MORNING WATCH FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

NOVEMBER 2020
November 1

Chapter: Jeremiah 6
Theme: Here comes Babylon
Study Verse: Jeremiah 6:16
Statement: Most of this chapter is an alarm call—run, run! Babylon is coming! But in the middle, here is this quiet call to seek the “ancient paths” where we can “find rest for our souls.” What do you think these ancient paths are?

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Prayer: Dear Father, I want to live in those ancient paths. I want to walk in the good way, find rest for my soul, and invite others to walk with me.
November 2

Chapter: Jeremiah 7
Theme: A message at the temple gate
Study Verse: Jeremiah 7:5

Statement: Young Jeremiah takes up his stand where the people are entering God’s courts, acting holy, but not loving God or others. At this point there is still a chance they can avert captivity by Babylon. What do they have to do to make that happen?

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Prayer: Dear God, I want to serve You and serve Your people, especially the most vulnerable ones.
November 3

Chapter: Jeremiah 8
Theme: Pleading with Zion
Study Verse: Jeremiah 8:7
Statement: You can hear the love and frustration in the voice of God (spoken in human words by His prophet) as He pleads with the people to stop being self-righteous and actually do right. Do you think God feels like this today? Why or why not?

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Prayer: Loving Lord, You must cry over Your people! Please show me how to help.
November 4

Chapter: Jeremiah 9
Theme: The weeping God
Study Verse: Jeremiah 9:23-24

Statement: Jeremiah is often called the “weeping prophet.” But it is God who is weeping, for the stubborn, intense, unrepentant rebellion of His own children. How can you comfort God?

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Prayer: Dear Lord, please help me not to give You reason to cry over me. Help me to find ways to turn the hearts of others, to see You not as an angry, punishing God, but as weeping over us with love and longing.
November 5

Chapter: Jeremiah 10
Theme: Foolish idolatry
Study Verse: Jeremiah 10:12

Statement: It can be easy for us today to mock those who build physical idols with their own hands and then bow down and worship them. But what things made with human hands can you think of that people worship today?

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Prayer: Only true God, I know that it is You alone who has established this earth. Help me to live by Your wisdom.
November 6

Chapter: Jeremiah 11  
Theme: Broken covenant  
Study Verse: Jeremiah 11:4b  
Statement: God reminds the people of the covenant He made with them when He brought them out of Egypt, and of the curses for disobedience which Moses warned of from the beginning. He also tells Jeremiah about a plot against his life and promises to save him.

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Prayer: Holy One, I want to keep Your covenant, and I know I can only do that with the power of Christ. Thank You for Your promise of the Spirit.
November 7

Chapter: Jeremiah 12
Theme: Jeremiah debates with God
Study Verse: Jeremiah 12:15
Statement: Jeremiah asks if God is being completely fair. Do the people deserve so much anger? God reminds him why they do, but as always, ends with a promise of compassion and healing—if only they will repent!

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Prayer: Lord, I am listening. I repent of all my sins, and I ask for your compassion and returning.
November 8

Chapter: Jeremiah 13
Theme: Parable of the waistband
Study Verse: Jeremiah 13:11
Statement: God has Jeremiah live out a “living parable” about a waistband which is ruined. When you wonder if God is vengeful or angry, be sure to look at all these places where He weeps as He warns of evil consequences of evil actions.

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Prayer: Great God, I know we all, on this earth, deserve Your anger. Thank You for being so patient instead, even when evil judgments do come; longing that we all may be saved.
November 9

Chapter: Jeremiah 14
Theme: Drought and prayer
Study Verse: Jeremiah 14:22

Statement: God grants yet another opportunity for repentance. He allows a drought, and none of the idols can save the people. He is hoping they will turn to Him. Jeremiah prays for them. Do you pray for your nation?

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Prayer: Mighty King, You are ruler above all. When I see the sins of my country-people, I, too, weep for them. Manifest yourself in ways they can understand and show me how to help.
November 10

Chapter: Jeremiah 15
Theme: People will not listen
Study Verse: Jeremiah 15:19

Statement: God is, He says, “tired of relenting!” (V 6) Who can blame Him, after so many centuries? Jeremiah, too, is getting fed up now. The people not only refuse to listen, they mock and blame and reproach him. Have you ever felt reproached just for trying to speak God’s word?

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Prayer: Dear God, when I am trying only to be faithful to You, and people get mad at me, it is painful. I know it is only a tiny taste of how You feel when they perpetually turn from You. Help me not to give up.
November 11

Chapter: Jeremiah 16
Theme: The hardest living parable
Study Verse: Jeremiah 16:21

Statement: This must be one of the hardest things God asks of Jeremiah. To show the people how horrible their lives will become if they refuse to repent, he must forego love and family life. The people’s fate is almost fixed. Yet still, God promises restoration in the end. What would you do if you were Jeremiah?

