

- Recap of last week: Josiah sends a delegation of priests lead by Hilkiah to Huldah to get confirmation that God would one day wipe Judah out. She confirms it and Josiah reacts to Huldah's message by calling the people together, reading the word of God, getting everyone to agree to recommit to God, and destroying idols. (2 Chronicles 34:29-33) In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, he throws the greatest Passover celebration since Samuel's time. (2 Kings 23:21-23) (2 Chronicles 35:1-19) A prophet named Jeremiah was active at the time. He was the son of the high priest Hilkiah under Josiah. He wrote many prophecies starting with the time of Josiah and all the way until the Kingdom of Judah will be taken over. (2 Chronicles 35:25) (Jeremiah 1:1-3) Jeremiah tries to tell God he is too young to convince people. God tells him to not to be afraid of them because He will be with him. (Jeremiah 1:6-10)
- Jeremiah recaps the fact that God was responsible for delivering them and they still deliberately turned away from Him, and they made it even worse by proclaiming their innocence. (Jeremiah 2)
- God asks through Jeremiah if a man will try to return to the wife he divorced if she is already married to another man? In this way, God is illustrating the fact that those who went after other Gods were like a woman married to another man and He will not return to them. (Jeremiah 3: 1-5)
- God told the Israelites that He would be that way. From the very beginning he repeated that fact frequently. (Exodus 20:5), (Exodus 34:14), (Deuteronomy 5:9)
- God is still the same, his nature doesn't change (Hebrews 6:17-18). So He still does not want us to put anything ahead of Him. Today we are not tempted to bow down to other idols, but our idols are anything we put ahead of God: work, money, sex, phones, friends, even family. Jesus warns us against putting anything ahead of God by saying a man can't have two masters. (Matthew 6:24)
- During the days of King Josiah (while Jeremiah is still young) he is also sent to the North to tell the people of Israel to repent. (Jeremiah 3: 6-25)
- Jeremiah delivers God's message to both Israel and Judah, urging them to fully and completely repent and maintain that commitment. (Jeremiah 4:1-5)
- God knows whether or not we are really repentant or we are still serving our idols. We can't fool God. (Galatians 6:7)
- He does prophesy that the disaster will come from the North and affect both Israel and Judah. (Jeremiah 4: 6-18)
- He does say that He will be particularly anguished by Judah's coming desolation. (Jeremiah 4: 19-31)
- God tells Jeremiah to go to Israel and actually look for righteous people, but warns him not to be deceived by people who say they are Godly and really are not. (Jeremiah 5: 1-13)
- Jesus tell us the same thing. It is not enough to confess that Jesus is Lord. (Matthew 7:21)

- God says that He will judge them because they turned against Him even though they were enjoying the basic benefits of His creation. (Jeremiah 5: 14-31)
- God says that the people are not ashamed of themselves and won't even believe they are in imminent danger. (Jeremiah 6)
- In a famous sermon location, God tells Jeremiah to stand in the temple and tell people that Judah is in the habit of worshipping other gods, then trying to pay homage to God, then going right back and worshipping other gods again, all at the same time. They don't even know that their religious worship in the temple is a mockery. (Jeremiah 7:1-29)
- God says that He will turn the valley of Hinnom into a valley of slaughter where there will be so many dead the birds and other critters will come and eat them. (Jeremiah 7:30-34)
- God says everyone is guilty from the greatest King to the poorest person. They are all trying to reassure one another but ultimately they will all suffer. (Jeremiah 8:1-17)
- Jeremiah grieves for his people. (Jeremiah 8:18-22)
- God explains that He will ultimately punish all nations, not just Judah and Israel. He also specifically instructs people not to boast except in the knowledge of God. (Jeremiah 9)
- Paul reminds the church in Corinth of that very thing. (2 Corinthians 10:17).
- God compares man-made idols to the living God and explains that there is no comparison. (Jeremiah 10:1-22)
- God reminds individuals that it is in their power to have God direct their steps, and that they shouldn't try to direct their own steps. (Jeremiah 10:23-25)
- Remember that if we do that, God will make our paths straight! (Proverbs 3:5)

Questions

1. Who originally delivered Judah?
2. Was Judah's turning away unintentional or intentional?
3. How did Judah make their turning away even worse?
4. What does Jeremiah use to illustrate why God will not go back to idolatrous peoples?
5. Did God warn the Israelites about His intolerance of them worshipping other gods?
6. Is God still a jealous God? How do we know that?
7. What are some of our idols today?
8. How many masters can one really have?
9. Who does God tell Jeremiah to prophesy to during the days of King Josiah?
10. What does true repentance involve?
11. Where does Jeremiah say that disaster will come from?
12. What will God be particularly anguished about?
13. What does God warn Jeremiah about as he is looking for righteous people?
14. What does God say Israel was enjoying even as they turned against Him?

15. Were the people ashamed of themselves for committing idolatry?
16. Did people believe they were in imminent danger?
17. Where does God tell Jeremiah to preach to Judah?
18. What are the people of Judah doing right before and after they pay homage to God?
19. What will the Valley of Hinnom be known as?
20. Who does God say will ultimately suffer?
21. How does Jeremiah react to the news that his people will suffer so much?
22. What are we to boast only in?
23. How do man-made idols stack up against the living God?
24. Who should direct our steps?