

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Old Testament 4

### Law/Gospel

Disobedience to God's Law means temporal and eternal punishment for me and all people. **God saves His people not through obedience to the Law, but through Jesus, the promised Branch, who would keep the Law and suffer for my sins and for the sins of the whole world on the cross.**

### Bible Words

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11

### Fun Facts

Jeremiah served as God's prophet from 628–ca. 580 BC. When Jerusalem finally fell, Jeremiah went into exile in Egypt with a group of Jews. He died there.

We have Jeremiah's writings in the Old Testament books of Lamentations and Jeremiah. He wrote, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22–23).

## Jeremiah and God's New Covenant

Jeremiah 1:4–10; 29:1–14; 31:31–34; 33:14–16

**J**eremiah became a prophet of the Lord as a youth. He became known as the weeping prophet because he sadly foretold the impending destruction of Jerusalem by Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar. This capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah was attacked and besieged in several waves beginning in 605 BC. The final destruction came in 587 BC.

God allowed the exile as punishment for the sins of the kings, priests, false prophets, and people, especially worshipping false idols and failing to trust in God alone. Jeremiah preached the Law of God to lead the people to repent of their sins and return to the Lord, their Savior.

When the Babylonians took away the first waves of exiles, Jeremiah preached to them through letters. He said the exile was God's doing. The Lord wanted them to live peacefully, to carry on everyday life, and to pray for the welfare of the foreign cities where they lived. He warned them not to listen to false prophets who said they would soon leave Babylon. Rather, this punishment would last seventy years, after which God would lead them back to their land in Judah.

God's plan was not for destruction, but to give the people a hope and a future. After seventy years, the repentant people would call on God. He would answer them and restore them in their own land.

Through Jeremiah, God promised a new covenant, fulfilled centuries later through Jesus. Jeremiah prophesied that a "righteous Branch" would spring from David's family (Jeremiah 33:15). He would bring an eternal covenant because He lives forever. His name would be "The LORD is our righteousness" (33:16), because He would bring forgiveness, healing, and the hope of eternal life and salvation.

Jesus did this by suffering and dying to pay for sin and rising again, conquering death and the grave for all who believe in Him.

### Prayer

*Dear Lord, lead us to repent of our sins and trust You to forgive us for the sake of Jesus, our righteous Branch, who died to pay for them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

[cph.org/SundaySchool](http://cph.org/SundaySchool)

Permission to copy for the Old Testament 4 quarter. Scripture: ESV®.  
Copyright © 2017 Concordia Publishing House.