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Prayer: Father, I hope You don’t ask such hard things of me. But I do pray that I will be faithful to whatever You do ask.
November 12

Chapter: Jeremiah 17
Theme: Warnings; a reminder of Sabbath
Study Verse: Jeremiah 17:7-8

Statement: Jeremiah points out the deceitfulness of a sinful human heart, and the blessings of obedience and dire consequences of continued rebellion. Then he links all this with the Sabbath. Why do you think that one thing is so important?

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Prayer: Lord, let me trust in You no matter what. Let my heart be like a tree planted by water, unafraid when drought comes.
November 13

Chapter: Jeremiah 18
Theme: Potter and clay
Study Verse: Jeremiah 18:5

Statement: Here is another living parable; this time one played out by another. Have you ever watched a potter? What lessons can you learn from their work?

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Prayer: Potter and Sculptor of my soul, form me in whatever fashion You please. If I must be broken and remade, let me lie still in Your hands and trust that the end will be good.
November 14

Chapter: Jeremiah 19
Theme: Final breaking
Study Verse: Jeremiah 19:15
Statement: This time, the vessel that is broken is already fired and complete. It can no longer be remade. God is saying that the captivity can no longer be stopped. People have completely refused to repent. Do you think there might have been a small number who did listen and were faithful? How do you think God cared for those?

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Prayer: Lord God, we are weak, all of us. But we do have a choice, and I make mine for You, now, while I am young and not yet hardened and complete. Make me Yours!
November 15

Chapter: Jeremiah 20
Theme: Jeremiah almost loses heart
Study Verse: Jeremiah 20:13

Statement: Until this point, although he was reviled and ignored and mocked, Jeremiah has not faced physical retribution. Now he is beaten and put in the stocks—and by a priest, no less. He almost loses heart. What helps him recover his faith?

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Prayer: Father, may I face retribution if necessary, but not blame You and still keep faith. And when I blame You momentarily, as Jeremiah did, forgive me!
November 16

Chapter: Jeremiah 21
Theme: Inquiring of Jeremiah
Study Verse: Jeremiah 21:8

Statement: Can you even believe that the king and priests dare to “inquire of the Lord” through Jeremiah after everything he has already said, and ask that “perhaps the Lord will deal with us according to all His wonderful acts…”? Jeremiah, of course, gives them a straight answer.

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Prayer: God of all the ages, You are faithful to Your word. Help me to be faithful to it, too.
November 17

Chapter: Jeremiah 22
Theme: More messages for the king
Study Verse: Jeremiah 22:3
Statement: Jeremiah is to go to the king and make it plain—destruction is coming now. Still, repentance will bring blessing. Make a list of the specific sins God rebukes the kings for in this chapter. Do you see these things happening in today’s world?

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Prayer: Dear God, is there any way I can help provide justice for others around me?
November 18

Chapter: Jeremiah 23
Theme: The Great Promise of all promises
Study Verse: Jeremiah 23:5

Statement: Whenever, in the Old Testament, there have been a number of chapters promising retribution and destruction for unrelenting rebellion, God always breaks in with a great promise like this one. What is the ultimate promise, for all people in all times?

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Prayer: Dear Jesus, may Your reign of peace and justice come soon! May I help to bring it in, even now, in small ways, while we wait for the final reconstruction.
November 19

Chapter: Jeremiah 24
Theme: Good figs and bad figs
Study Verse: Jeremiah 24:7

Statement: We know that Jeremiah is not in chronological order. This chapter comes after Nebuchadnezzar had carried away the king, nobles, and artisans to Babylon. God still has promised blessings for those who will now, at last, come to repentance.

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Prayer: Lord, I want to be faithful to You long before destruction comes. Plant me and make me know You.
November 20

Chapter: Jeremiah 25
Theme: Seventy years promised
Study Verse: Jeremiah 25:5
Statement: Jeremiah has now been faithfully calling the people to God for 23 long years. The leaders are in Babylon already, so perhaps those who are left will listen. For the first time, he gives a specific time: for 70 years the people will stay in captivity. What would you do if a prophet said your country would be captive 70 years to an enemy country?

