

2021 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

JULY

ISAIAH — JEREMIAH



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..... JULY 2021

Contributors

Rod Hembree
Corie Bobeckho
Ryan Hembree
Janice Hembree
Matlock Bobeckho

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The Voice of God

In Isaiah 1:18, God says to the man who would become the famous prophet Isaiah, “Come now, and let us reason together.” Though Isaiah was just a man, he could hear from God in a special way. This always makes me think of the one question I was asked most during my time as a pastor. It was, “How do I know or hear the will of God for my life?”

Chapter 6 of Isaiah brings us to a time in Isaiah’s life when he may have been exhausted from all the news around him: King Uzziah had just died. And as God begins to speak, Isaiah admits that he really has no advantage, he is a man of unclean lips like the rest of us. Regardless of his human status, the LORD gives Isaiah a mouth that is holy, a mouth that can convey God’s Word. When God has messages for us, He can make a way for us to hear them.

We need to remember that God does speak to us, so we should be spending time trying to hear Him. As we read through the Bible and try to understand

its messages, we are learning to hear God. Many things come up in our lives that distract us, but just like with Isaiah, God is available; He can be a steady presence in our lives that we can reason with. We are God’s people, called by His name. We must listen for Him.

This month we will read from the prophetic books of Isaiah and Jeremiah. These books record messages that have been fulfilled and some that have not: God is speaking to the future of our planet. Though Jeremiah became a prophet about 111 years after Isaiah was called as a prophet, their ministries say the same thing. We should listen carefully as the voice of God speaks through the Biblical prophets.



Rod Hembree, Th.D, DE.



CHARLES ROD HEMBREE is the founding pastor of *Good Friends Fellowship* in Ontario, Canada. He brings his extensive production background and Biblical training together to serve the Body of Christ as the Executive Director of Bible Discovery.

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How to use this Guide

Make the most of your devotional time with our Guide to the Bible in a year. Each Guide provides valuable context and theological insight to help strengthen your faith and dig deeper into the richness of God's Word every day.

The following three tips will help you make the most of your daily Bible reading and Guide:



SPOTLIGHT ON...

In every Guide, you'll find a section with specific highlights from the perspectives of history, apologetics, theology, and more. These viewpoints provide a holistic context from which to view the month's Bible reading, giving us a greater understanding of the Word, and equipping us to grasp the impact of the Bible in these important fields.



DAILY READING

The readings are in traditional order, with a date corresponding to the Hebrew calendar. Each reading consists of a daily insight and a focus on three major takeaways from the day's Bible passage. Challenge yourself to meditate on the *Discovering The Truth* and *Today's Prayer* sections as you go about your day.



WATCH THE DAILY SHOW

Catch our companion TV series for even more valuable insight and theological discussion, hosted daily by the Hembree family. Join Rod, Janice, Ryan and Corie in this thirty-minute devotional show that will change the way you see and read the Bible. Visit **BibleDiscoveryTv.com** to watch our show online or to find a TV channel in your area.

Metal, Wood, and Stone

by Ryan Hembree



As part of the great rebellion against the Creator God, man has continually sought to worship other “gods”—gods of metal, wood, and stone. Though they can neither hear, nor see, nor know, nor save, man, in his utter defiance, has continued to fashion these worthless idols. In order to expose the delusion that these images somehow bear supernatural power, God, many times in His Word, unmask these idols to reveal exactly what they are: lifeless, breathless, and spiritless pieces of wood, stone, and metal fashioned by the hands of men.

THOUGH THEY CAN NEITHER HEAR, SEE, KNOW, NOR SAVE, MAN, IN HIS UTTER DEFIANCE, HAS CONTINUED TO FASHION THESE WORTHLESS IDOLS.

Indeed, as the Bible informs us, these idols were casted or molded (E.G., ISAIAH 40:19, 44:10). Although this might give the impression that all idols were made of solid metal, this wasn’t always so. In fact, normally only some of the smaller idols would be cast entirely of metal, while most of the larger ones were made of wood or stone and then overlaid with metal. Thus, the carpenter and metalsmith worked

together (SEE ISAIAH 40:19-20, 41:17; JEREMIAH 10:3-4). The carpenter would first take a log of wood and shape it into the desired image and then the metalsmith would overlay it with metal plating. Isaiah 44:13 aptly describes the carpenter’s process.

Vivant Denon gives a firsthand account of such an idol which he found on one of the columns of the portico of Dendera: “[I]t was covered with stucco and painted. The stucco being partly scaled off, gave me the opportunity of discovering *lines traced* as if with *red chalk*. Curiosity prompted me to take away the whole of the stucco, and I found the form of the figure sketched, with corrections of the outline...”

This more modern idol is probably quite similar in construction to its ancient counterpart.

Clearly, these idols are not gods. They are merely the workings of man’s hands and as such are an empty and vain pursuit. And so, the Lord declares: “You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed, *there* is no other Rock; I know not *one*.” (ISAIAH 44:8) ■

Sargon Takes Ashdod

by Corie Bobecko



The prophecy contained within Isaiah 20 is dated by its first verse to the year that Sargon II, King of Assyria, sent his commander to attack and capture the city of Ashdod. Sargon was the younger brother of Shalmaneser V (CF. 2 KINGS 17, 18) and the son of Tiglath Pileser III (CF. 2 KINGS 15, 16; 1 CHRONICLES 5; 2 CHRONICLES 28), both of whom are mentioned in the Scriptures. Shalmaneser was the king of Assyria who attacked and captured northern Israel and her capital city of Samaria, while Sargon who took the throne after his brother died was responsible for deporting many citizens of Israel and resettling the area with various conquered peoples.

The city of Ashdod, referred to in Isaiah 20, had a long history as a main city of the Philistines, notorious enemies of Israel, who had even once managed to capture the Ark of the Covenant and keep it for a time at Ashdod (1 SAMUEL 5). Archaeological remains at Ashdod have yielded a few key finds from the days of Sargon. First, three black basalt fragments of a victory inscription believed to have been commissioned by Sargon were discovered during excavations in the 1960s and 70s. Second, a grand

Assyrian palace was identified and partially excavated in 2003-2004 by archaeologist Elena Kogan-Zahavi. The palace was built on top of a level, a manmade raised platform that covered about 2.5 acres of land, its defensive walls were 10 feet thick, and its construction style was Assyrian through and through.

