

THE PROPHET LIKE A PILLAR OF IRON

11

A PIECE OF THE ACTION PARABLES

JEREMIAH 13:1-11; 35:1-14; 25:15-29

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE:

“The Lord appeared to us in the past,
saying: “I have loved you with an
everlasting love; I have drawn you with
unfailing kindness.”

Jeremiah 31:3

FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

Read Jeremiah 31:21-26. As the Israelites are traveling the long road into exile, God urges them to set up road markers along the way, so that they know one day they will return. The people are referred to as a virgin daughter, she has become rebellious and left home, but God longs for her to return. He doesn't like to see her suffering from sinful choices, He wants her restored and safe.

The restoration of rebellious Israel is then described in a very special way: “A new thing: A woman will shelter a man.” (v.22). This is an unexpected picture for Jeremiah's audience, the “weaker” embracing the “stronger.” But the reference is to the significance of Christ's birth many centuries in the future. The omnipotent God will descend and make Himself vulnerable as a human so as to save humanity from its sin!

The rest of the passage, and the chapter, describes the wonderful blessings of the Christian age. But for now, if you feel distant from God, He is calling you back. And Jesus willingly paid the price to make that possible.

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 32. This comes during the 18-month final siege on Jerusalem by the Babylonian army. This is the end of Jerusalem and Judah for the next seventy years. Jeremiah is imprisoned a number of times during these 18 months because Zedekiah didn't like what God had told him to preach: that resistance to the Babylon was futile because it was God's plan. While facing all this God tells Jeremiah to purchase a field from his relative. By worldly wisdom this is ridiculous. Jeremiah knows the land is already handed over to the Babylonians, he would be buying land he would never live on. But Jeremiah obeys even though he doesn't fully understand why.

But after Jeremiah obeys, he prays to God for clarification. “Why did you make me buy this land I'll never use?” (vv.24-25). God reveals to Jeremiah that the purchase was to represent His beautiful promise that He would bring His people back to the land in the future.

“Obey Then Pray” is not a bad motto for when God's Word is clear on how we are to think, act, and live, but we don't fully understand why at first.

WEEKLY AFFIRMATION:

TODAY I'LL CLING TO GOD!

FOR CHILDREN:

Use clothes pins for a game of tag! Players pin 3-5 clothes pins on their shirts, then try to take other's pins while protecting their own. Enjoy! When finished read Jeremiah 13:1-11. God actually told Jeremiah to use an undergarment to teach a lesson! In those days, both men and women wore a tunic (*like a dress*) under their outer robes. God wished His people to cling to Him closely, like clothes cling to a body. But many of the Israelites had not kept close to God, and it got them in trouble. James 4:4 says, “Draw close to God, and He will draw close to you.” Life is always better when you cling to God!