

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law. – Psalm 119:18

Through the Bible in a year reading guide – Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church

October – Week 43

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We read God's Word:

To know Him better

To love Him more

To walk in His ways

To be conformed to the image of His Son

This week's reading: we begin Jeremiah, often called the "Weeping Prophet" - his message was so hard because the people would absolutely not listen to Scriptures and God's messages through the prophets (6:16). His own family and hometown (Anathoth, belonging to the descendants of Aaron - 1 Chron. 6:54-60, and the home of Abiathar - 1 Kings 2:26) wanted to kill him (11:21-23; 15:10). **Jeremiah** was called as a prophet five years before the book of the Law was found (2 Kings 22:3 and Jer. 25:1-3) in the days of good King Josiah. For a time perspective: from Jeremiah's call to the destruction of Jerusalem was 42 years (25:1-3; 32:1; 2 Kings 25:8). The 4th year of Jehoiakim = the 1st year of Nebuchadnezzar (25:1); the 13th year of Josiah + 23 years of Jeremiah's ministry = 1st year of Nebuchadnezzar (25:3); Zedekiah's 10th year = the 18th year of Nebuchadnezzar (32:1); Jerusalem was destroyed in Nebuchadnezzar's 19th year (2 Kings 25:8). Jeremiah doesn't give his age, but he was young when Yahweh called him to be a prophet (1:6). Let's suppose he was 20 when he was called, he would have been 62 at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem. But we don't know his age, so why guess about this? Consider his lifetime of ministry, as well as the results of his ministry. Note his faithfulness as a prophet during a terrible time of Israel's history. **At** the time of his call (1:10) he was appointed six things: four were negative (pluck up, break down, destroy, overthrow) and two were positive (build and plant). **This** book may seem heavy to us ("doom and gloom"), however, watch for the references and examples of God's love and highlight them (I often use red for God's love - a reminder of the blood of Jesus); you'll find yourself using a lot of red. **It** has been said, "the Psalms are the outcry of man's heart to God, and, Jeremiah is the outcry of God's heart to man" ("My people have forgotten me" [2:32]; "they don't know me" [2:8, 4:22, 9:3]). **It** has also been said that many people (even Christians) have an improper view of God because they don't understand the book of Jeremiah. **When** Jeremiah complains (12:1-4), God shows His hurt: "My house", "My inheritance", "the beloved of My soul" (12:7). **We** see God bending over backwards to not destroy the city (if you can find one man [5:1], keep the Sabbath [17:19-27], judge rightly [22:1-4], submit to the king of Babylon [27:11-15], go out to the king of Babylon [38:17-23] each with a promise to spare the city). God keeps calling to repentance (but they would not). **Again**, as we saw in Weeks 8, 20, and 41, we have another example that God will not send His wrath on the righteous with the wicked: the vision of "good figs" - the people sent to Babylon, and "bad figs" - the people left in Jerusalem (24:1-10).

Insights from the Original Biblical Languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic):

There is a Hebrew "play on words" in 1:11-12, but it is not obvious in our English translations: What does an "almond tree" have to do with Yahweh "watching" over His word? "Now the word of Yahweh came to me saying, 'What are you seeing, Jeremiah?' And I said, 'I see a rod of an almond tree (שֶׁמֶץ "shah-kaid").' Then Yahweh said to me, 'You have seen well, because I am watching (שֶׁמֶץ "show-kaid") over My word to do it.'" (Both have the same root.) **Most** of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, but 269 verses were written in Aramaic. (200 in Daniel, written during the Babylonian captivity, and 67 in Ezra, written after the Babylonian captivity.) One verse (10:11) in Jeremiah is in Aramaic. Why? It is a warning about false gods. In 10:18 God says He will sling out the inhabitants of the land, and He did, exiling them to Babylon, and Aramaic was the language of Babylon. This was a stark warning about the captivity. **Jerusalem** went into captivity in the fifth month, "Av" (1:3). (See the Hebrew Calendar sent with Week 6.)

How has God revealed Himself in this week's reading? What has He shown me this week?

He is "Lord GOD of Hosts" ("Adonai Yahweh Tsabaot"). There is none like Yahweh, the true God, living God, the everlasting King (10:6-10,12-13). He is the Maker of all (10:16). He wants us to know Him (9:23-24). His word is to be eaten, a joy, and a delight (15:16). In a Messianic prophecy, He is called "Yahweh Our Righteousness" (23:5-6).

By the way, Gen. 31:47 is the 269th verse, having two Aramaic words in it, spoken by Laban.