

Jeremiah Part 2

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

WHEN
GOD'S JUDGMENT
FINALLY COMES

(CHAPTERS 25–52)

Jeremiah Part 2 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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JEREMIAH PART 2 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis:

- Jeremiah 25–26
- Listening to the Lord’s Word

REVIEW

Jeremiah 1

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they learned or remember from Jeremiah 1.

The Lord’s Word came to Jeremiah from Josiah’s 13th year as king of Judah to Zedekiah’s 11th year as king, the year of the exile.

God appointed Jeremiah a prophet to the nations.

He saw two things which the Lord explained to him.

Rod of an almond tree (ESV—almond branch)—God watches over His Word to perform it.

A boiling pot facing away from the north—the Lord was bringing judgment from the north on Judah and Jerusalem.

It was coming in the form of nations against Jeremiah’s people.
They would be judged for their wickedness / evil, forsaking God.

The Lord told Jeremiah He would deliver him from his people fighting against him. They didn’t want to hear about judgment coming on them.

As a visual aid for this part of your discussion, direct your group to the chart in the Appendix, “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah’s Time.” Also suggest that they look at the At A Glance chart; then ask about the main points in Jeremiah 1–24.

Judah forsook the Lord and did not repent. They didn’t listen to His words through Jeremiah.

So the Lord said He was tired / weary of relenting and was going to hurl them from the land.

Jeremiah was beaten and put in stocks because of his words.

Jeremiah 24

What was the timing of this chapter?

After Jeconiah king of Judah and others were taken captive to Babylon.

How does 2 Kings 24:8-17 help explain what was going on when Jeconiah was taken captive?

It was Nebuchadnezzar's 8th year as king of Babylon when he took Jehoiachin (Jeconiah). He took about 10,000 people from Judah and Jerusalem.

That was in 597 B.C. according to "The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah's Time."

It was the second time Nebuchadnezzar went against Jerusalem.

What is Jeremiah 24 about? What's the message?

This is the only other time in Jeremiah when the Lord asked Jeremiah what he saw and then explained it.

Jeremiah saw good figs, those taken captive, and bad figs, those who remained in the land or went to Egypt.

He had told the people of Jerusalem to go out to the king of Babylon if they wanted to live. Those who remained in the city didn't obey and would face the consequences (Jeremiah 21:9).

Briefly discuss the chart in the lesson on the good and bad figs.

Zedekiah was made king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar when he took Jeconiah to Babylon (2 Kings 24:17). Zedekiah was named with the bad figs.

The good figs would return to the land, but the bad would be destroyed.

JEREMIAH 25

When was this word which Jeremiah spoke from the Lord?

Jehoiakim's 4th year as king of Judah

Nebuchadnezzar's 1st year as king of Babylon

According to "The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah's Time," this was 605 B.C., the year of the first siege on Jerusalem by Babylon.

This message must have been spoken right before Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem.

What information does 2 Kings 23:31–24:7 tell about Jehoiakim?

Pharaoh Neco of Egypt made him king of Judah when he deposed Jehoahaz and took him to Egypt. Jehoiakim reigned eleven years over Judah and was an evil king.

He was one of Josiah's sons named Eliakim, which Neco changed to Jehoiakim.

He taxed the people of Judah to pay tribute to Pharaoh Neco.

Then Nebuchadnezzar rose to power and defeated Egypt. Jehoiakim served him for three years before rebelling against him.

Now ask your group about the content of Jeremiah 25.

NOTE: If there is good discussion which includes the main points of this chapter, then you don't need to ask anything else about it. If the general question about the chapter does not result in sufficient discussion, then the following questions will guide a discussion of this chapter.

Verses 1-7

What are the main points of these verses?

Jeremiah had spoken to the people of Judah and Jerusalem for 23 years, but they didn't listen to what the Lord said through him.

They didn't listen is repeated three times in these verses.

He called them to turn from their evil and not worship the work of their own hands, idols.

Verses 8-14

What was about to happen?

The Lord was bringing Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon against Judah and all the nations around.

Result:

Land a desolation / ruin

Judah and nations around serve Nebuchadnezzar for 70 years

After the 70 years the Lord will punish Babylon, making it an everlasting desolation / waste.

That has not been completely fulfilled yet.
Compare verse 13 with Jeremiah 1:12, 4-10.

The Lord will bring about what He said will happen.

His word turns against the nations in this chapter of Jeremiah.

Verses 15-29

What did the Lord say? Who did Jeremiah prophesy against?

You might direct your group to look at the “Map of Nations Surrounding Israel.”

God’s wrath will come on all these nations.

Compare verse 15 with Revelation 14:14-20

Jerusalem and Judah, Egypt, and the other nations will drink from God’s cup of wrath.

Verse 26 in the NASB says the king of Sheshach will drink after them. The ESV says king of Babylon.

Compare this with verses 12-14.

Verse 29 says He was beginning to work calamity / disaster in Jerusalem—it was the year Nebuchadnezzar came against them the first time.

It seems the time jumps from Jeremiah’s time to the future as all the inhabitants of the earth will be punished.

Verses 30-38

When does it seem that this will happen? Who will it involve?

The Lord roars from His holy habitation against all the earth’s inhabitants.

He’ll judge the nations, all flesh, with a sword, battle, from one end of the earth to the other.

The shepherds, leaders of the nations, will not escape.

God’s fierce anger will go against the wicked of the earth.

If this is what the future holds for all on the earth, what is the present responsibility of believers?

Is it not to be like Jeremiah and warn those who might face God’s wrath?

Ask what they noted as the theme of Jeremiah 25 on their At a Glance chart.

Nations will serve Babylon 70 years, then God will punish Babylon

JEREMIAH 26

Verses 1-6

When did this word come from the Lord to Jeremiah? What was he to do?

Although the specific year is not mentioned, it was in the beginning of Jehoiakim's reign as king of Judah.

Jeremiah was told to go to the Lord's house, the temple, and speak to all the cities of Judah who came to worship there.

God's desire was that they listen and turn from their evil. Relate this to 25:3-5.

But if they didn't listen, which they didn't, then He'd make His house like His house at Shiloh. He removed His house from Shiloh.

Compare this with Jeremiah 7:1-15.

Jeremiah 7 emphasizes that the people trusted in deceptive words, they trusted in the temple itself. They worshiped idols and then came to the temple to "worship" God.

Jeremiah 26 emphasizes that they didn't listen to His words, as did Jeremiah 25.

If this is the same message repeated in Jeremiah, it's for a different emphasis.

Verses 7-11

What was the result of the message?

A death sentence for Jeremiah

Verses 12-19

What was Jeremiah's response?

He called them to amend their ways and obey what the Lord said.

If so, He might change His mind / relent about the coming judgment.

Ask what your group learned from the word studies in the lesson.

Verses 3, 13 and 19 all speak of the Lord changing His mind about coming calamity or misfortune on His people.

Jeremiah called the people to turn from evil to bring about this change of God's mind.

Had this happened before? Who is the illustration about in verses 18-19? As a visual aid for this part of your discussion, you might direct your group to look at the chart on Micah and Uriah in the lesson.

During Hezekiah's reign as king of Judah, he heard a similar message of coming judgment from Micah the prophet.

He led the people of Judah in fearing the Lord and going to Him.

So the Lord changed His mind / relented.

In verses 16-19, some believed Jeremiah spoke from the Lord and wanted his death sentence dismissed. Relate this to the Lord's promise to Jeremiah in 1:16-19.

What are verses 20-23 about? How does this contrast with verses 18-19?

This describes the kind of king Jehoiakim was, contrasted with Hezekiah.

Uriah also prophesied against Jerusalem, and Jehoiakim tried to kill him when he heard it. In fear, Uriah fled to Egypt where he was found, returned, and killed by Jehoiakim.

Another contrast is between Jeremiah and Uriah.

Jeremiah stood against his death sentence, saying that he spoke for the Lord and to kill him would bring innocent blood on them. He turned persecution into a platform to speak more truth.

When Uriah was threatened, he feared and fled.

Give time for your group to discuss any application they have realized.

Verse 24

Who did the Lord use to deliver Jeremiah from the death sentence? Relate this to 2 Kings 22:8-20.

