30. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that God promises to pardon His people when they place their trust in Him.

God compared the nation of Babylon to a hammer. A hammer is very strong and is able to break many things. We have seen in our study of the book of Jeremiah that Babylon broke and destroyed many other nations. Now God said that Babylon would be broken just as she had broken other nations. God said that Babylon would be unprepared when she was completely destroyed. The army of the Medes and Persians came and captured the city of Babylon in the middle of the night before the Babylonians even knew what had happened. That fulfilled this prophecy just as it had been spoken by the Lord many years before it happened.

31. Read Jeremiah 50:21-46 and write what kind of weapons the Lord said that He would bring to fight against Babylon.

32. Explain why the judgment of Babylon happened very suddenly in the middle of the night.

33. Explain why you think that God said that Babylon would be broken just as she had broken many other nations.

Here we see that God promised that He would really show His power when He brought judgment on the city of Babylon and its people. God did this because He is a holy God and hates sin. God said that the armies that He called to come and fight against Babylon would completely destroy Babylon. The buildings would become piles of stone and wood. There would be nothing left in the city that would be worth anything. The animals of the people would also be destroyed. All this would happen because God had called for a day of judgment and nothing could stop that judgment when it came on the city of Babylon.

34. Read Jeremiah 50:21-46 and write how the Lord said that Babylon would be rewarded.

35. Explain why God said that there would be nothing left in the city of Babylon that would be worth anything when He brought judgment on the city.

36. Explain why you think that God said that He had called for a day of judgment for Babylon that no one could stop.

God said that He would reward Babylon according to all that she had done. We read about the particular sin of Babylon that caused it to experience great judgment. That sin was pride. The people of Babylon had become so proud that they boasted against God. They felt that God could not judge them because they were very strong. God said it was the pride of Babylon that caused Him to come against them and judge them. Today we also have many people who are very proud. They boast about their strength and power. They think that they can do as they choose and that no one can stop them. However, God says that all who are proud will stumble and fall.

37. Read Jeremiah 50:21-46 and write to what two cities God compared the judgment of the city of Babylon.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the results of pride in the life of any nation or person.

39. Explain why you think that God says that all who are proud will stumble and fall.

When the Babylonians captured Judah, they refused to show kindness to the Jews. God said that He would not forget what the Babylonians had done to His people. He is the Redeemer of His people. He is the One who will plead the cause of His people and show them mercy. He will give rest to His people and bring judgment on those who do evil to His people. God said that everything in Babylon would be destroyed with the sword. God also said that the nation that would come against Babylon would be very cruel. That nation would show no mercy. As a result, the judgment of Babylon would be very terrible.

40. Read Jeremiah 50:21-46 and write what God said His purpose was to do the Chaldeans (Babylonians).

41. Explain why it is important to understand that God says that He is the Redeemer of His people.

42. Explain why you think that God said that He will plead the cause of His people and show them mercy.

Reread Jeremiah 49:1-50:46 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations
Lesson #23
Jeremiah 51:1-52:34

In our last lesson we learned that God promised to judge the nation and the city of Babylon. Today we will see the reasons why God said that Babylon must be judged. The people of Babylon were very cruel to the people of Israel and Judah. They showed no kindness or mercy at all. As a result, God said that Babylon must be judged because of the evil that the people of Babylon had done to the people of God. As we come to the final chapter of the book of Jeremiah, we have a review of the way that Babylon captured Judah. As we read about the way that Babylon captured Judah, we are given a little picture of the terrible treatment of the Jews by the army of Babylon.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why God called Medes His battle-axe to judge Babylon.
- Explain how completely God said that Babylon would be destroyed.
- Explain what God said about the fall of the city of Jerusalem.

God used Babylon to punish many other nations for their sins. However, God did not forget the sins of Babylon. As a result, God spoke of the day that judgment would come on the nation of Babylon. God said that He would make the land of Babylon empty. No one would be spared. All of the people would be destroyed or taken out of their land. At the same time, God promised that He would not forget the nation that He had chosen. God said that He would remember His people even though they were very sinful. God also warned His people to leave Babylon so that they would not be destroyed with the evil people of Babylon. Babylon had caused many other nations to fall but now the time had come for Babylon to fall.

1. Read Jeremiah 51:1-23 and write what God said would happen to Babylon very suddenly.
2. Explain why God said that the judgment of Babylon would be a very complete judgment.
3. Explain why you think that God said that He would remember His people even though they were very sinful.

