

November 29/30, 2025

"Jeremiah"

Pastor Brad Holmes



**Beyond the
Weekend**

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

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Jeremiah 1](#) | Jeremiah

Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. Jeremiah 1:17

Jeremiah stands at a pivotal moment in Judah's history. The northern kingdom (Israel) has already fallen to Assyria, vanishing from history. Now the southern kingdom (Judah) teeters on the edge of conquest by Babylon. God calls young Jeremiah to deliver one final warning to his people. The weight of this calling is staggering. For forty years, Jeremiah spoke God's words about how the nation must turn back to God before it's too late. God reveals the heart of their rebellion: they've rejected him and replaced him with idols. Despite good King Josiah's reforms, the people's hearts remain far from the Lord. This is their last chance before exile.

We face similar moments when God's warning becomes urgent. Perhaps financial chaos looms because we've ignored biblical wisdom about spending and generosity. Maybe a relationship fractures because we've not addressed harmful patterns. Or our spiritual life feels hollow because we've coasted on past victories while our hearts slowly drift. Maybe we attend church, go through religious motions and yet still live however we want the rest of the week. We reject God and replace him with things that can never satisfy. God's pattern is always warning before consequence, always given in love.

TODAY: Ask God to reveal how you've been ignoring his warnings and bring anything he reveals to him. Ask him to soften your heart and make you receptive this week to his voice. Be willing to turn back to him before consequences arrive.

Day 2 [Jeremiah 18:1-10](#) | The Potter

Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. Jeremiah 18:5-6

God sends Jeremiah to a potter's house with simple instructions: watch and learn. Jeremiah observes the craftsman at work. The potter grabs a lump of clay, centers it on the wheel and begins shaping. A form emerges—maybe a bowl or a jar. Then, the potter pushes down with the heel of his hand, collapsing the piece back into a lump and reshaping it into something new. God's message becomes clear. He is the potter. His people are the clay. He has authority over their lives to shape them as he desires. God wants his people to know he's in charge, not them. He raises kings and kingdoms, and also takes them down. God blesses those who follow and obey him, and those who reject him will suffer consequences.

We naturally resist God's authority as the potter. We plan and work hard to shape and mold our days and futures. Frustration sets in when things don't match our mental image. We try to shape careers, relationships, reputations and financial security on our own. The problem is, we're terrible potters. When we shape and mold our lives apart from God, we create worry, fear and confusion instead of beauty. Even when we build something that looks impressive on the outside, it's often hollow inside. We exhaust ourselves, forgetting that God is far better at shaping and molding than we are. Freedom comes in surrendering our lives to God.

TODAY: Praise God as the trustworthy potter who has all power over your life and knows what is best for you. Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing "[Great Are You Lord](#)," declaring: "It's your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise, pour out our praise."

Day 3 [Jeremiah 18:5-6](#) | The Clay

Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. Jeremiah 18:6

As Jeremiah watches the potter work, something goes wrong. The clay is marred, yet the potter doesn't discard the flawed clay. Instead, he presses it down and begins reshaping it into something new. God uses this moment to deliver a hope-filled message to Israel: you are marred, but I'm willing to make you new. Their sins—rejecting God, replacing him with idols, offering children as sacrifices, oppressing widows and orphans, stealing and killing—have left them broken and defective. Yet God's hands remain ready to reshape them if they will return and surrender to him.

We can feel marred or broken, too. Our choices may have left scars and wounds, and it may feel like nothing good could come from our lives. Or maybe something happened to us that was completely out of our control. The beautiful, hope-filled words of this passage declare that God is still at work. He can take any failure, weakness or wound and reshape us into something new and beautiful. No one else has the power to make our lives beautiful, but he can. Through the power of Jesus, God is making our lives new. The phrase "as seemed best to him" reminds us to turn to God and trust him, even when we don't yet understand what he's doing.

TODAY: Journal about a part of your life that feels marred. Bring it honestly before God, and ask him to reshape you. Trust that he works with good purpose, even when you can't yet see the result. Explore Jeremiah's story further on the [Beyond the Weekend Podcast](#)—find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on [YouTube](#).

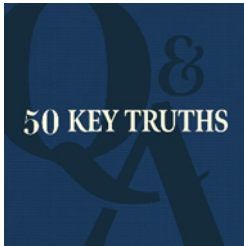
Day 4 [Jeremiah 18:11-12](#) | The Response

But they will reply, "It's no use. We will continue with our own plans; we will all follow the stubbornness of our evil hearts." Jeremiah 18:12

The illustration at the potter's house ends with God urging his people to return to him again. He's sent prophet after prophet for hundreds of years to call them back to himself. They have a choice to make. They can continue their rebellion against God, suffer destruction and go into exile. Or they can repent and return to God, and he will relent. The people refuse to repent, saying it's no use. Their devastating response reveals how far they've fallen away from him. They'd rather follow their own plans and stick with their evil, rebellious, hard hearts. Yet even in their refusal, God offers hope by promising a new covenant where he will write his law on their hearts and remember their sins no more ([Jeremiah 31:33-34](#)).

We might identify with one of Israel's excuses. The lie of "too far gone" says our failures are beyond redemption. The illusion of self-sufficiency claims we can handle life without God's help. "This is just who I am" refuses transformation. We can continue in our own ways, or we can confess our sin and turn toward God. Jesus paved the way as the fulfillment of the new covenant. Jesus is the potter who became clay. He lived the perfect, sinless life we couldn't and took the punishment we deserved on the cross. When we accept his forgiveness through Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit, who gives us new hearts to follow God's Word.

TODAY: Identify which excuse resonates with you. Confess it to God and ask him to soften your heart toward him and his ways. If you've never trusted Jesus, invite him into your life today.



Day 5 [2 Thessalonians 1:6-10](#) | Question 47: What is Hell?

Question: What is hell?

Answer: Hell is a place of eternal separation from God's presence for those who reject his grace.

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

Paul writes to encourage believers facing intense persecution for their faith. Paul explains that when Jesus returns, he will punish those who refuse to know God and obey the gospel. This punishment is final—permanent exclusion from God's presence and glory. It's a conscious, eternal separation from the one who created humanity for relationship with himself. Since people are created with a built-in longing to be with God, experiencing his complete absence brings torment. Jesus uses vivid imagery to describe this eternal separation as weeping, gnashing of teeth, outer darkness and unquenchable fire ([Matthew 13:42](#), [8:12](#), [Mark 9:43](#)).

We may flinch at the either/or dynamic: heaven or hell. Scripture wraps this discussion in the context of relationship. People were created to be with God, but sin separates ([Ephesians 2:1-3](#)). Jesus died to restore our relationship with God. Hell is the judgment for rejecting God. We all deserve hell because of our sins. Only through God's grace available through the death and resurrection of Jesus can Christians escape the punishment of hell. Unbelievers will experience unending punishment for rejecting the grace offered through Christ's death on the cross. Experiencing God's grace and understanding the reality of hell should motivate us to share the gospel, knowing that choices for or against Christ have eternal consequences.

TODAY: Thank God for his grace that rescues you from eternal separation. Pray for those you know who don't yet know Christ and ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with them. Learn more about eternity in our We Believe document [HERE](#).