Ahikam the son of Shaphan was one of the men who was with Hilkiah, the high priest of Josiah's reign, who found the book of the law in the Lord's house.

He saw the affect God's words had on Josiah king of Judah. Josiah believed what the Lord said, as Hezekiah believed what Micah spoke from the Lord.

Ahikam and the men with him heard about the wrath coming on Judah and Jerusalem.

He was among the men who carried the message to King Josiah. His humble heart spared him from the coming wrath. It was not to happen until after he died.

Jehoiakim was Josiah's son, and Jeremiah 26 was in the beginning of his reign. His brother Jehoahaz only reigned for 3 months after Josiah was killed.

The time was right for the Lord’s wrath to come on Judah and Jerusalem.

Ask your group what they put on their At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

Jeremiah spoke God’s words, given a death sentence, spared

To end this discussion, you might ask what your group learned about:

- the Lord
- listening to His Word
- Jeremiah

JEREMIAH PART 2 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis:

- Jeremiah 27–29
- False prophets

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group what they learned from this lesson as application for them. Give a short time for discussion.

REVIEW

Then you can direct them to their Observation Worksheets of Jeremiah 25:1-9 and 26:1-6. Ask them how each of these chapters begins. What words are repeated?

Judah didn't listen to God's prophets.

So He brought Babylon against them.

Tell them to look at “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah's Time” chart as a visual aid to review the three times Babylon went against Jerusalem. This chart can be used for the rest of this discussion, also.

JEREMIAH 27

What's the timing given in verse 1? Relate this to 28:1.

Zedekiah's reign as king of Judah began when Nebuchadnezzar went against Jerusalem the second time, took Jeconiah captive to Babylon, and made Zedekiah king in his place.

Chapter 27 took place the 4th year after that.

The Lord spoke again to Jeremiah approximately 7 years before the final exile.

NOTE: Both the NASB and the ESV have a footnote which says the king of verse 1 might have been “Jehoiakim.” Some commentaries also say the same. Those who explain it as Zedekiah say that there was a scribal error. Verse 12 is clear that Jeremiah spoke to Zedekiah at that time. Verse 1 of chapter 28 says it was the same year, and that chapter tells of Hananiah breaking Jeremiah's yoke—which he put on at the beginning of chapter 27.

If you have an experienced group, ask what this chapter is about and give them time for discussion. But if you need to lead your group through the chapter with more questions, then you can use the following as a guide.

Verses 1-11

What did the Lord tell Jeremiah to do and why?

Jeremiah's bonds and yoke on his neck represented the nations around Judah serving Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon.

He was instructed to send the Lord's message by messengers who came from these nations to Jerusalem and back.

At this point, you might suggest that your group look at the "Map of Israel" if they don't know where the nations of verse 3 are located. Also, you can briefly note the main points of each chapter as on the sample visual aid at the end of this guide.

These nations are east and north of Judah—in modern Jordan and Lebanon.

How do verses 1-7 relate to Jeremiah 1:4-10 and 25:12-28?

The Lord appointed Jeremiah a prophet to the nations.
He was to give the Lord's message everywhere he was sent.
In chapter 27, he sent the message by others.

How did the Lord describe Himself? Give time for any personal application discussion.

He made all by His great power and will give it to whomever He pleases.
At that point, He gave those nations to Nebuchadnezzar.

Relate the end of verse 7 to Jeremiah 25:12-14.

What was the message in verses 8-11?

To the nation who refused to obey the Lord—punished, destroyed, driven out of land.
The ones who served under Nebuchadnezzar's yoke—remain on their land.

They were warned in verses 9-10 about listening to their prophets who said that they should not serve the king of Babylon.

Verses 12-15

Who was this message spoken to? What was the message?

To Zedekiah
Come under Babylon's yoke and live.
If not— you'll die, be driven out of your land, and perish.
Don't listen to your prophets who say you won't serve Babylon. They lie.

It was the same message he sent to the nations around Judah.

Verses 16-22

Who else did Jeremiah speak to in this chapter? What did he say?

The priests and all the people of Judah

This concerns the vessels in the Lord's house.

Lying prophets said that what had been taken was soon to be returned.

Jeremiah said all that was left was to be taken as well.

None of it was to be returned until God's time of restoration at the end of the 70 years.

Ask what they noted as the theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

To nations, to Zedekiah, to priests and people—don't listen to false prophets

As you proceed through this discussion, ask application questions when relevant. Ask your group who they're listening to and why. How do they know who is lying and who isn't?

JEREMIAH 28

What's the timing of this chapter? What's it about?

The same year

Hananiah prophesied a lie.

In two years, Nebuchadnezzar's yoke would be broken by the Lord.
The vessels, Jeconiah, and all exiled would return to Jerusalem.

Jeremiah responded.

Previous prophets had spoken words like he had.
When the prophet's word comes to pass, then that confirms the truth of what he said—whether he was from the Lord.

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 and 18:21-22

Moses said the same thing. He was one of the previous prophets.
If the prophet leads away from the Lord, he leads rebellion against Him.

God's judgment on false prophets was death.

Then Hananiah broke the yoke off Jeremiah's neck.

The Lord told Jeremiah to tell Hananiah that he had made matters worse for himself because he made the people trust in a lie.

The message was that he would die that same year.
Within 2 months he died as the Lord said through the true prophet Jeremiah.

What is the theme of this chapter?

Hananiah's false prophecy

You might ask your group if they really believe what the Lord says in His Word.
Do they trust it for daily living?
Or do they listen to others who prophesy things they want to hear?

JEREMIAH 29

What is this chapter about?

Jeremiah and others sent letters back and forth between Jerusalem and Babylon.

People traveling back and forth took the letters, like the message to the nations in chapter 27.

It was during Zedekiah's reign as king of Judah.

Verses 1-23

Who did Jeremiah send his letter to, and what was it about?

He sent to the exiles in Babylon a letter about listening to the prophets there who were lying to them. Those exiles were regarded by the Lord as the good figs in Jeremiah 24. It doesn't mean they were righteous, but regarded as good by Him.

This letter was sent by Shaphan's and Hilkiah's sons.

The people of Judah who lived in Babylon were to build, plant, multiply and seek the welfare of the city. They were to pray on behalf of the city where they lived.

When seventy years are complete, the Lord will bring them again to their own land.

He will fulfill His word through Jeremiah to them. Relate this to Jeremiah 1:12.

He then told of the good plans the Lord has for His people Israel—plans of welfare.

He was concerned for their welfare in Babylon and when they return.

It seems that the complete fulfillment of verses 11-14 has not yet come to pass.

But they did return to their land after the seventy years of exile in Babylon.

Connect verse 15 with verses 8-9.

Who is this about? Who was the warning for?

It's to the exiles of Judah in Babylon regarding the prophets who rose up among them there.

NOTE: Some commentators think this is a second letter Jeremiah sent to the exiles, but the text does not clearly state that. Your discussion will flow better if you keep it focused on the message in this chapter, not on how many letters there were.

What is the prophecy in verses 16-20?

God was sending sword, famine, and pestilence on those who didn't go into exile, the bad figs of Jeremiah 24. The exiles needed to know what was happening to their land and the people left there. They were listening to the false prophets saying they would soon return, but that was not going to happen.

Those in exile were not listening to the Lord, and those in Jerusalem were not listening to Him. They chose to listen to the lying prophets in Judah and in Babylon.

Who are verses 21-23 about? What's the message?

Ahab and Zedekiah (not the king of Judah) were two prophets with the exiles in Babylon. They prophesied lies to the exiles. They were adulterous and foolish and used God's name falsely.

Nebuchadnezzar was going to roast them in the fire.

Verses 24-32

Who and what are these verses about?

Another prophet named Shemaiah wrote a letter from Babylon to the priest Zephaniah and all the people of Jerusalem. He told them they should rebuke Jeremiah for his letter to the exiles saying they would be there a long time, 70 years.

The priest showed this letter to Jeremiah, which led to his writing about Shemaiah.

The Lord's message to the exiles regarding Shemaiah was that he and his descendants would not live long enough to see the good God was going to do after the 70 years.

Shemaiah made the people trust in a lie and preached rebellion against the Lord.

As Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 13:5, those who counseled rebellion against the Lord were to be put to death. If not by the people, by Him.

