



# Devotional

June 28 - Oct. 3

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But Jeremiah also has a message of hope. My favorite passage is Chapter 29: 11-14:

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord...”*

May we all call upon the Lord and seek to do his will for the good of the alien, the widow, the orphan, our families, our community, and our country. Amen.

## WEEK FIVE (JULY 26–AUGUST 1)

**Day 208: July 26, 2020**

**Full Plan: Jeremiah 50:1–52:34**

**Abbreviated Plan: Lamentations 3:1–66**

Jeremiah closes with his strongest indictment yet, against the mighty Babylonians. (ch 51-52) God’s strongest judgments are against the proud and the powerful, (50:31-32) who do not use their resources for God’s purposes of love and justice.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 209: July 27, 2020**

**Full Plan: Lamentations 1:1–2:22**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ezekiel 1:1–28**

Lamentations reminds us to be true to our sorrow and grief, and being willing to name the hurt and pain we are feeling in our lives and in the world. For what things do we weep, with our eyes flowing with tears, with no comfort or courage to be found (Lam. 1:16)?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 210: July 28, 2020**

**Full Plan: Lamentations 3:1–5:22**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ezekiel 2:1–10**

Lamentations 3-5 speak for any who feel like our world has fallen apart and we feel helpless. It also gives us the assurance that God is not mad at us (3:33) and God is with us until the very end (3:22). Mostly, it gives us permission to feel what we feel.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 211: July 29, 2020**

**Full Plan: Ezekiel 1:1–5:17**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ezekiel 3:1–27**

The Israelites were not hearing God, so God called Ezekiel to be a unique kind of messenger: a performance artist, whose memorable actions (ch 1-5) would speak as loud as his words. In what ways will your actions convey the truths of God's love to others?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 212: July 30, 2020**

**Full Plan: Ezekiel 6:1–11:25**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ezekiel 11:1–25**

Ezekiel 6-11 shows how it feels like to be in crisis, facing disaster. We feel helpless against pain and harm (ch. 6). We feel like God is against us or absent (ch. 7). We feel like our values have been challenged (ch. 8). But at the end, God can change our hearts (ch. 11).

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 213: July 31, 2020**

**Full Plan: Ezekiel 12:1–16:63**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ezekiel 18:1–32**

Ezekiel 12-16 reminds us that God takes sin seriously. God relentlessly works to remove our sin and make us more like Jesus every day, so that God's love flows freely in and through us. It's our job to work with God to make that happen.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 214: August 1, 2020**

**Full Plan: Ezekiel 17:1–21:32**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ezekiel 33:1–33**

Ezekiel 18 reminds us that much of the violence and death in the world stems from injustice and the unwillingness of people to treat each other with equity and dignity. God has no pleasure in any death (18:32) and wants us to have a new heart and spirit (18:31).

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

*Ezekiel 18:20 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

*“The person who sins shall die. A child shall not suffer for the iniquity of a parent, nor a parent suffer for the iniquity of a child; the righteousness of the righteous shall be his own, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be his own.”*

This verse clearly outlines to us that we must be responsible for our actions, thoughts, and intentions. We cannot cling to the righteousness of those around us and rely upon their good deeds to carry us in life. Nor, can we allow the excuse of other’s poor judgement to become our excuse for poor judgement and bad deeds. Depending on your circumstance this may come as a relief or may seem overwhelming. We are surrounded each day with temptations and opportunities to stray from God’s will. We are tested by those around us and sometimes loving our neighbors and enemies becomes very difficult. We can have people around us that continuously fall to sin and therefore tempt us to follow in their footsteps. Still we must remember that we are going to be held accountable for our actions. We must confess our sins to Jesus, spend time in prayer, and remember that he died for our forgiveness of sin.

Prayer: May we feel your spirit lord and go through each day with you guiding our way. May we remember to love all, be selfless, and praise you and you alone. Amen.

**Day 215: August 2, 2020**

**Full Plan: Ezekiel 22:1–26:21**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ezekiel 34:1–31**

As much as we might believe in an all-powerful God, Ezekiel reminds us that there is one important thing that God cannot do: God cannot force us to be faithful. We have the power to choose to obey God or not. When we don’t, we live with the consequences.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

**Day 216: August 3, 2020**

**Full Plan: Ezekiel 27:1–32:32**

**Abbreviated Plan: Ezekiel 36:1–38**

Ezekiel 27-32 contains judgments over two of the greatest economic empires in the ancient near east: Tyre and Egypt. Their downfall is a reminder that economic and military might does not provide the kind of security that only obedience to God can provide.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life: