

*A People of the Book*  
*8-Year Curriculum*  
*Year 3, Quarter 4*

A Study of  
Selected Texts from

# Jeremiah And Lamentations

Mike White

## *Introduction*

*Welcome to our Study of Jeremiah and Lamentations. Both these books have a lot of material so the lesson plan is organized to facilitate your study for this quarter.*

*The most important objective for all of us is to discipline ourselves and read the Word of the Living God. Our lesson plan allows for an orderly reading of Jeremiah-Lamentations without having to do too much reading in any given week.*

*Secondly please read the Lesson Background & Purpose paragraph at the front of every lesson. This will be helpful in following a broad overview and will assist you in seeing how the books are organized.*

*Thirdly the section designated Some key Questions to guide our study will help to guide you to some important lessons that God has for us in Jeremiah and Lamentations. These questions can be your foundation for further individual study.*

*Lastly the Thought Question helps us to apply what we have read in each lesson to our own lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

*There are two verses that I much cherish and cling to in Jeremiah-Lamentations that have been central to my understanding of God and how He works in our lives:*

- *Jeremiah 45:5*
- *Lamentations 3:19-26*

*Throughout our study together let us consider Jeremiah and his courage as we seek to better understand the faithfulness of God in a troubled world.*

*640 BC – Josiah becomes King of Judah*

*627 BC - Jeremiah begins prophetic ministry*

*612 BC – Assyrian Capital of Nineveh destroyed by the Babylonians*

*609 BC - Jehoiakim becomes King of Judah after Jehoahaz is taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Neco*

*605 BC – Nebuchadnezzar defeats the Egyptian Army at Carchemish and Babylon becomes the dominant world power*

*605 BC – Daniel and the best and brightest of the younger Jews taken to Babylon in first deportation*

*597 BC – Jehoiachin taken to Babylon in the second deportation and Zedekiah is installed as King of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar*

*592 BC – Ezekiel begins his prophetic ministry*

*586 BC – Fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple and the third deportation*

*586 BC – Jeremiah taken to Egypt by Johanan son of Kareah*

*540 BC – Babylon falls to the Persian Empire*

*538 BC – Edict of Cyrus for Jews to return to Jerusalem*

*515 BC – Temple completed*

*445 BC – Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem*

*Lessons from Jeremiah & Lamentations*  
*Table of Contents*  
*4<sup>th</sup> qtr 2009*

- 1. page 4...The Call of Jeremiah: Jer. 1-2*
- 2. page 7....The Coming Judgment on Judah: Jer. 3-6*
- 3. page 10....Judah in God's Crosshairs: Jer. 7-12*
- 4. page 13....The Weeping Prophet: Jer. 13-17*
- 5. page 16....God is in Control: Jer. 18-22*
- 6. page 19....The Gathering Storm: Jer. 23-28*
- 7. page 22...A Letter of Hope to the Exiles: Jer. 29-31*
- 8. page 25....The Faithfulness of God vs. the Unfaithfulness of the People: Jer. 32-35*
- 9. page 28....The Persevering Faith of the Prophet: Jer. 36-38*
- 10. page 31...The Fall of Jerusalem: Jer. 39-40, 52*
- 11. page 34....Stuck on Stupid: Jer. 42-45*
- 12. page 37....Prophecies Against the Nations: Jer. 46-51*
- 13. page 41....Hope from the Ashes: Lamentations 1-5*

## *The Call of Jeremiah*

### *Read Jeremiah 1-2*

*Lesson Background & Purpose: The first chapter is the call of Jeremiah by the Lord. To understand God's message to Judah you must understand God's messenger. I think it is important to attempt to put yourself in Jeremiah's shoes as he speaks from faith with courage to those who are more powerful than he and have no interest in listening to his message from God.*

*Throughout his ministry Jeremiah received no positive feedback from those he prophesied to. Jeremiah is a tragic figure who lived during tragic times. He was considered a national traitor and was despised by his own people. But through it all Jeremiah persevered in his message and his mission because he was devoted to God and compelled to speak the message regardless of the consequences. And to be sure there were grievous consequences as the organized life of the Kingdom of Judah was to cease with the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC.*

*Some key Questions to guide our study:*

- 1) Where was Jeremiah from and what kind of family did he grow up in? Jeremiah 1:1*
  
- 2) Who was King when God spoke to him for the first time? Jeremiah 1:2*

- 3) *Who was Josiah? Who was Zedekiah? Jeremiah 1:3*
  
- 4) *What key event in history does Jeremiah live through?  
Jeremiah 1:3*
  
- 5) *Would you be fearful if God called you to this mission?  
What was Jeremiah to think about to overcome his fear?  
Jeremiah 1:8*
  