Here we see the fact emphasized again that Babylon would fall suddenly. God also told who He would use to destroy the Babylonians long before that destruction happened. God said that He would raise up the kings of the Medes to complete His purpose of judging Babylon. Here we see that Babylon was judged by the Lord because that was the purpose of the Lord. Babylon had been very powerful and ruled over many nations. However, God said that the day had come for Babylon to be judged. God was going to bring an end to the riches of Babylon. We also learn several things about the greatness of God. God made the earth by His power. He established the world by His wisdom. This reminds us of the greatness of that wisdom.

4. Read Jeremiah 51:1-23 and write how God stretched out the heavens.
5. Explain why God said far in advance that He would use the Medes to complete His purpose of judging Babylon.
6. Explain why you think that God said that Babylon would be judged because that was the purpose of the Lord.

When we compare our understanding with the understanding of God, we realize how small and little we are. We do not even know how many stars there are in the heavens. Yet we see that God has placed them where they are and has caused them to operate according to His perfect pattern. God also causes the water and the wind to follow the pattern that He gives them. People can only understand a little about the things that the Lord has done because we have very little understanding. God also said that he had used Babylon to judge the nations. Now God said He would use the Medes as the battle-axe of God to judge the nation of Babylon. Many people could not understand why God allowed Babylon to judge the nations. Here we see that God allowed it because it was part of His perfect plan but it was also His plan to judge Babylon.

7. Read Jeremiah 51:1-23 and write and write what God said that His battle-axe would do to the nation of Babylon.

8. Explain what you learn about the wisdom and understanding of God from these verses.

9. Explain why you think that God has placed each of the stars where they are and caused them to operate according to His perfect pattern.

God said that the people of Babylon would receive all of the evil back that they had done to the nation of Israel. God said that He would stretch out His hand against the nation of Babylon. In that day Babylon would be destroyed. God said that the destruction of Babylon would be complete. The city of Babylon would never be built again. God said that He would cause this destruction to happen by calling the nations to the north of Babylon to come and fight against Babylon. These armies would complete the purpose of the Lord as they judged Babylon. As a result, the land of Babylon would be completely destroyed. When the enemies came against Babylon, the soldiers of Babylon became afraid and could not fight.

10. Read Jeremiah 51:24-48 and write what God said Babylon would be like when the enemies came against Babylon.

11. Explain why God said that the city of Babylon would never be built again once it was destroyed by the Medes and Persians.

12. Explain why you think that God said that Babylon would receive back all of the evil that they had done to other nations.

The threshing floor was the place where the people would beat the wheat to cause the kernels of wheat to separate from the straw. Now God said that the time of harvest would soon come for the nation of Babylon. Then they would reap the evil that they had sown. They had done evil to the Jews and God said that they were now going to be punished for that evil. In addition to destroying the city and the people, God said that He would cause the springs which supplied water to Babylon to become dry. As a result, the area would become like a desert. It is still a desert today. Even today only the wild animals live in the area when the city of Babylon once stood.

13. Read Jeremiah 51:24-48 and write how God said that the people of Babylon would become like lambs.

14. Explain why God said that He would also cause the springs to become dry so that Babylon would become a desert.

15. Explain what you think that God meant when He said that the time of harvest would soon come for the nation of Babylon.

God said that He would bring the people of Babylon like lambs are brought to the slaughter. The people of Babylon did not even realize that judgment was coming on them. They thought that they were safe until it was too late. They were like many people living today. Many people living today think that they do not need to prepare for judgment. God also had a warning for the Jews that were living in the city of Babylon. God warned the Jews to get out of the city of Babylon so that they would not be judged with the people of Babylon. As Christians, this should also be a warning to us. If we join the world in their sins, we can expect to be judged. However, if we are Christians, our judgment will come on this earth instead of in the lake of fire.

16. Read Jeremiah 51:24-48 and write what God said He would do to the carved images of Babylon.

17. Explain why we should not join in the sins of the world around us but instead should be the light of the Lord in a dark world.

18. Explain why you think that many people today do not think that they need to prepare for coming judgment.

The Jews had been taken away to the land of Babylon. The Lord had some words for those who had escaped when Jerusalem was judged. Although those people were a long way from Jerusalem, those people were warned not to forget the Lord. This is a warning that is really needed today. Today many people are moving from one place to another. Sometimes when Christians move to a new area of the country or world, they stop serving the Lord in that new place. We need to help all Christians realize that the Lord has moved them there so that they have the opportunity to serve the Lord there. If they move to another place, they should be equipped to serve the Lord in that place.

19. Read Jeremiah 51:49-64 and write what kind of destruction the Lord promised to the Chaldeans.

20. Explain why it is important to help Christians view moves to other areas as new opportunities to serve the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that it is important today to warn people not to forget the Lord as they move from place to place.

