

- Recap of last week: God tells Jeremiah he is going to punish Israel, but then he will have mercy on them again and eventually return each of the people to their families' land. (Jeremiah 12:14-17) God tells Jeremiah to take a loincloth and wear it, then bury it, then dig it up again. He does so, and it is ruined. God tells Jeremiah it is like that with Him and Israel because once He clung onto them and then they cast Him away. (Jeremiah 13:1-11) God tells Jeremiah that He will become known as the God who delivered them from the North instead of the God who delivered them from Egypt. (Jeremiah 16) God tells Jeremiah to go prophesy in the King's Palace and say that no innocent blood should be shed and he specifically mentions three groups: 1) orphans 2) widows 3) resident aliens. (Jeremiah 22:1-4) Jeremiah writes a detailed letter to the people in exile. In it he tells the people to settle in – build houses, plant gardens, marry and multiply because they will be there for seventy years and not to believe false messengers. (Jeremiah 29:1-23) Jeremiah delivers God's message that He knows the plans He has for them, for good. (Jeremiah 29:10)
- God has already given Israel a "template" for how prophesy will occur. Remember that He told David that his offspring would build a temple for Him. (2 Samuel 7). On an immediate level, that was fulfilled by his son Solomon who built a temple for God; on a more lasting level, David's offspring, Jesus "tore down the temple and built it again in three days" (Matthew 26:21, Mark 14:58, John 2:19) meaning in his death, burial, and resurrection which happened in three days, He was creating a figurative temple for all of us.
- God again tells Jeremiah that eventually 1) the exile of the Israelites will end abruptly; 2) they will worship God again, and 3) they will be each be returned to the family's original land. (Jeremiah 30 – Jeremiah 31:26)
- God uses eating sour grapes to signify that people will be individually responsible for their own sin. (Jeremiah 31:27-30)
- God says that He will make a new covenant with Israel. Especially the first four verses are very important, he says under this new covenant they won't need to tell each other about God because "all will know Him" and He will "forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-37)
- Contrast this with the old covenant where God says he will not forgive their iniquity or forget their sin. (Jeremiah 14:10, Hosea 9:9)
- Jeremiah explains that Jerusalem is going to be even larger and more stable than ever before. (Jeremiah 31:38-40).
- During the middle of the siege of Jerusalem, Jeremiah's family sells him land and he buys it as an endorsement of God's promise to return families to their land. (Jeremiah 32)
- God says He will fulfill the promise he made to David as sure He delivers day and night. (Jeremiah 33)
- Jeremiah predicts that King Zedekiah, the last King of Judah will not die in battle but die in captivity in Babylon. (Jeremiah 34:1-7)
- God says through Jeremiah that He is going to punish the Israelites because they didn't free their fellow Hebrews which had been enslaved. (Jeremiah 34:8-22)

- God uses Jeremiah to try to tempt a family named the Rechabites into drinking when they swore that they would never do such a thing. They still don't do it, and God commends their commitment. (Jeremiah 35)
- Jeremiah dictates an entire scroll of prophecy to a scribe named Baruch. The King Jehoakim had commissioned the work in the first place, and has it read aloud, but as it is being read he cuts off the pieces that have just been read and burns them. So Jeremiah dictates another scroll to Baruch. (Jeremiah 36)
- Zedekiah, the last King of Judah, sees the Egyptian army drive off the Assyrians who were besieging Jerusalem, so he is relieved, but God tells Jeremiah to explain that they the Egyptians will withdraw and the Assyrians will be back. (Jeremiah 37:1-10).
- Jeremiah is falsely accused of trying to defect to the Assyrian side. He is thrown in a bad prison, and through an appeal to the King, he gets put in a better prison. (Jeremiah 37:11-21)
- Jeremiah's enemies then come and throw him in a well with no water and he sinks into the mud at the bottom of the well. He is rescued by an Ethiopian eunuch named Eben-Melech. Zedekiah consults Jeremiah again privately and Jeremiah confirms what he has already told him. (Jeremiah 38)
- This is not the first time we read of an Ethiopian eunuch. Philip famously converted an Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:26-40)
- In fact, when Jerusalem finally falls to the Assyrians, God tells Jeremiah to remember and save Eben-Melech. (Jeremiah 39)

Questions:

1. What three things does God say will happen eventually to the Israelites after their exile?
2. What does God use to explain that people will be responsible for their own sin?
3. What is the difference between the old and the new covenant when it comes to God's attitude towards our sin?
4. What does God say will eventually happen to Jerusalem?
5. What does Jeremiah do in the middle of the siege of Jerusalem? Why?
6. What does God use to explain how sure it is that He will keep his covenant to David?
7. Who had the Israelites enslaved that made God particularly angry?
8. Who were the Rechabites and why does God commend them?
9. What was Jeremiah's scribe's name?
10. What did Jehoakim do with the first scroll Jeremiah dictated?
11. What did Jeremiah do when his first scroll was destroyed?
12. Why is Jeremiah imprisoned?
13. What happens to Jeremiah after he is imprisoned?
14. Who rescues Jeremiah and what eventually happens to that person?