This archaeological data confirms what historians know through Assyrian records, that Sargon attacked and captured Ashdod after its people rebelled against the puppet king that Sargon had placed on their throne. The people of Ashdod were deported, and the area was resettled – just like the Biblical Samaria – except Ashdod became the centre of Assyrian power in the area, as evidenced by the impressive palace built there.

Furthermore, by referencing this turning event in the area's history, the prophet Isaiah gave the reader not only political context for his prophecy, but also a rather precise date as far as ancient history is concerned: 713-711 BC. ■

SPOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

- 1 <https://members.bib-arch.org/biblical-archaeology-review/33/1/11>
- 2 Shanks, Hershel. "Assyrian Palace Discovered in Ashdod," *Biblical Archaeology Review* 33.1 (2007): 56, 58-60.



2021 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

JULY

ISAIAH — JEREMIAH



The Promised Son

ISAIAH 9-11

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Isaiah is famous as the prophet of God who spoke about the future birth of Jesus Christ – the Promised Son, the Prince of Peace. The inheritor of David’s throne would come into the world and provide a rescue for the sin that had tarnished creation. The Wonderful Counselor who provides the way of escape for humanity, as a bird escaping a fowler’s net. In Isaiah 9, seven hundred years before the Child’s birth, names are given that will signify His character. In churches around the world, Isaiah 9:6-7 is fondly read at Christmas to remember and honour Christ’s coming as the plan of God, foretold, ordained, and carried out for us. This passage speaks of His birth and purpose.

DISCOVERING GOD – ISAIAH 9:1-7

– 1 –

Jesus Christ is the Light that changed everything.

We must know and recognize His provision.

(v. 1-2)

– 2 –

Jesus Christ is the Child that brought peace.

Jesus brings freedom from the bondage and conflict of sin.

(v. 3-5)

– 3 –

Jesus Christ is Messiah whose Kingdom never ends.

We will grow with Him, if we willingly come to Him.

(v. 6-7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

What would a government whose actions are always holy look like? Unfortunately, we do not have any examples of governments even close to this. When the LORD comes and judges, dispensing true justice in His government, it will be a brand new experience for all of those who are called by His Name.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I WATCH AND PRAY FOR YOUR SOON RETURN. HELP ME TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT YOU!

Israel's Return

ISAIAH 12-14

DISCOVERING THE WORD

What God reveals through His prophets is true and proven. We witness the conclusion of God's punishment upon Israel, as they return from seventy years of exile. God chose to fulfill the Sabbath years that were not observed during the time of the Kings. God tells the eighth century BC prophet, Isaiah, that the people will rejoice and be at peace when they return. This is told in advance to prove that God's plans are real and always prevail. God will fulfill every prophecy from His Word and He will keep us close to Him, if we follow His ways and obey His Word. Isaiah 14 is a perfect example of a predictive prophecy. Reading Biblical prophecy also requires us to know Israel's history, it is important to know what has already been fulfilled and what is yet to come.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 14:1-11

— 1 —

God will restore Israel.

Israel had been at the mercy of the nations, now the nations will serve God's people.
(v. 1-2)

— 2 —

God gives Israel a proverb against Babylon and prophesies their time of relief. Babylon will fall.

(v. 3-7)

— 3 —

Rebellious evil will be silenced. God is the ultimate power over everyone and everything.

(v. 8-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Even as human nature is sinful, it is also true that God will one day change the world. God will do what we cannot, He will rid the world of spiritual evil. It is amazing that God has changed our future and yet speaks of it from our past. In this ancient book, Isaiah tells us that God will change sin's effects on us and the world. Praise God for our glorious future!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR FORGIVING MY SINS AND GIVING ME A FUTURE HOPE WITH YOU!

Consequences

ISAIAH 15-17

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Israel was about to face God's judgment. They had made an agreement with Aram/Syria, the nation that is sometimes called by the name of their capital city, Damascus. Israel and Aram teamed up to resist the Assyrian Empire, and part of their plan was to take over Judah to add to their military and economic strength. What they didn't count on was God. The covenant God of Israel is the God of the Universe. What He speaks, happens. In 732 BC, the gates of Damascus were breached and the Assyrians overtook the city. The alliance was broken, the last remaining hope of Israel who had long ago abandoned God. Israel themselves were defeated in 722 BC, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy that specifically mentions Israel's idolatry. Israel was forced to admit that God was not only real, but stronger than any other.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 17:1-11

– 1 –

The city of Damascus will lie in ruin. God shows His hand before He acts, to prove that He alone is God.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

God declares judgment against Israel. It will be extensive, but not total. We must listen to God's call on our life, if we are to be successful.

(v. 4-6)

– 3 –

We must not forget who God is and why He is our Saviour. There are real consequences to abandoning God.

(v. 7-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There's a reason why the Bible reminds us often to praise the LORD! We should be mindful of what we have gone through and where we are going. Israel forgot who God was and turned to idol worship instead. The draw to follow our own hearts is real and enticing. Let's stay in God's Word, remembering who He is and why we worship Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, PLEASE HELP ME TO STAY FAITHFUL TO YOU. PLEASE GROW ME IN YOUR LOVE AND WISDOM.

Exposed

ISAIAH 18–21

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Two specific vices make a sure mixture of destruction for men and their nations: pride and rage. Arrogant sinfulness produces weakness in lives and societies. During Isaiah's time the Assyrian superpower was expanding at a rapid rate. Egypt and Cush seemed like a welcome refuge for those running from Assyria, and a good ally for smaller nations who were looking to survive. But true hope is not to be found in human nations.

Isaiah the prophet was instructed by God to walk naked and barefoot for three years as a living sign to the world, showing how these weakened nations would end. What can we learn from this exposed nakedness in Isaiah 20?

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 20:1–6

– 1 –

We are exposed to fallible flesh when we put faith in our own abilities.

Our trust must rest in God, who is faithful to help and deliver us.

(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

We are exposed to national shame when we decide to trust in the culture of man. As we

follow God, we must pray for our countries and leaders.

(v. 3–4)

– 3 –

We are exposed to the truth of God's power in times of judgment and divine discipline. We must

live a life of repentance before the LORD God.

(v. 5–6)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

So often human history has been marred with warfare. Human power checks human power at the loss of lives and innocence. This is a weakness of man's nature. When we learn to see and follow God's warnings, it is God's wisdom at work within us.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, LET YOUR WORD DWELL DEEP IN MY HEART. KEEP ME COVERED IN YOUR GRACE AS I LIVE TO FOLLOW YOU.