- 6) *What was the significance of the Lord's touching  
Jeremiah's mouth? Jeremiah 1:9*
  
- 7) *Jeremiah saw two visions. What were they and what did  
they mean to Jeremiah? Jeremiah 1:11-16*
  
- 8) *One complaint that the Lord had was that Israel did not  
seek him but followed worthless idols. What happen to them  
and why? Jeremiah 2:5-6*
  
- 9) *The Lord blames Israel's leaders. What is the Lord's real  
complaint against them? Jeremiah 2:8*
  
- 10) *What two sins did the people commit? Jeremiah 2:13  
Do we commit these sins today?*
  
- 11) *One metaphor used by Jeremiah is that of marriage. What  
root cause was behind Judah's unfaithfulness? Jeremiah 2:32*

*Thought Question*

*Do you believe that God knows us in the womb like He did Jeremiah? Jeremiah 1:5*

## ***The Coming Judgment on Judah***

### ***Read Jeremiah 3-6***

***Lesson Background & Purpose:*** *In this lesson we continue to better understand the nature of Judah's rebellion and apostasy. Set in the historical context we see little Judah chastened by the defeat and utter destruction of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Threatened first by Assyria and then Babylon, Judah desperately sought man-made solutions for her security instead of seeking God. This lack of trust, faith, and dependence upon the Lord carried a high price since it created fuzzy thinking not rooted in reality. The problem with Judah and the ultimate outcome of her failure and defeat has been and continues to be repeated by nations, families, and individuals. It is important that we learn from Judah's mistakes as we listen to Jeremiah's call to them to wake up and turn to God!*

***Some key Questions to guide our study:***

- 1) What did God tell Jeremiah about faithless Israel?  
Jeremiah 3:6***
  
- 2) The metaphor of marriage is used to describe God's relationship with His people in Jeremiah. Why do you think marriage is used in this way? Jeremiah 3:20***
  
- 3) God tells Judah if they return He will give them what?  
Jeremiah 3:15***



- 4) *Throughout Jeremiah with his tough message there is always with it a message of hope. What hope is referred to in Jeremiah 3:14-20?*
- 5) *The Lord warns Judah to do two things in Jeremiah 4:3. What are they? Why does Jeremiah say this? Jeremiah 4:6*
- 6) *Why is this happening to Judah? Jeremiah 4:18*
- 7) *What are some examples of what society was like at the time of Jeremiah? Jeremiah 5:1, 5:2, 5:3, 5:7-8, 6:13-14*
- 
- 
- 
- 8) *What was the attitude of the people? Jeremiah 5:12-13*
- 9) *The role of leaders is always important. What kind of leadership did Judah have? Jeremiah 5:30-31*
- 10) *Jeremiah begins to refer to a remnant. What is a remnant? Jeremiah 6:9*

*11) Jeremiah gives a great picture of what life is all about and what we are accountable before God for in Jeremiah 6:16. How often are we at the cross roads and what should we do when we are there?*

*Thought Question*

*Why is it important to find pleasure in the Word of God?  
Jeremiah 6:10*

### ***Judah in God's Cross Hairs***

#### ***Read Jeremiah 7-12***

***Lesson Background & Purpose: Jeremiah is dealing with the cataclysm of the disintegration of the Jewish state. Israel was destroyed and now Judah faces defeat, destruction, and deportation. It is very clear to the reader that this coming catastrophe is designed, ordered, and implemented by God Himself through His servants the Babylonians. You and I cannot begin to understand what these people will face with the siege and eventual fall of Jerusalem. What is important for us to understand is that Jeremiah is prophesying about the terrible events that lie ahead for his people knowing that he too will suffer with them. The hopelessness of this situation is caused by disrespect for God and his ways and the disobedience that follows with that attitude. This lesson helps us to understand the difficulty of Jeremiah's mission and the stubbornness of the Jews of Jerusalem.***

***Some key Questions to guide our study:***

- 1) What was the message Jeremiah was directed to preach at the gate of the temple? Jeremiah 7:2-8***
  
- 2) Why would the Jews think there was security in the temple? Jeremiah 7:9-11***
  
- 3) What is the Lord looking for from his people at anytime? Jeremiah 7:22-26***

- 4) *What happened in the Valley of Ben Hinnom? Jeremiah 7:31*
  
- 5) *Give three reasons the Jews find themselves in this sorry condition:*
  - a. *Jeremiah 8:6*
  - b. *Jeremiah 8:7*
  - c. *Jeremiah 8:9*
  
- 6) *Do you think the priests had a wise message to the people? Jeremiah 8:11. What was their motivation?*
  
- 7) *Hopelessness is a terrible thing to experience. Read Jeremiah 8:20-22 and describe what Jeremiah thought.*
  
