

### ***THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading For October 3:***

#### *Jeremiah 1:1-2:30:*

Jeremiah 1 records the call of Jeremiah to his prophetic ministry in 627 B.C. (1:2), just 22 years prior to the first stage of Babylon's three stage exile of Judah (the southern two tribes of Judah and Benjamin). His ministry lasted until after the final stage of exile and destruction, 586 B.C, and even after a fourth minor deportation in 582 B.C. (52:29-30). The book records Jeremiah's messages to Judah which call them to repent (early on) and then his messages which tell them it is too late to avoid the exile. He explains why the exile must take place and also makes it clear that this captivity is not the last word, but the LORD will deliver and restore His people. The compilation of all the messages into one book was designed to exhort the exiles to avoid the sins and destruction of their forefathers, to give them hope through the promised salvation, and to let them know the exile does not spell the end of the LORD's covenant with them.

Here are some notes of interest from chapter 1. In the book's introduction (1:1-3) we learn the book consists of the words of Jeremiah (he is also the author, 36:2, 27-32), we find out the length of Jeremiah's ministry, and we learn that Jeremiah is not only a prophet, but also a priest. In Jeremiah's call (1:4-10) it is revealed that the LORD set Jeremiah apart as a prophet even before he was conceived; though we can explain the process of conception and the development of the embryo, it is all ultimately the work of God; Jeremiah is both a prophet to Judah and also to the nations (e.g. 25:8-37; 46-51); Jeremiah responds to the LORD's call by asserting he cannot carry it out since he is but a youth (similar to Solomon's words when he became king), yet the LORD assures Jeremiah of His presence and the fact that He will give the prophet the strength and ability to proclaim boldly God's messages of both salvation and judgment. After Jeremiah's call the LORD gives two visions (1:11-19) in which the LORD makes it clear that He will indeed perform the words, the promises He gives (11-12, the word for "almond" in Hebrews sounds like the word "watch over" and the almond tree, the first to bud in spring was said to watch over spring) and that He will bring judgment upon Judah from the north because of their idolatry and unfaithfulness (13-16). Finally, God promises Jeremiah he will prevail in his ministry, even though he will receive great opposition.

Chapters 2-6 contain five related messages regarding Judah's unfaithfulness. Chapter 2 stands at the head of these messages and portrays the nation as an unfaithful adulterous spouse to the LORD, similar to the message of Hosea regarding Israel.

The prophet serves not only as a type of Christ (who was prophet, priest, and king [reigning over and prevailing against opponents]), he also sets a pattern for all New Covenant believers in Christ, namely, that we can be bold in the gospel ministry to which God has commissioned us since He is with us (Matthew 28:19-20).

#### *Philippians 4:1-23:*

After Paul closes out his call to the Philippians to stand strong against false teaching (4:1), he addresses a specific schism within their church (2-3), reminds them to rejoice and trust in the Lord in the midst of their trials (4:4-9), then informs them he rejoices in

the Lord for their care shown to him through sending Epaphroditus to him (4:10-20). Paul makes it clear in these eleven verses he does not express his gratitude for their service out of any true lack from the Lord since the Lord has shown Himself faithful and thus Paul has learned to be content in whatever circumstance he faces. He rejoices primarily because of the fruit produced through their gift. He also exhorts the Philippians with the assurance that God will supply all their needs in Christ and then gives glory to God.

After giving final greetings, Paul closes by his prayer that the transforming grace of Jesus Christ would be with them in the depth of their being from this time forth (21-22). Since Paul knows that grace will be with them, this is also and primarily a prayer they will recognize that grace and live by it.

There are some very important application points which arise out of today's text: The importance of rejoicing in Christ in all things (4); the importance of trusting in the Lord through prayer (6-7, 19); the need to give attention to what we focus our minds on (8); the reality we must learn to be content (11); and how important it is we trust in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in us (22).

*Psalm 75:1-10:*

Asaph (a Levitical music leader) writes this psalm praising and thanking God that as the Sovereign of the universe, He will take care of the righteous and judge the wicked. Though we do not know what the specific event was which led to this psalm, nevertheless, it moves us to look to our God who reigns over all and is in control over all when we face hard or unjust situations. Our hope is in Him!

*Proverbs 24:17-20:*

Here in sayings #'s 28-29 out of the collection of thirty we are reminded not to rejoice over the calamity of our enemy (which is another way of saying we are to love our enemy) and not to be envious of those who are evil, after all we must remember what their end will be and what our end will be.