Climates Will Change

ISAIAH 22–24

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Biblical prophecy often surprises the reader. Isaiah 24 strongly and strikingly speaks of the earth drying up, withering, and being burned. The method through which God judged the evil earth back in Genesis, via global flood, is no longer the issue. Lack of water and fire is! This is really intriguing from a secular point of view because climate change has become a major talking point in recent years. It is an issue that has become so political that a lot of people reject it as even being real. Regardless of whether it's real, if the climate were to drastically change, our surroundings would drastically change. Which makes me think of Isaiah 24: *The earth is laid waste! The people are burned up!* God is working toward the end of time. We must pay attention. We must come to Jesus Christ to know that we are saved.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 24:1–13

– 1 –

The people of the earth will bear the consequences. We must come to our LORD and confess our need to Him.
(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

The earth is destroyed because we broke God's laws. Mankind is to blame.
(v. 4–10)

– 3 –

The longer we continue the worse things on earth get. God is coming back, and a new heaven and a new earth will come.
(v. 11–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Bible does not speak against work on global climate changes, but we must not abandon His ways. Respecting God, caring for people, and showing respect for creation are all very important things. Without God, all of us are destined to destruction. No amount of green living will change that, only Jesus Christ can. He is the only One who can rescue us.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR MY FUTURE THAT IS SECURE IN YOU.

Beginning of the End

ISAIAH 25–27

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Eschatology is a word that means the study of the last things. It relates to the end of this world as we know it, and how God will continue. God uses His prophets to share messages about the end of time and the beginning of eternity. Isaiah 27 is a part of a larger whole that speaks about how God will set up the last things. When dealing with Israel, His vine in the analogy, God will deal with any briars or thorns in His vineyard. These briars and thorns threatening His good vine will either be destroyed entirely, or they will make peace with Him. Enemies of God cannot remain enemies. One way or another there will be peace.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 27:1–13

– 1 –

God will consume and eliminate any resistance.

Expect the LORD Jesus Christ to do exactly what Isaiah 27 says.

(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

All protective and security measures will be pointless. Only the Holy Spirit will protect us.

(v. 6–11)

– 3 –

Jerusalem is God's destined city. God's plans will be accomplished.

(v. 12–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is working toward the last days. Symbols and imagery can be powerful conveyors of truth. Through His Word God teaches us, exposes our evil, corrects our behavior, and trains us in righteousness. God heals us when we pay attention to Him. Our allegiance to God and our reverence for Him now will save us then.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAY FOR REVERENCE
TODAY, HELP ME TO HONOUR YOU
AND GIVE YOU GLORY.**

Making God LORD Again

ISAIAH 28–29

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The second of five woes is aimed at Jerusalem. In Isaiah 29:1, the Bible says: “Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt...” Many scholars point out that the meaning of the word Ariel in Hebrew is ‘lion of God’ – portraying a strong city. It is relevant that the Hebrew word Ariel sounds like the Hebrew word for ‘altar’ or ‘hearth’. This is significant because the location of the altar of burnt offering was the Jerusalem Temple. Though the altar of the Temple was made to offer joyful sacrifices in repentance, the city itself will now burn as a sacrifice on the altar. Our reading covers a time of great difficulty and failure for Jerusalem. During Isaiah’s own life the Assyrians would surround Jerusalem, threatening its very existence. But God was merciful. King Hezekiah prayed for the people, and God delivered the city!

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 29:1–11

– 1 –

God speaks to Jerusalem in judgment. It will be like a dead body speaking out of the dust.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

The armies that move against Jerusalem will be unsuccessful. God extends mercy, the prophecy shifts to restoration of the city.

(v. 5–8)

– 3 –

God has laid out His plan; some will not heed His warnings and will suffer the consequences.

We must not be spiritually dull but know and follow God’s Word. (v. 9–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

This passage reveals the difference between those who believe and those who don’t. To understand and see God, we must give up our right to choose on our own. When we choose to make Jesus Christ our LORD, we become servants, not lords ourselves! Stubbornly asserting ourselves against God isn’t going to help us. He is either our LORD, or He is not.

TODAY’S PRAYER

**FATHER, HELP ME TO FOLLOW YOU
IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH. I ACCEPT
YOUR WAYS AS MY OWN, PLEASE
HELP ME TO FOLLOW THROUGH.**

Choose God's Help

ISAIAH 30-32

DISCOVERING THE WORD

An important thing to remember is that God offers help. The people of ancient Israel forgot this; specifically, those living after the time of the prophet Isaiah. God was always there to accept repentance, but the people only saw His failure to help them. This is a common human problem. We only see things from our immediate viewpoint. We must try to understand who God is and what He desires. God is not a bully. If we truly seek His face, He will answer and help us. In our lives, we need to be listening to God and His Word, so that we can adjust our life plans to His righteous ways.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 30:1-11

— 1 —

We often take the advice of those around us without going to God first. God is ready and waiting to offer us help and victory. (v. 1-5)

— 2 —

Although they may try, we often find that people cannot help us. Satan is moving and only God can truly help. (v. 6-7)

— 3 —

The Laws of God are necessary to counter the vices of satan. We must know and be obedient to the Word of God. (v. 8-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Even when there is a clear origin of war or conflict in the physical world, God's wisdom shows us that there is a spiritual element. Earth is under the bondage of sin. Sin is spiritual. Knowing this, we must fight with a new kind of understanding. God is the Ruler of all. The spiritual world does not escape His view. Let's call on God in trying times so that He will intervene.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THERE IS GREAT WISDOM IN KNOWING YOU AND ACCEPTING YOUR HELP. HELP ME TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

A Capable Saviour

ISAIAH 33–35

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Isaiah 33 is a dramatic portrayal of judgment and redemption. It contains a prayer in a time of deep distress. For His people, God was going to move on their behalf, despite their great failure. When God and His ways are ignored, sin compounds on sin. Yet, when we repent, God will enact a plan of salvation. He will save us out of trouble.

As Christians, we know this. We have recognized our great sin and placed ourselves at the mercy of God Almighty. We may not be able to fully comprehend what God can do, but we know that there is nothing too big for Him to handle. Wherever we find ourselves, we have a capable Saviour.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 33:1–9

– 1 –

Accountability is key to our actions. God requires us to be accountable.

(v. 1)

– 2 –

Accountability comes when we trust in the work of the LORD God. He acts powerfully, when we call.

