

Week 43: Oct. 27 (Oct. 20–Oct. 26)

- We continue with the prophet Jeremiah
- Jeremiah dictates his prophecies to Baruch, who writes them on a scroll. When the words on the scroll are read to the king, he cuts the scroll into pieces and throws the pieces into the fire to show he could not care less about God's word.
- Jeremiah is put into a cistern because he prophesied words no one wanted to hear
- The Babylonians rout the Israelites and set fire to Jerusalem, including the Temple and the Royal Palace; everything is destroyed.
- Time and time again, the people refuse to listen to Jeremiah, and continue to follow other gods: "We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord."
- Then the Lord God issues oracles against the nations - e.g. for the Moabites: "Since you trust in your deeds and riches, you too will be taken captive...Joy and gladness are gone from the orchards and fields of Moab."
- Finally, it is Babylon's turn. Where once the Babylonians were victors, God's wrath will be upon them. "I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I punished the king of Assyria. But I will bring Israel back to their own pasture."
- We continue with Paul's letter to Timothy, his protégé:
- "Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching; for the scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves to be paid." Good advice for us to follow today
- Interesting advice: "Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses."
- Different time and place: "All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect."
- "Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains."
- "But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness."
- "As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life."

- Next, we turn to Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, where Paul cites Timothy's mother Eunice and grandmother Lois as pillars of faith.
- Reminder: "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."
- "flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace..."
- "The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful."
- A potent reminder about the Bible: "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."
- A warning: "To suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths."
- Psalm 90:4 - "A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night." A reminder that God's measurement of time is not based on a 24-hour day.
- Psalm 90:12 - "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."
- Proverbs 26:4 - "Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him."
- Proverbs 26:12 - "Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them."