

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

Oct./Nov – Week 44

Completed

29 - Jeremiah 26-28

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30 - Jeremiah 29-31

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31 - Jeremiah 32-33

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1 - Jeremiah 34-36

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2 - Jeremiah 37-40

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3 - Jeremiah 41-44

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4 - Jeremiah 45-48

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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: Jeremiah didn't give up; he was opposed, insulted, mistreated, and misrepresented, but he remained faithful, he opposed the false prophets, and God took care of him. Through all of these things, God gave him wonderful revelations of His love for His people, His promises to bring them back to their land, and the coming Messiah's New Covenant. **Historical** events in Jeremiah are not always in chronological sequence. **The** prophet Micah is quoted (Micah 3:12) in 26:18. **God** said the dynasty of Nebuchadnezzar would last through his grandson (27:7). This was fulfilled in Dan. 5. **God** provided opportunities for them to repent and obey so that He could relent from sending calamity and spare the city. But the people wouldn't turn from their evil ways. God offered to save the city if King Zedekiah would submit to the king of Babylon (27:12). But he didn't. After the attack began, God gave King Zedekiah another opportunity to save the city by surrendering himself to the officials of the king of Babylon (38:17-23). But he didn't. God's offer of mercy was rejected every time. They left Him no other option; they had to be exiled. **He** told them they would be exiled 70 years (29:10) and that He would be found by them if they would seek Him with all their heart (29:10-14). What wonderful love and faithfulness! Contrast this to Jesus' statement to the leaders of the Jews in John 7:34, "You will seek Me and not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come." Rejecting Jesus has a more dire consequence. **False** prophets are judged: Hananiah was warned in the fifth month (28:1) and died in the seventh month (28:17). Other false prophets were "roasted in the fire" by the king of Babylon (29:21-22). They were not preserved like God's faithful servants in Daniel 3. **God** is not finished with Israel (31:31-37; 32:37-41; 33:14-26). **Even** after the fall of Jerusalem (chapter 39) the horrible level at which the people had given themselves over to sin continues, and even then, they would not repent (they went to Egypt anyway, and continued idolatry to the "Queen of Heaven"). **Even** in the judgments against other nations, we still see God's love and promises for Israel (46:27-28).

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

Jeremiah doesn't have the most chapters or verses, but by the Hebrew word count, it is the longest book of the Bible (English version word counts vary). **English** versions often refer to "making" a covenant. The Hebrew idiom is "cutting a covenant", and 34:17-19 gives a picture of how that was done. This is also significant in Genesis 15:6-21 in Yahweh's covenant with Abram. Hebrews 6:18 says it is impossible for God to lie; how much more when He "cuts a covenant". **Most** English translations of 31:22 (except the CSB) say, "a woman will surround (or encompass, or protect) a man", resulting in a number of different interpretations. In Hebrew, the word is נְקִיבָה ("neh-kay-vah" - "female") not אִשָּׁה ("ee-shah" - "woman"). Almost all Hebrew nouns are grammatically "masculine" or "feminine". (Grammatical gender is not always the same as "natural gender".) The context of the verse is about Israel returning to their land and cities. The Hebrew words for "land" and "cities" are grammatically "feminine". It may be that the "land" / "cities" are surrounding (encompassing, protecting) the returning men (people). **The** name of Jerusalem in 33:16 is יְהוָה צְדִיקְנוּ ("Yahweh Tseed-kay-nu" - "Yahweh Our Righteousness"). **A** deceived person, by definition, doesn't realize they are deceived. "Do not deceive yourselves" (37:9) in Hebrew is "do not deceive your souls". 2 Thess. 2:10-12 says ones not receiving the love of the truth will be delivered to believe the lie. Love/obey the truth! (Jesus, and the Bible)

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

God reveals His will in 26:3,13; 36:3 - He wanted the people to turn from their evil ways so that He could relent and not bring the calamity and destruction. He loves with an everlasting love (31:3). He made the heavens and earth with great power - nothing is too difficult for Him. He is great in counsel, mighty in deed, and His eyes are open to all the ways of men. He will judge each according to their deeds (32:17-19,27). His steadfast love endures forever (33:11).