

## The Book of Jeremiah

# 1

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we start reading the book of **Jeremiah** (the second of what is called "The Major Prophets"). Jeremiah was a priest from the village of Anathoth. The Lord commanded him not to marry, because of the impending desolation of Jerusalem (**16:1-4**) under the Babylonian invasion, which he constantly foretold. He is often called "the weeping prophet" because of the personal anguish of spirit revealed in the book (see **4:19; 9:1; 10:19-20; 23:9**). It is interesting to note that people equated the message of Jesus with that of Jeremiah, for the disciples had heard some calling Jesus Jeremiah (**Matthew 16:13-14**).

Jeremiah exhibits noticable timidity in his early career as a prophet (**1:6**) but the Lord continually encourages him to be strong and courageous in the face of all opposition (**1:18; 6:27; 15:20**).

Zephaniah the prophet precedes Jeremiah historically (even though Zephaniah's book comes later in the Hebrew Canon). Habakkuk was a contemporary of Jeremiah, and Obadiah may also have been. Jeremiah began prophesying in the waning years of Judah's existence as a sovereign state, after the northern kingdom of Israel had already been swallowed by Assyria. It was a time of great turmoil in the region, with many of the small nations at the western fringes of the Assyrian empire being used as pawns in a game of grand strategy between the imperial powers of Assyria, Egypt and emerging Babylon. Israel was tempted to rely on political measures to safeguard its existence instead of repenting and relying upon the Lord. The defining verse of Jeremiah – the passage that describes the sin against which Jeremiah constantly prophesied – is found in **2:13**:

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

You will find this theme recurring throughout the book of **Jeremiah**. With this in mind, pull up a comfortable chair, and let's read **chapters 1-6**.

# Memory Verse

For God so loved the world that he gave his one  
and only Son, that whoever believes in him  
shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

## Your Fishing Kit

**Module 111** marks an important juncture in your studies at the Online Bible College. This module, as its title so obviously shows, focuses on the subject of evangelism. But so does the rest of the course. Each of the following three modules – **Module 112** (The Life and Times of Jesus Christ), **Module 113** (Essential Church History) and **Module 114** (A Gospel for the 21st Century) – continues the theme of evangelism, not just in theory but also on a practical level. Our aim, at the end of the Biblical Studies Course, is for you to be thoroughly equipped in this area.

Every memory verse in your lessons from now on, right up to the last lesson of **Module 114**, is geared to equip you to be more effective in reaching the lost. Each memory verse is designed to be part of your “fishing kit” for use when witnessing to unbelievers.

There are 39 lessons to go in the Biblical Studies Course and, when the assignment for **Module 111** is added, this makes a total of 40 memory verses. These memory verses are:

<b>John 3:16</b>	<b>Proverbs 14:12</b>	<b>John 1:12</b>	<b>Matthew 10:32-33</b>
<b>John 3:18</b>	<b>Romans 5:8</b>	<b>John 3:3</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 10:13</b>
<b>John 3:36</b>	<b>1 John 4:10</b>	<b>John 5:24</b>	<b>1 John 5:10</b>
<b>Ephesians 1:7-8</b>	<b>Acts 2:38</b>	<b>John 6:37</b>	<b>1 John 5:11</b>
<b>Romans 3:23</b>	<b>Acts 3:19</b>	<b>John 10:10</b>	<b>1 John 5:12</b>
<b>Romans 6:23</b>	<b>Acts 4:12</b>	<b>John 10:28</b>	<b>Romans 2:4-5</b>
<b>Isaiah 53:5</b>	<b>John 14:6</b>	<b>Romans 10:9</b>	<b>Acts 17:30</b>
<b>Isaiah 53:6</b>	<b>1 John 1:8</b>	<b>Romans 10:13</b>	<b>John 14:1-3</b>
<b>Isaiah 59:1-2</b>	<b>1 John 1:9</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 5:17</b>	<b>John 16:33</b>
<b>Isaiah 54:6</b>	<b>1 John 1:10</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 5:21</b>	<b>Revelation 3:20</b>

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.