

JEREMIAH 9-16

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 36: Jer 9-16*
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Jeremiah chapter 9. Why did Jeremiah want to separate himself from his people, in spite of his sadness for them in the first two verses?

What warning did Jeremiah receive from God concerning the people among whom he lived, according to vv. 4-6?

What was it about the words of the people that displeased God in vv. 7-9?

What did God reveal to Jeremiah about the desolation of the land in vv. 10-16 of this book?

What were some of the illustrations of grief and destruction given in Jeremiah's prophecy in vv. 17-22?

What is the only boast that has legitimacy with God in verses twenty-three and twenty-four? The Bible is full of examples of wisdom, and power, and even riches being used properly. But the point in this verse is that they cannot – and must not – be the main thing. What matters most is knowing God. If you want a full life, do not seek after wisdom, or power, or riches, they will never fully satisfy you. Seek to understand your Creator. He is the one “who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth.” Boast in knowing Him. Exalt in His

character. Rejoice in His justice. As our culture honors, and seeks to emulate, those with wisdom, power, and riches, there is a quiet acknowledgement that all is not well. Our world is broken. Great minds deteriorate. Power is not forever. Riches can be stolen or lost. The answer to that brokenness is only found in Jesus. The wise, strong, King of the universe who became obedient to death on a cross and rose to bring new life.

2. Read Jeremiah chapter 10. Why were the customs regarding the making of idols called worthless, according to vv. 3-5?

What surpassing qualities of God did Jeremiah praise in verses six and seven?

How did Jeremiah compare the idols of his day to the living God in vv. 8-10?

What future did God predict for the false gods that fascinated the people of Israel in verse eleven?

What examples of God's power did Jeremiah list in order to make his case in verses twelve and thirteen?

How did Jeremiah describe the people who made and worshiped idols in verses fourteen and fifteen?

What ways did Jeremiah say God was far superior to the gods of the other nations in verse sixteen?

What command did Jeremiah pass along to the people of Israel in verse seventeen?

Why did God command the people to prepare to leave their land in verse eighteen?

How did Jeremiah describe the suffering of Israel in very personal terms, according to vv. 19-20?

How did Jeremiah evaluate the leaders ("shepherds") of Israel in verse twenty-one?

What direction did Jeremiah say the invaders would come from in verse twenty-two?

What great truth is revealed to us through Jeremiah, according to verse twenty-three?

What was Jeremiah's prayer for himself in light of God's justice in verse twenty-four? What lessons do you learn in this chapter?

3. Read Jeremiah chapter 11. What important era in their history did God want Jeremiah to remind Israel of in the first five verses?

Why was God punishing His people, according to vv. 9-11?

What did God say the people would discover when they sought help from the gods they had been worshiping in verses twelve and thirteen?

How did Jeremiah find out about the plot on his life, and where did he turn for help in Jer 11:18-20?

What did the Lord promise to do to the people of Anathoth who had threatened Jeremiah in Jer 11:21-23? What lessons do you learn from chapter 11?

Read Jeremiah chapter 12. What questions did Jeremiah pose to God concerning His justice, according to the first four verses?

What did God reveal that He intended to do to His unfaithful people in Jer 12:7-13?

How would the response of the nations to God's judgment on Israel affect those nations, according to Jer 12:14-17? What lessons do you learn from chapter 12?

4. Read Jeremiah chapter 13. What physical demonstration did God require of Isaiah as a lesson to the people, according to vv. 1-7?

How was Israel like Jeremiah's belt, according to Jer 13:8-11?

How did Jeremiah know that God was not going to change His mind about punishing Israel in Jer 13:12-14?

What would happen to them and to Jeremiah, if Israel refused to listen to God in Jer 13:15-17?

What future did God predict for all Judah, according to verses eighteen and nineteen?

What had it become impossible for Israel to do in her hard heartedness in verses 20-23?

What sins caused God to declare the destruction of Jerusalem, according to verses 24-27?

Read Jeremiah chapter 14. What desperate situation did Jeremiah foresee for Jerusalem in these first six verses?

What basis did Jeremiah plead for God's intervention on in Jer 14:7-9?

Why did God say He would not be dissuaded from punishing Israel, according to Jer 14:10-12?

How did God reply when Jeremiah told Him that the prophets were giving the people the impression that they were safe in Jer 14:13-16?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

What dismaying word did God send Jeremiah to the people of Israel with, according to Jer 14:17-18? What lessons do you learn in chapters 13 and 14?

5. Read Jeremiah chapters 15 and 16. What great men of faith did God maintain, could not convince Him to rescue Israel from judgment in Jer 15:1-3?

What king of Judah was particularly responsible for leading the people so far astray, according to Jer 15:4?

What attitude had set God firmly against the people of Israel in Jer 15:5-9?

How was Jeremiah treated because of the message he brought from God in Jer 15:10?

What promise did God make to His servant Jeremiah, according to Jer 15:11?

How did God describe the ruthlessness of the enemy He sent against Israel in Jer 15:12-14?

How did Jeremiah plead his own case with God, according to Jer 15:15-18?

What did Jeremiah need to repent in order to continue as God's spokesman in Jer 15:19-21?

