

WEEK 30 — JOSIAH AND JEREMIAH

Date: about 640-609 BC

The Story: God, disgusted at Judah's exceeding evil during the reign of Manasseh, now begins to work toward the same punishment of Judah that has already come on Israel: destruction and exile. Zephaniah prophesies it, and then Jeremiah repeats the same kind of message. Meanwhile, hope endures: young King Josiah works to turn the nation back to God, renovating the temple and recommitting the people to God's covenant with Israel. But will it be enough?

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

JULY 24 ZEPHANIAH

Today's reading features the prophecy of Zephaniah, a descendant of King Hezekiah (1:1). He declares, with broad strokes, God's judgment upon the whole earth (1:2)—but quickly the judgment he foretells focuses on Judah and a few surrounding nations: Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Cush, and Assyria. God is the judge of all peoples. But his primary concern is for disciplining his own people, represented by Jerusalem and Judah. The good news: after he judges and punishes, he will purify and restore his people.

Date: probably between 640 and 612 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Zephaniah 1 • Zephaniah 3

Kids' Reading*: Zephaniah 1:1-9 • Zephaniah 3:9-20

JULY 25 2 CHRONICLES 34:1-7 • JEREMIAH 1-2

Today's reading introduces the reign of Josiah, king from age eight, and tells of the religious reforms he instituted at age twenty. Then it introduces Jeremiah, whose prophetic ministry begins when Josiah is about 21 years old. God calls Jeremiah, a priest, to be a prophet, and we quickly begin to hear Jeremiah prophesy an invasion from the north because of Judah's wickedness.

Date: about 640-609 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Chronicles 34:1-7 • Jeremiah 1-2

Kids' Reading*: 2 Chronicles 34:1-7 • Jeremiah 1

JULY 26 JEREMIAH 3-4

Today's reading finds the Lord rebuking Judah for its unfaithfulness, like an adulterous wife—yet God calls Judah back to himself, if she will be faithful and get rid of her idols. But if she will not, a besieging army will come from the north (Dan and Ephraim were northern tribes of Israel, 4:15-16) and destroy Judah.

Date: maybe sometime between 627 and 609 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 3-4

Kids' Reading*: Jeremiah 2:1-19 • Jeremiah 3:14-20 • Jeremiah 4:1-2

JULY 27 JEREMIAH 5-6

Today's reading continues the themes of Jeremiah 1-4: God confronts Israel with its sins and foretells destruction at enemy hands if it does not repent. Again, that enemy will come from the north (6:22). Notice the wickedness even of the religious leaders (prophets and priests) mentioned in 6:13-15. When even the religious leaders are corrupt, how can the nation ever do what is right in God's sight?

Date: maybe sometime between 627 and 609 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 5:12 to 6:30

Kids' Reading*: 2 Kings 22:1 to 23:3

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

JULY 28 **2 KINGS 22-23**

Today's reading tells the story of the greatest accomplishment—and the demise—of King Josiah. He had God's temple renovated, and in the process a copy of the book of God's law (which apparently had been lost) was discovered. With its finding, Josiah launched a major recommitment of Judah to God. But later, with one bad decision, Josiah is killed and the kingdom passes to his son Jehoahaz, who is taken prisoner by the Egyptians and replaced by his brother Eliakim/Jehoiakim.

Date: about 640-609 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Kings 22-23

Kids' Reading*: 2 Chronicles 34:8-33

JULY 29 **2 CHRONICLES 34:8 to 35:27 • JEREMIAH 7**

Today's reading repeats yesterday's story from 2 Kings of Josiah's reforms and of his death. Probably shortly after Josiah's death comes a famous message Jeremiah spoke at the temple gates, warning Judah to turn back to God or else the temple and the people would be destroyed. (For background about the destruction of Shiloh when God's tabernacle had been there, see 1 Samuel 3-4; Shiloh was apparently destroyed shortly after this conflict, though the tabernacle itself survived).

Date: about 622-609 BC (2 Chronicles 34:8 to 35:27) • probably in or soon after 609 BC (Jeremiah 7)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Chronicles 35 • Jeremiah 7

Kids' Reading*: 2 Chronicles 35

JULY 30 **JEREMIAH 8-9 • JEREMIAH 26**

Today's reading continues Jeremiah's proclamation at the temple begun in Jeremiah 7. The prophecies of destruction because of Israel's wickedness continue. Jeremiah 26 tells about the aftermath of that type of prophetic preaching: Jeremiah is seized by a mob and threatened with death for seemingly speaking out against Jerusalem and the temple. But is he really? (We will jump around a bit in Jeremiah, which is not organized chronologically for the most part; thankfully, it often gives us chronological markers to tell us when various stories happened, so that we can reconstruct a chronological flow of events.)

Date: probably in or soon after 609 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 8 • Jeremiah 26

Kids' Reading*: Jeremiah 26

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

2K 23:4-27 (T), 29-30 (V)

2Chr 34:3-7 (T)

2Chr 35:6 (T), 11 (T), 20-24 (V)

Jer 2:14-25 (T), 15-16 (V), 20 (S),
33 (S), 34 (V)

Jer 3:1 (S), 3 (S), 20 (T), 24 (T)

Jer 4:4 (C), 5-31 (T, V), 30 (S)

Jer chapter 5 (T)

Jer 6:1-15 (T, V), 19-21 (T), 23 (V),
24-26 (T, V), 27-30 (T)

Jer chapter 7 (T), 7:6 (V), 9 (S, V)

Jer chapter 8 (T), 8:10 (S)

Jer chapter 9 (T), 9:1 (V), 2 (S), 11
(V), 16 (V), 25-26 (C)

Jer 26:8 (T), 11 (T), 15 (V), 16 (T),
18-19 (T), 21-23 (T, V), 24 (T)

Zeph 1:2-18 (T)

Zeph 2:4-5 (T), 8-11 (T), 12 (V), 13
(T)

Zeph 3:1-8 (T)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

2K 23:20 (V)

Jer 3:6-10 (S)

Jer 5:6 (V), 7-8 (S), 13-17 (V)

Jer 8:1-3 (T)

Jer 9:21-22 (T)

Zeph 1:17 (T, V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

2K 23:7 (S), 10 (V)

Jer 2:3-4 (S)

Jer 3:2 (S)

Jer 7:31 (V)

C = Circumcision
N = Nudity
S = Sexuality
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes
V = Violence