

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

FIRST DAY:

1. Read the lesson notes and References

SECOND DAY:

Read the selected passages from Jeremiah 2-29 listed below

Question 3a

Jeremiah 2:23-25; [23] “How can you say, ‘I am not defiled; I have not run after the Baals’? See how you behaved in the valley; consider what you have done. You are a swift she-camel running here and there,

[24] a wild donkey accustomed to the desert, sniffing the wind in her craving—in her heat who can restrain her? Any males that pursue her need not tire themselves; at mating time they will find her.

[25] Do not run until your feet are bare and your throat is dry. But you said, ‘It’s no use! I love foreign gods, and I must go after them.’

Jeremiah 5:13, 30-31; 23:10b-11;

Jeremiah 5:13

[13] The prophets are but wind and the word is not in them; so let what they say be done to them.”

Jeremiah 30-31;

Restoration of Israel

[30:1] This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: [2] “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you. [3] The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess,’ says the LORD.”

[4] These are the words the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah: [5] “This is what the LORD says: ‘Cries of fear are heard—terror, not peace.

[6] Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale?

[7] How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

[8] “ ‘In that day,’ declares the LORD Almighty, ‘I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them.

[9] Instead, they will serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

[10] “ ‘So do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel,’ declares the LORD. ‘I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid.

[11] I am with you and will save you,’ declares the LORD. ‘Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.’

[12] “This is what the LORD says: “ ‘Your wound is incurable, your injury beyond healing.

[13] There is no one to plead your cause, no remedy for your sore, no healing for you.

[14] All your allies have forgotten you; they care nothing for you. I have struck you as an enemy would and punished you as would the cruel, because your guilt is so great and your sins so many.

[15] Why do you cry out over your wound, your pain that has no cure? Because of your great guilt and many sins I have done these things to you.

[16] “ ‘But all who devour you will be devoured; all your enemies will go into exile. Those who plunder you will be plundered; all who make spoil of you I will despoil.

[17] But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,’ declares the LORD, ‘because you are called an outcast, Zion for whom no one cares.’

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

[18] “This is what the LORD says: “ ‘I will restore the fortunes of Jacob's tents and have compassion on his dwellings; the city will be rebuilt on her ruins, and the palace will stand in its proper place.

[19] From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing. I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them honor, and they will not be disdained.

[20] Their children will be as in days of old, and their community will be established before me; I will punish all who oppress them.

[21] Their leader will be one of their own; their ruler will arise from among them. I will bring him near and he will come close to me—for who is he who will devote himself to be close to me?’ declares the LORD.

[22] “ ‘So you will be my people, and I will be your God.’ ” [23] See, the storm of the LORD will burst out in wrath, a driving wind swirling down on the heads of the wicked.

[24] The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. In days to come you will understand this.

Jeremiah 31

[31:1] “At that time,” declares the LORD, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people.”

[2] This is what the LORD says: “The people who survive the sword will find favor in the wilderness; I will come to give rest to Israel.”

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

[4] I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful.

[5] Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit.

[6] There will be a day when watchmen cry out

on the hills of Ephraim, ‘Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.’ ”

[7] This is what the LORD says: “Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, ‘LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’

[8] See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return.

[9] They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

[10] “Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: ‘He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’

[11] For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

[12] They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more.

[13] Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

[14] I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty,” declares the LORD.

[15] This is what the LORD says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

[16] This is what the LORD says: “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded,” declares the LORD. “They will return from the land of the enemy.

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

[17] So there is hope for your descendants,” declares the LORD. “Your children will return to their own land.

[18] “I have surely heard Ephraim’s moaning: ‘You disciplined me like an unruly calf, and I have been disciplined. Restore me, and I will return, because you are the LORD my God.

[19] After I strayed, I repented; after I came to understand, I beat my breast. I was ashamed and humiliated because I bore the disgrace of my youth.’

[20] Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I have great compassion for him,” declares the LORD.