Ask what they noted as the theme of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Jeremiah's letters to the exiles

Jeremiah 27	Jeremiah 28	Jeremiah 29
<p>Serve king of Babylon Don't listen to your prophets</p> <p>To nations To Zedekiah To priests and people</p>	<p>Hananiah, false prophet "Return in 2 years"</p> <p>Made people trust a lie</p> <p>Died within 2 months</p>	<p>False prophets in exile</p> <p>Ahab, Zedekiah Roasted in fire</p> <p>Shemaiah Not live to see good</p>

Don't listen to false prophets—they lie and counsel rebellion against the Lord.

JEREMIAH PART 2

LEADER GUIDE

Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis:

- Jeremiah 30–31
- God’s promises of restoration and new covenant

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask what your group remembers as the main points of Jeremiah 25–29. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

Jeremiah 25–26

God told Judah that they had not listened to Him.

Because of that, Babylon was going to take Judah and Jerusalem.
The exiles would be in Babylon for 70 years, and then Babylon was to be punished.

Jeremiah 25:15-38 prophesies God’s wrath against all the nations, inhabitants of the earth. This indicates a future fulfillment.

Jeremiah 27–29

He told the nations, Judah, and the exiles that they were listening to lying prophets.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 contains prophesies that were partially fulfilled after the 70 years and some which have not been completely fulfilled yet.

It’s the same now; people are not listening to what God says, but to others who lie.

JEREMIAH 30

How does this chapter begin?

The Lord told Jeremiah to write all the words He’d spoken to him in a book.

Why?

Days are coming when He’ll restore the fortunes of His people Israel and Judah.
He’ll bring them back to the land He gave them.

Verses 4-11

Who do the words beginning in verse 4 concern? What is the message?

Israel and Judah

Terror, no peace, the time of Jacob's distress—no time like it

But he'll be saved from / out of it.

As your group discusses this, you might begin a simple time line like the one at the end of this guide.

Ask what they learned from Daniel 12:1; Joel 2:2; and Matthew 24:21.

All three of these passages and Jeremiah 30:7 say there is a time of distress for Israel unlike anything the world has seen. Then they'll be rescued or saved from / out of it.

Daniel 12:1

A time of distress / trouble for Daniel's people, Judah

Daniel was taken captive from Judah in 605 B.C. the first time Nebuchadnezzar went against Jerusalem.

It's a time which has not occurred for Israel since it's been a nation.
At that time, the Jews whose names are written in the book will be rescued.

Joel 2:2

A day of darkness and gloom
A great and mighty people going against Israel

Joel's prophecy was for Israel and warned of a great army.
It's connected with the day of the Lord.

Never been anything like it, nor will be after it for many generations.

Matthew 24:21

Jesus told of a great tribulation which has not occurred since the beginning of the world.

He was in Jerusalem speaking to people of Israel at that time.

According to Matthew 24:21-31, what event ends this great tribulation? How does this compare with Jeremiah 30:7?

False Christs and false prophets will arise at that time, like in Jeremiah's days, trying to mislead the Jews who seem to be looking for their Christ, Messiah, to rescue them.

Jesus will come immediately after the days of the great tribulation, and His coming will not be missed by anyone.

All the tribes of the earth will mourn when they see Him coming on the clouds with power and great glory. They'll mourn because they will be found by Him going against His people Israel, like in Jeremiah's days.

Then He'll gather His elect, or chosen ones.

Matthew 25:31-46

After He comes, He'll sit on His glorious throne and separate the nations.

Revelation 19:11-16

When Jesus comes as King of kings, He'll strike the nations, then rule them.

He'll separate the righteous of the nations from the unrighteous, the accursed ones.

The righteous will go into the kingdom and eternal life.
But the unrighteous of the nations will go away into eternal punishment.

They'll be separated by how they treated Jesus' brothers, Israel, during the time of the tribulation.

Direct your discussion back to Jeremiah 30. What did the Lord say in verses 8-11?

God will break the yoke of the ones oppressing Israel at the time of his distress.
It seems that is when Jesus comes again.

No one will make them slaves and their king, David, will be raised to rule them.

NOTE: Commentators debate whether this reference to David means Jesus, as his descendant, or David himself raised by God. Watch your time here and don't get off track.

These verses tell of what the Lord will do when He saves, rescues Israel.

No one will make Israel afraid or make them slaves. He's with them.

He'll completely destroy all the nations to which they're scattered.
He'll punish Israel, but not completely destroy them.

How does Ezekiel 37:21-28 relate to this?

When God gathers Israel from the nations to bring them to their land, He'll make them one nation. They'll no longer be Israel and Judah.

They'll no longer be defiled or transgress Him because they'll be cleansed.

They'll be His people, and He'll be their God as He lives among them.

Ezekiel also says David will be king over them as they live on their land forever. It's the time of God's everlasting covenant of peace with His people Israel.

The nations will then know He is the Lord who sanctifies Israel.

Verses 12-24

How do these verses relate to the previous passages?

The Lord did "these things to you," verse 15, because Israel's iniquity / guilt and sins were great and numerous / flagrant. He brought judgment on them in the form of nations coming against them.

But all nations who devour them will be devoured by Him just as He was about to do to Babylon at the end of the 70 years.

Israel will be restored, and only the righteous of the nations will survive when the Lord Jesus comes to judge all the inhabitants of the world.

What else will happen when Israel is restored?

Jerusalem rebuilt

Thanksgiving and celebration

People multiplied and honored

A leader / prince, ruler who is one of them, of Israel

"You shall be My people, and I will be your God."

How does the last statement of this chapter relate to God telling Jeremiah to write all the words in a book?

In the last days, they'll understand.

People reading Jeremiah even in the future can know what's going to happen.

God's people Israel can know that He promised these things.

Ask what your group noted as a possible theme for this chapter on the At a Glance chart.

God will restore Israel and Judah, save from captivity

JEREMIAH 31

How does this chapter fit into the chronology of your time line from chapter 30 and the other passages?

It's the time when God is Israel's God and they are His people, a new covenant promise.

The time when He rebuilds Israel, when they're the chief of the nations
(significant and honored by the Lord, 30:19)

the time when He saves the remnant of Israel and gathers them back to their land
the time when He redeems them from those stronger than they

NOTE: Commentators have differing opinions about 31:2. Some say this refers to the exodus from Egypt, but that is not in the immediate context. Some say it refers to those who left Judah, surviving Babylon's sword. Others say it's referring to the future when Israel will return from their various places of exile and be quiet and at ease.

What are verses 15-22 about?

Lamentation and weeping, Rachel's children were no more

Joseph—Ephraim and Manasseh of the northern kingdom
Benjamin of the southern kingdom

Ramah is also mentioned in Jeremiah 40:1.

Ephraim grieving and calling to be brought back to be restored after repentance
God will have mercy on him.

Verse 21 says there is a way back, back to God and then back to their land.

Verse 22 is debated among commentators, but one view which fits the context here is that the new thing will be Israel, the woman, embracing the man, God. This is when Israel returns to Him, never to leave again.

Verses 23-30

What will the days of Israel's restoration be like?

Judah and all its cities will have righteousness.

It's the time when God sows, builds, and plants them again in their land.

It's the time of the new covenant when they're His people and He's their God.
Relate to the "new thing" of verse 22.

No longer will the children suffer punishment for the sins of their fathers. Each one will die for his own iniquity in the time of the new covenant.

Judah and Jerusalem suffered for the sins of their fathers (2 Kings 22:13, 16; 24:3—
Lesson 1 cross-references) as well as for their own sin (Jeremiah 1:16; 26:3).

Verses 31-34

Ask your group what they learned about this new covenant. Direct them to their charts in the lesson as a visual aid for this part of the discussion.

God's law will be written on hearts.
They'll all know Him.
He'll forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Luke 22; Hebrews 8 and 9

Jesus said that His blood was for the new covenant.

He's the mediator of the new covenant, a better covenant than the old covenant of Law.
The new covenant is an eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 8 quotes Jeremiah 31.

Who is Ephesians 2:11-18 about? What does it say about covenant?

Before salvation, Gentiles were far off from God, excluded / alienated from Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise.

But by Christ's blood, Gentiles are brought near in salvation.

Through Him both Jews and Gentiles have access to the Father in one Spirit.