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Prayer: Dear Lord, keep me faithful to You no matter what upheavals happen around me. Help me find ways to serve those who are in captivity one way or another.
November 21

Chapter: Jeremiah 26
Theme: The last warning
Study Verse: Jeremiah 26:3

Statement: This chapter comes before the previous chapter in time (compare 26:1 with 25:1). Just before the Babylonians came, Jeremiah gave one last warning. And some did listen! Some wanted to kill Jeremiah, but others said no, he’s spoken to us in God’s name. What do you think happened to those people in the next few years?

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Prayer: Lord, so often in this world, the innocent who are following You suffer when calamities come because of those who rebel. Thank You that You remain with those faithful ones always.
November 22

Chapter: Jeremiah 27
Theme: Message for those who remain
Study Verse: Jeremiah 27:5

Statement: Jeremiah has messages for those who remain in the land after Nebuchadnezzar has come and gone. Can you imagine your response if your country were taken over and a prophet said that God says to submit and serve that other country?

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Prayer: Lord, help us all to discern wisely between true and false prophets. Sometimes the real ones say things that are unexpected and hard to understand. Thank You for giving us this story as an example.
November 23

Chapter: Jeremiah 28
Theme: False prophet
Study Verse: Jeremiah 28:9

Statement: Right after the events of the last chapter, while Jeremiah is still wearing the yoke God told him to make, a false prophet is still intent on keeping people from believing Jeremiah. What he says seems to be of faith. But what happens?

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Prayer: Dear God, help us to know Your Word so thoroughly that we will be able to tell when a prophet is truly from You.
November 24

Chapter: Jeremiah 29
Theme: Letter to the exiles
Study Verse: Jeremiah 29:7
Statement: Those who had been taken to Babylon now knew from personal experience that Jeremiah had been telling the truth all these years. It must have been comforting to get a letter from home, even though the contents were not comforting. In what ways are we all in exile, seeking the peace of where we are?

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Prayer: Dear God, as citizens of Your kingdom, none of us are truly at home here. Help us to pray for and build up the communities around us, knowing that in that we will find peace while we wait.
November 25

Chapter: Jeremiah 30
Theme: Promised restoration
Study Verse: Jeremiah 30:7
Statement: “Your wound is incurable,” says God in v 12; and yet He promises healing and complete restoration. What does this tell us about His power and love?

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Prayer: Loving God, You can heal me even when I feel completely unhealable. I long for Your deliverance.
November 26

Chapter: Jeremiah 31
Theme: Mourning to joy
Study Verse: Jeremiah 31:3

Statement: This chapter is so beautiful, especially in the middle of the darkness that surrounds it, that it is hard to pick one verse to focus on. Which are your favorites? Have you lived where people literally survive the sword but are waiting to be able to return to their homes? How does that feel?

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Prayer: God, You have promised homeland to us all. Some of us live where that seems impossible. Help us to have faith, and give me work to do to help here and now.
November 27

Chapter: Jeremiah 32
Theme: The parable of the deed
Study Verse: Jeremiah 32:26

Statement: Jeremiah is getting old. Nebuchadnezzar has been in power 18 years already, and is now besieging the rest of Jerusalem. Naturally, the people are blaming Jeremiah and he is in jail. What living parable does God give him, and why?

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Prayer: Dear God, when things are darkest, let me not lose hope. I will recite Your past deeds and goodness, as Jeremiah did, and I will trust You.
November 28

Chapter: Jeremiah 33
Theme: Messianic kingdom
Study Verse: Jeremiah 33:15-16
Statement: In response to Jeremiah’s prayer of faith, God repeats, with even more detail, His promises of final restoration. Can you divide the earthly elements from the elements that will only be fulfilled when Jesus comes again?

Response: ____________________________________________

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Prayer: Great Creator and Re-Creator, I know all will be well when You come back. Grant that all will be well with my soul now, without waiting for that Great Day.
November 29

Chapter: Jeremiah 34
Theme: Prophecy and promise for Zedekiah
Study Verse: Jeremiah 34:4

Statement: In God’s original plan for Israel, people who served each other in payment for debt were not to be kept in slavery. They could serve for seven years. Judah had not kept that law. Yet Zedekiah finally began to listen, and he made the people set each other free. In response, God promised mercy to him.

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Prayer: Dear God, is there some way I can set someone free from captivity, spiritual or temporal?
November 30

Chapter: Jeremiah 35
Theme: The example of the Rechabites
Study Verse: Jeremiah 35:18
Statement: This is a good story, of a family who obeyed their forefather all their days and were held up to all of Judah by God as an example of the kind of obedience the people had not shown God. Wouldn’t it be nice to know who the Rechabite descendants are now?

Response: __________________________________________________________
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Prayer: Lord, someday in heaven, I’d like to shake the hand of a faithful Rechabite. In the meantime, I will obey You as my Father.