How did God predict that Jeremiah would continue to be received by the people? (Jer 15:20-21)

What promise did God make to Jeremiah even as He asked him to take an unpopular course? (Jer 15:20-21)

What routine practices did God forbid for Jeremiah as a sign to the people in Jer 16:1-9?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

How did Jeremiah's boycott of marriages and funerals convey his prediction about Israel's future in Jer 16:5-9?

How was Jeremiah to answer the question "What wrong have we done", according Jer 16:10-13?

What great event in Israel's past did God say would be exceeded, by His eventual deliverance in Jer 16:14-15? What lessons do you learn in chapters 15 and 16?

JEREMIAH 17-27

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 37: Jer 17-27*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Jeremiah chapter 17. What was Israel going to lose because of their sin in verses three and four?

What is the outcome of trusting in people, according to Jer 17:5-6?

What is promised to the person who trusts God in verses seven and eight of this chapter?

What was Jeremiah's, and God's, perspective on the human heart, according to verse nine?

What did God say would become of the person who used unjust means to gain riches in verse eleven?

What were the people saying to Jeremiah, according to verse fifteen?

How did Jeremiah ask God to prove him right in vv. 14-18?

Where did God tell Jeremiah to deliver his message about obedience in v. 19?

What was God's original command to His people concerning the Sabbath, according to vv. 20-22?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

How did God promise to bless Jeremiah's generation if they would observe the Sabbath laws in vv. 24-26?

How did God intend to act toward Israel if they disobeyed as their ancestors had in verse twenty-seven? What lessons did you learn from this chapter?

2. Read Jeremiah chapters 18 and 19. Where did God send Jeremiah to receive a message from Him in Jer 18:1-2?

What was the potter doing as Jeremiah watched in verses three and four of Jeremiah 18?

How did God liken His power over the nations to the decisions of the potter in Jer 18:5-10?

What unthinkable deed had Judah done against God, according to Jer 18:13-15? Where did the people of Judah begin to walk when they left God's ways and began to worship idols in Jer 18:15?

What did God say He would do because Israel worshiped idols in Jer 18:16-17?

What was being said about Jeremiah by the people who resisted his message in Jer 18:18?

What past deeds did Jeremiah remind God of in verses Jer 18:19-20?

How did Jeremiah ask God to deal with his enemies, according to verses twenty-one through twenty-three of chap 18?

Where did God instruct Jeremiah to take the elders and deliver a prophecy in Jer 19:1-2?

What practices (carried out in the Valley of Ben Hinnom) would bring God's judgment on the people in Jer 19:3-5?

Why would the name of the valley where Jeremiah stood be changed in Jer 19:6-9?

What was the meaning of the symbolic action the Lord told Jeremiah to carry out in Jer 19:10-12?

Whose houses would become defiled like the city dump, according to Jer 19:13?

What message did Jeremiah take to all the people in the temple because of the reaction of the elders to whom he had delivered the prophecy in Jer 19:14-15? What lessons did you learn from chapters 18 and 19?

3. Read Jeremiah chapters 20 and 21. How did the chief officer respond to Jeremiah's prophecy in the temple, according to Jer 20:1-2? What unlikely person had Jeremiah beaten and why?

What future did Jeremiah foretell for Pashur and all of Judah in Jer 20:3-6?

What was Jeremiah's complaint to the Lord in verses seven and eight of chap 20?

Why was Jeremiah upset with God, according to Jer 20:7-10? What would happen if Jeremiah tried to stop speaking the word of the Lord in Jer 20:9?

What did Jeremiah hear the people saying about him in Jer 20:10?

Where did Jeremiah derive consolation for his disappointments from in Jer 20:11-13?

What did Jeremiah believe about God's ability to set things straight in verses eleven through thirteen of chap 20?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

What was the basis for Jeremiah's song of praise to God in Jer 20:13?

How had Jeremiah come to feel about life and his presumably joyful entry into it, according to Jer 20:14-18?

Why did King Zedekiah send messengers to Jeremiah in verses one and two of chap 21?

What did the king hope God would do for Judah, as He had done in the past in Jer 21:2?

What was God's answer concerning the outward enemy facing Jerusalem in Jer 21:3-4?

What did God promise to do, rather than intervening to save Judah, according to Jer 21:5-7?

What, specifically, did Jeremiah say would become of the king who ruled in Jerusalem in Jer 21:7?

What choice was God offering to the people of Jerusalem, according to Jer 21:8?

Why did God say that surrender would be a preferable option to staying in the city of Jerusalem in verses nine and ten? (Jer 21:9-10)

What did God require from the descendants of David and why in verses eleven and twelve? (Jer 21:11-12)

Where were the people of Jerusalem placing their confidence for the city's security in Jer 21:13?

What did God compare the wrath deserved by the people of Judah to in Jer 21:14? What lessons do you learn in these two chapters of the book?

4. Read Jeremiah chapter 22. Where was Jeremiah told to proclaim God's message, according to verse one?

What principles of good government did God list as conditions for His blessing on Judah in verses three and four?

What consequences were promised if the king did not obey God in verse five?

Although Judah and Jerusalem had been special in God's sight, what did He swear to do to them in verses six and seven?

What reason would be given for the disgrace and destruction of Judah in verses eight and nine?