How does Ezekiel 36 compare with this?

God will gather Israel from the nations
bring them to their own land
make them clean
give them a new heart and new spirit
put His Spirit within them

They'll observe His ordinances.

They'll be His people and He'll be their God.

Lead your discussion back to Jeremiah 31.

Verses 35-40

What are these verses about? How do the Romans passages relate?

Israel will never cease being a nation.

God will never cast them off completely.

The city of Jerusalem will be rebuilt, and all will be holy to the Lord forever.

Romans 11 was written by an Israelite, Paul, about Israel not long before Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed again, but this time by the Romans in A.D. 70.

Even in rejecting their Savior and Messiah Jesus, they didn't stumble so as to fall.

Their rejection brought salvation to the Gentiles.

God has not rejected His people Israel, even now.

A partial hardening has happened to them until the fullness of the Gentiles.

Then all Israel will be saved as their Deliverer comes from Zion and removes their ungodliness.

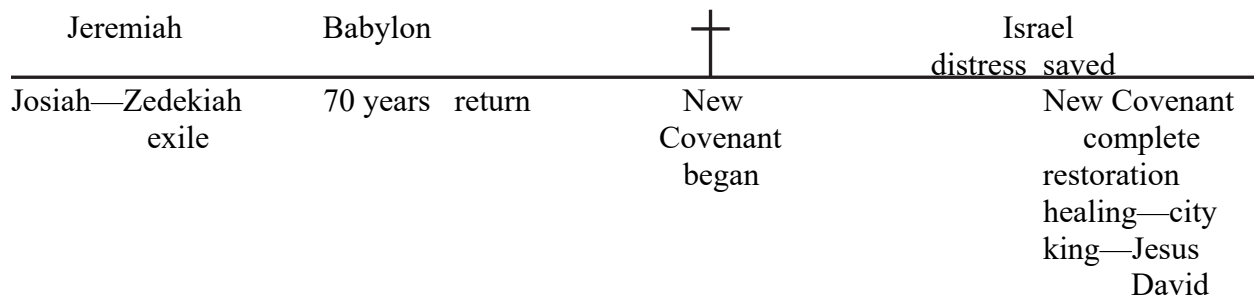
He cleanses them as part of the new covenant promises.

The new covenant is salvation brought about by the blood of the Savior.

What is a possible theme for Jeremiah 31?

God loves His people; save the remnant; new covenant

You might end this discussion by asking what your group learned about the Lord and His promises. How do these things relate to them?



JEREMIAH PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- Jeremiah 32–34

REVIEW

Direct your group to their At A Glance charts and ask what Jeremiah 25–31 are about.

- 25 Judah didn't listen to the Lord, so they'd serve Babylon 70 years
After that God would punish Babylon and all inhabitants of the earth
- 26 Judah didn't listen to the Lord; Jeremiah's death sentence, then removed
- 27 Nations, Zedekiah and Judah's people: Don't listen to false prophets
Serve Babylon, then restoration
- 28 Hananiah's false prophecy, exiles return in 2 years, he died same year
- 29 Jeremiah's letter to exiles warning of false prophets among them
Restoration after 70 years in Babylon
- 30 God promised restoration, salvation after time of distress and wrath
- 31 He'll save the remnant, rebuild and restore, new covenant

There's a question in this lesson that asks about the relationship of chapters 29–33.
Ask your group how they answered it.

Restoration is promised for Judah after the 70 years.

Restoration is also promised for Israel and Judah.

There will be everlasting restoration at the time when God saves them.

JEREMIAH 32

Verses 1-5

Who and what are these verses about?

Zedekiah's 10th year as king of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar began his siege on Jerusalem the year before. Judah was only going to last for another year. It was almost time for the exile to Babylon.

Zedekiah shut Jeremiah up in his guard's court to stop him from prophesying about Nebuchadnezzar taking Zedekiah captive to Babylon.

Verses 6-25

What are these verses about?

There, at that time, the Lord told Jeremiah to buy a field in Anathoth, which was Jeremiah's hometown. He had the right of redemption to buy the field from his cousin.

Ask what your group learned about the land from Genesis 13 and Leviticus 25.

God gave Abraham and his descendants that land forever.

It's God's land, and He has the right to give it to whomever He chooses. He told Israel in the Law that they were not to sell His land permanently.

The land was distributed among the 12 tribes, and they held ownership of their area of it. If a man needed to sell part of his land because of debt, for instance, his kinsman could redeem the land—buy it back to keep it in the family.

Jeremiah's cousin asked if he would buy the field at Anathoth.

What's the significance of Jeremiah buying the field at that time in Judah's history?

Jeremiah believed what the Lord said—the captivity would last 70 years, and then they will return to their land. God said that He was going to restore them.

Jeremiah's purchase showed people who knew about it that he knew they would return. God will fulfill His plans.

The Lord Himself was not going to “sell” His land permanently to Babylon or anyone else.

Verses 26-35

Ask your group what they learned about the Lord from this chapter.

You might list some of the main points about the Lord from Jeremiah 32–34 as a visual aid for this discussion. There is a sample list at the end of this guide.

He made the heavens and the earth, verses 17-20.

He gives to men according to their ways, deeds.

Nothing is too difficult for God.

He brought Israel out of Egypt.

He brought them to the land of Israel and gave it to them.

He brought Babylon against them.

He was going to exile them.

He was going to restore them.

Jeremiah saw God’s word being fulfilled. He bought the field as he knew they’d return.

Help your group to relate these truths to their life situations.

How long had Jerusalem provoked the Lord to anger?

Since it was built

Who in the city had participated in provoking the Lord? What had they done?

Kings, leaders, priests, prophets, and the people

Turned their backs to Him

Didn’t listen

Defiled His house by putting idols in it

Passed their children through the fire in worship of the idol Molech

That’s why they were going into captivity.

It also shows how long God was patient with them before repaying their iniquities.
But it did come, just as He said.

Verses 36-44

What is the end of this chapter about?

God will bring His people back to the land He gave them.

Verse 38 repeats this covenant term.

He’ll even give them a heart to fear Him always so that they’ll not turn away from Him anymore from that time.

This has not yet been completely fulfilled. It’s the time of the new covenant, His everlasting covenant of salvation with the Jews.

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for Jeremiah 32.

Buy a field during siege; everlasting covenant

JEREMIAH 33

What’s the setting for this message from the Lord? What is the message?

This was the second time God’s word came to Jeremiah when he was confined in Zedekiah’s guard house, so it was close to the same time as Jeremiah 32.

While the Lord was in the process of destroying Jerusalem and its people for wickedness, He gave promises of restoration.

Cleansing, good and peace, joy and gladness, thanksgiving
A name of praise and glory before all the nations so they will fear and tremble
Shepherds and flocks

Fulfillment of all the promises He spoke through Jeremiah and the other prophets

Ask your group what they learned about the promise of the righteous Branch of David.

Both Jeremiah 33:15-22 and 23:5-6 give similar information.

He'll reign as king, acting in wisdom, justice, and righteousness.

Judah will be saved.

Israel and Jerusalem will be secure, safe.

His name is the Lord our righteousness.

This all speaks of Jesus, David's descendant who'll return as King of kings.

What does this text teach about the covenants God made with David and the Levitical priests?

David
Never lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel
God's servant

Levitical priests
Never lack a man to make sacrifices and offerings before the Lord
His ministers

These covenants are as sure as day and night and the patterns / order of heaven and earth.

What does Malachi 2:1-9 say about the covenant with the Levitical priests?

God made a covenant with Levi because he turned many back from iniquity.
That's what the priests of Jeremiah's day were not doing.

A priest is to preserve knowledge as a messenger of God to men. He's to give them instruction in the knowledge from the Lord.

As in the time of Malachi, the priests of Jeremiah's day caused the people to stumble with their instruction. They corrupted the covenant of Levi.

What were the promises God made to David in 2 Samuel 7; 2 Chronicles; and Psalm 89?

Make David a great name

A land

Rest from enemies—David was the warrior king who conquered God’s enemies.

A throne established forever

Lovingkindness

A house and kingdom for David forever

His throne will be as the days of heaven, forever.

Acts 13:22-23

By the time of the New Testament David’s name was great among the people of Israel.