- 8) *Why are all these terrible things going to happen? Jeremiah 9:13*
  
- 9) *What we must understand is that we must have a relationship with God. What does Jeremiah 9:23-26 say about this?*
  
- 10) *Jeremiah speaks against idols and draws an observation about them. What is that observation and why is it so important? Jeremiah 10:14-15*

**11) What does God tell Jeremiah in Jeremiah 12:5? What are some of the indicators of this truth?**

- a. Jeremiah 12:6**
- b. Jeremiah 11:21-23**
- c. Jeremiah 12:11**

**12) The term “leanness of soul” is a condition that God visits on those who will not return to Him. When I think of the Jews on the eve of the fall of Jerusalem I look to Jeremiah 12:13. What is happening to God’s people?**

### ***Thought Question***

***How difficult would it be if God told you not to pray for your family and friends in time of crisis? Jeremiah 11:14***

***The Weeping Prophet  
Read Jeremiah 13-17***

***Lesson Background & Purpose: As we enter into chapters 13-17 we see warnings issued by the Prophet to the people to urge them to repent. These are hard warnings but it produces no change in the people. Beyond the warnings even natural disasters such as droughts and ensuing famines produce no national repentance. As we progress through these chapters, we see that the Jewish Nation cannot come back and God's irrevocable decision has been made to withdraw His blessing from the people of Judah. In fact they are so identified with rebellion and sin that it is engraved with an iron tool on the tablets of their hearts. Finally we see Jeremiah being forced to suffer for the Name of the Lord....truly he is the weeping prophet. I want to emphasize at this point the courage of Jeremiah. His steadfastness is truly admirable as he gives up EVERYTHING to preach the Word of the Lord to a people who will not listen.***

***Some key Questions to guide our study:***

- 1) What did the Lord tell Jeremiah to buy? What was he supposed to do with it? Jeremiah 13:1-7***
  
- 2) What happened to the linen belt? Jeremiah 13:7 What did it mean? Jeremiah 13:8-11***
  
- 3) What was Jeremiah going to do if the people would not listen to the Lord's warning? Jeremiah 13:17***

- 4) *All people have accountability before God. Why was this disaster coming to the land? Jeremiah 13:22*
  
- 5) *One of the most terrible natural events that can occur is drought followed by famine. Jeremiah cannot stand to see the suffering of his people. What does Jeremiah do to relieve the suffering of his people? Jeremiah 14:7-9*
  
- 6) *What does God tell Jeremiah to do? Jeremiah 14:11-12*
  
- 7) *The coming disaster is very hard on Jeremiah and he complains to the Lord. Why does he complain to the Lord? Jeremiah 14:13*
  
- 8) *What must be learned if we are to be righteous servants in hard times? Jeremiah 15:19-21*
  
- 9) *What were some of the restrictions that God put on Jeremiah's life?*
  - a. *Jeremiah 16:1-2*
  - b. *Jeremiah 16:5*
  - c. *Jeremiah 16:8*
  
- 10) *If we are to endure tough times what do we have to realize about our personal relationship with the Lord? Jeremiah 16:19*

11) *The man of the world is really cursed by God. There are three characteristics of such a man. What are they?*  
*Jeremiah 17:5*

12) *What is deceitful above all things and beyond cure? Jeremiah 17:9 what does this tell us about our hearts?*

*Thought Question*

*Of all the opposition that Jeremiah had to experience, what is the thing that would be most difficult for you?*



**God is in Control**  
**Read Jeremiah 18-22**

*Lesson Background & Purpose: Jeremiah is brought to the house of the Potter by God to teach the lesson of God's sovereignty over the lives of nations and peoples. God is shaping our lives as a potter shapes a vessel on the wheel. Our submissive response to God through an obedient heart allows God to shape us. However, too often as was the case with the Jews they were a clay jar that was rigid and unyielding. Because the Jews had been rebellious and committed unspeakable acts such as slaughtering babies in sacrifice to idols, God told Jeremiah to break the jar as a symbol that God would smash the nation of Judah and its people. For all of this, Jeremiah was persecuted by the Temple leadership with beatings and placement in stocks. To understand Jeremiah we must accept how difficult this ministry was for him. Chapters 21-22 are messages to the Kings of Judah living in the last days of the Kingdom of Judah which were warnings of impending disaster. The end result of Judah's rebellion is made very clear: the end of the physical line of David and no future King will set on the throne. What a tragic ending to the Kings of Judah.*

*God is in control and He is sovereign. If we search for security outside the hand of God we will become less secure and will fail just as Judah did. There is always great pain in life for not obeying God. But as Jeremiah found out suffering for God is much different than suffering without Him.*

*Some key Questions to guide our study:*

- 1) What did God want to teach Jeremiah about himself when he went to the potter's house? Jeremiah 18:1-6*
  
