



# BURNING SCROLLS

AUGUST 23, 2020

**JEREMIAH** a prophet  
for the city

God told Jeremiah to record His words on a scroll and deliver them to the king, but the king cut up and burned the scroll and then went after Jeremiah and his scribe for treason. While we may not take scissors to the pages of the Bible today, we often cut out the parts we don't like by ignoring them. We may not engage in book burnings, but our refusal to acknowledge God's Word is no less dangerous. Join us for part 6 of **Jeremiah: A Prophet for the City** as Pastor Gary Webber explores what Jeremiah has to teach us about the nature of God's Word.

## PASSAGE (READ):

Jeremiah 56

## PRINCIPLE (KNOW):

God's Word is .....

God's Word will .....

God's Word is .....

## PRACTICE (DO):

Commit to a daily Bible reading plan. Ask yourself these four questions for each passage:

1. What does this passage teach me about God?
2. What does this passage teach me about people?
3. What does this passage teach me about how I should relate to God and people?
4. What questions or thoughts will I share with others from this passage?

## DAILY READINGS:

Day 1: Jeremiah 34

Day 2: Jeremiah 35

Day 3: Jeremiah 36

Day 4: Jeremiah 37

Day 5: Psalm 119

Day 6: Hebrews 4

Day 7: 2 Timothy 3

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

### BOOKS:

**Run with the Horses**, by Eugene Peterson

**Eat This Book**, by Eugene Peterson

**Precepts for Life: Jeremiah, Part 1 and 2**, by Kay Arthur

**Worldview: Thinking and Living Biblically**, by Greg Laurie and others

**Intro to the Major Prophets**, by J. B. Nicholson

## **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**



### **HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]**

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. Has there ever been a time when you have felt so compelled to say something that you thought you would burst? Describe the kinds of situations that might make someone feel that way.

### **HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]**

We have read how Jeremiah endured suffering and persecution because of his obedience to serve as God's messenger. Today we are going to look at a specific time when he considered giving up. Today's passage took place after Pashur, the head of the Temple, had Jeremiah put into stocks and publicly humiliated (check out the sermon from August 16, 2020).

3. Read Jeremiah 20:7-8.
  - What accusation does Jeremiah level at God? Why might Jeremiah have felt this way? What is your response to Jeremiah's accusation? Have you ever felt like that?
  - Why had the word of the Lord become a "reproach and derision" to Jeremiah?
  - Read Matthew 5:10-12. How would these words be an encouragement to Jeremiah? In what ways are they an encouragement to you?
4. Read Jeremiah 20:9.
  - Do you think it is possible that verse 9 is an indication that Jeremiah had tried to give up his role as the prophet of God? Why or why not?
  - Can you think of other biblical accounts of people who tried to avoid doing what God called them to do? What common themes or principles do you see in these situations?
  - Have you ever felt a "holy discontent" or, to paraphrase Jeremiah, a "burning in your bones"? Talk about it. Was it from God? How did you know?
5. Read Jeremiah 20:10-12.
  - What does Jeremiah say that people are saying about him? If you were in Jeremiah's situation how would you respond to this kind of criticism?
  - What is Jeremiah's response (verses 11-12)? How do you respond to Jeremiah's plea for vengeance upon his enemies? How might we reconcile this with Jesus' command to "love our enemies," "turn the other cheek", and "go the extra mile"?
6. Read Jeremiah 20:13-18.
  - Passages like this have caused some critical Bible scholars to claim that Jeremiah may have suffered from emotional and/or mental illness. Do you agree? Why or why not?
  - What is your personal response to Jeremiah's raw and unfiltered prayer?
  - The answer to Jeremiah's question about the value and meaning of his life are found in Jeremiah 1:5-10. After reading that passage, how would you respond to Jeremiah's cries in chapter 20?

### **HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together - in Huddles]**

7. Have you ever struggled with depression, extreme self-doubt, and/or discouragement? Describe your relationship with God before, during, and after that experience. Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.