Paul spoke of David on the Sabbath in a synagogue in Pisidian Antioch.

He said that David was a man after God’s heart who did His will.

Relate this statement to your group. You might ask if this is what they want in their hearts.

Give time for discussion of how this happens to a heart, based on this lesson and the last one.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Restore, cleanse, pardon; covenants with David and Levitical priests

JEREMIAH 34

What is this chapter about? How does it relate to Jeremiah 31–33?

It’s about covenant.

This chapter shows the seriousness of making and breaking a covenant.

Ask your group about the main events of the chapter and the application to them.

Verses 1-7

When Nebuchadnezzar was fighting against Zedekiah, the Lord gave Jeremiah a message for Zedekiah. This chapter probably took place shortly after Jeremiah 32–33. At that time, the only fortified cities left in Judah were Lachish and Azekah. Judah was close to the end, close to destruction and exile.

Jeremiah told Zedekiah he would not escape, but see Nebuchadnezzar face to face when the Lord gave Jerusalem to him. Zedekiah would be taken to Babylon and die there in peace.

Verses 8-22

Zedekiah and the people of Judah participated to a degree in obedience when they made a covenant to release all their Hebrew slaves as God commanded in Exodus 21:2.

Then they turned and took the slaves back, breaking the covenant.

The Lord sent word to Jeremiah reminding of His covenant to free Hebrew slaves every seven years.

The men who broke the covenant would be given into the hand of their enemies.

Verse 21 says Nebuchadnezzar's army had gone away from Jerusalem at that time, but the Lord said He would command them to come back and take the city.

Ask about a theme for this chapter.

Zedekiah's covenant broken

To end this discussion, you might ask your group what they've learned from this study about God and His promises. How does this affect their lives?

The Lord

Nothing is too difficult for Him

Great and mighty God

Gives to all according to their ways and deeds

The God of all flesh

He restores

He commands and turns kings

JEREMIAH PART 2

LEADER GUIDE

Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- Jeremiah 35–39

REVIEW

Direct your group to their At A Glance charts and ask what the segments in Jeremiah 25–34 are about.

Jeremiah 25–26

Judah didn't listen to the Lord, therefore serve Babylon 70 years
After that, God will punish Babylon and all inhabitants of the earth
Jeremiah's death sentence, then removed

Jeremiah 27–29

Don't listen to false prophets: nations, Judah and Jerusalem, exiles

Jeremiah 30–34

God promised restoration, salvation after time of distress and new covenant

Then ask about each of the five chapters they studied in this lesson. Use the At a Glance chart, "The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah's Time," and the maps as visual aids for this discussion.

JEREMIAH 35

What's the main point of this chapter?

During Jehoiakim's reign, the Lord showed Jeremiah an example of obedience and the result of it.

The Rechabites obeyed the command of their forefather Jonadab
—don't drink wine, build houses, sow seed or plant vineyards but live in tents.

Therefore they would not lack a man to stand before the Lord always.
Compare with Jeremiah 33:17-18.

David and the Levitical priests would also not lack a man before the Lord.

What is the contrast in this chapter?

Contrast with the Rechabites' obedience:

Judah didn't listen or obey the words of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel.

He called them to turn again and again, but they didn't.
So He was bringing disaster on Judah.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

The Rechabites obeyed but Judah didn't

JEREMIAH 36

Tell your group to look at “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah's Time.”
What is this chapter about?

Jehoiakim's 4th year, 605 B.C. and 5th year, 604 B.C.

Jehoiakim's 4th year was the year Nebuchadnezzar first went against Jerusalem.

Verse 3 shows God's heart toward His people.

People still read the words Jeremiah wrote. This is still God's call.

Jeremiah dictated all the words he'd spoken to Judah since Josiah's 13th year, and Baruch his scribe wrote them on a scroll.

Since he was restricted / banned from the Lord's house, he sent Baruch to read the scroll there.

The Lord's message had been given in His house once or twice before according to Jeremiah 26 and 7.

Chapter 26 says Jeremiah went to the Lord's house and spoke there what the Lord told him at the beginning of Jehoiakim's reign. Maybe he was restricted / banned after that—not able to go into the temple.

When did Baruch read the scroll in the Lord's house? Who listened, heard?

In Jehoiakim's 5th year, after Babylon's first siege on Jerusalem, he read the words in the Lord's house on a fast day in the 9th month.

On this fast day, Judah heard why judgment was coming on them, and a call to return to the Lord was included to avoid further judgment.

Shaphan's grandson Micaiah heard and went to the officials.

They then brought Baruch to read the scroll to them, and afterwards sent him and Jeremiah to hide.

What happened when they took the scroll to the king?

Jehoiakim cut up and burned the Lord's words on the scroll.

Therefore, he'd have no descendant to sit on David's throne.

Give your group time to discuss any relevant application.

What is the description of Jehoiakim in verses 23-25?

Compare verse 26 with Jeremiah 1:12, 18-19.

God hid Jeremiah, and His word was written again for all to read.
What He said came about—Jeremiah 1:12.

What's a possible theme for this chapter?

Jehoiakim burned scroll—no man on David's throne

JEREMIAH 37

How does verse 1 continue the flow of thought from the end of chapter 36?

Jehoiakim's son Coniah, king after Jehoiakim, was taken by Nebuchadnezzar only 3 months after he began to reign in 597 B.C.

God's word to Jehoiakim was fulfilled as Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiakim's brother, Zedekiah, the next king of Judah.

What is this chapter about?

Repeated statement in verse 2, they didn't listen to the Lord's words.

But they wanted Jeremiah to pray for them.

Give your group time for application discussion.

NOTE: The events with Egypt and the Chaldeans in verses 5-7 probably took place in 588 B.C.

What was the Lord's word to His people? Results?

Jeremiah prophesied about what was to happen in 586 B.C.
He was falsely accused and put in the guardhouse court by King Zedekiah.

They fed him until all the bread in the city was gone, the beginning of famine because of the siege.

Ask about a theme for this chapter.

Jeremiah put in prison, guard house

JEREMIAH 38

Verses 1-13

What happened?

The events of this chapter seem to follow chapter 37 in chronological order.

Although Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guardhouse, he still spoke the Lord's words to His people.

Verse 2 still offered life to those who obeyed.

Relate this to the good and bad figs of Jeremiah 24.

The officials' reaction to Jeremiah's words was to call for his death.

Zedekiah allowed them to put Jeremiah in the cistern of the guardhouse.

The cistern belonged to the king's son Malchijah / Malchiah.

Ebed-melech the Ethiopian rescued Jeremiah. Relate this to Jeremiah 1:17-19.

What was the condition in Jerusalem?

Famine in Jerusalem, no more bread in the city

Verses 14-28

What happened between Zedekiah and Jeremiah?

When Jeremiah was taken out of the cistern, Zedekiah had him brought to the temple entrance and questioned him in secret.

Zedekiah heard what the Lord told Jeremiah about him.

Give time for your group to discuss what kind of man and king Zedekiah was.

What happened to Jeremiah?

He remained there in the guardhouse court until Jerusalem was captured.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Jeremiah in cistern, then to Zedekiah

JEREMIAH 39

What is the time of this chapter?

This was the time of Jerusalem’s capture and beginning of the last siege, which lasted 2 years.

586 B.C. was the time of the exile, the time of this chapter

Tell your group to look at the “Map of Israel” to see the places named in this chapter.

What happened to Jerusalem’s leaders, verses 3-8?

They fled, were caught and killed.

Consider the last thing Zedekiah saw. Then he was taken blind to Babylon. All because he didn’t listen to the Lord’s words.

What happened to the rest of the people, verses 9-10?

Some of the poorest were left in Jerusalem, but the others were taken captive.

What happened to Jeremiah, verses 11-14?

Nebuchadnezzar himself gave orders about Jeremiah. He was released from the guardhouse court into the custody of Ahikam’s son, Shaphan’s grandson—Gedaliah. Relate this to Jeremiah 26:24, during Jehoiakim’s reign.

What happened to another man who helped Jeremiah, Ebed-melech, verses 15-18?

He also was to be rescued and received his life because he trusted the Lord.

What is a theme for this chapter?

Jerusalem captured, Zedekiah blinded, taken to Babylon

To end this discussion, you might ask your group what application they learned for their lives. What lessons for life did they learn about the Lord, His Word, the men—good and evil?