What arrogant and selfish behavior on the part of the king angered God in verses thirteen and fourteen? (

How did God feel about the notion that displays of wealth indicated greatness in a ruler in verse fifteen?

How was Josiah different from Jehoiakim, his son in verses fifteen and sixteen?

How did God judge Jehoiakim's heart, according to verse seventeen?

What did God say would become of Jehoiakim's "greatness" at the end of his life in Jer 22:18-19?

What had He done to try to save them, before God allowed Judah's enemies to crush them in verses twenty and twenty-one?

When did Jehoiakim's rebellion against God begin in Jer 22:21?

What was going to become of the king and his splendid buildings in verses twenty-two and twenty-three?

What did God compare Jehoiakim's son to, Jehoiachin in verse twenty-eight of this chapter?

Why didn't it matter whether Jehoiachin continued David's line by having children in verses twenty-nine and thirty? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

5. Read Jeremiah chapter 23. What technique did God use to describe the relationship between His people, Israel, and their leaders in verse one?

What did God promise to do for His "flock" after He delivered them from evil rulers in verses three and four?

What were the characteristics of the King that God promised to raise up in verses five and six?

What great event would take precedence over the historical importance of the Exodus out of Egypt, foretold by Jeremiah in these verses?

What did God promise to do with people who claimed to be His prophets or priests but were in fact godless and wicked, according to Jer 23:11-12?

What different, but equally abhorrent, deeds were done by the prophets in Israel and Judah in vv. 13-14?

Where were the false prophets getting the "visions" they reported in verse sixteen?

What lie did the false prophets tell those who rejected God's ways in verse seventeen?

What would have characterized the message of the prophets if they had truly heard from God in verses twenty-one and twenty-two of this chapter?

What questions did God ask of those who underestimated His power, according to Jer 23:23-24?

Where did the “dreams” of the false prophets come from, and what were they designed to accomplish in these verses of Jer 23:25-27?

How does God's Holy Word contrast with the contrived dreams of faithless people in verses twenty-eight and twenty-nine?

What kind of prophet does God oppose, according Jer 23:30-32?

Why were the people of Israel forbidden to use the word “oracle”, according to Jer 23:33-36?

What would become of those who insisted on claiming to speak God's Word even after they were warned of His judgment on their lies in verses thirty-seven through forty?

6. Read Jeremiah chapters 24 and 25. Which of the inhabitants of Judah were taken into exile in Babylon, according to Jer 24:1?

What was the vision with which the Lord instructed Jeremiah in verse two of chap 24?

How great was the contrast between the two batches of figs in Jer 24:3?

How did God look upon the people who went into captivity in Babylon in Jer 24:5?

What was God's intention with regard to the exiles from Judah in Jer 24:6?

What gift did God promise to the exiles in Jer 24:7?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

How were Zedekiah and the survivors like poor figs, according to Jer 24:8-10?

How would the rest of the world come to view Zedekiah in Jer 24:9?

What did God intend to send against Judah in Jer 24:10? How long would God's opposition to the exiles, from Judah last? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

7. Read Jeremiah chapter 25. When did Jeremiah's, next message fall in relation to the kings of Judah and Babylon in verse one?

How long had Jeremiah been speaking the word of God to the people of Judah and Jerusalem in verses two and three?

How did the people of Judah respond to God's servants, according to verse four of this book?

What was the message of the prophets in verses five and six of this chapter?

How did the people bring God's judgment on themselves in verse seven?

Who did God specify as His instrument of judgment, and how long would Judah remain in captivity, according to Jer 25:8-11?

How would Babylon eventually pay for her guilt before God in verses twelve through fourteen?

What was the cup that God ordered Jeremiah to deliver to many nations in Jer 25:15-16?

What nations were named in Jeremiah's prophecy as being in line to be judged by God in vv. 17-26?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

What was God's answer to any nation that refused the cup from Jeremiah, according to vv. 27-29?

What images did Jeremiah use to convey the coming of God's great wrath in verses thirty and thirty-one?

How did Jeremiah describe the magnitude of the destruction he foresaw in verses thirty-two and thirty-three?

What would become of all the leaders who did not fear God, according to Jer 25:34-38? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

8. Read Jeremiah chapter 26. During whose reign did Jeremiah receive this particular communication from God in verse one?

What was Jeremiah instructed to do in the courtyard of the temple in verse two?

What had God resolved to do, if the people repented, according to verse three?

What did God promise to do in the event that Judah did not repent in vv. 4-6?

What conclusion about Jeremiah and his message did the priests and prophets incite the people toward in Jer 26:7-9?

What did the secular officials do when they heard about the conflict between Jeremiah and the religious officials in verse ten?

What charge did the religious officials bring against Jeremiah in verse eleven?

What authority did Jeremiah defend his message to the people on in verse twelve of this chapter?

What call from God did Jeremiah reiterate even as he defended himself in verse thirteen?

What did Jeremiah warn the rulers, even as he put himself at their mercy in verses fourteen and fifteen?

What grounds did the secular officials persuade the people that Jeremiah did not deserve to be punished on in verse sixteen?

What example from Israel's past was raised by some of the elders, according to vv. 17-19?

What lesson did the wise rulers seek to apply to the present situation involving Jeremiah in Jer 26:19?

What had happened to Uriah the prophet, when he tried to warn the same king and people in vv. 20-23?