[21] “Set up road signs; put up guideposts. Take note of the highway, the road that you take. Return, Virgin Israel, return to your towns.

[22] How long will you wander, unfaithful Daughter Israel? The LORD will create a new thing on earth—the woman will return to the man.”

[23] This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: ‘The LORD bless you, you prosperous city, you sacred mountain.’ [24] People will live together in Judah and all its towns—farmers and those who move about with their flocks. [25] I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.”

[26] At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been pleasant to me.

[27] “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals. [28] Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,” declares the LORD. [29] “In those days people will no longer say,

‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’

[30] Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge.

[31] “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

[32] It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

[33] “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

[34] No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

[35] This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD Almighty is his name:

[36] “Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the LORD, “will Israel ever cease being a nation before me.”

[37] This is what the LORD says: “Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done,” declares the LORD.

[38] “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when this city will be rebuilt for me from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. [39] The measuring line will stretch from there straight to the hill of Gareb and then turn to Goah. [40] The whole valley where dead bodies and ashes are thrown, and all the terraces out to the Kidron Valley on the east as far as the corner of the Horse Gate, will be holy to the LORD. The city will never again be uprooted or demolished.”

Jeremiah 23:10b-11; [10] The land is full of adulterers; because of the curse the land lies parched and the pastures in the wilderness are

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

withered. The prophets follow an evil course and use their power unjustly.

[11] “Both prophet and priest are godless; even in my temple I find their wickedness,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 5:26-28; 7:5-11;

Jeremiah 5:26-28: [26] “Among my people are the wicked who lie in wait like men who snare birds and like those who set traps to catch people.

[27] Like cages full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; they have become rich and powerful [28] and have grown fat and sleek. Their evil deeds have no limit; they do not seek justice. They do not promote the case of the fatherless; they do not defend the just cause of the poor.

Jeremiah 7:5-11; [5] If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, [6] if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, [7] then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. [8] But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.

[9] “ ‘Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, [10] and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe”—safe to do all these detestable things? [11] Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching!

Question 4a

Jeremiah 4:19-21; 8:21-9:2;

Jeremiah 4:19-21; [19] Oh, my anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain. Oh, the agony of my heart! My heart pounds within me, I cannot keep silent. For I have heard the sound of the trumpet; I have heard the battle cry.

[20] Disaster follows disaster; the whole land lies in ruins. In an instant my tents are destroyed, my shelter in a moment.

[21] How long must I see the battle standard and hear the sound of the trumpet?

Jeremiah 8:21-9:2; [21] Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me.

[22] Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?

Jeremiah 9

[9:1] Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people.

[2] Oh, that I had in the deserta lodging place for travelers, so that I might leave my people and go away from them; for they are all adulterers, a crowd of unfaithful people.

Question 5

Jeremiah 18:1-11; At the Potter's House

[18:1] This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: [2] “Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message.” [3] So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. [4] But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

[5] Then the word of the LORD came to me. [6] He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. [7] If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, [8] and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. [9] And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, [10] and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

[11] “Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.’

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

THIRD DAY

Read Selected verses from Jeremiah 4-29 and 46-51 below

Question 6a

Jeremiah 4:6; 13:18-20; 20:4-6; 25:8-14;

Jeremiah 4:6; [6] Raise the signal to go to Zion! Flee for safety without delay! For I am bringing disaster from the north, even terrible destruction.”

Jeremiah 13:18-20; [18] Say to the king and to the queen mother, “Come down from your thrones, for your glorious crowns will fall from your heads.”

[19] The cities in the Negev will be shut up, and there will be no one to open them. All Judah will be carried into exile, carried completely away.

[20] Look up and see those who are coming from the north. Where is the flock that was entrusted to you, the sheep of which you boasted?