(v. 2–6)

– 3 –

God makes His move and the earth stops! God is the strength of our salvation. He rescues us.

(v. 7–9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is ready and waiting to move in the strength of His wisdom and righteous justice in our lives. If we have committed our lives to God, then we must exalt Him above all others. If not, then we have placed our trust elsewhere. Let's keep God and His Word close to our hearts, following Him with repentant and obedient hearts.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO KNOW YOU BETTER!

Lies of the Enemy

ISAIAH 36–37

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Sennacherib's actions are shocking. He captures and destroys all the cities of Judah. Even after all of Hezekiah's preparations, after all of his religious reforms and fortification projects, Sennacherib tears through like a bulldozer. Next, he turns his eyes to Jerusalem, where Hezekiah and the citizens of the area have holed up for their last stand. One of Sennacherib's leading men is the Rabshakeh – the man who stands by the aqueduct and taunts the people with messages from his king. The Assyrians are confident after victory, and he tempts the people to give up their loyalty to Hezekiah and defect to Assyria. This message reveals the Assyrian's ignorance of the true God. It was the beginning of a battle that Jerusalem would not have to fight.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 36:1–13

– 1 –

Satan claims victory when he should not.

We must learn to trust in God's Word.

(v. 1–6)

– 2 –

Satan claims that God's people trust in foolish things. Remember, satan is the father of lies.

(v. 7–9)

– 3 –

Satan believes he has permission to destroy God's people. God has ultimate authority over all! We must listen to His Word.

(v. 10–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

In this confrontation, understanding the details is critical. Satan and his workers are real; they encourage us to forget God and His promises, so we fall in fear and doubt. But if we are committed to follow Jesus Christ, it's vitally important that we read the Bible and spend time in prayer with the LORD every day. We must never forget the power of God and His Word in our lives.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME KNOW YOUR WORD BETTER. I MUST READ AND FOLLOW IT.

Bigger Than Yourself

ISAIAH 38–40

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The Bible brings insulting ideas to our sensate and selfish human culture. One of the most repulsive to us who value individualism is that God's Word, and will, is much bigger and more important than our own lives. In comparison to God, human life is nothing. Yet, our modern world has trained itself to define all reality according to itself. There are even some theories that postulate something does not exist unless it is observed by someone. This self-centred idea means that each person creates his or her own reality, his truth, her truth, my truth. Nothing is real outside of our own experience. This is not only ignorant of reality, but also unwise. The only individual whose perspective counts is God Almighty. How does He define reality, and how do we relate to that?

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 40:1–11

– 1 –

The power of God is bigger than our sin.

Sin does not define us, God does.

(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

The Word of God stands forever. The LORD is mighty and better than our weak flesh.

(v. 6–8)

– 3 –

The promise of God is bigger than our need or sorrow. God is our help and our strength.

(v. 9–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

There is the saying that we choose the destiny of our own soul, we are the master of our own ship. But we have disaster all around us and, the truth is, we are limited by mortality and swallowed by depravity. Every one of us needs God. When God's truth and wisdom is at work in us, we realize that His Word, His will, and His ways are much bigger than ourselves.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, TEACH ME TO THINK
ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD,
NOT ACCORDING TO THIS WORLD.**

The Servant of the LORD

ISAIAH 41-42

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Amazingly, the works of Jesus Christ are written in the book of Isaiah, chapter 42. Seven hundred years before Christ would walk the earth, God had the prophet record His plans. It is interesting that God proclaims His work to us in certain ways. God is always present, even through the bad decisions mankind continues to make. God is patient. He waits for people to hear His message; He speaks to each of us in deeply personal ways. If we pay attention to the words of the Bible and reflect on the work of God and what He has called for the future, we will be inspired to praise Him!

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 42:1-13

— 1 —

It is Jesus Christ who brings justice to the nations. Through the anointing of God's Spirit, Jesus performed His Father's will perfectly.

(v. 1-4)

— 2 —

The LORD created and stretched out the heavens. God is not a part of creation, He is its Creator! Jesus brings us into the light of God's

grace. (v. 5-9)

— 3 —

God will prevail against His enemies. When the LORD appears, there is no doubt about the outcome!

(v. 10-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is God's work to show Himself. It is our work to show others how God has changed us. As Christians, we must let the LORD have His way in our life. This is necessary so others can see God's work in our life. Many choose to believe in God but not follow Him. If we say that Jesus Christ is our LORD, we must choose to follow Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO CHOOSE YOU EACH DAY. I NEED A RIGHTEOUS LORD, HELP ME TO KNOW HOW TO FOLLOW YOU.

There Is No Other God

ISAIAH 43–44

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Isaiah 44 looks at the blessing of God on Israel as His special chosen people from among the nations. In this passage, God's unique nature as Creator, King, and Redeemer of Israel is established to provide a stark contrast to manmade idols. Idols and the making of idols are described as absurd. The true God was not and could not be made or replicated by human hands, quite the opposite: man was formed by God in God's own image. When idols are created, the true God is rejected for a lump of wood and metal. This should inspire us to think about why we build the things we build. Are we creating things in our lives, working towards establishing things for us to worship them? Everything we do in life is meaningful. It reflects our motivations. We should take care to create things that honour God.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 44:1–17

– 1 –

**Many will serve God,
both Jewish and Gentile.**

God pours His Spirit out on
all who seek Him.

(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

**God is exclusive;
He saves us.** The LORD
is real and true.

(v. 6–8)

– 3 –

**The work of our hands
is great but cannot save
us.** We must worship only
God, trusting His work in us
through Jesus Christ.

(v. 9–17)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Art is a great expression of our minds revealed through our hands. But when we allow anything in our life to draw our attention and worship away from God, it becomes a sin. Why is it sin to worship something other than God? God is real and alive! The LORD is part of our future, our past and our present. We should not seek to replace Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**GOD, PLEASE HELP ME TO KEEP
YOU IN YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE,
AS KING AND LORD OF MY LIFE.**

Appointment With Truth

ISAIAH 45–47

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The Bible's overall theme is the rescue of humanity. It is not focused on a nation or a people but on God's plan. He works with us as we come to Him, His ways, and His reality. In this life, everyone must face the reality of a decision for or against Jesus Christ. In today's passage we read again about one of the two cities mentioned most in the Bible: Jerusalem and Babylon. These two cities are opposites in their origin and destination. Babylon is known as the city of sin, while Jerusalem is the city of God. In Isaiah's context, Babylon will be used to bring judgment on Judah and Jerusalem for abandoning their covenant with God. But Babylon itself will not avoid punishment for its excessive sin. We understand that, when we speak of Babylon, there is a destruction that cannot be stopped or avoided.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 47:1–11

– 1 –

Babylon will be shamed by the truth of God's witness. We cannot get away with sin.