- 2) Who is in control? Jeremiah 18:7-10*
  
- 3) As a result of the Lord's message how was Jeremiah treated? Jeremiah 18:18*
  
- 4) What did God tell Jeremiah to do next? Jeremiah 19:1-2*
  
- 5) What did breaking the jar signify? Jeremiah 19:10-11*
  
- 6) Jeremiah's continuing prophetic message resulted in more persecution against Jeremiah. What happened? Jeremiah 20:1-3*
  
- 7) Why didn't Jeremiah quit on the Lord? Jeremiah 20:9*
  
- 8) How did Jeremiah feel about himself and his situation? Jeremiah 20:14-18*
  
- 9) Who was Zedekiah? Why did he ask Jeremiah to pray to the Lord? Jeremiah 21:9-10*

10) *What did Jeremiah say about Jehoahaz? Jeremiah 22:11-12*

11) *Jehoiachin had seven children. Which one succeeded him on the throne? Jeremiah 22:30*

*Thought Question*

*How do we know whether or not we are clay in the potter's hands or a rigid clay jar?*

***The Gathering Storm  
Read Jeremiah 23-28***

***Lesson Background & Purpose: The storm clouds continue to gather over Jerusalem as Babylon comes and deports King Jehoiachin and many nobles to Babylon. In Jehoiachin's place Nebuchadnezzar installs Zedekiah as King under Babylon's control. Zedekiah is a very weak and unwise man who listens to wrong voices and unwise counsel. The Jewish people and those in the City of Jerusalem are being led to the slaughter and a day of horror and terror. But even in that setting in God's mercy Jeremiah is allowed to prophesy of the coming Messiah and the return of the exiles. Our Lord is so gracious.***

***Jeremiah is required to prophesy a hard message and in the face of false prophets who are telling folks what they want to hear: peace and no harm. Clearly the Lord is going to accomplish the destruction of Jerusalem. To illustrate this truth Jeremiah sees a vision of two baskets of figs. The good figs represent those who had been taken into exile and the bad figs by those who remain behind and who will be punished by God.***

***God is full of mercy because He tells Jeremiah the length of the captivity in Babylon of 70 years. God also confirms to Jeremiah that Babylon itself will be severely dealt with following this time.***

***As Jeremiah continues to prophesy concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, he is hated and seen as a defeatist by his own people. Officials threaten to seize and kill him. Nevertheless Jeremiah stands firm in his faith and is spared. Throughout his ministry Jeremiah is hounded by opposing prophets who said everything would be ok. What is clear throughout this section is that God's***

*purpose of destroying the Jewish nation and particularly the temple worship is irrevocable. It will be done, it cannot be helped. But even with disaster approaching God still sends a promise of hope and reconciliation.*

*Some key Questions to guide our study:*

- 1) What will happen to the remnant? Jeremiah 23:3-4, 8*
  
- 2) Always a message of hope is contained in the difficult prophecies of Jeremiah. Who is Jeremiah talking about in Jeremiah 23:5-6?*
  
- 3) What is the message of these false prophets? Jeremiah 23:17*
  
- 4) God sent Jeremiah a vision of two baskets of figs. What did the basket of bad figs and good figs represent? Jeremiah 24: 8-10*
  
- 5) The Jews would be in Babylonian captivity for \_\_\_\_ years. Jeremiah 25:11*
  
- 6) In chapter 26 who stood firm in his faith? Jeremiah 26:1-16 what happen to him?*

- 7) *In that same chapter who did not stand firm in their faith?  
Jeremiah 26:20-24 what happen to him?*
  
- 8) *What did Jeremiah tell Zedekiah about choosing to serve  
Nebuchadnezzar? Jeremiah 27:12*
  
- 9) *Who was the false prophet who opposed Jeremiah?  
Jeremiah 28:1*
  
- 10) *What was Hananiah's message? Jeremiah 28:2-4*
  
- 11) *What happened to Hananiah the false prophet?  
Jeremiah 28:15-17*

### *Thought Question*

*Standing firm in our faith is a life and death issue as it was for Jeremiah and Uriah in our study today. How do we stand firm in our faith?*

*A Letter of Hope to the Exiles  
Read Jeremiah 29-31*

*Lesson Background & Purpose: God is a God of Hope and because of that Jeremiah writes a letter of hope to the exiles in Babylon. This section of chapters in Jeremiah is one of the highlights of the entire Old Testament. Jeremiah again prophesies the duration of the exile to be 70 years and encourages them to make a life for themselves. God would bless them in Babylon. As for those who remained under Zedekiah in Jerusalem, they will see the sword, famine, and plague which is referenced to the destruction of Jerusalem. One of the greatest passages in the OT completes this section of Jeremiah and references the New Covenant the Lord will make with the new Israel (Church). This same text is used in Hebrews referring to the New Covenant we have under Christ.*