Jeremiah 20:4-6; [4] For this is what the LORD says: ‘I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends; with your own eyes you will see them fall by the sword of their enemies. I will give all Judah into the hands of the king of Babylon, who will carry them away to Babylon or put them to the sword. [5] I will deliver all the wealth of this city into the hands of their enemies—all its products, all its valuables and all the treasures of the kings of Judah. They will take it away as plunder and carry it off to Babylon. [6] And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house will go into exile to Babylon. There you will die and be buried, you and all your friends to whom you have prophesied lies.’ ”

Jeremiah 25:8-14; [8] Therefore the LORD Almighty says this: “Because you have not listened to my words, [9] I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon,” declares the LORD, “and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an

everlasting ruin. [10] I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp. [11] This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

[12] “But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt,” declares the LORD, “and will make it desolate forever. [13] I will bring on that land all the things I have spoken against it, all that are written in this book and prophesied by Jeremiah against all the nations. [14] They themselves will be enslaved by many nations and great kings; I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands.”

Question 7

Jeremiah 6:1-7; 11:22; 12:12-13;

Jeremiah 6:1-7; Jerusalem Under Siege

[6:1] “Flee for safety, people of Benjamin! Flee from Jerusalem! Sound the trumpet in Tekoa! Raise the signal over Beth Hakkerem! For disaster looms out of the north, even terrible destruction.

[2] I will destroy Daughter Zion, so beautiful and delicate.

[3] Shepherds with their flocks will come against her; they will pitch their tents around her, each tending his own portion.”

[4] “Prepare for battle against her! Arise, let us attack at noon! But, alas, the daylight is fading, and the shadows of evening grow long.

[5] So arise, let us attack at night and destroy her fortresses!”

[6] This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Cut down the trees and build siege ramps against Jerusalem. This city must be punished; it is filled with oppression.

[7] As a well pours out its water, so she pours out her wickedness. Violence and destruction resound in her; her sickness and wounds are ever before me.

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

Jeremiah 11:22; [22] therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says: “I will punish them. Their young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters by famine.

Jeremiah 12:12-13; [12] Over all the barren heights in the desert destroyers will swarm, for the sword of the LORD will devour from one end of the land to the other; no one will be safe.

[13] They will sow wheat but reap thorns; they will wear themselves out but gain nothing. They will bear the shame of their harvest because of the LORD's fierce anger.”

Question 8a

Skim Jeremiah 46-51

Too many pages, please see your Bible for these chapters

Question 8b

Jeremiah 51:34-35;

[34] “Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has devoured us, he has thrown us into confusion, he has made us an empty jar. Like a serpent he has swallowed us and filled his stomach with our delicacies, and then has spewed us out.

[35] May the violence done to our flesh be on Babylon,” say the inhabitants of Zion. “May our blood be on those who live in Babylonia,” says Jerusalem.

FOURTH DAY

Read Jeremiah 30-33

Jeremiah 30

Restoration of Israel

[30:1] This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: [2] “This is what the LORD, the God of

Israel, says: ‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you. [3] The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess,’ says the LORD.”

[4] These are the words the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah: [5] “This is what the LORD says: “ ‘Cries of fear are heard—terror, not peace.

[6] Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale?

[7] How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

[8] “ ‘In that day,’ declares the LORD Almighty, ‘I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them.

[9] Instead, they will serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

[10] “ ‘So do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel,’ declares the LORD. ‘I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid.

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[14] All your allies have forgotten you; they care nothing for you. I have struck you as an enemy would and punished you as would the cruel, because your guilt is so great and your sins so many.

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

[15] Why do you cry out over your wound, your pain that has no cure? Because of your great guilt and many sins I have done these things to you.

[16] “ ‘But all who devour you will be devoured; all your enemies will go into exile. Those who plunder you will be plundered; all who make spoil of you I will despoil.

[17] But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the LORD, 'because you are called an outcast, Zion for whom no one cares.'

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Jeremiah 31

[31:1] “At that time,” declares the LORD, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people.”

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[10] “Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: ‘He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’

[11] For the LORD will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

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BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

[14] I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty,” declares the LORD.