(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

Babylon showed no mercy to Israel. In seeking her own glory, it's the pride of Babylon that will bring her to a horrible end.

(v. 4–9)

– 3 –

Babylon will fall because she is wise in her own eyes. We must trust in the wisdom of God, not in the wisdom of this world.

(v. 10–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The spirit behind Babylon is still active and powerful. Satan is behind the conspiracies and trouble in today's world. Though the world is under the bondage of sin, when Jesus Christ came, died, and arose on the third day, He unseated the powers of the evil one. Praise the LORD!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND YOUR WORK IN MY LIFE. I COME TO YOU TODAY.

The Servant, Our Hope

ISAIAH 48-50

DISCOVERING THE WORD

How is it possible that the redemption of the LORD is not of value to those who need it to stay alive? As we grow older, why do we search in vain turning toward technology and new ways of thinking to preserve our life? What is it in this life we are trying to preserve? Many people claim that our best life can be lived in the here and now, yet murder, terrorism and distress continue to march on. It seems that we seek every other way except Jesus Christ to solve our problems. God has done the work and told us in His Word that He is the way, the truth, and the life. Why do we continue to look for other answers? It is not about the people who follow God, people will always disappoint us: it is about you, me and God. The choice is ours.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 50:1-10

– 1 –

Broken relationship with God is compared to divorce. Sin is a horrible thing.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

God has made a way of reconciliation for us. Sin is only conquered through Jesus Christ.

(v. 4-6)

– 3 –

The LORD God is strong and victorious over all evil. Sin has lost its power because of Jesus. We must trust in the name of the LORD. (v. 7-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As Christians, we understand that to fear the LORD means we recognize that God is far superior to us. This fear does not lead us to run away, but instead inspires us to trust deeply and depend on God for protection. As we give our lives to follow the LORD, we must listen to and obey what God says in His Word.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I PRAY FOR A HEART THAT SEEKS TO OBEY YOU AND YOUR WORD.

The City of God

ISAIAH 51-53

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Jerusalem is mentioned more than any other city in the Bible. In the New Testament, the apostle John says that the New Jerusalem comes from God and descends to the new earth as the headquarters of God's Kingdom. He writes, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" – REVELATION 21:1-2.

God has a long-term plan for the city of Jerusalem. But there is a New Jerusalem with God, and heaven will hold it until Jesus Christ rules the earth. This end of time place is described in the Bible.

DISCOVERING GOD – ISAIAH 52:1-10

– 1 –

God Himself will redeem Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is different from any other city on earth because of God.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

God will make His name and work known in the days to come. As believers in Jesus Christ, we must believe the Bible.

(v. 4-6)

– 3 –

At the end of time, all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God. The LORD will reign as King.

(v. 7-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God allowed ancient Jerusalem to face oppression and exile because they abandoned Him. This nation was chosen as a vessel by which God would bless the world, so when they turned away from God, He had to bring them back. As we read the history between God and Israel as recorded in the Bible, we learn lessons from ancient pain and rejoice in the salvation through Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, CHANGE MY HEART SO THAT IT IS ALWAYS SOFT TOWARDS YOU. I WANT TO BE YOUR FAITHFUL CHILD.

Special Invitation

ISAIAH 54-56

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The grace of God is amazing. There are many times in life when we are faint and fall, but God offers us grace and pardon if we choose it. Each of us has the opportunity to make a decision to come to God, repent of our sins and choose to trust Him and follow His ways. God's mercy is remarkable and His love is incredible. There is a limited time-period for mercy, however. A time is coming when the LORD Jesus Christ will return and He will judge the world. Isaiah 55 is an invitation to experience God's forgiveness and receive the abundant life that the LORD offers. The call to repent has an urgency to it, not only are we limited in lifespan, but one day God will begin His work of judgment.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 55:1-11

— 1 —

God's people had been spending their resources on things that could not satisfy. The LORD freely offers His gift of salvation to those who come to Him.

(v. 1-2)

— 2 —

God's promises go beyond Israel to include the nations. Everything is ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

(v. 3-5)

— 3 —

God's Word is true; He is merciful and will abundantly pardon. The LORD offers salvation to all who receive Him.

(v. 6-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God made a covenant promise with us. He will never fail us, even though we fail Him. We have the blood of Jesus Christ to cover our sins when God looks at us. This is the most precious thing anyone can imagine. God made a way for us to become His people forever. But the choice is still ours. We must choose to take Christ as our LORD and Saviour.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL PROVISION. YOU ARE AMAZING AND I CHOOSE TO WORSHIP YOU TODAY.

Out of the Dark

ISAIAH 57-59

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah likens our sinful world to a darkened world in which it is difficult to see. What is amazing to me is how we get accustomed to our own darkness. It is all we know, we are used to it, unaware of it. We may long for light and still not really know what it is until we see it.

In the last fifteen years, the world has changed a great deal. Some say the economy has changed drastically from as little as five years ago. But the morals and the methods of people have changed as well. God desires mankind to continue searching for and finding Him. But this requires a change in the way we think and act. The Bible speaks of Jesus Christ as the light that shines in the darkness. By looking to Him, we know and understand the changes we need to make in our world.

DISCOVERING GOD — ISAIAH 59:1-11

— 1 —

Our own disobedience has tarnished us. But God's hand is not too short to save us! We need to come back to Him.

(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

We are blinded to the truth of our sin. We must come back to the knowledge of God, and follow His truth.

(v. 4-8)

— 3 —

Justice and righteousness will remain far from us if we do not confess our sin. Salvation is with the LORD. Come to Him!

(v. 9-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The way of salvation is to come to Christ and repent of our sins. There are some in the Church who have refused to use the word 'sin' or even speak of Hell. They believe that God is love, therefore, He does not do unlovely things. The problem with that point of view is that God's holy love is different from our cultural ideas of love. It is important that we willingly follow Jesus Christ with our lives.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED TO CHANGE.
I NEED TO BE DIFFERENT FROM
THE WORLD. HELP ME TO TURN MY
HEART WHOLLY TOWARD YOU.**

Praise the LORD!

