# THE PROPHET LIKE A

## PILLAR OF IRON

### "DENIAL" IS NOT JUST A RIVER IN EGYPT

#### **WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE:**

JEREMIAH 7

"Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. Walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you."

Jeremiah 7:23

#### FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

Take a look at these praiseworthy truths about the Living God in comparison with dead idols in **Jeremiah 10**.

First, read **verses 1-5**. Heavenly signs (e.g. zodiac, horoscopes, superstitions) are meaningless. The heavens were created by God, and we already have direct access to Him! Idols are lifeless creations made by humans, how foolish to pray to or trust in something that needs to be carried around.

Next, read **verses 6-10**. The Living God is incomparable! He is not limited by walls or geography. He needs no human-made provisions.

Finally, read *verses 11-16*. It is God that made everything that exists in the universe. So it's stupid, foolish, and futile to trust in anything or anyone less than Him! But idols still exist in our lives today. Just be careful that no created thing takes the place of the Lord as your refuge or source of security or truth. Invite God to search your heart to keep it from harboring any idols. And enjoy the true freedom and power of a heart submitted exclusively to God! James 4:1-10.

#### **MARCH 2025 GROWTH GOALS**

- Read the Book of Jeremiah.
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of Jeremiah (available on the website).
- Once each week take five minutes of silence after reading scripture to "listen" to what God has said and meditate on it.

#### FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read Jeremiah 9:23–26. There are two ways the people of Judah had lost their way. First, they had attributed their success and comfort in life to their own scheming, and their own wisdom. The Hebrew gives the idea that they were "singing their own praises." They were focused on the material things without care for focusing on what was, literally, eternally more important – knowing God. To know the Lord involves a deep, personal relationship, where one patterns their character after God's.

The second way they had gotten off track was their misunderstanding of the Law. They only kept it on the surface. For example, they thought just being circumcised meant they were good with God regardless of how they lived. But their hearts were revealed to be no better than surrounding nations that knew nothing at all of God. Truly keeping the Law would take place when a person's heart was in line with God's: grieved by sin, yet full of forgiveness, compassion, patience, etc. Consider in prayer what opportunities the Lord has placed in your life allowing you to assimilate His heart in yours.

#### **WEEKLY AFFIRMATION:**

### WITH GOD I AM ENOUGH!

#### FOR CHILDREN:

Follow the instructions on the accompanying sheet to conduct your own blind spot experiment. Then read Jeremiah 17:9-10. Just like our eyes have blind spots, we have "blind spots" in our lives. This means that sometimes we are unaware that the way we think or act might not be the best for us or others. Thankfully God knows us and our hearts better than we know ourselves! Read Hebrews 3:13; 4:12-13. God has given us the Bible, our families and friends, and fellow Christians to help us see our blind spots! And God can help us make changes that will give us more peaceful and joyful lives!

## **Blind Spot Experiment**

Follow the directions below, or scan the QR code to see an example.



- 1. Draw a different shape or symbol on each end of a 2"x5" card.
- 2. Hold the card in your right hand while extending your arm at eye level.
- 3. Slowly move the card closer to your face. Can you see both shapes?
- 4. Repeat, this time covering your left eye with your left hand. Focus your right eye on the left shape. What do you notice?
- 5. Switch hands. This time covering your right eye with you right hand. Focus your left eye on the right shape. What do you notice?
- 6. Finally, draw a line across the card through the center of both shapes, and repeat steps 2-5. Does your experience change?