JEREMIAH PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

- Jeremiah 40–44
- Jeremiah after Jerusalem’s fall

REVIEW

Ask your group for the main points and/or segments of Jeremiah 24–39.

Jeremiah 24	Good and bad figs
Jeremiah 25–26	Judah didn’t listen to the Lord / punishment on all
Jeremiah 27–29	Don’t listen to false prophets saying peace Promise of restoration begins
Jeremiah 30–33	Promises of restoration, rebuilding, new covenant
Jeremiah 34–39	Zedekiah broke covenant, Jehoiakim burned scroll, some helped Jeremiah, Babylon came against Jerusalem

NOTE: As with the last discussion, there are five chapters to discuss. Watch your time and lead your group to discuss the main points of each chapter. Bring in application when relevant.

The maps in the Appendix are good visual aids for this discussion, along with “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah’s Time.”

JEREMIAH 40

What’s the time of these events?

After the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
By this time, Jeremiah had preached 40–41 years

What are the main points, events, of this chapter?

Verses 1-6

Nebuzaradan had some knowledge of what the Lord prophesied against Jerusalem.

He said the Lord had fulfilled His Word.
Compare this with Jeremiah 1:12.

He gave Jeremiah a choice to go to Babylon or stay in Judah, and Jeremiah stayed.

Gedaliah, Ahikam's son and Shaphan's grandson, was appointed governor over the Jews left in the land.

Verses 7-12

The Jews in Judah and other places gathered to Gedaliah.

Verses 13-16

Gedaliah was warned of a plot to kill him, but he didn't believe it.

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for Jeremiah 40.

Jeremiah freed; Gedaliah appointed over Judah

JEREMIAH 41

What happened in this chapter?

Verses 1-3

The time is stated as the 7th month. If this was the same year as Jeremiah 39:2, then it was only about three months after the city was taken and burned.

Ishmael killed Gedaliah, the Jews with him, and the Chaldeans at Mizpah.

Verses 4-8

Then he killed 70 of 80 men who came there from other places in Israel. Ten were spared because of hidden food.

Verses 9-10

Ishmael then took the remnant captive and headed for Ammon.

Verses 11-18

Johanan and the commanders followed and spared the remnant.

They went to Geruth Chimham, close to Bethlehem, to go to Egypt.

They didn't want to stay in Judah or Israel because they feared punishment from the Chaldeans (Babylonians), since Ishmael killed some of them and the Jews Nebuchadnezzar put in charge.

People did not listen to Jeremiah's or Gedaliah's words to serve Babylon and live. Instead, because of fear they headed for refuge in Egypt.

You might ask your group what they do when they are afraid. Do they try to take matters into their own hands?

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Ishmael killed Gedaliah and others in Judah, took remnant captive

JEREMIAH 42

What did the remnant request of Jeremiah in verses 1-6?

They wanted prayer, petition (ESV—plea for mercy) before the Lord.

They said they would listen and obey what He said through Jeremiah.

Verses 7-22

What was the Lord's message to them 10 days later?

If you stay in this land, God will

- Build you up
- Not tear you down / pull you down
- Plant you
- Not uproot / pluck you up
- Relent concerning calamity / disaster

Don't be afraid of the king of Babylon, God is with you to save you.

His compassion will come through Nebuchadnezzar.

If you don't stay in this land, if you don't listen to God but go to Egypt:

- Sword overtake you in Egypt
- Famine will follow
- Die there
- No survivors
- Wrath on you
- Curse and reproach / taunt
- See this place no more

Ask about a possible theme for this chapter.

Don't go to Egypt—die there

JEREMIAH 43

Verses 1-7

What was the response to Jeremiah's message from the Lord?

They said it was a lie; Baruch incited you against us
If time, you can ask what your group remembers about Baruch.

Johanan and the commanders took the remnant, including Jeremiah, to Egypt.

Compare this with Jeremiah 24:8.

Verses 8-13

How do these verses relate to this response?

The Lord gave Jeremiah a picture of what was to happen to the remnant.
It was fulfilled in 568/67 B.C.

Nebuchadnezzar will come to Egypt, to Pharaoh's palace, and take captives from there.
He'll do to Egypt what he did to Jerusalem.

What application might come from the main points of Jeremiah 40–43?

Those Jews had been through years of war, famine, and death, because they didn't listen to God's words. They didn't hear to do what He said, live how He said.

Then when the war, famine, and death seemed to be over, they fell into a bad situation.

They let fear get the best of them to again willingly disregard God's clear words to them.

What they feared was going to follow them as they ran from obedience.

Did the Lord watch over His word through Jeremiah to perform it, Jeremiah 1:12?

Were the ones going to Egypt about to be punished, Jeremiah 24:8?

Ask your group what they've learned about the man Jeremiah and how it applies to them.

Then ask about a chapter theme for Jeremiah 43.

Jeremiah and others taken to Egypt

JEREMIAH 44

Verses 1-14

What did the Lord say through Jeremiah in Egypt?

He reminded the Jews there of the current desolation of Jerusalem and Judah's cities.

No one lived there because of their wickedness / evil, idolatry,
because they didn't listen.

They were again provoking the Lord to anger by idolatry.
They had been wicked / evil from the beginning.

Verse 11 begins with, “Therefore.”

The disobedient of His people will meet their end in Egypt.

Only a very few will survive.

Verses 15-19

What was the response to this word?

“We are not going to (ESV—will not) listen to you.”

Willful disobedience and idolatry—knowing the punishment for it

Worshipping the queen of heaven is nothing but dead idolatry while in contrast, God is the creator of heaven and earth.

Verses 18-19 was their human reasoning for not listening to the Lord.

Verses 20-30

How did Jeremiah respond to this?

He reminded them of what happened in Jerusalem.

They were in this calamity / disaster because of idolatry, and the Lord was no longer able to endure it.

Verse 26 is an amazingly sad statement about the Jews who went to Egypt. There came a time when He abandoned them—none left to call on His name.

Compare verse 27 with Jeremiah 1:12 and 24:8-9.

The very few who survive would know what happened in Egypt and that what the Lord said came to pass. He gave them a sign of His word for harm on them.

God gave Pharaoh Hophra of Egypt to his enemies, just like He did Zedekiah to Nebuchadnezzar. God is in charge of all nations and kings.

NOTE: Some might read in commentaries that Pharaoh Hophra lost his throne in 570 B.C. Some Egyptians turned against him and overthrew him. He was probably the same ruler of Egypt who helped Zedekiah in Jeremiah 37:5-11.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

God said through Jeremiah—no survivors in Egypt, given to Babylon

To end this discussion, you might ask your group if they believe what God’s Word says, even in the difficult times of life. How does knowing Jeremiah help them trust His Word more?

JEREMIAH PART 2 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis:

- Jeremiah 45–49
- Prophecies against the nations

REVIEW

Ask your group for the main points of the segments in Jeremiah 24–44.
Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Jeremiah 24	Good and bad figs
Jeremiah 25–26	Judah didn't listen to the Lord / punishment on all
Jeremiah 27–29	Don't listen to false prophets saying peace Promise of restoration begins
Jeremiah 30–33	Promises of restoration, rebuilding, new covenant
Jeremiah 34–39	Zedekiah broke covenant, Jehoiakim burned scroll, some helped Jeremiah, Babylon came against Jerusalem
Jeremiah 40–44	After Babylon destroyed Jerusalem, remnant to Egypt, same punishment in Egypt
	40–42 events in Judah 43–44 events in Egypt

JEREMIAH 45

Who is this chapter about? What was the time?

It was the 4th year of Jehoiakim, 605 B.C., the same year Baruch wrote God's words on the scroll, which Jehoiakim burned in the 5th year.

Baruch, the man who wrote the scroll in Jeremiah 36, was also mentioned in Jeremiah 32 and 43. He was the scribe for Jeremiah.

The Lord spoke a message to him, and anyone who reads it.

What was the message to Baruch?

Baruch's words in verse 3 might have been in response to what happened with Jehoiakim burning the scroll.

Or his woe and sorrow, groaning and no rest might have been a response to what happened when Babylon came against Judah that year.