God said the destruction of Babylon would be very complete. God said that He would completely destroy the wall of Babylon. All of the places where the people worshiped idols would be burned with fire. When that judgment came, the destruction was so complete that for many years no one could even find the place where the city of Babylon once stood. God also said that all of the rulers and religious leaders of Babylon would go to sleep. However, it would not be a regular sleep. None of the leaders woke up from that sleep because it was actually death. The leaders and people of Babylon received this great and terrible judgment because they persecuted the nation that God had chosen.

22. Read Jeremiah 51:49-64 and write who Jeremiah had read these warnings of judgment to the people of Babylon.

23. Explain why God said that the leaders and people of Babylon would receive the great and terrible judgment of God for the way they persecuted the Jews.

24. Explain why you think that the destruction of Babylon was so complete that it even took many years to find where the former city had been.

The Lord had told Jeremiah to write all of the prophecies that he had received from the Lord in a scroll. Then Jeremiah asked Seraiah to take a copy of these prophecies and read them to the people who were in Babylon. Here we see that God warned the people of Babylon many years before He brought judgment on that city. God said that the city would become an empty waste that would last forever. Although the people had been warned of coming judgment many years before that judgment came, they did not turn from their evil ways. Instead they continued to live in their sin until that judgment came upon them.

25. Read Jeremiah 51:49-64 and write what Seraiah was to do with the scroll when he finished reading it in Babylon.

26. Explain why God said that Seraiah was to do what he did with the scroll after he had read the scroll.

27. Explain why you think that people do not listen when they are warned of coming judgment.

As we come to the final chapter of Jeremiah, we have a review of the destruction of the city of Jerusalem. In this review we see one of the reasons why the people of Jerusalem did evil instead of following the Lord. The king did evil and walked the wrong way. Since he was the leader of the nation, many of the people followed his evil ways. When God gives us an opportunity to lead others, we need to make certain that we follow the Lord and do not walk in our own ways. Otherwise we will also lead people the wrong way and will be held accountable.

28. Read Jeremiah 52:1-23 and write what the Jewish soldiers did when the city was broken up.

29. Explain how the king influenced the people of Judah to do evil because of his own evil ways.

30. Explain why you think that God said that He will hold leaders accountable when they lead people the wrong way.

The king thought that he could escape but God remembered the evil that the king had done. God punished the king for leading the people the wrong way. The sons of the king were killed right in front of his eyes. Then his eyes were put out so that he lived as a blind man in a prison in Babylon for the rest of his life. Here we see the judgment of a leader who led the people the wrong way. He suffered greatly. His family suffered. In fact the entire nation suffered because the king did not lead the people to serve the Lord. Here we see that leadership carries with it great responsibility.

31. Read Jeremiah 52:1-23 and write what the king of Babylon did to the house of the Lord.

32. Explain why the evil of the king of Judah caused him, his family and the entire nation of Judah to all suffer.

33. Explain why you think it is important for leaders to remember that the way that they lead others will have a great effect on those that they lead.

Here we see a real picture of the complete destruction that happened to the city of Jerusalem. The temple had everything that was valuable in it taken out of it including the main pillars. Then the rest of the temple was burned with fire. The house of the king and the houses of the people were also burned with fire. Then the walls which surrounded the city of Jerusalem were broken down so that the people who were left in Jerusalem would have nothing to protect them in case they decided to rebel against Babylon again. Most of the people were killed. Many were also taken as captives to Babylon. Only a few poor people were left in the city.

34. Read Jeremiah 52:1-23 and write what the king of Babylon did to the leaders of Judah when they were brought to him at Riblah.
35. Explain what you have learned for your own life by studying about the judgment of Jerusalem.
36. Explain why you think that Babylon so completely destroyed the city of Jerusalem that it was left with nothing.

The army of Babylon captured the men who were the religious leaders of the Jews. Then the army captured the head of the Jewish army and the seven men who were the advisors of the king. The best scribe was also captured along with sixty other men. All of these men were taken to the king of Babylon so that he could decide what to do with them. Then the king had them all put to death. Here we see that they were judged for the leadership that they had given to the people of Judah and Jerusalem. The king of Babylon also took some of the people as captives to Babylon.

37. Read Jeremiah 52:24-34 and write how many captives were taken to Babylon.
38. Explain why the king of Babylon took some of the people of Judah as captives to Babylon.
39. Explain why you think that the king of Babylon judged all of the remaining leaders of Judah with death.

One day a new king was appointed to rule the nation of Babylon. He decided to show kindness to Jehoiachin, the former king of Judah. The king of Babylon took Jehoiachin out of the prison. He also gave him new clothes and provided him with food. This is a picture of what the Lord did for us when He saved us. He took away our sin and clothed us with His righteousness. Then God provides us with daily food from the Word of God. Here we see that the Lord shows us much greater kindness than the new king of Babylon showed to the former king of Judah.