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[31] “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

[32] It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

[33] “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

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BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

[38] “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when this city will be rebuilt for me from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. [39] The measuring line will stretch from there straight to the hill of Gareb and then turn to Goah. [40] The whole valley where dead bodies and ashes are thrown, and all the terraces out to the Kidron Valley on the east as far as the corner of the Horse Gate, will be holy to the LORD. The city will never again be uprooted or demolished.”

Jeremiah 32

Jeremiah Buys a Field

[32:1] This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. [2] The army of the king of Babylon was then besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace of Judah.

[3] Now Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him there, saying, “Why do you prophesy as you do? You say, ‘This is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will capture it. [4] Zedekiah king of Judah will not escape the Babylonians but will certainly be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and will speak with him face to face and see him with his own eyes. [5] He will take Zedekiah to Babylon, where he will remain until I deal with him, declares the LORD. If you fight against the Babylonians, you will not succeed.’ ”

[6] Jeremiah said, “The word of the LORD came to me: [7] Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative it is your right and duty to buy it.’

[8] “Then, just as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since it is your right to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.’

“I knew that this was the word of the LORD; [9] so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver. [10] I signed and sealed the deed, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales. [11] I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy

containing the terms and conditions, as well as the unsealed copy— [12] and I gave this deed to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.

[13] “In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions: [14] ‘This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents, both the sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time. [15] For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.’

[16] “After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD:

[17] “Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. [18] You show love to thousands but bring the punishment for the parents' sins into the laps of their children after them. Great and mighty God, whose name is the LORD Almighty, [19] great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve. [20] You performed signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day, in Israel and among all mankind, and have gained the renown that is still yours. [21] You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with great terror. [22] You gave them this land you had sworn to give their ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey. [23] They came in and took possession of it, but they did not obey you or follow your law; they did not do what you commanded them to do. So you brought all this disaster on them.

[24] “See how the siege ramps are built up to take the city. Because of the sword, famine and plague, the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians who are attacking it. What you said has happened, as you now see. [25] And though the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians, you, Sovereign LORD, say to me, ‘Buy the field with silver and have the transaction witnessed.’ ”

[26] Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: [27] “I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? [28] Therefore this is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

hands of the Babylonians and to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will capture it. [29] The Babylonians who are attacking this city will come in and set it on fire; they will burn it down, along with the houses where the people aroused my anger by burning incense on the roofs to Baal and by pouring out drink offerings to other gods.

[30] “The people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth; indeed, the people of Israel have done nothing but arouse my anger with what their hands have made, declares the LORD. [31] From the day it was built until now, this city has so aroused my anger and wrath that I must remove it from my sight. [32] The people of Israel and Judah have provoked me by all the evil they have done—they, their kings and officials, their priests and prophets, the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem. [33] They turned their backs to me and not their faces; though I taught them again and again, they would not listen or respond to discipline. [34] They set up their vile images in the house that bears my Name and defiled it. [35] They built high places for Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molek, though I never commanded—nor did it enter my mind—that they should do such a detestable thing and so make Judah sin.

[36] “You are saying about this city, ‘By the sword, famine and plague it will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon;’ but this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: [37] I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. [38] They will be my people, and I will be their God. [39] I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. [40] I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. [41] I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.

[42] “This is what the LORD says: As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them. [43] Once more fields will be bought in this land of which you say, ‘It is a desolate waste, without people or animals, for it has been given into the hands of the Babylonians.’ [44] Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around

Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD.”

Jeremiah 33

Promise of Restoration

[33:1] While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the word of the LORD came to him a second time: [2] “This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name: [3] ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’ [4] For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says about the houses in this city and the royal palaces of Judah that have been torn down to be used against the siege ramps and the sword [5] in the fight with the Babylonians: ‘They will be filled with the dead bodies of the people I will slay in my anger and wrath. I will hide my face from this city because of all its wickedness.