It also could have been because Baruch had to go read the scroll to the people, knowing what happened in the past when the word of the Lord had been spoken.

Jeremiah told him from the Lord:

- What I've built, I'm about to tear down.
- What I've planted, I'm about to uproot / pluck up.
That referred to the whole land of Judah, not just one man.

In Jeremiah 1:10, God told Jeremiah He appointed him over the nations and kingdoms to pluck up, break down, destroy, and overthrow and to build and to plant.

What was the rest of God's message to Baruch?

He asked Baruch if he was seeking great things for himself.

Don't.
God was about to bring disaster on all flesh.
Baruch was to receive only his life as booty, but he would have his life.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Jeremiah's message to Baruch, don't seek great things for yourself

Ask how this chapter might relate to them. Are they seeking great things?

The whole world is still facing God's wrath and judgment.
Those who believe have life.

JEREMIAH 46

What are chapters 46–49 about?

These are the Lord's words through Jeremiah concerning the nations.

You might use the maps in the Appendix as visual aids for this discussion.

Which nation is chapter 46 about? What is the message?

To Egypt

concerning Pharaoh Neco's army which Nebuchadnezzar defeated at the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C., the same year as God's message to Baruch.

The Lord will avenge Himself on His foes.

There will be a slaughter / sacrifice in the north by the Euphrates River.
The warriors have fallen.

What are verses 13-26 about?

Jeremiah's prophecy of Nebuchadnezzar coming against Egypt

The Lord thrust down the mighty ones of Egypt
Make ready for exile and desolation / waste
Time of punishment, given to the people of the north, Babylon

Who are verses 27-28 about? Why?

The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel punished Egypt using Babylon.

But the descendants of Jacob, He'll save from captivity.
They'll return, be undisturbed / quiet and secure / ease.

Twice He tells them not to fear. He's with them.

He'll make a full end of the nations, but not them.
Although He will punish them.

When does it seem that these verses tell about?

After the 70 years of captivity, and maybe the future also

How does Isaiah 19:16-25 relate to this?

At some point in the future, the Egyptians will know the Lord and worship Him.

There will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Israel will be a blessing along with Egypt and Assyria.

Egypt's dominion might be removed, but the people will come to God.

What is a possible theme for Jeremiah 46?

Lord's word to Jeremiah concerning the nations: to Egypt

JEREMIAH 47

Who does this word concern? When?

Tell your group to look at “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah’s Time” as a visual aid along with the maps.

The Philistines
before Pharaoh conquered Gaza

NOTE: Pharaoh Hophra did that approximately 587 B.C.

What's the message?

A day is coming to destroy the Philistines, destruction from the north.

The sword of the Lord will not be quiet when the Lord has given it an order / charge.

Babylon seems to be the destroyer or sword that came against Philistia when they took Judah in 586 B.C.

What does the cross-reference in Judges 3:1-4 say about Philistia?

They were left in the land of Canaan to test Israel.
Israel didn't pass the test.

Ask what your group put on their At a Glance chart as the theme for this chapter.

Lord's word concerning the Philistines

JEREMIAH 48

Who does this message concern?

Moab
Lot's son by his oldest daughter—Lot was Abraham's nephew, Genesis 19:36-38.
The Moabites were relatives of Abraham's descendants, Israel.

Direct your group to look at the map.

What is the message?

Woe, destroyed / laid waste, captured / taken, calamity / disaster, exile

What had Moab been like according to verse 11? What was to happen according to verses 12-20?

It had been at ease, not exiled, not changed.

Tipped / poured, emptied, and shattered, Moab will be ashamed of the idol Chemosh just like the northern kingdom of Israel was ashamed of the gold calf at Bethel.

Moab has been put to shame.

How does verse 15 relate to 46:18?

The real King is the Lord of hosts.

Why was Moab destroyed?

Arrogant toward (ESV—magnified himself against) the Lord, so he'll become a laughingstock / derision as Israel had been to him.

Pride, haughtiness, arrogance, self-exaltation—his idle boasts accomplished nothing / were false.

What did the Lord say about this in verses 35-47?

He'll make an end of Moab, the idol worshipper.

His heart makes sounds like flutes for Moab, sounds like sorrow.

He'll break them like an undesirable vessel and they'll be a laughingstock / derision.

It will be destroyed from being a people, arrogant toward Him (ESV—magnified himself against Him).

The people of Chemosh perish, taken captive.

But in the latter days, God will restore the fortunes of Moab.

What's a possible theme for this chapter?

Lord's word concerning Moab

JEREMIAH 49

Verses 1-6

Who does this message concern?

Ammon, Moab's brother

What did Ammon do against Israel, verse 1?

Took the land of Gad as their own possession

Therefore...days are coming...then Israel will take possession of his possessors.

What's the rest of the message?

Malcam / Milcom, the idol, will go into exile.

They trusted in their treasures.

So from all around the Lord of hosts will bring terror on them.

They'll be driven out.

But afterward He'll restore them, as with Moab.

Verses 7-22

Who is this message about and what does it say?

Edom, who was Jacob's, Israel's, brother

God will bring the disaster / calamity of Esau upon him...punish, strip bare...he is no more.

NOTE: Verses 14-16 say the same thing as Obadiah 1-4.

Verses 17-18 tell of its overthrow, like Sodom and Gomorrah—horror.
No one will live there.

What was God's plan for Edom?

Dragged off

No mention of restoration is in this message.

It sounds like the future times.

Verses 23-27

Who does this concern?

Damascus

Became helpless / feeble

Fire will devour

Verses 28-33

Who and what is this message about?

Concerning Kedar and kingdoms of Hazor which Nebuchadnezzar defeated

Nebuchadnezzar has a plan against them.

Will become a desolation forever / everlasting waste, no one will live there.
This is the same as Edom.

Verses 34-39

When did this message come? Who does it concern? What is the message?

Beginning of Zedekiah's reign.

It concerns Elam.

God will break the bow of Elam. The Elamites were known for their archery.
He'll scatter them.
He'll consume them.

Ask your group what they think about verses 38-39?

He'll set His throne in Elam and restore its fortunes in the last days.
Some think this means the Lord will sit in judgment.

Ask about the theme for this chapter.

Lord's word concerning Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar, Elam

According to Jeremiah 25, Babylon was going to take all the nations listed there in verses 19-25.
Are these the same nations as in Jeremiah 46–49? Is this the same punishment?

Egypt, Philistines, Edom, Moab, Ammon, and Elam are in both lists.

While some of this punishment seems to refer to Babylon at Jeremiah's time, part of it seems to be still future.

Ask your group what they've learned for personal application in all of this.

JEREMIAH PART 2
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8

Lesson emphasis:

- Jeremiah 50–52
- Babylon

REVIEW

Ask your group for the main points of Jeremiah 24–49.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

Jeremiah 24	Good and bad figs
Jeremiah 25–26	Judah didn't listen to the Lord / punishment on all
Jeremiah 27–29	Don't listen to false prophets saying peace Promise of restoration begins
Jeremiah 30–33	Promises of restoration, rebuilding, new covenant
Jeremiah 34–39	Zedekiah broke covenant, Jehoiakim burned scroll, some helped Jeremiah, Babylon came against Jerusalem
Jeremiah 40–44	After Babylon destroyed Jerusalem, remnant to Egypt, same punishment in Egypt
Jeremiah 45–49	Prophecies concerning the nations

Ask what Jeremiah 50–51 are about.

These chapters are the prophecies concerning Babylon.

Use a map as a visual aid for part of this discussion. You might also use a simple time line—last page of this guide—along with the chart “The Kings and Prophets of Jeremiah’s Time.”

BABYLON

How does Jeremiah 50 begin?

The Lord spoke a word through Jeremiah concerning Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans

When was this prophecy given according to Jeremiah 51:59-64?

This message was sent to Babylon when Zedekiah went there in the fourth year of his reign. People in Babylon heard that Babylon would sink like the scroll / book sank into the Euphrates.

NOTE: Some commentators suggest that Zedekiah went to Babylon as part of the rulers of Daniel 3:1-2.

It was the same year as Jeremiah 27 and 28 when Jeremiah warned Zedekiah and the people of Jerusalem about false prophets. In 27:1-11 a prophecy about serving Nebuchadnezzar was sent to Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon by messengers from their kings who came to Zedekiah.