40. Read Jeremiah 52:24-34 and write how long the king provided food for Jehoiachin.
41. Explain why the new king of Babylon decided to show kindness to the former king of Judah that had been brought to Babylon earlier.
42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ has shown kindness to you by clothing you with a robe of righteousness.

Reread Jeremiah 51:1-52:34 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations
Lesson #24
Lamentations 1:1-3:39

Jeremiah is often called the weeping prophet. One of the reasons why he is given this title is the fact that the book of Lamentations gives us a real picture of the sorrow of Jeremiah as he saw the judgment of Judah. He was filled with sorrow as he realized that His people must be judged by the Lord for their sin. In our lesson today we will see the sorrow of Jeremiah as he thought of the complete destruction of the city of Jerusalem. We will also see a real picture of the anger of the Lord against sin. Jeremiah had his trust in the Lord. Yet his heart was filled with sorrow as he thought about the judgment of his people. Finally we will learn what Jeremiah said about the faithfulness of the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Jeremiah said about the destruction of Jerusalem.
- Explain what we learn about the day of the Lord's anger.
- Tell about the sorrow of Jeremiah for his people.
- Explain what we learn about the faithfulness of God.

As Jeremiah looked at the city of Jerusalem after it had been destroyed by the Babylonians, he saw that Jerusalem was an empty city instead of a great and beautiful city. At one time the people of Jerusalem had many nations that were their friends. Those friends had become enemies because they were not true friends. Instead those nations only wanted to please themselves. It was probably hard for Jeremiah to understand how sinful enemies of Judah could have things going so good for them at the very time that Judah was being judged. Of course Jeremiah knew that the people of Judah must be punished because of their sins. However, it was hard to understand why those former friends did not help Judah.

1. Read Lamentations 1:1-22 and write who helped Judah when the city of Jerusalem was captured by her enemies.
2. Explain how this chapter shows the difference between true friends and those who only want to please themselves.
3. Explain why you think that it was hard for Jeremiah to understand why sinful enemies of Judah were not judged since Judah had been judged.

Here we see that Jerusalem had no one to help her when the city was judged. This is the same way that it will be at the final judgment. Those who have not repented of their sin of unbelief and placed their trust in Christ will stand alone at the final judgment. They will have no one to help them. The people of Jerusalem had committed many sins. That was the reason why their judgment was so great. The people had lived in sin and had not prepared for the future. Just as Jerusalem had no one to help her, she also had no one to comfort her. The Lord is the only One who can offer real comfort. However, the people did not have their trust the Lord so they could not go to Him for comfort.

4. Read Lamentations 1:1-22 and write what the Lord had done for Judah in the day of His anger.

5. Explain why the people of Jerusalem had failed to prepare for the future as they committed many sins.
6. Explain why you think that the people of Jerusalem had no one to offer comfort in the time of their suffering.

The nation of Judah was depending on its own strength for protection. However, the Lord caused that strength to fail in the day when the people needed that strength the most. Here we see that our own strength is worth nothing. If we do not depend on the Lord for strength, we have no strength. The Lord destroyed all of the mighty men in the land of Judah because they were depending on their own strength. Jeremiah and all of the people were filled with sorrow. The city of Jerusalem could not be comforted. The enemy had killed many of the people when they captured the city so all of the people were experiencing sorrow and sadness.

7. Read Lamentations 1:1-22 and write how the nation of Judah compared to the Lord.
8. Explain why the strength of people will always fail people in their time of need if they are depending on their own strength.
9. Explain why you think that many people depend on their own strength even when they are unable to help themselves.

The Lord did what was right when He brought judgment on the people of Judah. The people of Judah had broken the commandments of the Lord. They had served the false gods of the people that lived around them. Now these nations had turned against them and had not helped them in the day when they needed help. As a result, many of the leaders and many of the people had been killed. Some had also been taken as captives to foreign countries. The enemies of Judah were glad to see what had happened to Judah. Jeremiah prayed that these enemies would also be judged by the Lord for the evil that they had done.

10. Read Lamentations 1:1-22 and write what Jeremiah said that his heart was like as he saw what had happened to Jerusalem.
11. Explain why Judah had no one to comfort her in the day that the Lord brought judgment on the city of Jerusalem.
12. Explain why you think that the nations that surrounded Judah were glad to see the judgment that came on the people of Judah.

God is a holy God and cannot look with favor at sin. In fact, He had a great anger against sin even though He had a great love for the people that committed that sin. We see a little picture of the anger of the Lord against sin as we come to the second chapter. When the Lord judged Judah, it was a great and terrible judgment. God did not show pity. Instead of fighting for Judah, God fought against Judah. In fact, it looked like the Lord was one of the enemies of Judah. He caused everything in the land to be destroyed because of the sins of the people. He caused the temple to be destroyed so that the people could not use it any longer for sacrifices that meant nothing.

