

# BIBLE CHALLENGE 2018

## WEEK 42

The Bible Challenge 2018 Intro and the reflections and notes for each week may be found at [biblechallenge.pendletonchurch.org](http://biblechallenge.pendletonchurch.org)

### Read 4 chapters per day

October 15-21: Jeremiah 28-52; Philippians 1-3

In this week's reading from Jeremiah we find the prophet expressing the Lord's differentiation between good and evil among the kings, prophets, priests, and people. Observe that there seems to be no distinction among the groups of people described. Each contains those who are good and those who are evil. Look for the words used to make these distinctions, such as false, poor, stubborn, ungodly, faithful, very good, righteous, just. Notice throughout Jeremiah's narrative the ways in which he describes receiving God's message: the story of the figs, the conversations, etc. Jeremiah is faithful in delivering the message regardless of the response of the people. Take note of the imagery used to express the extent of God's impending judgment, for example: drinking wine of God's wrath.

The concluding chapters of Jeremiah continue some of the historical narrative and then move into more prophecies of judgment on various peoples that had come against Israel/Judah. We are reminded that not all God's people were carried off to Babylon. It is interesting to note that some of the people wind up in Egypt, against God's will; back to the land from which God had delivered them so many centuries earlier. The final prophecy includes the judgment against Babylon. And the last chapter is a historical narrative that can be compared to 2 Kings 25:1-26. The judgments proclaimed by Jeremiah are all the result of some form of sin and rebellion against God's will. We see that although God may allow other nations to bring judgment to God's people because of their lack of repentance for sin, God also brings judgment on the ungodly nations.

Look also for the words of the promise of redemption woven into the narrative. Jeremiah does not leave us without hope. What do you think is the "new covenant" God promises to make with people? Observe all that happens to the prophet. What do you think motivates him to continue in the face of the opposition recorded in this book? Is there anywhere in the Church today that we can observe such faithfulness, such perseverance in attempting to reach people for God so they will be able to be made holy as God is holy?

Returning to the New Testament, we come once again to Philippians. This letter is written from Paul to the church in Philippi in Macedonia. How does Paul describe Jesus in this letter? How did Paul encourage the church about his situation and about their own Christian faith? What does this letter tell us about God's desire for those who claim the Christian faith? Where do you see hope in this letter?