THE COVENANT SCRIPTURES

JEREMIAH

Calling, Covenant, Judgment, and the Gathering

A RESTORATION READING COMPANION

Jeremiah 1-3; 7; 16-18; 20 · Oct 19-25

October 2026 · Free study edition

About this reading

This companion follows the eight chapters appointed for the October 19-25, 2026 Come, Follow Me reading: Jeremiah 1-3, 7, 16-18, and 20. It focuses on Jeremiah's prophetic calling, covenant faithfulness, the responsibility of worshipers, the return of scattered Israel, and the cost of bearing witness.

Editorial integrity

This is an original, condensed chapter-by-chapter literary paraphrase and study companion, **not** a verse-complete translation of the Hebrew Bible. It draws on the broadly recognized narrative and poetic content of the indicated chapters. It does not claim fresh verification against the Hebrew Masoretic Text, Greek Septuagint, Syriac Peshitta, or a complete Joseph Smith Translation apparatus. The chapter references identify the corresponding biblical passages for comparison. Interpretive notes are separate from the reading.

Reading key

READING — condensed narrative or poetic presentation. **PASSAGES** — locations in the biblical text. **RESTORATION NOTE** — separately labeled interpretive connection, not an ancient manuscript variant.

For close reading, verify every passage against the biblical text. Quotations and manuscript-specific conclusions should not be attributed to this edition.

Jeremiah 1 · Known Before Birth

In the days of Josiah, Jeremiah hears the word of the Lord: before he was formed in the womb, the Lord knew him and appointed him as a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah protests that he is young and does not know how to speak. The Lord tells him not to fear, touches his mouth, and places words there. The calling is to uproot and overthrow, but also to build and plant. A branch of an almond tree and a boiling pot from the north become signs that the Lord watches over his word and that judgment approaches. Jeremiah must stand like a fortified city before resistant rulers and people.

PASSAGES · 1:1-10; 1:11-19

RESTORATION NOTE · The foreknowledge and commission are central to the Restoration discussion of premortal life and foreordination; compare Abraham 3:22-23. The text addresses Jeremiah specifically.

Jeremiah 2 · The Fountain of Living Water

The Lord remembers Israel’s youthful devotion in the wilderness. Then comes the sharp question: what wrong did their fathers find in him that they wandered after emptiness? The priests no longer ask where the Lord is, and rulers rebel. Heaven is called to marvel at a double evil: the people have abandoned the fountain of living waters and dug cracked cisterns that cannot hold water. The chapter traces a history of disloyalty, misplaced alliances, and confident denials of guilt. The call is to acknowledge the covenant breach rather than blame the God who sustained them.

PASSAGES · 2:1-13; 2:14-25; 2:26-37

RESTORATION NOTE · The fountain and broken cisterns form an enduring image of living covenant relationship contrasted with counterfeit security.

Jeremiah 3 · Return, Faithless Children

The Lord depicts Judah and Israel as covenant partners who have turned away. The northern kingdom, though unfaithful, is called to return; Judah’s outward reforms have not always reached the heart. The invitation remains: acknowledge wrongdoing and return, for the Lord is merciful. He will gather one from a city and two from a family and bring them to Zion. Faithful shepherds will teach with knowledge and understanding. Jerusalem will be called the throne of the Lord, and the nations will gather. The people answer with confession, recognizing that salvation is in the Lord rather than in the hills where they once sought other gods.

PASSAGES · 3:1-13; 3:14-18; 3:19-25

RESTORATION NOTE · Gathering is intimate and personal - one from a city, two from a family - and leads toward Zion.

Jeremiah 7 · The Temple Gate

Jeremiah stands at the gate of the Lord’s house and challenges those entering for worship. The repeated words “the temple of the Lord” cannot shield a people who oppress strangers, orphans, and widows, spill innocent blood, steal, and worship other gods. If they amend their ways, the land may remain theirs. Without repentance, the temple itself can become a den used to shelter wrongdoing. The Lord points to Shiloh as a warning that sacred buildings are not magical guarantees. The people must hear and obey, but they have turned away, even sacrificing children and defiling the land.

PASSAGES · 7:1-15; 7:16-28; 7:29-34

RESTORATION NOTE · A holy place does not excuse an unholy life. Jesus alludes to Jeremiah 7:11 when he confronts abuse in the temple.

Jeremiah 16 · Judgment and the Gathering

Jeremiah’s ordinary family life becomes a sign of the disaster impending upon Judah. The people ask why such calamity should come, and the answer is persistent abandonment of the covenant. Yet judgment is not the last word. Days will come when Israel’s exodus from Egypt is remembered alongside a greater gathering from northern lands and all countries of dispersion. The Lord will send fishers and hunters, searching out his scattered people. Nations will confess the emptiness of inherited idols, and the Lord will make his name and strength known.

PASSAGES · 16:1-13; 16:14-21

RESTORATION NOTE · The gathering from many lands, with fishers and hunters, is prominent in Latter-day Saint discussion of missionary work and Israel.

Jeremiah 17 · The Heart and the Living Waters

Judah’s sin is engraved on the heart and altar. The person who makes flesh an ultimate trust is like a shrub in parched land; the one who trusts the Lord is like a tree planted beside waters, fruitful even during drought. The human heart is difficult to understand, but the Lord searches it and judges deeds. Jeremiah prays for healing and deliverance because the Lord is his praise. The prophet is also commanded to call Jerusalem to honor the Sabbath and to stop carrying burdens through its gates on that day.

PASSAGES · 17:1-11; 17:12-18; 17:19-27

RESTORATION NOTE · The rooted tree echoes Psalm 1 and emphasizes steady trust, not mere self-sufficiency. Sabbath fidelity is presented as public covenant practice.

Jeremiah 18 · The Potter and the Clay

Jeremiah goes down to the potter's house and watches a vessel spoiled in the making. The potter works the clay again into another vessel as seems good to him. The Lord explains that nations are not mechanical objects in a fixed fate: announced disaster can be withheld when a people repent, and promised blessing can be withdrawn when they turn to evil. Judah, however, insists on its own plans. Opponents plot against Jeremiah and seek to silence him. His anguished response reminds readers that prophetic ministry can bring profound personal conflict.

PASSAGES · 18:1-12; 18:13-23

RESTORATION NOTE · The potter image teaches accountability and possibility of change. Compare Isaiah 64:8 and the importance of agency in covenant response.

Jeremiah 20 · Fire Shut Up in the Bones

Pashhur, a temple official, strikes Jeremiah and puts him in the stocks. When released, Jeremiah announces that terror and exile will reach those who refuse the warning. The prophet then speaks from his own distress: he has become an object of mockery and wants to stop speaking, but the word within him is like a burning fire enclosed in his bones. He cannot keep it in. Confidence that the Lord sees and will deliver him alternates with bitter anguish over the day of his birth. The chapter refuses an easy picture of prophecy as painless certainty.

PASSAGES · 20:1-6; 20:7-13; 20:14-18

RESTORATION NOTE · Jeremiah's experience echoes the burdens of Lehi's generation: covenant witness can be costly without being abandoned by God.

Sources and further study

The Hebrew Bible, in the chapters referenced above; the corresponding biblical passages in public-domain translations such as the King James Version and World English Bible; and the published Come, Follow Me—For Home and Church: Old Testament 2026 schedule.

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/come-follow-me-for-home-and-church-old-testament-2026/000-contents?lang=eng

https://aitranslatedscriptures.org