13. Read Lamentations 2:1-22 and write what we read was the purpose of God as He brought judgment on Judah.
14. Explain why the fact that the sacrifices of the people meant nothing was one of the reasons that God destroyed the temple in Jerusalem.
15. Explain why you know that God had a great love for the people of Jerusalem even though it was necessary for Him to judge them for their sin.

Here we see that the complete destruction of the city of Jerusalem was the purpose of God. He did not stop His hand of judgment until the city was completely destroyed. Jeremiah was filled with sorrow as he saw the judgment of his people. Although he knew that they must be judged for their sin, he loved his people and it filled him with sorrow to see them judged. The prophets had warned the people of Jerusalem that judgment would come if they did not turn from their sins. However, the people would not listen to the things that the prophets were trying to tell them. They thought that the prophets were crazy to say such things.

16. Read Lamentations 2:1-22 and write what we are told about God keeping His Word.

17. Explain why true love for others will cause us to warn them about the judgment that they face if they reject Christ.

18. Explain why you think that Jeremiah was filled with sorrow even though he was one of those that had prophesied that judgment would come upon Jerusalem.

The Lord had warned the people of Israel before they had even come into the land that He would judge them if they turned from Him to serve other gods. Now God had carried out that promise and had done exactly as He had warned that He would do. He had not shown pity when He had judged Judah. Instead God had poured out His anger against sin. The enemies had won a complete victory over the people of Judah and the city of Jerusalem. Many of the people had died from a lack of food. Many had also been killed and their bodies had been left in the streets. None of the people had been able to escape from the anger of the Lord against sin.

19. Read Lamentations 2:1-22 and write what Jeremiah said about the number of people that had escaped the judgment in the day of the Lord's anger.

20. Explain what you learn about the anger of the Lord against sin from the verses in this chapter.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord did not show pity to Judah and Jerusalem even though He loved the people with a great love.

Jeremiah had not been killed when the city of Jerusalem had been destroyed. In fact the destruction of Jerusalem had made it possible for Jeremiah to be freed from prison. Even though the judgment of Jerusalem had made things better for Jeremiah personally, he was filled with sorrow for his people. We read of the sorrow of Jeremiah for his people. He felt as though he had received the judgment that his people received. For this reason, Jeremiah spoke as one who had been judged. For the people that had been judged, it was a day of darkness and not of light. It was a time when the people became old very quickly and their bones were broken. It was a day when the people were captured and they could not escape judgment.

22. Read Lamentations 3:1-21 and write what happened when the people tried to pray.

23. Explain why Jeremiah had so much sorrow for his people that he felt as if he had been judged.

24. Explain why you think that people become old very quickly when they are going through a time of judgment by the Lord.

Here we see that the people of Judah had waited until it was too late to ask the Lord for forgiveness and help. Today many people are just like the people of Judah. They say that they will wait until another time to pray to the Lord and ask Him to forgive their sins. As a result,

they often wait until it is too late. Because the people had waited until it was too late, they suddenly found that God was like a bear that was waiting to catch something. God had waited a long time for the people of Judah to turn to Him. Now He came against the people of Judah to judge them.

25. Read Lamentations 3:1-21 and write what was forgotten by the people when the time of judgment came to them.

26. Explain why people often say that they will place their trust in the Lord at some other time instead of realizing that now is the day of salvation.

27. Explain why you think that many people that know about the Lord wait until it is too late to ask the Lord for forgiveness.

When judgment came to the people of Judah, the people did not have peace any longer. They also forgot their riches. They had no happiness. Here we see what will happen to every person who is depending on riches or some other thing instead of placing his or her trust in the Lord. The things which people trust to help them will be of no help when the time of judgment comes. Instead such people will stand alone before God with no help as they wait for their judgment. Their false peace and happiness will be gone and there will be no way for them to experience peace again.

28. Read Lamentations 3:1-21 and write how Jeremiah spoke of his teeth to describe the way that he felt.

29. Explain why people suddenly forget their riches when the peace is gone from their lives and they are facing judgment.

30. Explain why you think that people often trust in riches of some other thing to save them in the Day of Judgment.

Although people cannot trust in their riches to protect them in the Day of Judgment, there is One in whom people can place their trust if they will do that now. That One is the Lord. We see that the reason that we have not all been destroyed is due to the fact of the mercy and love of God toward us. God is a loving God who will never fail to love all those who choose to place their trust in Him. He has new blessings and new promises for us every morning. His faithfulness in keeping His promises is very great. Since we know that all of these things are true about the Lord, He is the One in whom we should place our trust.