[6] “ ‘Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. [7] I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before. [8] I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me. [9] Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it.’

[10] “This is what the LORD says: ‘You say about this place, “It is a desolate waste, without people or animals.” Yet in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are deserted, inhabited by neither people nor animals, there will be heard once more [11] the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD, saying,

“Give thanks to the LORD Almighty, for the LORD is good; his love endures forever.” For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before,’ says the LORD.

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

[12] “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In this place, desolate and without people or animals—in all its towns there will again be pastures for shepherds to rest their flocks. [13] In the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem and in the towns of Judah, flocks will again pass under the hand of the one who counts them,’ says the LORD.

[14] “ ‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

[15] “ ‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

[16] In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’

[17] For this is what the LORD says: ‘David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of Israel, [18] nor will the Levitical priests ever fail to have a man to stand before me continually to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to present sacrifices.’”

[19] The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: [20] “This is what the LORD says: ‘If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night no longer come at their appointed time, [21] then my covenant with David my servant—and my covenant with the Levites who are priests ministering before me—can be broken and David will no longer have a descendant to reign on his throne. [22] I will make the descendants of David my servant and the Levites who minister before me as countless as the stars in the sky and as measureless as the sand on the seashore.’”

[23] The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: [24] “Have you not noticed that these people are saying, ‘The LORD has rejected the two kingdoms he chose?’ So they despise my people and no longer regard them as a nation. [25] This is what the LORD says: ‘If I have not made my covenant with day and night and established the laws of heaven and earth, [26] then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them.’”

Question 9a -see above

Question 10a

Exodus 19:3-6; 24:1-8;

Exodus 19:3-6; [3] Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: [4] ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. [5] Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, [6] you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

Exodus 24:1-8; The Covenant Confirmed

[24:1] Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, [2] but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him.”

[3] When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, “Everything the LORD has said we will do.” [4] Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. [5] Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. [6] Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. [7] Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

[8] Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

Deuteronomy 29:1-30:3;

Deuteronomy 29

[29:1] These are the terms of the covenant the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Horeb.

[2] Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them:

Your eyes have seen all that the LORD did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his officials and to all his land. [3] With your own eyes you saw those great trials, those signs and great wonders. [4] But to this day the LORD has not given you a mind that understands or eyes that see or ears that hear. [5] Yet the LORD says, “During the forty years that I led you through the wilderness, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet. [6] You ate no bread and drank no wine or other fermented drink. I did this so that you might know that I am the LORD your God.”

[7] When you reached this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out to fight against us, but we defeated them. [8] We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

[9] Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. [10] All of you are standing today in the presence of the LORD your God—your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all the other men of Israel, [11] together with your children and your wives, and the foreigners living in your camps who chop your wood and carry your water. [12] You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the LORD your God, a covenant the LORD is making with you this day and sealing with an oath, [13] to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. [14] I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you [15] who are standing here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God but also with those who are not here today.

[16] You yourselves know how we lived in Egypt and how we passed through the countries on the way here. [17] You saw among them their detestable images and idols of wood and stone, of silver and

gold. [18] Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

[19] When such a person hears the words of this oath and they invoke a blessing on themselves, thinking, “I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way,” they will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry. [20] The LORD will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the LORD will blot out their names from under heaven. [21] The LORD will single them out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

[22] Your children who follow you in later generations and foreigners who come from distant lands will see the calamities that have fallen on the land and the diseases with which the LORD has afflicted it. [23] The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, which the LORD overthrew in fierce anger. [24] All the nations will ask: “Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?”

[25] And the answer will be: “It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt. [26] They went off and worshiped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given them. [27] Therefore the LORD’s anger burned against this land, so that he brought on it all the curses written in this book. [28] In furious anger and in great wrath the LORD uprooted them from their land and thrust them into another land, as it is now.”

[29] The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

Deuteronomy 30

Prosperity After Turning to the LORD

[30:1] When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come on you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, [2] and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, [3] then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.