ISAIAH 60-63

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The LORD is to be praised! The theme of the transformation of God's people continues in Isaiah 62 with the assurance of Zion's salvation. From shame they will rise in glory, thanks to what their LORD God has done and will do. When we look at the prophetic, we often see judgments and warnings, but there are also times when we see obvious reconciliation and praise. As Christians, we know and understand that we must praise God all the time, because God is good all the time. Judgment comes because of disobedience to God. However, when we turn back from sin, repent, and begin following God, He helps us and blesses us.

DISCOVERING GOD – ISAIAH 62:1-9

– 1 –

God's work among His people brings them from shame to glory. Salvation is at work, the Messiah will save all who respond to God. (v. 1-2)

– 2 –

God makes His love known. Through Christ Jesus, God removes our loneliness and brings us into relationship with Him. (v. 3-5)

– 3 –

Jerusalem is God's city. He will return there. (v. 6-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is good all the time, even though we are not. If we choose to ignore God's Word and His commands, we will not be rewarded. If we respond to Him with repentance and humility, we know that He is merciful to forgive us of our sins. Nothing shows this more clearly than God's redeeming ability in Jerusalem's case.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, YOU ARE GOOD ALL THE TIME! HELP ME TO LIVE IN YOUR TRUTH AND IN YOUR WAYS EVERY SINGLE DAY.

Tremble at His Word

ISAIAH 64-66

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Religion is man's way of finding and connecting with God. The LORD made a way for ancient Israel to connect with Him, and He has made a way for us to connect with Him. This way cannot be fulfilled through religion. Our connection with God must be physical and spiritual. Jesus Christ came – fully God and fully man – to save the human race from the devastation of eternal death. The Bible is God's Word and it tells us the truth about Him, human nature, and the consistent trouble caused by sin. We must understand that when religion takes control, merely actions without heart, we experience problems with knowing God. The last chapter of Isaiah reminds us that God is alive and well; His presence fills heaven and earth, and there is a right and a wrong way to worship and honour Him.

DISCOVERING GOD – ISAIAH 66:1-11

– 1 –

God looks upon all those who love and know His Word. We must live in humble obedience to God and His Word.
(v. 1-2)

– 2 –

God's people were worshipping God in their own way. We must know and worship God His way.
(v. 3-4)

– 3 –

Jerusalem is God's city, and He will return there. We should be ready!
(v. 5-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is all too easy for us to lose our passion in following God. We must stay engaged with God in reading His Word, praying to Him, and thinking on all the things He has done. Like a garden, we must cultivate, propagate, weed, and water our hearts. Judah's mistake was in forgetting that God Himself determines the ways in which He is to be followed. Let us not repeat these mistakes.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I WANT TO FOLLOW YOU WELL. I WANT TO KNOW YOU MORE. PLEASE HELP ME TO HEAR YOU.

The Call

JEREMIAH 1-3

DISCOVERING THE WORD

God calls each of us to a unique task. He has purposes for all of us. Unfortunately, there are many who choose to go against His call. All too often we make life all about ourselves. We tirelessly look for ways to make life better for us. What if there's more than this? What if we can help others discover God? It is worth considering that the call of God is not just for us; like Jeremiah, we too are called to speak with people, to be a witness to them. There is deep meaning that God can impart into our lives if we let Him.

In this first chapter of Jeremiah, we read about God's call on Jeremiah, and his response. Here, there is insight for purposeful living.

DISCOVERING GOD – JEREMIAH 1:1-10

– 1 –

God called Jeremiah at a specific time and season in his life. God calls each of us also.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

Jeremiah is known and called by God, even before his birth. The LORD knows each of us and our purpose before we are born.

(v. 4-5)

– 3 –

Jeremiah can do nothing without God. We can do nothing of eternal value without God's help in our lives.

(v. 6-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God calls each of us to something unique that only we can do. If we seek the face of God, read His Word and focus our lives to follow and obey the LORD Jesus, God assures us that we are in His perfect will. As Christians, we have a choice concerning what we do, but our choices should always be to follow God.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO FOLLOW YOU WITH MY CHOICES IN LIFE.

God's Justice in Judgment

JEREMIAH 4-6

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Only one thing is worse than God's judgment on the world: God's judgment on those who know Him and so, should know better. We must love the LORD and His ways. In Jeremiah 5, we learn about the corruption and immorality of God's people in Jerusalem. They loved God for what He was, not who He was. They knew the stories about God, but not God Himself. They refused instruction from God and His prophets, and accepted rules from the priests. They had developed a kind of "culture of godliness" that mixed in whatever religious applications they wanted. To those who were faithful to God, He promised to leave a remnant even as His judgment fell. Today, we must know that God is real, and that we can hear from Him through His Word. When we ask the LORD into our lives to rule and reign our attitude changes toward sin; we want to live for God, His way! And we become an enemy of satan's kingdom.

DISCOVERING GOD – JEREMIAH 5:1-9

– 1 –

We must seek the truth.

God is the truth, and His eyes are always on it.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

The people were to live according to the ways of God, but they were not.

As Christians, we must know the LORD and follow His ways.

(v. 4-5)

– 3 –

God made provision for His people and they still turned away. We

must discipline ourselves according to God's Word.

(v. 6-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Making poor choices and then blaming God for not reinforcing our behaviour is not good. We should instead follow God's lead, allowing His Word to inform our decisions. This is the way to succeed, even through difficulty. It is critical to remember that we are not mini gods. There are consequences to our choices. Our decisions have impact and outcome.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME! AS I TURN MY LIFE TO FOLLOW YOU, PLEASE HELP ME MAKE THE RIGHT LIFE CHOICES.

Set Your Heart

JEREMIAH 7-9

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The people of Judah were in a bad place, and Jeremiah was called to prophesy against them. His words gave them the option of repentance, and he declared them at the gate of the Temple. Their problem though, was that they had believed their own lies. They believed that God would continue to help them if they took care of His temple. “The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD...” (JER. 7:4), was their saying.

Jeremiah’s proclamations showed that they had deeply misunderstood God’s intention for the Temple. They could not worship other gods, trust in false prophets, break the covenant law, and worship God. These actions disqualified them. God did not desire their religious observance only when they were in the Temple, He desired that their hearts be set on Him.