31. Read Lamentations 3:22-39 and write to whom the Lord is good.

32. Explain why the Lord has new blessings and new promises every morning for those who have their trust in Him.

33. Explain why you are thankful for the great faithfulness that the Lord shows as He keeps His promises.

Here we see that we will share in the blessings of the Lord if we have placed our trust in Him. As we pray and seek the will of the Lord for our lives, He will bless us. As we wait for the Lord, we should wait quietly and not be afraid. We have this quietness and peace because we know that the Lord has given us salvation. Those who are young are told to bear the yoke while they are young. Today we need to help people begin ministering for the Lord while they are still young. Today teenagers and children should be involved in the work of the Lord so that they learn to face persecution and still rejoice in the Lord.

34. Read Lamentations 3:22-39 and write how we should sit when persecution comes into our lives.

35. Explain why it is important to help children and young people begin to serve the Lord while they are young.
36. Explain why you think that as we wait for the Lord to work that we can wait with quietness and without fear.

Here we see that Jeremiah said that people should keep silence when other people persecute them. We need to apply that same principle in our own lives. We should not try to fight back against those who persecute us. We should be willing to be hit by those who hate the Lord. When such things happen to us in our lives, we do not need to be afraid or discouraged. Even though we may suffer for a while, we know that the Lord has not forgotten us. We know that He will never forget us. Instead we know that the Lord will show His kindness and mercy to us. He has great love and will not forget His people that He has chosen.

37. Read Lamentations 3:22-39 and write what God said He will one day show to His people because He will not cast them off forever.
38. Explain what you learn about the faithfulness of the Lord from these verses.
39. Explain why the fact that you know that the Lord has not forgotten you makes it possible to have peace even in times of persecution.

The Lord does not allow suffering just because He enjoys watching people suffer. Instead one reason that God allows suffering is to cause people that are living in sin to return to Him and follow Him. God is not just trying to crush and destroy people. The Lord is not trying to keep back from a person what is just and right. Instead the Lord allows suffering to help people become stronger for the Lord so that they can serve Him better. Some were also saying that the Lord was the One who caused evil. Here we see that such a charge is impossible. God is a holy God and cannot do evil. All evil has its source in the devil.

40. Read Lamentations 3:22-39 and write how long the Lord will cast off the people that He has chosen.
41. Explain why it is sometimes necessary for the Lord to allow suffering to cause people to return to Him.
42. Explain why you think that the Lord allows suffering some times to help Christians grow stronger in their spiritual life.

Reread Lamentations 1:1-3:39 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Jeremiah and Lamentations
Lesson #25
Lamentations 4:1-5:22

Jeremiah realized that it was very necessary for God to judge His people because of their sin. For this reason Jeremiah spoke of the importance of each person examining their lives and confessing their sin. The same is true for us today. We also need to examine our lives and confess any sin that is present. Jeremiah also gave us a real picture of what it was like when he was placed in the dungeon in the mud by the sinful men that tried to kill him. As Jeremiah thought about the terrible time that had come when the enemies of Judah surrounded the city of Jerusalem, his heart was again filled with sorrow. The final chapter of Lamentations is a prayer to the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why we need to examine our lives and confess our sins.
- Explain what Jeremiah said about his time in jail.
- Explain what happened to Jerusalem when it was surrounded by its enemies.
- Explain what we learn from the prayer of Jeremiah.

In our last lesson we learned that God is faithful. He will not forget the people that He has chosen. However, the fact that the Lord is faithful to keep His promises should not cause us to choose to live in sin. Instead it should cause us to examine our own lives to make certain that we are not allowing sin to remain in our lives. Instead of complaining when we are disciplined for our sins, we are told to search and test our ways. Then we are to confess our sins and turn back to the Lord. We need to lift our hearts and hands to the Lord. It is often due to our own sin and rebellion that we are suffering. This is the reason that we should not blame the Lord when He disciplines us.

1. Read Lamentations 3:40-51 and write why the prayers of the people of Judah were not reaching the Lord.
2. Explain why the fact that the Lord is faithful should cause us to examine our own lives and make certain that we are not allowing sin to remain in our lives.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord disciplines His followers when they turn away from Him and get involved in sinful living.

Because the people had continued to rebel against the Lord, He had finally brought judgment upon them. When the people did pray to the Lord, they did not mean what they said as they prayed. Here we see that the Lord knew their real thoughts and feelings toward Him in their hearts as they prayed. As a result, the Lord did not listen to their prayers. Here we are reminded of the fact that the Lord also knows our real thoughts and feelings toward Him when we pray. If we have sin and rebellion in our lives as we pray, we cannot expect the Lord to answer our prayers. It will be just like there is a thick cloud between the Lord and us which our prayers will not go through. If we want the Lord to hear and answer our prayers when our hearts are in such a condition, we must confess our sin and rebellion.

