

August 3/4, 2024
"God Is Satisfying"
Pastor Jeff Manion



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

August: Read Jeremiah to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 [Jeremiah 23:1-6](#) | Jesus in Jeremiah

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land." Jeremiah 23:5

This year, we look for Jesus in the Old Testament to see how God's plan always included Jesus saving us from our sins. We introduce a new theme on the first Monday of every month. This month, we look at the book of Jeremiah to see how this message points to Jesus coming to save his people and ultimately reign victorious.

Jeremiah is often referred to as the "weeping prophet." He ministers in the southern kingdom of Israel (Judah) during a time of great distress. The downfall of entire nations—including Judah—is being sealed due to their rebellion against God. Jeremiah endures a lonely calling to share God's words during this upheaval and chaos. Jeremiah points to the one true God as the only one who can save and offer a future hope for restoration.

We see a picture of Jesus in the cry for a healing balm and a physician to heal wounds ([Jeremiah 8:21-22](#)). Jesus will be the Great Physician whose physical healing points to the ultimate spiritual healing of sin through his death and resurrection ([Mark 2:17](#)). Jeremiah also points to the righteous branch from the line of David who will be called The Lord our Righteousness ([Jeremiah 23:5-6](#)). Jesus is the king from the line of David who only does what is right and just and saves his people. Jeremiah also declares God will bring a new covenant written on hearts rather than on tablets of stone ([Jeremiah 31:31-33](#)). Jesus declares that his blood brings the new covenant ([Matthew 26:27-28](#)). Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to indwell believers, giving them a new heart and the ability and desire to obey God and his Word.

TODAY: As you read this month, ask God to open your eyes to all the ways Jeremiah points to Jesus. Thank God for Jesus, who heals us from our sins and gives us a new heart to follow him.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Jeremiah 1-3](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jeremiah points to idols as worthless and how Paul describes the "surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" ([Philippians 3:7-9](#))

Day 2 [Jeremiah 2:13](#) | Broken Cisterns

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. Jeremiah 2:13

The people of Jerusalem quake in fear as the Babylonian army draws near. Israel's defeat is imminent, and God sends Jeremiah to declare his judgment. God charges Israel with two crimes. They worship idols and mistreat the poor and vulnerable. The Israelites have tried to find satisfaction in life apart from God. They have turned away from the spring of living water, fresh and flowing, for broken cisterns. In ancient times, a cistern was a deep hole

lined with plaster and used to store rainwater that might later be drinking water. However, a broken cistern can't hold water. It is a useless, empty void. The people of Israel have turned their backs on God to satiate their desires with idolatry and sin. Now, they will experience the consequences.

We have all experienced a feeling of emptiness and void at some point. We often try to fill this void with things of this world. We pour money, affirmations, accolades and accomplishments into a broken "cistern," but they are never enough. They leak out, and we are left longing and thirsty. God promises that he can satisfy our thirst. He is the source of living water. We do not have to try to fill that broken cistern with counterfeit gods that will only leak away. God will fill our void.

TODAY: Think about your patterns throughout the day. Ask God to reveal when you are most vulnerable to filling a desire with something other than him. As he reveals that desire and how you fill it, ask him to show you how he can fill it instead.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Jeremiah 4-5](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

Day 3 [Jeremiah 7:6-7](#) | God and People

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... Jeremiah 7:6

The Israelites are guilty of more than just idol worship. They also mistreat the most powerless and vulnerable in their society. Jeremiah points out that their love for God correlates to their love for others. God holds the poor and powerless close to his heart. Israel's worship of counterfeit gods causes them to lose sight of God's most beloved. This grieves God. He cannot turn a blind eye to this injustice.

When we try to satisfy our longings through counterfeit gods, we lose our ability to love others well. If we worship money and wealth, we strangle generosity. If we seek intimacy through pornography, we begin to see people as objects. If we spend our lives posting online for likes, we become judgmental and envious of others. Jesus commanded us to love God and love others ([Matthew 22:34-40](#)). They are connected like two links in a chain. When we love God well, we begin to see people through God's eyes. We see their talents, beauty and worth. God wants our compassion for others to reflect his compassion for us. As we grow to treasure God, we grow to treasure people.

TODAY: Focus your heart on the two greatest commandments ([Matthew 22:34-40](#)). Repeat this simple prayer as you interact with others throughout your day: "Lord, help me love you with all I am and love others as you do. Amen."

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Jeremiah 6-8](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how the "balm in Gilead" and the cry for healing points to Jesus as the ultimate healer and Jesus connected loving God and loving others ([Matthew 22:24-40](#)).

Day 4 [John 7:37-38](#) | Thirst Quencher

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink." John 7:37

The Feast of Tabernacles is a Jewish festival that remembers the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt. During this feast, a special water ceremony takes place. The imagery of living water is at the center of this ceremony. First-century Jews understood that living water comes from God. It symbolizes the cleansing and sanctification necessary to return to God. This ceremony repeats for the first seven days of the feast but not on the eighth. Jesus attends this feast, quietly teaching until the eighth day. On that day, Jesus stands and yells out to the

crowd, proclaiming himself as the source of living water. *He* is their way back to God. All who are willing may come to him and know satisfaction.

Jesus extends the same invitation to us today. He wants us to find satisfaction in him. This is an ongoing process. Acceptance of Jesus as our Savior does not exempt us from feelings of emptiness and void. Life will present trials and tribulations. Finding fulfillment in God requires constant renewal. But Jesus promises to satisfy us over and over again. Come and drink from his well. He is enough. He will sustain us in our broken world today and forever in eternity with him.

TODAY: Fill in the blank: Once I have _____, I will feel satisfied. Turn this into a prayer of confession. "Lord, help me find my satisfaction in Jesus and not in _____." Then, worship with the Ada Bible Worship Team as they sing "[Thank You Lord.](#)" Thank God that "...every time I turn around, I could see you're enough."

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Jeremiah 9-10](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider the Lord who brings justice and righteousness to earth and how these things meet in Jesus ([Jeremiah 9:24](#)).

Day 5 [1 Timothy 4:7-8](#) | Practice, Practice, Practice

...train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8

The pursuit of satisfaction in God requires practice. Paul compares it to the rigorous training that top athletes endure. Athletes train for years to become great at their sport. Even then, they face injuries and setbacks that may hinder their goals. They may have to start all over from the beginning. Paul insists the pursuit of godliness is similar but more valuable. There will be struggles and failures, but it is worth the effort. Satisfaction in God holds blessings in this life and the next.

To live a life that finds satisfaction in God alone, our satisfaction in him must grow. That will take practice. Our hearts orient toward God through carefully cultivated spiritual practices. Money and stuff may preoccupy our minds. Regular giving strengthens our satisfaction in God, not our savings or stuff. Popularity and affirmation may drive our actions. Serving without recognition grows humility and satisfaction in God seeing us. Our training will include missteps and do-overs. God extends his grace. He sees our efforts and knows our hearts. He walks alongside and helps us as we practice the ways of Jesus.

TODAY: In this sermon series, we have learned that God is limitless, slow to anger, not needy, peace, jealous, generous, trustworthy, holy, creative and satisfying. Which attribute do you need to lean into to be fully satisfied in God? Revisit [that sermon](#) and meditate on the attribute. Write that attribute on a sticky note or on your phone: "God, you are _____." Keep that attribute in front of you for the next month, and ask God to grow your satisfaction in him.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Jeremiah 11-13](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.