What influential person helped save Jeremiah from being murdered in verse twenty-four of this book? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

9. Read Jeremiah chapter 27. What visual demonstration was Jeremiah ordered to give, according to verse two of this book?

What nations, besides Judah, were told that they would be conquered by Nebuchadnezzar in Jer 27:3-6?

How long did God say that certain nations would be subject to Babylon in verse seven?

What did God warn certain nations not to do, according to verse eight of this book?

Who was advising the kings to resist the Babylonians in verse nine?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

How would the nations that submitted to Babylon fare better than those who resisted in verses ten and eleven?

What did Jeremiah say would happen to Judah if the people and their king believed the false prophets rather than Jeremiah in vv. 12-15?

What lie were the prophets of Judah telling the people about the temple treasure in verse sixteen?

What reasoning did Jeremiah use to convince the people to serve the king of Babylon in verse seventeen?

What test did Jeremiah set up to prove to the people that the false prophets were wrong, according to verse eighteen? What lessons do you learn from chap 27 of this book?

JEREMIAH 28-36

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading for Week 38: Jer 28-36*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Jeremiah chapters 28 and 29. What timetable did Hananiah give for the return of both the sacred articles and the king in 28:3-4?

What was Jeremiah's initial reply to the idea of a quick deliverance, according to 28:5-6?

How did Jeremiah say that Hananiah's prophecy of "peace" would be proven right or wrong in Jer 28:7-9?

What symbolic action did Hananiah take, supposedly to demonstrate the truth of his prophecy, according to 28:10-11?

How did God Himself contradict Hananiah's prophecy in 28:12-14?

What personal message of judgment did God send to Hananiah, according to 28:15-16?

Who did Jeremiah send a letter to that was living in Jerusalem in Jer 29:1-2?

Who was able to carry a letter to the exiles, according to 29:3/

What specific commands did God give the exiles regarding how they should settle down in Jer 29:4-6?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

How did God want the Israelites to think about and react to the foreign country in which they lived in Jer 29:7?

Who were the exiles in danger of being deceived by, according to 29:8-9?

What period of time did God promise to bring the people back to the land in, according to 29:10?

What was the nature of God's plans for Israel in 29:11?

Why would Judah's seeking for God be fruitful after this period of exile in 29:12-13?

How would the people of Israel be "reconstituted" after seventy years of exile in Jer 29:14?

What did Jeremiah's letter inform the exiles about God's judgment of those who remained behind in 29:15-19?

What did God have in store for two specific false prophets who were telling the exiles they would soon be home in Jer 29:20-21?

What deeds of the false prophets had not escaped God's all-seeing eye, according to 29:22-23?

What did Shemaiah's letter to Zephaniah the priest, in Jerusalem contain in Jer 29:24-28?

How did Jeremiah learn about the letter that encouraged his imprisonment in Jer 29:29?

What was God's judgment on Shemaiah for his treachery against Jeremiah in Jer 29:31-32? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

2. Read Jeremiah chapters 30 and 31. What did God instruct Jeremiah to do with the words that had been revealed to him in verses one and two of chap 30?

What good news summarized God's plans for the defeated and divided nation in Jer 30:3?

What was the picture of judgment painted by Jeremiah, according to Jer 30:4-7?

What did Jeremiah predict that Israel would receive instead of its enslavement to foreign nations in Jer 30:8-9?

What two blessings did God say Israel once had and would have again in Jer 30:10?

What would characterize God's discipline of His own people in Jer 30:11?

What was God's metaphor for the sinful condition of His people in Jer 30:12-13?

How would the future look different for God's people and for their enemies in Jer 30:16-17?

What miraculous event would be the occasion for great rejoicing, according to Jer 30:18-20?

What relationship did God intend to reestablish with all twelve tribes of Israel, according to Jer 31:1-2?

How did God plan to demonstrate the constancy of His love in 31:3-6?

What picture did Jeremiah paint of the future return of the exiles in Jer 31:7-8?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

Why did God say He would provide streams of water and a level path in Jer 31:9?

What two key actions did God promise to take on behalf of Israel, allowing them to return to the land in Jer 31:10-11?

What causes for rejoicing would the people of Israel have when God fulfilled His promise, according to Jer 31:10-14?

What hope for the future did Jeremiah hold out in order to encourage the mourners in Jer 31:16-17?

What hypothetical "conversation" did Jeremiah record between the repentant Ephraim (symbolic of the northern kingdom) and God in Jer 31:18-20?

What would become of the fatalistic proverb that reflected the people's sense of helplessness and doom in Jer 31:29-30?

What was the new covenant described by Jeremiah, according to Jer 31:31-34?

How did God illustrate the certainty of His preservation of the descendants of Israel in 31:35-37? What lessons do you learn from these two chapters?

3. Read Jeremiah chapter 32. How long had the kings of Judah and Babylon been reigning when Jeremiah received this word from God in verse one?

Where was Jeremiah, and who had put him there, according to verses two and three of this chapter?

What were the specifics of Jeremiah's prophecies about the outcome of the siege in Jer 32:3-5?

What happened to Jeremiah while he was in the courtyard just as God had told him in Jeremiah 32:6-8?

What course of action did Jeremiah take and why in Jer 32:8-12?