4. Read Lamentations 3:40-51 and write what the enemies of Judah had done.

5. Explain why the Lord looks at the attitudes in the heart when people come to Him in prayer.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord will not listen to our prayers if we have sin and rebellion in our hearts.

We see here that all of the enemies of the Jews were speaking against them. They did not have any friends among the people of the surrounding nations. The people were also filled with fear as they saw the terrible judgment and destruction that came upon them. Their land had been completely destroyed. In fact the land had become an empty waste. As Jeremiah thought about the judgment of his people, he was again filled with sorrow. He could not stop crying as he thought of the judgment of his people. Here we learn a real lesson for our own lives. We also need to be so concerned about our people that we will pray and cry to the Lord for them. Then we will see the Lord answer our prayers and save some of the people around us.

7. Read Lamentations 3:40-51 and write what Jeremiah said ran down from His eye.
8. Explain why we need to examine our own lives and confess our sin to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness and cleansing.
9. Explain why you think that we also should be so concerned about our people that we will pray and cry out to the Lord for their salvation.

We go on to read about the time that Jeremiah was placed in the prison. Jeremiah had been speaking for the Lord. As you remember, the people did not like what Jeremiah was saying. As a result, they chased him and caught him just as a person chases a bird and catches it. Then they placed him in the dungeon of the prison to try and cause him to die. The dungeon was a deep hole with mud in the bottom of it. The men who hated Jeremiah thought that he would soon sink into the mud and die. They thought that then they would not need to worry about Jeremiah any more. However, that was not what happened. Jeremiah did not die. Instead the Lord protected him.

10. Read Lamentations 3:52-66 and write what Jeremiah did in the dungeon.
11. Explain why Jeremiah described the way that the people chased him as being like a person that chases a bird and catches it.
12. Explain why you think that those who persecuted Jeremiah thought that he would die in the mud in the hole in the bottom of the dungeon.

When Jeremiah called to the Lord from the bottom of the dungeon, the Lord heard him and answered him. The Lord could even hear the breathing of Jeremiah as he was in the dungeon. When Jeremiah prayed to the Lord, he could feel the presence of the Lord right there with him in the dungeon. The Lord told him not to be afraid. Here we see a wonderful promise. When we are persecuted for the Lord, He will go with us through that persecution. He will not leave us alone. He will take away any fears that might come. Christ also pleads our cause before the Father. He is the One who has redeemed us by paying the penalty for our sin.

13. Read Lamentations 3:52-66 and write what Jeremiah asked the Lord to judge.
14. Explain why Jeremiah could feel the presence of the Lord right there with him when he was in the dungeon.
15. Explain why you are thankful to know that the Lord will go with you any time that you are going through a time of persecution.

Jeremiah knew that the Lord had seen the things that those who were doing evil to him had

done. He knew that the Lord had heard all of the evil things that those men had said about Jeremiah. As a result, Jeremiah asked the Lord to reward those evil men with evil for the things that they had done to him. He asked the Lord to bring sorrow to those men because of the evil that they had done. Finally there is a request to the Lord to destroy them because of their evil. Here we see that Jeremiah was going to let the Lord judge those evil men instead of trying to get even with them himself. Today we should not try to get even with others either.

16. Read Lamentations 3:52-66 and write how Jeremiah said that the evil should be judged.

17. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the prayer of Jeremiah when he was in the dungeon.

18. Explain why you think that Jeremiah asked the Lord to be the judge of those who had done evil to him.

Jeremiah also told about the terrible time when the enemies of Jerusalem surrounded the city just before they destroyed it. It was a terrible time for the people of Jerusalem. When the enemies surrounded the city, they would not let anyone go into the city or leave the city. As a result, the people inside the city could only eat the food and drink the water that was already inside the city. One day there was no more food or water left in the city. The children became so thirsty that their tongues swelled until their tongues filled their mouths. They asked for food but no one had food to give them. Even those who had been rich did not have anything.

19. Read Lamentations 4:1-22 and write what happened to the skin of the people.

20. Explain how the people in Jerusalem suffered when the city was surrounded by the army of the enemy.

21. Explain why you think that this description of Jerusalem gives a real picture of the way that people suffer when there is a war in their country.

The people had become so thin during this time that they looked like sticks. Those who had been killed with the sword had a better death than those who were starving to death. The people got thinner and thinner until they finally died from the lack of food. The women became so hungry that they finally boiled their own children and ate them. Here we see how hungry the people had become. It is hard to even imagine people eating their own children. All of these things happened because the people had continued in their rebellion against the Lord.