*Jeremiah's message to those who had been forcefully removed from their country is that God's care for us is personal and he wants to be involved in our lives. This was a great message of comfort then as it is now.*

*Some key Questions to guide our study:*

- 1) What did Jeremiah tell the exiles in Babylon? Jeremiah 29:5-7*
  
- 2) Why did God tell the Jews in exile to pray for Babylon? Jeremiah 29:7*

- 3) *Did the Lord have plans for the Jews in exile? What kind of plans? Jeremiah 29:10-11*
  
- 4) *How important are our prayers to God's implementation of our plans? Jeremiah 29:12-14*
  
- 5) *What did Jeremiah tell those remaining in the City? Jeremiah 29: 16-18*
  
- 6) *Why did God do these things to the Jewish Nation? Jeremiah 30:15*
  
- 7) *Who is the leader Jeremiah refers to in Jeremiah 30:21?*
  
- 8) *Where else is this passage repeated in the NT about the voice heard in Ramah? Jeremiah 31:15*
  
- 9) *There is a \_\_\_\_\_ for your future, declares the Lord. Your \_\_\_\_\_ will return to their own land. Jeremiah 31:17*
  
  
- 10) *What are the attributes of the new Covenant? Jeremiah 31: 31-37*



11) *Will the City of Jerusalem be rebuilt? Jeremiah 31:38*

*Thought Question*

*Should we pray for the will of God as expressed in the Word to be done? How important is that to us today? Refer to the prophet Daniel's prayer life.*

***The Faithfulness of God vs. the Unfaithfulness of the People  
Read Jeremiah 32-35***

***Lesson Background & Purpose: Have you considered the faithfulness of God in your life? Have you counted the ways you are absolutely dependent upon Him? The story in this section of chapters occurs with Babylon at the gates of Jerusalem. Essentially all the territory of Judah is in enemy hands except for the besieged City of Jerusalem. In the midst of this God tells Jeremiah to buy a plot of land that the enemy has already captured. So Jeremiah did what God said and bought the field at Anathoth knowing that God had promised that houses and vineyards would again be bought in the land. This section concludes with the story of the Recabites whose family had been taught by Jonadab son of Recab to never drink wine, build houses, nor plant vineyards. When Jeremiah put bowls of wine in front of them they refused and remained faithful to their vow to Jonadab son of Recab. Jeremiah used the faithfulness of the Recabites to compare the unfaithfulness of His people. To show how bad things had gotten King Zedekiah made them take a covenant oath before the Lord not to enslave other Jews. The people agreed, took the oath, and freed people only to enslave them when the Babylonian siege was lifted because of the approach of the Egyptian Army. The Nation was too far gone...God had determined this must end!***

***Some key Questions to guide our study:***

- 1) Why was Jeremiah imprisoned by King Zedekiah?  
Jeremiah 32:5***

- 2) *Would you consider Jeremiah a traitor to the Nation of Judah? Jeremiah 32:1-5*
  
- 3) *What did God tell Jeremiah to do? Jeremiah 32:6-12*
  
- 4) *What did God intend for this purchase of land to be symbolic of? Jeremiah 32:13-15*
  
- 5) *Jeremiah prays to God because He doubts God's ability to preserve the land. What does God say about Himself back to Jeremiah? Jeremiah 32:27*
  
- 6) *Although Jerusalem is devastated and desolate, what does God promise will return? Jeremiah 33: 10-11*
  
- 7) *What does God also promise to His people? Jeremiah 33: 15-16*
  
- 8) *What did the Jews change their mind about when the Babylonians lifted the siege for a temporary time? Jeremiah 34:11*
  
- 9) *Who were the Recabites? Jeremiah 35*

10) *Were they faithful or unfaithful these Recabites?  
Jeremiah 35: 12-14*

11) *In Jeremiah 35:19 we have an affirmation of a  
spiritual principle that if a man honors God then God will  
honor that man. How was Jonadab son of Recab to be  
honored?*

### *Thought Question*

*Jeremiah was in prison and the Babylonians had surrounded the  
City and yet God commanded Jeremiah to buy land. What does  
this say about what God expects of our faith?*

***The Persevering Faith of the Prophet  
Jeremiah 36-38***

***Lesson Background & Purpose:*** *In this section of Jeremiah I want us to focus on the faith Jeremiah exhibited in dealing with the challenges of his life. God had given Jeremiah a mission to prophesy the destruction of Jerusalem and the devastation of God's own people because of their unfaithfulness. For that Jeremiah was beaten, imprisoned, denied mobility, detested as a traitor and feared by his own people. Not one of us can begin to fathom what it took to remain faithful in Jeremiah's circumstances. We know Jeremiah struggled with God but he persevered through it all. The three vignettes we study in these three chapters are indicative of Jeremiah's role of faith as a prophet.*