What did God say after Jeremiah hid the deed to his newly purchased property in a clay jar in Jer 32:13-15?

What truths did Jeremiah proclaim about God's nature in verse seventeen?

How did Jeremiah summarize God's role and Israel's role in their relationship throughout history, according to Jer 32:18-23?

Why was Jeremiah left to marvel over what he had just done in Jer 32:24-25?

What was God's reply to Jeremiah's doubts, according to verses twenty-six and twenty-seven?

What had the people of Judah and Jerusalem done to deserve the punishment that was about to befall upon them in Jer 32:28-35?

What glimpse into the immediate future was Jeremiah giving the people as God instructed in Jer 32:36?

What glimpse into the more distant future did God give to Jeremiah, according to Jer 32:37-44? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

4. Read Jeremiah chapter 33. Where was Jeremiah when God spoke to him in verse one of this book?

How did God identify Himself to Jeremiah in verse two of this book?

What invitation did God issue to Jeremiah, according to verse three?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

What outcome did Jeremiah predict in the current war in which Babylon was besieging Jerusalem in verses four and five of this chapter?

How did God promise to reverse His actions in the more distant future in verses six and seven?

How would God satisfy His own righteousness with regard to the sin and rebellion of Judah in verse eight?

How did God predict that the rest of the world would react to a restored Judah in verse nine?

How did Jeremiah contrast the sights, sounds, and moods in Jerusalem before and after God's merciful intervention, according to verses ten and eleven?

What common sight of everyday life in Jeremiah's time would serve as a sign of God's restoration in verses twelve and thirteen?

What promise did God make that should have given great hope to Jeremiah's hearers in 33:14-16?

What promise did God make to David and reiterate to Jeremiah in 33:17-18?

What did God offer as the guarantee of His promises, according vv. 19-22?

What conclusions were foreign nations drawing about God's people as they were being punished in verses twenty-three and twenty-four?

How did God assure His people that He would indeed have compassion on them in 33:23-26? What lessons do you learn in this chapter?

5. Read Jeremiah Chapter 34. What good news and bad news did Jeremiah have for King Zedekiah during the siege of Jerusalem, according to these first five verses?

What cities had not yet fallen to the king of Babylon, at the time of this prophecy in vv. 6-7?

What agreement did King Zedekiah make with the people of Jerusalem in verses eight and nine?

How did the people respond to Zedekiah's suggestion about abolishing the slavery of fellow Jews in Jer 34:10?

What did the people do, after they had agreed to free the slaves in Jer 34:11?

What was God's plan for dealing with the issues of Israelites as slaves in Jer 34:12-14?

What solemn agreement was initiated by Jeremiah's countrymen, according to verse fifteen?

What action by the leadership of Judah profaned God's name, according to verse sixteen?

What was God's sarcastic expression for the punishment He decreed in verse seventeen?

How did God turn the ceremony used for solemnizing an agreement into a picture of the punishment due those who broke the agreement in 34:18-20?

What specific prophecy destroyed the hope that Nebuchadnezzar had withdrawn from Jerusalem for good in 34:21-22? What do you learn from this chapter of Jeremiah?

6. Read Jeremiah Chapter 35. What invitation did God tell Jeremiah to issue to the Recabite family, according to verses one and two?

Where did Jeremiah meet with the Recabites in verses three through five of this book?

How did the Recabites respond to Jeremiah's invitation in verse six of this book?

What instruction of their ancestor had the Recabites been obeying to the letter, according to Jer 35:7-10?

Why had the Recabites come to Jerusalem in verse eleven of this book?

How did Jeremiah use the example of the Recabites' obedience to call the people of Jerusalem to account in Jer 35:12-16?

How did the people's response to God's call through His prophets seal their doom in Jer 35:17?

What was God's promise to the Recabites because of their integrity and wholehearted obedience in verses eighteen and nineteen? What lessons do you learn in this chapter?

7. Read Jeremiah Chapter 36. Who was king of Judah when Jeremiah wrote down this prophecy from God in verse one?

What was God's purpose in having Jeremiah record His judgments against Judah in verses two and three?

Who helped Jeremiah record God's message and deliver it to the people, according to Jer 36:4-7?

Why had many Jews gathered in Jerusalem at the time Baruch read the scroll in the temple in verses eight through ten?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

Who reported the gist of the prophecy to the officials gathered in the secretary's room in 36:11-13?

What did the other officials ask when they heard what was happening in the temple in verses fourteen and fifteen?

What did the shaken officials feel they must do about the prophecy in verse sixteen?

What questions did the officials ask of Baruch in verses seventeen and eighteen?

What orders did the officials give Baruch for himself and Jeremiah in verse nineteen?

How did the king respond in action and attitude as the scroll was being read aloud in vv. 20-24?

What did the king's officials; respond to what the king did with the scroll in verse twenty-five?

What was the king's first action after he had burned the scroll in verse twenty-six?

What was God's response to King Jehoiakim through His servant Jeremiah in vv. 27-31?

How did Jeremiah and Baruch faithfully demonstrate that God's plans would not be stopped by the king in verse thirty-two? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

JEREMIAH 37-49

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 39: Jer. 37-49*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Jeremiah chapter 37. How did Zedekiah become king of Judah, according to verse one?