DISCOVERING GOD – JEREMIAH 7:1-11

– 1 –

God’s promises reciprocated a commitment to love and honour Him. We must live our lives according to His Word.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

God knows everything. A double life will not go unnoticed. As Christians, called by God’s name, we must live for Him.

(v. 4-10)

– 3 –

God sees everything, we do not. We must trust the LORD in all things; we answer to Him.

(v. 11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God teaches in His Word to obey *all* that it says. When we have the wrong attitude, we will find ways to manipulate the Word to fit our desires. When we have the right attitude, we deny ourselves and seek God’s way, even if we don’t fully understand it. When we look for God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we will find Him.

TODAY’S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO SEE THE TRUTH OF YOUR PRINCIPLES AND CHANGE MY WAYS TO FOLLOW YOU.

God Alone

JEREMIAH 10-13

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Many people do not think idolatry is a problem today. They believe most people do not worship lifeless, spiritually worthless idols. But the truth is idols are just as blinding and spellbinding as they have been for generations. What idols do we have? The things we own or the people we hold in high regard are our new idols. The word 'worship' is defined this way: reverent honour and homage paid to God or a sacred personage, or to any object regarded as sacred. A lot of things and people can become sacred to us: celebrities, cars, status symbols, saints, family members, and disturbingly, ourselves. As a believer in Jesus Christ, God alone should be sacred to us. Our Creator should be kept in His proper place of respect; He is the judge, the healer, the provider, the giver of life and of morality. No one is good but God.

DISCOVERING GOD – JEREMIAH 10:1-10

– 1 –

God created the universe and all that is in it.

Worship God the Creator, not the created things.

(v. 1-5)

– 2 –

Nothing or no one can compare to the majesty and greatness of Almighty God. Worship God, because He alone is

worthy. (v. 6-9)

– 3 –

God's wrath will cause the earth to tremble.

Worship God. He is the true and living God.

He is LORD!

(v. 10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is amazingly strong and all-powerful. There is no one or nothing in all the universe that can compare to Him or come against Him. It is important that we understand this. Many people believe in other gods or in aspects of nature as being a part of the spiritual world. That is wrong. God is the Creator of everything and the One True God. We must worship only Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, OUR WORLD IS SO DECEPTIVE. PLEASE GUIDE MY LIFE. I WANT TO WORSHIP YOU ALONE.

Choose God

JEREMIAH 14-16

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Every generation must choose who they will follow as God, and then live with the results of their choice. Jeremiah 16 deals with a generation of Judeans who will have to face their consequences head on. Once long ago the kingdom of Judah had chosen and followed God, but they turned away, and had been adding wickedness to wickedness. Amazingly, the LORD does not just abandon His wayward people, instead He sends prophets who tell them what to expect and why. In this case, they would be cast out of their homes and into a land that they did not know (JER. 16:13). Each generation is a new generation. Each generation must choose whom to serve. Who will you serve?

DISCOVERING GOD — JEREMIAH 16:1-13

– 1 –

Our future is threatened when we turn away from God. We must turn back to God.

(v. 1-4)

– 2 –

God's peace is removed and conditions of life change when we turn away from Him. We must put our trust and our hope in God. (v. 5-8)

– 3 –

Life will be meaningless and lost if we continue to turn away from God. God is loving and merciful to deliver and redeem all who come to Him. (v. 9-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is heartbreaking to know that there are people who live and die without knowing God. Like Jeremiah, we are all called to bring the knowledge of the true God to people in our lives. We must live, follow, and obey God first, and then share the good news of His redeeming love and mercy to all who are willing to listen.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO LIVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR GREAT LOVE AND FAITHFUL MERCY.

God Shows

JEREMIAH 17-19

DISCOVERING THE WORD

God gave Jeremiah more than just words to speak, He also gave him specific assignments to carry out as visual prophecies for the people. The people were given multiple ways to understand the messages of God. Jeremiah 19 records that God told Jeremiah to purchase an earthen vessel from a potter to use in a prophetic demonstration. God's judgment would come unless the people repented of their wickedness. They needed to stop breaking the covenant that they had with God and return to the ways and heart described by Moses. The Bible is full of demonstrations like Jeremiah's clay jar because God does not judge in secret; He wants people to return to Him and so He speaks in many ways.

DISCOVERING GOD — JEREMIAH 19:1-9

— 1 —

God used the clay jar as a symbolic sign of the coming destruction.

We must always take care to hear and obey the Word of the LORD.

(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

God's people were far away from Him with their detestable practices. We

must not change or modify God's Word and commands to our modern thought or

approval. (v. 4-6)

— 3 —

Willful and unrepentant rebellion against God will bring sure destruction. Hear the

Word of the LORD!

(v. 7-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Failure happens for several reasons. If, with the right motivations, we try something and don't succeed, God knows, understands, and will help us when we ask. But failure that comes because we don't care about fulfilling God's commands, because we purposely choose to do things our way, is a different kind of failure. There are far-reaching consequences for deliberately ignoring God.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO KNOW AND BE OBEIENT TO YOUR WORD AND WAYS. THANK YOU, FATHER.

Trouble and Obedience

JEREMIAH 20–22

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When we suffer, it can feel isolating. Too often, suffering makes us feel like God does not care about or concern Himself with our despair. Thankfully, the truth is that God does concern Himself with human suffering. God suffers with us. In a very real sense, God can understand our suffering through the human experiences of Jesus Christ. When we are humiliated and persecuted because of who our God is, we need to remember that God knows and is there through it all. There is nothing that He cannot heal. Nothing that He cannot make right. Being true Christians does not mean that we look for trouble, but it does mean that when trouble finds us due to the name of Christ or the way of God, we are ready to respond rightly. We need to die to ourselves and give God everything.

DISCOVERING GOD – JEREMIAH 20:1–6

– 1 –

Persecution does not always come from enemies of the faith.

People in the faith often misunderstand God and do the wrong thing.

(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

Jeremiah prophesied about the fall of Judah.

God protects those who do His will. We must react in the way God wants us to.

(v. 3–5)

– 3 –

Pashhur's future was not good; he prophesied lies.

God is truth, and will always bring correction.