22. Read 4:1-22 and write who shed the blood of innocent people in the middle of the city.

23. Explain how hunger can cause people to become so desperate that they would even eat their own children.

24. Explain why you think that the people continued on in their rebellion against the Lord even when they were starving to death.

Here we see that the religious leaders had been the ones who had led the people the wrong way. The religious leaders had killed innocent men who spoke for God. They had covered themselves with the blood of men who had done nothing wrong. Here we see a real picture of what religious people are like when they do not have their trust in Christ. They are willing to do anything to get rid of people who speak for the Lord. Throughout history, the religious people have been the leaders of those who have tried to destroy the people who speak for Christ. God said that those who have killed innocent men were now unclean and could not be allowed to live in the city of Jerusalem.

25. Read Lamentations 4:1-22 and write what had divided the people.

26. Explain why the religious leaders thought that they had done no wrong when they had killed the people that spoke for the Lord.

27. Explain why you think that throughout history it has been religious leaders who have tried to destroy the people who speak for Christ.

The people of Judah did look for someone to save them during their time of trouble. However, they looked to another nation instead of turning to the Lord and looking to Him. God had said that no other nation would be able to help the people. When the enemy finally got inside the walls of the city of Jerusalem, the people tried to hide in their houses. They did not dare to go into the streets because they knew that the end of their lives was very close. The enemy quickly killed or captured those who remained. Those who tried to escape were also caught or killed.

28. Read Lamentations 4:1-22 and write how the speed of the persecutors of Jerusalem is described.

29. Explain what you learn about the judgment of Judah from these verses.

30. Explain why you think that the people were unable to hide or escape when the enemy conquered their city.

Jeremiah finished his writing of the book of Lamentations with a prayer. He asked the Lord to remember the nation that He had chosen. Then Jeremiah mentioned what had happened to the nation that God had chosen. The land and the houses had been taken and destroyed and most of the men had been killed. The women and the children had no husbands or fathers. Everything had been taken from the people. They even had to buy their water and their wood. Those who had been taken as captives had been forced to become slaves. They were forced to work hard and could not rest.

31. Read Lamentations 5:1-22 and write what happened to their fathers because of the sins of their fathers.

32. Explain why most of the men of Judah were killed when the enemy conquered the city of Jerusalem.

33. Explain how you think the women and children that survived felt when they had no husbands or fathers.

For many years the people of Judah had rebelled against God and lived in sin. Many of the people had even died as a result of their sins. Now the children were also sharing the judgment of the parents. Men who had once been servants were now rulers. The Jews were now under the control of the rulers of other countries. There had been no way for the people to escape or get food. If they had tried to get out of the city to try and find food, they had been killed in the wilderness. Their skin had become very black because they did not have enough food.

34. Read Lamentations 5:1-22 and write what the armies of the enemy had done to the women of Jerusalem.

35. Explain what these verses teach about the effects of a lack of food in the lives of people who are starving.

36. Explain why you think that the people rebelled against God and lived in sin until they were destroyed.

Here we see that the soldiers of the Babylonian army had raped the women and had committed other immoral acts with the women and girls of Jerusalem. The enemy had taken the princes of

Judah and had hung them by their hands. The young men were taken as slaves and were forced to do the work that was usually done by oxen or horses. Children were also forced to work as slaves. They had to carry heavy loads of wood which made them stumble and fall. The cities had become empty. No longer were the elders at the city gates where they had served as judges. There were no young men left to provide music. Joy and happiness had been taken away from the land.

37. Read Lamentations 5:1-22 and write what had happened to the joy in the hearts of the people.

38. Explain what you learn about the consequences of the sins of the people of Judah from these verses.

39. Explain why you think that the Babylonians chose to punish the people of Jerusalem so severely.

The people had sinned and judgment had come. As a result, the people who were left in the land were discouraged and filled with sorrow. The land of Judah had become empty and desolate. All that were left in the land were the wild animals. The people felt that they had been forgotten by God. As a result, Jeremiah prayed that the people that God had chosen would turn back to Him. People are so sinful that the only way that they can turn to God is if God causes them to turn to Him. God had judged His people because of their sins. However, the day will come in the future when He will cause them to turn back to Him.

40. Read Lamentations 5:1-22 and write how long the throne of God will remain.

41. Explain why the prayer of Jeremiah was that the Lord would cause the people to turn back to the Lord and place their trust in Him.

42. Explain why you realize that the sinfulness of people means that it is the Lord who must draw them to Him because people do not seek the Lord on their own.

Reread Lamentations 3:40-5:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.