Compare this with Jeremiah 52:3.

At some point during his reign, Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon.

Zedekiah possibly made an alliance with Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon in chapter 27.

Zedekiah's 4th year was only 7 years before Jerusalem's end and 5 years before the siege began.

Ask what your group learned about Babylon in Genesis and Revelation.

NOTE: Focus on the main points relating to Babylon. If your group tries to understand and discuss all of this, you'll not have enough time for the rest of this last discussion.

Genesis 10 and 11

Nimrod, a descendant of Noah's son Ham and a mighty man on the earth, began his kingdom with Babel and three other cities in the land of Shinar.

People built the city so that they'd not be scattered over the whole earth. They wanted to make a name for themselves.

The Lord came down from heaven to look at it, didn't like it, and scattered them over the whole earth. He confused the languages, and the nations began as a result.

Revelation 16–19

Revelation 16:19 mentions "the great city," Jerusalem, "the cities of the nations," and "Babylon the great." Babylon was remembered and given the cup of the wine of God's fierce wrath. Jeremiah 25:12-16 uses similar language regarding all the nations.

At the end, Babylon is referred to as the great harlot / prostitute, mother of harlots / prostitutes and abominations of the earth. Her name is a mystery. It seems that she's the primary city reigning over the nations and their kings and merchants. She led them to drink of immorality and wealth.

Within the city are demons, unclean and hateful birds. God's people are called to come out of her so that they aren't there when she receives plagues for her sins.

Babylon's fall will take place suddenly and astound the whole earth.

God will avenge the blood of His bond-servants on her.

JEREMIAH 50

Verses 1-3

What will happen to Babylon?

Proclaim among the nations, as they had all been taken by Babylon at some point, that she had been captured. A nation from the north will make her land an object of horror / a desolation. Her idols will be shattered / dismayed.

Verses 4-10

When? Who else are these verses about?

At the time of Babylon's capture, Israel and Judah will seek the Lord.
It's when they join themselves to Him in the everlasting covenant.
This is the time of the end—Jeremiah 24:7; 31:31-34; 32:36-44.
It's the time of Revelation 16–19.

Judah is foremost in Jeremiah's prophecies, even concerning the nations.
They are told in verse 8 to go out from Babylon because God will bring nations from the north to take Babylon captive.

Verses 11-16

What are these verses about?

Babylon pillaged / plundered God's heritage.
Therefore, He would make them an utter desolation.

For she has sinned against the Lord, verse 14
For this is the vengeance of the Lord, verse 15

Babylon will be completely desolate.
God will do to her as she did to others.

Verses 17-20

Who is this about? What is the time reference?

Both Assyria and Babylon came against God’s people Israel / Judah.
He used Babylon to punish Assyria, but He’ll also punish Babylon.
He’ll bring Israel back to their land.
“In those days and at that time” He’ll pardon Israel’s / Judah’s sins—it’s future.

Verses 21-32

What does this describe?

God commanded Babylon’s destruction because the time of their punishment came.
Babylon engaged in conflict with the Lord (ESV—opposed the Lord). He called others to come against them.

Fugitives from Babylon declare in Zion vengeance for the Lord’s temple.

You might ask your group if anyone gets by with anything before the Lord.

He remembers all and avenges all. Revelation 16:19 and 18:5 say Babylon’s iniquities were remembered, His fierce wrath. She’ll be repaid for her work / deeds; what she did will be done to her. It’s justice. Babylon was arrogant against / proudly defied the Holy One of Israel.

Verses 33-43

What is the contrast between Israel and Babylon?

The Redeemer, the Lord of hosts will plead Israel’s and Judah’s case when turmoil comes on the inhabitants of the earth.

He’ll send a sword and drought against Babylon, and it will never again be inhabited.
It will be like Sodom and Gomorrah.

A great nation and many kings will come on Babylon from the north.

Verses 44-46

How does this chapter end?

Another court term is used in verse 44. Contrast this with verse 34.

God’s plan—Babylon desolate

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts. What’s a possible theme for this chapter?

God’s word through Jeremiah concerning Babylon

Ask what they learned about the Lord from this chapter.

JEREMIAH 51

Verses 1-33

How does this chapter continue the prophecy concerning Babylon?

The Lord aroused the wind¹ or spirit of a destroyer against Babylon, verses 1-14. Verse 11 says He aroused / stirred up the spirit of the Medes to destroy Babylon in vengeance for His temple, which Nebuchadnezzar destroyed.

The Medes are also mentioned in verses 27-33.

How does Daniel 5 relate to this prophecy?

Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon at the end of the 70 years.

He had a great feast and used the vessels Nebuchadnezzar took from the Lord's temple in Jerusalem. Then he saw the handwriting on the wall—his kingdom, Babylon, was about to end.

That night he was killed, and his kingdom was given to the Medes and the Persians.

God Most High rules over mankind and sets over it whomever He wishes.

What does Jeremiah 51 say about the Lord in verses 15-19 and 56-57?

He made the earth, causes clouds / mist, makes lightning, brings wind. He's the Maker of all, the Lord of hosts, the King, a God of recompense.

God ended the kingdom of Babylon after the 70 years, and He'll end it again in the future.

How did He use Babylon?

Verses 20-23, it was His war-club (ESV—hammer) and weapon of war to shatter nations, even Judah.

But according to verse 24, it's repeated again that He'll repay Babylon for what they did to Zion, Judah.

Verses 34-58

Who are these verses directed to? About whom?

This is to God's people about Babylon.

¹ New American Standard Bible: 1995 update, marginal note (Jer 51:1) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

Zion and Jerusalem call for vindication, and God will plead their case / cause.
He'll give full vengeance so that no man will live in Babylon.

Babylon will fall for the slain of Israel.
He is the God of recompense.

He calls His people to come out of Babylon to save their lives, verse 45.
This is what Revelation says.

Babylon will be burned as she burned Jerusalem.

Verses 59-64

Who and what are these verses about?

Jeremiah wrote this message on a scroll and gave it to Seraiah—Baruch's brother,
Jeremiah 32:12—to take to Babylon and read aloud when he got there.

Seraiah went with Zedekiah in the fourth year of his reign, about 593 B.C.

After reading it, he was to throw it into the Euphrates River as a visual of what was to
happen to Babylon.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

He will arouse against Babylon...

JEREMIAH 52

Verses 1-11

Who are these verses about?

The siege began in Zedekiah's 9th year and lasted for 2 years.

Zedekiah fled, but was captured. Nebuchadnezzar took him to Riblah, killed his sons,
blinded him, and took him to prison in Babylon.

Verses 12-27

What's the focus of these verses?

In Nebuchadnezzar's 19th year, he burned Jerusalem and the Lord's house.
Only some of the poorest were left.
Even the bronze pillars were broken and taken to Babylon.

The priests and other leaders were killed at Riblah by Nebuchadnezzar.

So, Judah was led away into exile from its land.

You might ask your group if God does what He says.

Verses 28-30

What are these verses about? Tell your group to look at “The Rulers and Prophets of Jeremiah’s Time” as a visual aid here.

There is a list of how many were taken to Babylon from Judah.

Nebuchadnezzar’s 7th year was approximately 598 B.C. That was one year before the 2nd siege of Jerusalem in 597 B.C. 3,023 Jews were taken into exile.

In his 18th year, approximately 587 B.C., one year before the final exile in 586 B.C.
The final siege began two years before.
832 people were exiled from Jerusalem.

NOTE: These years are one year before the last two exiles stated in other references. But they probably refer to the same exiles after the last two sieges on Jerusalem.

The number of exiles might refer to men only.

His 23rd year was about 582 B.C., 4 years after the end of Jerusalem.
This might refer to an exile after Gedaliah was killed in Jeremiah 41.

Verses 31-34

Who is this about?

Jehoiachin or Jeconiah was exiled for 37 years and then was treated favorably by Evil-merodach the king of Babylon.

Ask about a theme for Jeremiah 52.

Siege against Jerusalem; Lord’s house burned, people exiled

If you have any time left, ask your group what they learned about God and His Word from this study and how it applies to them.

Babel	Babylon, 70 years	Babylon
Make a name God scattered	Destroyed Jerusalem Taken by Medes	Over kings of earth Destroyed by God