

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (April 1) Jeremiah 3, 4

God begins Chapter 3 using the illustration of marriage. God is Judah's spiritual husband and they are His bride, but they have played the part of a spiritual whore in following other gods and idols. They have refused to love God and to be committed and faithful to Him. Dear Christian, do not divide your loyalty between Christ your Savior and any other thing. Everything else in this life will let you down and ultimately fail you. Christ who is faithful never will. Verses 15–18 are a prophecy of Christ and the New Testament era. The ark of the covenant will no longer be missed for Christ has replaced it, and He will give “shepherds,” pastors, who will feed His people His Holy Word. Chapter 4 is a call to repentance. Christ calls us to “circumcise our hearts,” that is, turn from following our own sinful desires and plans and receive the new heart and mind He gives through His Holy Spirit. The rest of the chapter is a warning to Judah concerning what God's wrath will look like over impenitence. God does punish sin. He destroyed Jerusalem and still punishes nations for their wickedness. Ultimately, He will punish all individuals who refuse to turn from their evil ways and back to Him and His ways of righteousness in Christ.

Tuesday (April 2) – Jeremiah 5

The people of Jerusalem refuse to repent. They harden their hearts harder than rock (v. 3). They practice false oaths, injustice, adultery and apostasy from the true faith. They go after false gods and they tell their priests and prophets (their pastors) to only preach what they want to hear. You cannot be a Christian and practice sin. You cannot be saved and live in sin. Do not think that God will do nothing if you refuse to turn from your own sins. Nor can your pastor preach what you want to hear. That is not His calling. He is called to preach repentance over your sins, instruct you in the way of godliness, and proclaim the forgiveness and life found in the blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Wednesday (April 3) – Jeremiah 6, 7

Chapter 6 continues God's warning to Judah that they must repent now or else they will be destroyed by a foreign nation. Their priests and prophets preach “peace, peace” when there is no peace (v. 14). Be careful of pastors who preach “fluff” and things that people like to hear but never mention repentance and forgiveness in Christ. The people are so numb to sin that they do not even know anymore how to blush (v. 15)! May you never forget how to blush over your sins. Instead look for “the ancient paths” and “where the good way is” which is the ancient paths of God's holy word. Walk in repentance and faith. Walk in the new life Christ gives you. These ancient paths will steer you away from death. Chapter 7 is a warning about abusing God's forgiveness. The people of Jerusalem believed that God wouldn't punish them because they had the temple. They would say, “the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord” meaning: “We have the temple. We don't need to repent. We can sin and go to the temple and get forgiveness for it.” Dear believer, do not use the excuse that you can sin and

then just go to church and get forgiveness for it without actually repenting. Repentance means an amending of our ways along with receiving forgiveness.

Thursday (April 4) –Jeremiah 8

Part of God's punishment on Jerusalem will be that all who are killed by the invading army of Babylon will not receive a proper burial, and those who are left alive will wish they were dead (vv. 1–3). Even animals know the seasons and the times, but mankind is spiritually dumber than beasts of the earth (vv. 7–9). In verse 18 Jeremiah raises a lamentation for his people. Is there still balm in Gilead (v. 22)? Yes, in Christ and His wounds, He gives healing to the wounds that our sins give to our soul!

Friday (April 5)- Jeremiah 9, 10

Why is the land ruined (v. 12)? Because people have forsaken God's Law, which is His Word (v. 13). Following God's Word brings blessings upon a land. Disregarding it brings destruction. Chapter 9 ends with an encouragement in verses 23 and 24. Do not boast in yourself, or in your own strength or intelligence, but in that you know Christ and His life! Chapter 10 is an encouragement. The temptation for us is to want to be like the rest of the world. God says that the world's flashy idols are all speechless and lifeless. The world's idols are really foolishness. God your Creator gives you true wisdom (vv. 1–16). The chapter ends with a prayer of deliverance from our enemies. With Jeremiah we ask that God would correct us not in anger but in His righteousness and love for our souls.

Saturday (April 6) – Jeremiah 11, 12

In chapter 11 the people of Israel and Judah have broken the covenant God made with them earlier when they were led out of Egypt to Mt. Sinai (Exodus 24:3–8). Christ has made a new covenant with us in His blood on the cross and brought us into this covenant through our baptism. Let us live in our baptismal covenant trusting Christ and keeping His Word. In the next chapter, Jeremiah asks God why He lets evil prosper. God in His patience allows evil to prosper in order to give the evildoers time to repent. But in the end they will be destroyed. God also promises to restore His people and all nations that learn His Word with a true heart of faith. This promise is fulfilled with the Gospel going out to all the world.

Sunday (April 7) – Jeremiah 13

God commands the prophet to take a loincloth and bury it so that it is ruined. The symbol of the loincloth is that which started off new and nice now has become nothing but rags and soiled—just like Judah and Jerusalem. Then the prophet is to fill jars with wine and smash them. So shall Jerusalem be smashed and go into exile, for they have refused to turn from their wicked ways back to God who loves and cares for them, as he also cares for us.