What request did Zedekiah make of Jeremiah in verses two and three?

What is revealed about the city of Jerusalem at the beginning of this story in verse five?

What bad news did Jeremiah tell the king, despite the fact that the situation seemed to be looking up in vv. 6-8?

Why was Jeremiah put in prison, according to verses eleven through fifteen of vv. 11-15?

What question did the king ask Jeremiah in secret in verse seventeen?

What basis did Jeremiah plead his case on with King Zedekiah in vv. 18-20?

Where did the king order that Jeremiah be held instead of the dungeon in Jonathan's house in verse twenty-one?

2. Read Jeremiah chapter 38. What did some of the officials find out that Jeremiah was telling the people, according to verses one through three?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

What punishment did the officials propose to the king in verse four?

How did the king respond to the officials' demand in verse five of this chapter?

Where was Jeremiah's place of imprisonment, according to verse six?

Who appealed to the king on behalf of Jeremiah, according to vv. 7-9?

Where did Jeremiah stay after his rescue, according to verses eleven through thirteen?

Why was Jeremiah hesitant to answer the king's request to give him a straightforward answer in verses fourteen and fifteen?

What did Jeremiah reveal about God's plans, after Zedekiah had sworn not to harm him in vv. 16-18?

Why was Zedekiah afraid to obey God and surrender to the Babylonians in verse nineteen?

What specifics did Jeremiah tell the king about what would happen if he didn't obey God, according to verses 20 through 23?

Because it was dangerous for them to have talked, what did Zedekiah tell Jeremiah to say when he was questioned about his conversation with the king in vv. 24-26?

Where was Jeremiah when the city of Jerusalem was captured, according to verse twenty-eight? What lessons do you learn from chapter 38?

3. Read Jeremiah Chapter 39. What happened to Jerusalem, according to the first three verses of this chapter?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

What did the king of Judah and his soldiers do when the Babylonians entered the city in verse four?

What happened to Zedekiah and his troops because they decided to flee, according to vv. 5-7?

What was left of the kingdom of Judah when the Babylonians finally left, according to verses eight through ten of this book?

What happened to the prophet Jeremiah when the Babylonians took the city in vv. 11-14?

What words of comfort did Jeremiah have on the eve of the Babylonian victory for the man who had rescued him from the cistern, according to vv. 15-18 of chap 39?

Read Jeremiah Chapter 40. Where was Jeremiah when the Babylonian commander of the guard came looking for him in order to carry out the king's instructions in verses one and two?

What did Nebuzaradan understand about what had just transpired in Judah, according verses two and three?

What choices were given to Jeremiah about where he would live in verses four and five?

Where did Jeremiah choose to stay after he was freed by the Babylonians in verse six?

How did the governor appointed by the Babylonians reassure the small fighting force that remained in the land after the Babylonians withdrew in vv. 7-10?

How did the remnant of people in the land of Judah grow and begin to prosper in verses eleven and twelve?

What warning did some of the commanders give to Gedaliah, the appointed governor in verses thirteen and fourteen of this chapter?

How did Johanan propose to solve the threat against Gedaliah, which he perceived as potentially disastrous to the whole remnant in verse fifteen?

How did Gedaliah respond to Johanan's desire to protect him in Jer. 40:16? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

4. Read Jeremiah Chapters 41-43. What devious plan was carried out by Ishmael and his followers, according to verses one through three of chapter 41?

What evil deeds did Ishmael add to his murder of Gedaliah, according to vv. 4-10?

What transpired when Johanan caught up to Ishmael, according to vv. 11-15?

What did Johanan assume the remaining faithful people would have to do since Gedaliah had been murdered, according to verses sixteen through eighteen of chapter 41?

What request did Johanan and the people that were with him make of the prophet Jeremiah in Jer 42:1-3?

What promises did Jeremiah and the people make to one another, according to vv. 4-6?

What positive commands and reassuring words did Jeremiah bring from God in verses seven through twelve?

What warning did God have for the people in anticipation of their intended disobedience in Jer 42:13-18?

What fatal mistake did Jeremiah accuse the remnant of Judah of in verses nineteen through twenty-two of chapter 42?

How did Johanan and the other leaders rationalize their disobedience, according to Jer 43:1-3?

Who were the people who entered Egypt, some of them against their will in verses four through seven?

When he was at Tahpanhes with the others, what symbolic action did God tell Jeremiah to take, and what was the meaning in vv. 8-13? What lessons do you learn from these three chapters?

5. Read Jeremiah Chapters 44-46. What sin did God through Jeremiah remind the people that He had punished Judah and Jerusalem for in Jer 44:1-6?

Why was Jeremiah amazed that the remnant had not learned a lesson from all that had happened before in vv. 7-10?

What did God say He would do to all those determined to go to Egypt for protection, according to vv. 11-14?

What superstitious belief did the people cite as they defied Jeremiah openly in verses fifteen through nineteen of chapter 44?

How did Jeremiah proceed to correct their thinking about the real cause of their misfortune in vv. 20-23?

What vow did God answer the people with that vowed to continue worshiping the "Queen of Heaven" in vv. 24-28?