*In our first story which takes place earlier from a chronological perspective about 15-17 years before the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, we learn about Baruch who was Jeremiah's scribe and the scroll of prophesy he prepared for the doomed people of Jerusalem. King Jehoiakim took a pen knife and cut the scroll off piece by piece and burned it in the fire in defiance of God.*

*Our second story takes place during Zedekiah's reign with the armies of Nebuchadnezzar surrounding the City. At this time the King of Egypt decided to march against Nebuchadnezzar causing the Babylonian Army to break the siege of Jerusalem temporarily. Jeremiah during the respite tries to leave Jerusalem and is denied exit by the accusation of deserting the City to flee to the Babylonians. Jeremiah was thrown into a cell in a dungeon where he remained a long time.*

*The third story is about Jeremiah preaching to the authorities and people that Jerusalem will be destroyed. Because of speaking the word of God he was thrown into a cistern without water and he sunk into the mud. Jeremiah would remain incarcerated in one way or the other until the Babylonians entered the City. Jeremiah persevered through it all because of God's faithfulness to him.*

*Some key Questions to guide our study:*

- 1) Why was it important for Jeremiah to write down his prophesy from the Lord? Jeremiah 36: 1-2,6*
  
- 2) Even at this late date would the Lord have relented on their punishment? Jeremiah 36:3*
  
- 3) Who was Baruch? Jeremiah 36:4 Was Baruch faithful? Jeremiah 36:8*
  
- 4) When Baruch read the scroll to the officials what did the nobles advise Jeremiah and Baruch to do? Jeremiah 36:19*
  
- 5) When King Jehoiakim heard the scroll read what did he do? Jeremiah 36:23 What was his attitude toward the Lord? Jeremiah 36:24*
  
- 6) Who made Zedekiah King of Judah? Jeremiah 37:1*

- 7) *What caused the Babylonians to break their siege of Jerusalem? Jeremiah 37:5*
  
- 8) *The people thought they had a reprieve but what was Jeremiah's message? Jeremiah 37:9-10*
  
- 9) *What was Jeremiah accused of and why? Jeremiah 37: 14-16*
  
- 10) *What crime was Jeremiah accused of? Would he be accused of that crime in the US today? Jeremiah 38:4*
  
- 11) *What did Ebed-Melech the Cushite do for Jeremiah 38:10-13*
  
- 12) *Was Zedekiah a prisoner in his own castle? Jeremiah 38:24-28*

### *Thought Question*

*Did God treat Jeremiah fairly? Should we complain when God doesn't treat us fairly?*

***The Fall of Jerusalem  
Jeremiah 39-41, 52***

***Lesson Background & Purpose: This lesson is the culmination of the Jews resistance and rebellion against their God. The City was destroyed, the Temple destroyed, and the organization of the Jewish state had ceased. The City itself was under siege by Nebuchadnezzar for 30 months finally having the walls breached in 586 BC. To live through this was very hard but to be preaching doom and gloom as a messenger of the Lord was very tough indeed. Thirty months is forever during a siege and the horror and terror of it all is seen in the peoples search for food. But even in this destruction there is hope for a remnant.***

***Jeremiah is released by the Babylonians and given his freedom. What ensues after the fall of Jerusalem are chaos, mayhem, and murder. But we need to recognize that God has moved on from those left in this desolate land and is now focused on the preservation and return of the remnant now exiled in Babylon.***

***What people endured in the siege of Jerusalem is evidenced of how far they had drifted from God. This is a tragic and a historical event in the life of the Jews that can only be understood with a spiritual eye. The Jews would never ever be the same after the destruction of Jerusalem.***

***Some key Questions to guide our study:***

- 1) In what year did King Nebuchadnezzar begin his siege of Jerusalem? Jeremiah 39:1***



- 2) *When was the City's wall broken down? Jeremiah 39:2  
How many months of the siege?*
- 3) *How bad did things get in the City during these 30 months?*  
a. *Lamentations 1:11*  
b. *Lamentations 2:11-12*  
c. *Lamentations 2:28*  
d. *Lamentations 4:9*  
e. *Lamentations 4:10*
- 4) *What happened to Zedekiah when he escaped the City?  
Jeremiah 39:5-7*
- 5) *What did the Babylonians do to Jerusalem? Jeremiah 39:8*
- 6) *What did Nebuchadnezzar do with Jeremiah? Jeremiah  
39:11-12, Jeremiah 52:12-14*
- 7) *Before Jerusalem falls God sends a message to Jeremiah  
through the words of Ebed-Melech the Cushite. What were  
these words? Jeremiah 39:15-18*
- 8) *What happen to temple worship? Jeremiah 52: 17-23*

