

October 19–25

Jeremiah 1–3; 7; 16–18; 20

“Before I Formed Thee in the Belly I Knew Thee”



Life in the Time of Jeremiah

627 BC: Jeremiah is called by God.

Josiah (age 21) has been king for 13 years

612 BC: The fall of the Assyrian Empire

609 BC: Josiah dies in a battle against Egyptians

608 BC: Jehoanaz (2nd son) is anointed king.

3 months later Egypt installs Jeoiakim (1st son) as a puppet-king.

605 BC: Nebuchadnezzar takes control of Syria and Israel.

601 BC: Babylon wins the war against Egypt and controls the region

597 BC: Nebuchadnezzar lays his first siege on Jerusalem.

Jehoiakim (1st son) dies during a siege

Josiah's grandson, Jehoiachin is anointed king.

When Jerusalem is taken Jehoiachin is taken captive

Zedekiah (3rd son) is installed as a puppet-king of Babylon.

587 BC: Zedekiah revolts against Babylon.

570 BC: Jeremiah dies in captivity in Egypt

Jeremiah's Calling

Jer 1:4-5

What does this passage teach us about God's knowledge of us before our mortal birth?

Joseph Smith

“Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of Heaven before this world was.” (TPJS, pg. 365)

Wendy Nelson

“I've seen [President Nelson] be clear about doctrine. I've seen him become younger. I've seen him become happier because he's doing what he came to earth to do.... He was foreordained to be the prophet of God on the earth today.”

“I have seen him changing in the last ten months. It is as though he's been unleashed. He's free to finally do what he came to earth to do.” (mormonnewsroom.org, Oct 30, 2018)

Jeremiah's Calling

Jer 1:6-10

What responsibilities did the Lord give Jeremiah as His prophet?

Jeremiah's Calling

Jer 1:17-19

What did the Lord promise Jeremiah to help him fulfill his calling despite the opposition he would face?

Jeremiah Calls Judah to Repentance

Jer 3:6-11

What does Jeremiah liken Judah's wickedness to, and what had happened to the Northern Kingdom because of similar wickedness?

Heber J. Grant

"By the laws of Moses, adulterers were stoned to death. God said to Israel: 'There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel...' (Deut 23:17). When God, through Jeremiah, chastened Israel for apostasy, He pictured her loathsomeness by calling her a harlot."
(CR, Oct. 1942)

Jeremiah Calls Judah to Repentance

Jer 18:1-6

What does the analogy of the potter and the clay teach us about the Lord's ability to shape and remake His people?

Heber C. Kimball

“There are many vessels that are destroyed after they have been moulded and shaped. Why? Because they are not contented with the shape the potter has given them, but straightaway put themselves into a shape to please themselves; therefore they are beyond understanding what God designs, and they destroy themselves by the power of their own agency. [These people] have to go through a great many modellings and shapes, then... have to be glazed and burned; and even in the burning, some vessels crack”. (Heber C. Kimball: Mormon Patriarch and Pioneer, Stanley B. Kimball, pg. 270)

Jeremiah Calls Judah to Repentance

Jer 2:12-13

What two evils did the Lord say His people had committed, as represented by the fountain of living waters and the broken cisterns?

Bruce R. McConkie

"Israel forsook Jehovah, from whom living waters flow, and worshipped other gods. Israel no longer drank the living water, which, if men drink, they shall never thirst more. Rather she made her own churches, her own cisterns—'broken cisterns,' false churches—which can hold none of the waters of life. (The Millennial Messiah: The Second Coming of the Son of Man, pg. 187)

Jeremiah Calls Judah to Repentance

Jer 17:21-25

What does the Lord's promise to Judah teach us about the importance of keeping the Sabbath day holy?

Bruce R. McConkie

“The Sabbath is the leaven of life. Our conduct on all days is influenced by what we do on the Lord's day. Ancient Israel received this command: ‘Bear no burden on the sabbath day.... Hallow ye the sabbath day.’ That is: ‘Rest from your labors, and worship the Lord.’ Had they done so, the Lord would have preserved their kingdom forever (Jeremiah 17:20-27). Similarly, if we would keep the Sabbath, the Lord would bless and prosper us beyond anything we have ever known.” (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg. 301)

Gathering of Israel

Jer 3:12-15

What does Jeremiah reveal about how the Lord will gather His people to Zion in the last days?

What does the Lord promise to provide Israel to teach them and give them “knowledge and understanding”?

Gordon B. Hinckley

“We think of our brothers and sisters in distant lands. We have met hundreds of thousands of you, have looked into your faces, have felt of your spirits. You are so very precious to this work. The Lord has gathered you ‘one of a city, and two of a family,’ as prophesied by Jeremiah. He is teaching you with pastors after His own heart. We pray for you, we visit you, we respect and admire you, we love you. We are all part of a great family.” (CR, Oct. 1998)

Gathering of Israel

Jer 3:16-19

What will characterize the worship of God's people when they are gathered and united in Jerusalem?

Roy L. Huntington

“Building faith among latter-day Israel will not depend upon constant visual signs as it did in ancient times. God consistently reminded Moses’s people of His divine presence and redeeming love through miracles and visual signs.... In contrast, Jeremiah made clear that in the last days ‘they shall say no more, the ark of the covenant of the Lord: neither shall it come to mind...’. The ark of the covenant was a representation of God’s presence and power. Modern Israel, however, will not need the physical presence of the ark to remind them of God. Instead,... modern Israel will remember God through their ordinances, their covenants, and the voice of God’s Spirit.” (“Jeremiah and the New paradigm of the Gathering,” Religious Educator 9, no. 2 (2008): 83–90)

Gathering of Israel

Jer 16:14-16

What does the Lord's comparison to the Exodus teach us about the significance of the latter-day gathering of Israel?

LeGrand Richards

“Just contemplate that statement for a few moments. Think how the Jews and the Christians all through these past centuries have praised the Lord for his great hand of deliverance under the hands of Moses when he led Israel out of captivity, and yet here comes Jeremiah with this word of the holy prophet, telling us that in the latter days they shall no more remember that, but how God has gathered scattered Israel from the lands whither he had driven them....”

“The Prophet Joseph Smith received the truth and sent the messengers out to share it with the world. Thus have they gone out, fishing and hunting, and gathering them from the hills and the mountains, and the holes in the rocks. I think that is more literal than some of us think!” (CR, April, 1971)

Next Week:

October 26–November 1

Jeremiah 31–33; 36; Lamentations 1; 3

“I Will Turn Their Mourning Into Joy”