What did God promise to do to the pharaoh of Egypt, whom the Israelites considered an ally against Babylon in verses twenty-nine and thirty of chapter 44?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

Why was the scribe, Baruch, feeling sorry for himself, according to Jer 45:1-3?

How did God respond to Baruch's self-pity in verses four and five of chapter 45?

Why did Jeremiah say that the mighty warriors of Egypt would cower before Nebuchadnezzar in Jer 46:13-17?

What did God promise them eventually, despite the judgment coming on Egypt, according to Jer 46: 25-26?

What promises did God make to Israel with honesty, justice, and hope in Jer 46:27-28? What lessons do you learn from these chapters of the book?

6. Read Jeremiah Chapters 47-49. What terrifying natural disaster did God compare the Egyptian conquest of Philistia to in Jer 47:2-5?

According to the judgment of Moab, what did Ashkelon say in verses six and seven of chapter 47?

Where did the people of Moab misplace their trust, sending themselves and their idols into captivity, according to Jer 48:6-9?

What curse did Jeremiah pronounce on the lax or merciful in the context of judging the nations in verse ten?

Why would it be particularly appropriate when Moab became an object of scorn and ridicule in verses twenty-six and twenty-seven?

What brought about Moab's destruction as a nation in verse forty-two of chapter 48?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

What was the source of Ammon's false sense of security, according to verse four of chapter 49?

What did God promise to the Ammonites when their punishment was complete in verse six of chapter 49?

How did God say He would treat the helpless, even within the borders of His enemy, Edom in verse eleven?

Why did Edom think its location made it invincible in verses fifteen and sixteen?

How would Damascus along with Kedar and the kingdoms of Hazor also fall under God's judgment in vv. 23-33?

What would eventually happen to the nation of Elam after it was defeated and taken into exile, according to Jer 49:37-39?
What do you learn from these chapters of Jeremiah?

JEREMIAH 50-52; EZEKIEL 1-7

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 40: Jer. 50-52; Ezek. 1-7
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.

1. Read Jeremiah chapter 50. What did Jeremiah predict Israel and Judah would do, with their enemies facing God's wrath in verses four and five of this book?

What attitude of the Babylonians in relation to God's people convinced God to leave them desolate in vv. 11-13?

Since the Babylonians had exiled many of the peoples they conquered from their own land, what would happen when God punished them in verse sixteen?

When Babylon was made accountable to God, what would become of Israel's guilt in verse twenty?

What did Jeremiah tell us about Israel's Redeemer in verse thirty-four of this book?

What historic event did God compare the coming destruction of Babylon to in these verses 39 and 40? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

Read Jeremiah chapter 51. What were the Babylonians failing to take into account about God's relationship to Israel in verse five?

What nation was to become God's instrument of justice against Babylon, according to these verses 11 through 14?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

How did Jeremiah contrast the God of Israel with the idols of the other nations in verses seventeen through nineteen of this book?

What religious disgrace of the people of Israel would be remedied by God Himself, according to Jer 51:51-53?

What message about Babylon was Seraiah to deliver to the exiles in Babylon, according to verses fifty-nine through sixty-four? What lessons do you learn from Chapter 51?

2. Read Jeremiah Chapter 52. How did God view Zedekiah, king of Judah in these first three verses of this book?

Why did Nebuchadnezzar lay siege to the city of Jerusalem, according to verses 3 through 5?

What was the condition of Jerusalem after almost two years, according to verse six?

What did Judah's army do when the Babylonians broke through the city wall in verses 7-9?

What was Zedekiah's punishment for rebelling against Babylon, according to verses 9 through 11?

What happened to the buildings of Jerusalem and the rest of the population in verses twelve through fifteen?

What did the captain of the guard want those left behind to do in verse sixteen?

What were some of the valuable articles that the Babylonians took out of the temple in verses 17 through 19?

What were the notable features of the lavish worship objects that the Babylonians destroyed, according to Jer 52:20-23?

What became of the leaders who remained in the city of Jerusalem after the siege, according to verses twenty-four through twenty-seven?

How many Jews in all were removed from Jerusalem by the Babylonians in verses twenty-eight and thirty? What happened to the first king of Judah, who obeyed God and surrendered to the Babylonians, according to vv. 31-34 of this book? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

3. Read Ezekiel Chapters 1 and 2. How old was Ezekiel and where was he living when he saw visions of God in verse one?

How long had the people of Judah been in exile in Babylonia when Ezekiel had his vision in Ezek 1:2-3?

To what natural occurrence did Ezekiel liken what he saw coming toward him in verse four?

What were the human and nonhuman features of the living beings Ezekiel described in Ezek 1:5-11?

How were the creatures positioned in relation to one another, according to Ezek 1:9-11?

What was remarkable about the way the creatures moved in verse twelve of chap 1?

What did Ezekiel compare the light to, or brightness, coming from the creatures in verses thirteen and fourteen of chap 1?

What unique characteristics did Ezekiel notice in the wheels that accompanied the creatures in vv. 15-18 of chap 1?

Why would it not be accurate to say that the "wheels" were vehicles used by the creatures in Ezek 1:19-21?

How did Ezekiel describe the sound of the wings of the four creatures in verse twenty-four?

How did Ezekiel describe the person who spoke from the "expanse" above the creatures in Ezek 1:25-28?