- 9) *How many Jews were taken away in this deportation?  
Jeremiah 52: 28-30*
- 10) *Why did this all happen to the Jews? Jeremiah 52:3*
- 11) *Who was Gedidiah at Mizpah? Jeremiah 40:5*
- 12) *Who was Ishmael and who took him on? Jeremiah  
41:11-15*
- 13) *Why was Johanan son of Kereah afraid? Jeremiah  
41:18*

### *Thought Question*

*If you could travel back in a time capsule to Jerusalem in the year 610 BC what would you want the people to know?*

*If you are living in No KY in 2009, what would you want people to know?*

***Stuck on Stupid  
Jeremiah 42-45***

***Lesson Background & Purpose: As one would expect the fall of Jerusalem and the deportation of Israel's best and brightest leaves a devastated country in chaos. The Babylonians appoint Gedaliah over the towns of Judea. Jeremiah and Baruch are placed with Gedaliah by the Babylonians. Gedaliah immediately is threatened with assassination by Ishmael. Ishmael works to eat with the unsuspecting Gedaliah and in his treachery murders him.***

***Johanan and other army officers move to punish Ishmael for his crime but he has escaped. With the assassination of Gedaliah who was appointed by Nebuchadnezzar, Johanan fears Nebuchadnezzar and is motivated to flee to Egypt. As a result Johanan seeks out Jeremiah and asks him to go and inquire of the Lord what he and his band of followers should do. Jeremiah inquires of the Lord and tells Johanan that God wants them to stay in the land and not flee to Egypt. Further, should they reject God's word; the Lord Himself would ensure their defeat and death in Egypt. When Johanan hears the Word of the Lord he rejects it with an excuse that Baruch has made Jeremiah say these things. Johanan then forcibly takes Jeremiah to Egypt where Jeremiah prophesies that Nebuchadnezzar will occupy the very town they have fled to. Egypt is no protection. When Jeremiah confronts the Jews in Egypt they refuse to listen and demonstrate their loyalty to the Queen of Heaven. The Jews of Egypt are completely apostate and, therefore, will be completely destroyed by God. As far as we know Jeremiah dies in Egypt.***

*Chapter 45 is a great short chapter that takes place before the fall of Jerusalem. Baruch worries about his fate and stature in the land. The Lord tells Baruch “seek great things for thyself, seek them not”. Of all the advice I have read in scripture this is the most memorable and useable by a servant of the Lord.*

*Some key Questions to guide our study:*

- 1) What did Johanan and his group ask of Jeremiah?  
Jeremiah 42:3*
  
- 2) What commitment did Johanan make to Jeremiah?  
Jeremiah 42:5-6*
  
- 3) What was the Lord’s answer? Jeremiah 42:9-18*
  
- 4) Why do you think the Lord did not want Johanan to go to Egypt? Jeremiah 42:19*
  
- 5) What was the response of Johanan? Jeremiah 43:2-7*
  
- 6) Why was Baruch blamed? Jeremiah 43:3*
  
- 7) When the Jews reach Tahpanhes what did the Lord tell Jeremiah? Jeremiah 43:8-13*

- 8) *What does this tell us about who is in control?*
- 9) *Incredibly the Jews in Egypt were disobedient and rebellious. What were some of the wives doing? Jeremiah 44:15*
- 10) *What did the men tell Jeremiah? Jeremiah 44:16-19*
- 11) *What Egyptian King will be handed over to his enemies? Jeremiah 44:30*
- 12) *As a result of their rebellion what did the Lord say about the Jews of Egypt? Jeremiah 44:27-28*
- 13) *Chapter 45 is chronologically out of order. Why does the Lord tell Baruch not to seek great things for himself?*

### *Thought Question*

*Why do people ask God for guidance and when they get it choose not to believe it or follow it?*

*Can an individual be stuck on stupid?*

***Prophecies Against the Nations  
Jeremiah 46-51***

***Lesson Background & Purpose: GOD IS IN CONTROL OVER NATURE, OVER PEOPLE, OVER CIRCUMSTANCES, AND OVER NATIONS. Jeremiah is true to this reality of God who manifests Himself with power and direction over the Nations.***

***Brother WB West of the Harding Graduate School of Religion often would quote a verse of poetry that began:  
“Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne....  
But beyond the great unknown stands a God to right the wrong.”***

***Whether God chooses to square up the transgression in the moment or at judgment day, one fact is clear: God’s purposes will be decisive in the lives of people and Nations. The prophecies against the Nations aligns itself into this line of prophetic message.***