Question 10b

2 Corinthians 3:3-6; [3] You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

[4] Such confidence we have through Christ before God. [5] Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. [6] He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Hebrews 7:18-22; 8:8-13; 10:15-17;

Hebrews 7:18-22; [18] The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless [19] (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

[20] And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, [21] but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest forever.’”

[22] Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

Hebrews 8:8-13; [8] But God found fault with the people and said: “The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant

with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

[9] It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

[10] This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

[11] No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

[12] For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

[13] By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

Hebrews 10:15-17; [15] The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

[16] “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”

[17] Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”

FIFTH DAY

Read Jeremiah 52

The Fall of Jerusalem

[52:1] Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah. [2] He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as Jehoiakim had done. [3] It was because of the LORD's anger that all this

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and in the end he thrust them from his presence.

Now Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

[4] So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. They encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it. [5] The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

[6] By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat. [7] Then the city wall was broken through, and the whole army fled. They left the city at night through the gate between the two walls near the king's garden, though the Babylonians were surrounding the city. They fled toward the Arabah, [8] but the Babylonian army pursued King Zedekiah and overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his soldiers were separated from him and scattered, [9] and he was captured.

He was taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he pronounced sentence on him. [10] There at Riblah the king of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes; he also killed all the officials of Judah. [11] Then he put out Zedekiah's eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon, where he put him in prison till the day of his death.

[12] On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard, who served the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. [13] He set fire to the temple of the LORD, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every important building he burned down. [14] The whole Babylonian army, under the commander of the imperial guard, broke down all the walls around Jerusalem. [15] Nebuzaradan the commander of the guard carried into exile some of the poorest people and those who remained in the city, along with the rest of the craftsmen and those who had deserted to the king of Babylon. [16] But Nebuzaradan left behind the rest of the poorest people of the land to work the vineyards and fields.

[17] The Babylonians broke up the bronze pillars, the movable stands and the bronze Sea that were at the temple of the LORD and they carried all the bronze to Babylon. [18] They also took away the pots,

shovels, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and all the bronze articles used in the temple service. [19] The commander of the imperial guard took away the basins, censers, sprinkling bowls, pots, lampstands, dishes and bowls used for drink offerings—all that were made of pure gold or silver.

[20] The bronze from the two pillars, the Sea and the twelve bronze bulls under it, and the movable stands, which King Solomon had made for the temple of the LORD, was more than could be weighed. [21] Each pillar was eighteen cubits high and twelve cubits in circumference; each was four fingers thick, and hollow. [22] The bronze capital on top of one pillar was five cubits high and was decorated with a network and pomegranates of bronze all around. The other pillar, with its pomegranates, was similar. [23] There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; the total number of pomegranates above the surrounding network was a hundred.

[24] The commander of the guard took as prisoners Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the priest next in rank and the three doorkeepers. [25] Of those still in the city, he took the officer in charge of the fighting men, and seven royal advisers. He also took the secretary who was chief officer in charge of conscripting the people of the land, sixty of whom were found in the city. [26] Nebuzaradan the commander took them all and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. [27] There at Riblah, in the land of Hamath, the king had them executed. So Judah went into captivity, away from her land. [28] This is the number of the people Nebuchadnezzar carried into exile: in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews;

[29] in Nebuchadnezzar's eighteenth year, 832 people from Jerusalem; [30] in his twenty-third year, 745 Jews taken into exile by Nebuzaradan the commander of the imperial guard. There were 4,600 people in all.

Jehoiachin Released

[31] In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the year Awel-Marduk became king of Babylon, on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month, he released Jehoiachin king of Judah and freed him from prison. [32] He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat of honor higher than those of the other kings who were with him in Babylon. [33] So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes and for the rest of his life ate regularly at the king's table. [34] Day by day the king of Babylon

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #26

gave Jehoiachin a regular allowance as long as he lived, till the day of his death.

SIXTH DAY

Review above selected passages above about Jeremiah's messages of judgement and hope.

See above days

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