What did Ezekiel realize he was seeing, according to verse twenty-eight?

How did Ezekiel respond when he saw the "likeness of the glory of the Lord" in verse twenty-eight of this chapter?

What mission did God assign to the prophet Ezekiel, according to vv. 3-5 of chap 2?

What images did God use to describe the reception Ezekiel was likely to get for his message in verse six?

What warning did God give Ezekiel concerning his own behavior in verse eight?

What did God command Ezekiel to do with the scroll He presented to him in Ezek 2:8-9; 3:1-2? What lessons do you learn in chapters 1 and 2?

4. Read Ezekiel Chapter 3. What did God command Ezekiel to do with the scroll He presented to him in verses 1 and 2?

How did the scroll taste to Ezekiel when he ate it in verse three of this chapter?

Who did God know would have been more receptive to His word than His own people in vv. 5-7?

What did God promise to do for Ezekiel in the face of the stubbornness of the Jews in verses eight and nine?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

Where were the Jews at when Ezekiel carried God's message to them in vv. 10-11?

What was Ezekiel's experience of the glory of God when God had finished speaking to him in verses twelve and thirteen?

How did Ezekiel describe his state of mind after being commissioned by God in vv. 14-15?

What was Ezekiel's role in relation to Israel in verse seventeen of this book?

How did God explain Ezekiel's accountability for speaking God's Word to a wicked man in verses eighteen and nineteen of this chapter?

Under what circumstances would Ezekiel be accountable for the death of a righteous person in verses twenty and twenty-one of this chapter?

What experience did Ezekiel have again after his seven days of mourning in vv. 22-23?

How did God establish when Ezekiel was to speak or remain silent in these verses 24 through 27? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

5. Read Ezekiel Chapters 4 and 5. What model did God instruct Ezekiel to build in order to illustrate his first message in Ezek 4:1-3?

What was the duration of God's punishment of Israel as predicted by Ezekiel's symbolic action in verses four and five of chap 4?

How long did Ezekiel lie on his right side to illustrate the punishment of Judah in vv. 6-8 of chap 4?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

What were Ezekiel's cooking and eating habits supposed to illustrate about what would happen in Jerusalem in these verses 9 through 13 of chap 4?

How did God respond when Ezekiel didn't want to defile himself in order to illustrate the extent of the famine in verse fifteen of chapter 4?

Why would Israel and Judah suffer so much, according to God in verse seventeen of chapter 4?

What was Ezekiel to do with each third of the hair he shaved from his own head, according to vv. 1-4 of chap 5?

How had Jerusalem repaid the favor that God had shown in Ezek 5:5-7?

How did Jerusalem compare to the pagan nations around her in verse seven?

How was God's coming punishment to compare with those of the past and the future in verse nine of chapter 5?

To what depths did God predict that people would descend when He punished them in verse ten of chapter 5?

What sin prompted God to destroy each third of the people of Jerusalem in the manner predicted by Ezekiel? (Ezek 5:11-12)

What did God say the people would know after He vented His wrath in v. 13?

How would other nations respond to the people once favored by God in verses fourteen and fifteen of chapter 5?

What various forms of suffering and destruction did God predict for His people in Ezek 5:16-17? What lessons do you learn from these 2 chapters?

6. Read Ezekiel Chapter 6. What geographical feature did Ezekiel prophesy against (figuratively) in these verses 1 through 3?

What did God promise that Israel would see at all the sites of pagan worship in vv. 4-6?

What knowledge would come out of the devastation to be visited on Israel in verse seven?

What would happen to those who escaped death by the sword in verse eight?

What would become apparent to the exiles about God and about themselves in verse nine?

By carrying through on His Word, what was God proving about His threats in verse ten?

What attitude and emotion did God command Ezekiel to demonstrate in verse eleven?

How was God going to express His wrath against Israel in verse twelve of this chapter?

Where would the greatest concentration of the dead be found when God judged Israel in verse thirteen?

What was the primary purpose of God's wrath and judgment in verse Ezek 6:14? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

7. Read Ezekiel Chapter 7. What was the first two-word message that God told Ezekiel to proclaim in vv. 1-3?

What did God resolve that He would not do this time, as He had so often in the past in verse four?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1

What different words did God use to describe what was about to happen to Israel in vv. 5-7?

What was God poised to "repay" in verses eight and nine of this chapter?

What would the people know about the origin of the disaster from the sheer magnitude of the disaster according to v. 9? What human vices did God say would run rampant, causing much misery in verses ten and eleven?

What resource had the people come to trust in, which would now fail them in these verses?

What other potential defense would be stopped by God's wrath in verse fourteen?

What did Ezekiel say about the possibility of escaping from the coming wrath of God, according to vv. 15-16?

What were some of the dramatic evidences of helplessness in Ezekiel's prophecy in vv. 17-19?

What was God going to allow to happen according to the riches and edifices in which Israel took pride according to vv. 20-22?

For what crimes against their fellow humans did God hold Israel accountable in verse twenty-three?

What did Ezekiel predict that the people would do to try to avert God's wrath in vv. 24-27?

What lesson did God realize Israel would learn from the disaster that was about to come upon them in verse twenty-seven of this chapter? What lessons do you learn from Ezekiel Chapter 7?

SEPTEMBER YEAR 1