***Some key Questions to guide our study:***

***Egypt***

***1) Why was the battle of Carchemish so significant?  
Jeremiah 46:2***

***2) Why does Egypt deserve its defeat, destruction, and devastation? Jeremiah 46:25-26***

3) *As God acts in the affairs of man, He encourages the Jews not to \_\_\_\_\_ . Why does God encourage this response? Jeremiah 46:28*

4) *What can the Jews expect? Jeremiah 46:28 what does this tell us about God?*

### *Philistines*

5) *When Jeremiah refers to rising waters in the north who is he referring to? Jeremiah 47:2*

### *Moab*

6) *Moab will be taken captive because they too trusted in their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Jeremiah 48:6*

7) *The Lord charges Moab with something that He hates and cannot tolerate. What kind of attitude is it? Jeremiah 48:29*

8) *What will happen to Moab? Jeremiah 48:42*

9) *How will Moab's fortunes be restored? Jeremiah 48:47*

*Ammon*

- 10) *What did Ammon trust in? Jeremiah 49:4*

*Edom*

- 11) *What does God promise the descendants of Esau?  
Jeremiah 49:10*

*Babylon*

- 12) *Who will destroy Babylon and what will that cause the  
Jews to do? Jeremiah 50:3-5*

- 13) *What future event does Jeremiah 50:20 contemplate?*

- 14) *God used Babylon for His purposes and now He plans  
to use who for His purposes to defeat them? Jeremiah  
51:11-12*



*Thought Question*

*How does the Christian of the 21<sup>st</sup> century apply the instruction of Jeremiah 51:46?*

*“Do not lose heart or be afraid when rumors are heard in the land; one rumor comes this year another the next, rumors of violence in the land and of ruler against ruler.”*

*Hope from the Ashes  
The Book of Lamentations*

*Lesson Background & Purpose: The term Lamentations means to cry aloud. The Book consists of five poems of mourning, funeral dirges if you will. What is so sad and tragic about this Book is that over two years during the Babylonian's siege of Jerusalem the starving people still turned to idols for help. But as God's prophet Jeremiah had warned that Jerusalem would be utterly destroyed and nothing would be left.*

*I believe these lamentations were written by Jeremiah and that they describe the terror and horror of what the Jews endured. However, even within these overwhelming moments of defeat and despair God offers hope for renewal and mercy for the future. I find great comfort in Lamentations and Lamentations 3:19-26 is one of the mountain top peaks of the entire Bible.*

*One other note to consider, it is important to read Lamentations to properly understand what was occurring in Jerusalem during the siege of Nebuchadnezzar's army.*

*Some key Questions to guide our study:*

*1) The City was \_\_\_\_\_ . Lamentations 1:1*

*2) Where has Judah gone? Lamentations 1:3*

3) *Was there any comfort for Jerusalem? Lamentations 1:9, 16*

4) *What happened to the people as they grew hungry? Lamentations 1: 1, 19*

5) *How did this impact Jeremiah? Lamentations 1:1,19*

6) *Did the Lord allow this terrible thing be done? Lamentations 2:17*

7) *The terror and horror of this siege can be understood by looking at Lamentations 2:20, 4:10, 5:10-12 Write a sentence that describes it.*

8) *Does the Lord purposely bring affliction to mankind? Lamentations 3: 31-32, 38-42*

9) *Why did this all happen to Jerusalem? Lamentations 4:13*

**10) The passage that soars for me is Lamentations 3:19-26. As you read this passage list three things that encourage your faith.**



***Thought Question***

***What does it mean to you as you life through life's ups and downs that God's compassions never fail and that they are new every morning? Lamentations 3:19-26***

# ***A People of the Book***

## ***8-Year Curriculum***

	January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
2007	<b><i>Matthew</i></b>	<b><i>Genesis</i></b>	<b><i>Galatians &amp; Ephesians</i></b>	<b><i>Isaiah</i></b>
2008	<b><i>Exodus</i></b>	<b><i>I &amp; II Timothy, Titus</i></b>	<b><i>Hebrews</i></b>	<b><i>Minor Prophets I (Hosea-Obadiah)</i></b>
2009	<b><i>Mark</i></b>	<b><i>Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy</i></b>	<b><i>Romans</i></b>	Jeremiah & Lamentations
2010	I & II Thessalonians	Joshua, Judges, Ruth	James, I & II Peter	Minor Prophets II (Jonah-Habakkuk)
2011	Luke	Samuel, Kings, Chronicles	I, II, III John & Jude	Daniel
2012	Acts	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	I Corinthians	Minor Prophets III (Zephaniah-Malachi)
2013	John	Job	II Corinthians	Psalms
2014	Philippians, Colossians & Philemon	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	Revelation	Ezekiel

Summit Church of Christ  
 6015 Alexandria Pike  
 Cold Spring, KY 41076  
 (859) 635-1141  
[www.summitchurchofchrist.org](http://www.summitchurchofchrist.org)