(v. 6)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

History is full of stories of those who acted righteously yet were beaten or tortured by the Church. This is wrong! This doesn't mean that the Church is wrong about Christ, or that Christianity is evil, it means that some Church leaders do not listen to the Holy Spirit. A leadership position does not make actions right, obedience to the LORD and His Word does that.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I DESIRE TO HEAR YOU
AND FOLLOW YOU IN EVERY WAY.
PLEASE HELP ME TO GROW IN
YOUR WORD.**

Saving the Sheep

JEREMIAH 23–25

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Shepherd is a word often used in the Bible to represent leaders of men. Leaders chosen by God to take care of His people: ‘the sheep of My pasture.’ At times, those shepherds failed to carry out their assignments well. And other times, shepherds not chosen by God still managed to be put in place by man. This was a violation of God’s Law. Good shepherds followed God’s Law and cared for the people in God’s truth. In Jeremiah 23, a heartbreaking admission from the LORD takes us by surprise. The shepherds selected by Him did not attend to what God commanded them. They did not point in His direction. Now, they were going to be replaced.

DISCOVERING GOD — JEREMIAH 23:1–8

– 1 –

God will correct the shepherd problem.

The people of the LORD will have shepherds who are true to God.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

God called His Messiah to atone for sin. Sin must be confronted and overcome.

(v. 5–6)

– 3 –

God chooses when men and women of God return to Israel. God brings us home from our countries.

(v. 7–8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God had to bring judgment on Israel and Judah because of the great evil that they had become unrepentantly involved in. Israel had been scattered into the Assyrian exile, and Judah would be scattered in the Babylonian exile. The promise that God gave through Jeremiah was that He, the True Shepherd, would find His true sheep and bring them back to safe pasture.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I WANT TO TRUST YOU LIKE A SHEEP TRUSTS A GOOD SHEPHERD. PLEASE HELP ME TO HEAR YOUR HEART, AND PLEASE HEAL MINE.

Pay Attention

JEREMIAH 26–28

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Just as God did with Judah and Jerusalem, He has tried many times to get the attention of people around the world. God loves His creation, but He will judge those living apart from His will. As the world rejects the Gospel of Christ and the reality of God time and time again, His patience will come to an end. Thankfully, we can rest knowing that the LORD is not only perfectly just, but also perfectly merciful and gracious. He is a God we can trust to always do the right thing. In Jeremiah 26, we see God again moving the prophet Jeremiah to extend peace to the people: If they return to Him, they will receive mercy rather than destruction. Unfortunately, the immediate response of the people is not to repent, but to punish Jeremiah.

DISCOVERING GOD – JEREMIAH 26:1–9

– 1 –

Prophets are called to speak the truth of God's Word. Often times it is not popular to the masses or nice to hear.

(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

Prophets are to deliver God's message of truth to all people. The LORD is not willing that any perish.

(v. 3)

– 3 –

Prophets are to tell the truth about what's right and wrong. God's desire is for us to know and obey the truth of His Word.

(v. 4–9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Biblical prophet Micah prophesied something similar back in the time of Hezekiah. Hezekiah chose to repent, and Jerusalem escaped complete disaster. In Jeremiah 26, the people of Judah, the priests and King Jehoiakim had everything they needed to believe God, and yet it still wasn't enough. Let our hearts not be so hardened toward the truth.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD GOD, I RECOGNIZE YOU AS THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORLD. PLEASE SOFTEN MY HEART TOWARD YOUR TRUTH.

A Letter from God

JEREMIAH 29–31

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Jerusalem's administration crashed. The city was forced into a political takeover by the Neo-Babylonian Empire and many people were carried away to the conquering city of Babylon. At that time, some so-called prophets who lived among them told the Jews that they would quickly return from there. But God would not return them until the land and the people were made right before Him. In Jeremiah 29, we learn that Jeremiah wrote a letter to the exiles in Babylon, from the LORD. Jeremiah sent the letter by an envoy King Zedekiah of Judah was sending to Babylon, along with tribute he was paying to King Nebuchadnezzar. The two men who carried the letter were Elasah and Gemariah. Despite being from a crooked government and priesthood, these men showed that some remained faithful to the LORD, even through the worst of times.

DISCOVERING GOD – JEREMIAH 29:1–13

– 1 –

God sent a letter to the people held captive in Babylon. God sent us His Word; we should read it.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

God gave the people instructions on how to live while in Babylon. We must believe the Word of God and put it into action in our lives.

(v. 5–7)

– 3 –

God warns there are false prophets who do not speak His truth. We must know the truth of God's Word; He alone is our future and our hope.

(v. 8–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Bible is the real Word of God and through it, we have all that we need. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" – 2 TIM. 3:16-17. God sent His Word to heal us and deliver us from our destruction (PS. 107:20). We should read it!

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PRECIOUS WORD. HELP ME
TO KNOW IT AND LIVE BY
YOUR TRUTH.**

The Power of God's Word

JEREMIAH 32-34

DISCOVERING THE WORD

It seems as though the safest place in Jerusalem is in prison. At least, it was for Jeremiah! In today's reading, we find the prophet Jeremiah imprisoned in the guard's courtyard of King Zedekiah's palace. The king did not take kindly to the words Jeremiah had been prophesying and wanted him away from the people who were struggling in the siege against the city. While prison is normally a place to house criminals, Jeremiah's only crime was going against the king's wishes by speaking the Word of God. It is from this place of confinement that God gives Jeremiah evidence for the hope he had just preached about Israel's future. God tells him in advance that he will be approached about buying a field. Though a wartime invasion would normally be a foolish time to buy, this was a sign that one day, God would restore Judah.

DISCOVERING GOD — JEREMIAH 32:1-10

— 1 —

God's promise of a bright future was given to Jeremiah in prison. No matter the circumstance or surrounding, the Word of God is true! (v. 1-5)

— 2 —

God gave Jeremiah symbolic evidence for the hope he had just prophesied about Israel's future. All who come to Jesus Christ as LORD, have a secure future! (v. 6-7)

— 3 —

The Word of the LORD was confirmed in Jeremiah's heart. God always speaks through His Word! (v. 8-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God will move wherever and whenever He decides, and is also merciful to help us through difficult situations. As with Jeremiah, God can and will assure us that He is with us. We may not always have the control that we as humans like to have, but we can always trust and hope in God. No matter the circumstance, God is still in control.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I TRUST IN YOUR PLANS AND HOPE IN YOUR MERCY. THANK YOU FOR BEING EVER PRESENT IN MY LIFE.

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CANADA





Bible Discovery
PO Box 456
Orangeville, ON
L9W 5G2
t +1 519-940-8338

USA

Bible Discovery
PO Box 150
Murrysville, PA
15668-0150
t +1 724-733-8336

UK

t 8000-8689-94

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