

Week 41: Oct. 13 (Oct. 6–Oct. 12)

- Continue with the prophet Jeremiah
- “This is what the Lord says: ‘Reform your ways and your actions...change your ways.’”
- “Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you?”
- “When you tell them all this, they will not listen to you; when you call to them, they will not answer.”
- “Peace, peace” they say, when there is no peace
- “They have no shame at all;”
- “Is there no balm in Gilead?”
- God’s complaint: the utter faithlessness of the Israelites: “the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart.”
- The people worship idols made of metal: “Everyone is senseless and without knowledge.”
- “Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Who do all the faithless live at ease?”
- “Can a leopard change its spots?”
- “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name”
- “Then the Lord said to me: ‘Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people.’ This is a VERY strong charge!
- “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.”
- Jeremiah is told not to marry, not to have a family; he is shunned, hated, and eventually beaten for his message - “the word of the Lord has brought me insult and reproach all day long...”
- Jeremiah tries to push back against God for the work God has called him to do - he feels alone and abused and doesn’t want to do it any longer.
- Jerusalem to be given to the Babylonians; those who stay behind will die; those who go into exile will live
- Continue with the letter to the Colossians
- “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”
- “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”
- How are we to interpret, “Wives submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.”
- Reflective of the times: “Slaves obey your earthly masters in everything.” But note, “Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair.”
- “Devote yourselves to prayer...”
- “Let your conversation be always full of grace...”
- Next we turn to the 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Thessalonians

- Paul probably wrote the letter around 51 CE, making it the first of his letters; he probably wrote it from Corinth
- “Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you.”
- Paul turns from moral instruction to eschatology, reminding followers that they live in the in-between time, waiting for the second coming of Christ, which he envisions: “After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”
- “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
- Psalm 82:3 - “Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy”