

# **Pearls from the Prophets**

**Composite - Jeremiah**

**2023 - 2024**

**Heard Lowry**

**... God also filled the world  
with a renewable supply of something our souls need daily:  
beauty. Yes, beauty.**

**The fact that our world is so saturated with beauty,  
breathtaking in so many ways great and small –  
this ought to let you know God feels  
it's something you need for your survival.  
We are absolutely swimming in it. ...**

**Beauty comforts. Beauty heals. Beauty rescues.  
It rescues because it is merciful, comforting.  
It heals, restores, revives, renews. ...**

**Beauty heals, partly because it proclaims that there is goodness in  
the world and that goodness prevails, or is preserved, or will  
somehow outlast all harm and darkness.**

**The French impressionist Matisse “repeatedly stated that he wanted  
to make paintings so serenely beautiful that when one came upon  
them, suddenly all problems would subside.”**

**John Eldredge**

**Consider significant “remnant” examples prior to the time of the writing prophets?**

**The remnant concept appears before the prophets.**

**Noah and his family were a remnant that survived the flood (Gen. 7:1–23).**

**Lot and his daughters were a remnant that escaped the destruction of Sodom (Gen. 19:29–30).**

**God told Elijah that a faithful remnant still existed in Israel (1 Kgs. 19:18).**

**Fred M. Wood, Ross McLaren**

**The Israelites were the remnant of those who started out, and endured the 40 years’ wandering in the wilderness.**

**Note: consider the idea of saving a remnant; Joseph, Gen 45:7**

**Also; Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the Lord their God.**

**Leviticus 26:44 (see also Deuteronomy 4:27)**

## Covenant Considerations

**[The everlasting covenant (Isaiah 55:3–5)]**

**All this is explained in verses 3b-5  
in terms of an everlasting covenant  
which will mean the fulfilment of all that was once promised to David.**

**And, like the earlier covenants,  
this final covenant will have a sign to confirm it.**

**The covenant with Noah had the rainbow.**

**The covenant with Abraham had circumcision,  
and the Sinai covenant had sprinkled blood.**

**Appropriately, the final everlasting covenant  
will have ‘an everlasting sign’,  
which will be nothing less than a permanently renewed universe.**

**The final covenant between God and his people  
will not cancel out the earlier covenants  
but fulfil them,  
perfectly and completely.**

## Jeremiah and Jesus

**... there are many parallels  
in the life of Jesus  
and the life of Jeremiah.**

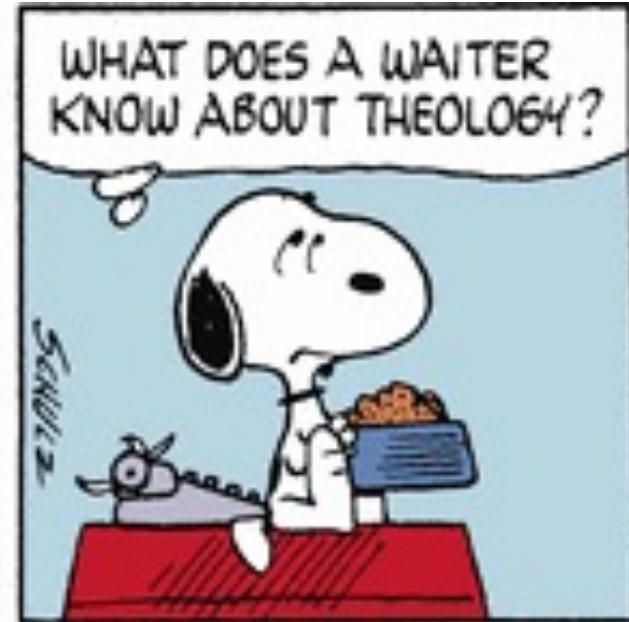
**Both were men of the land  
with a deep love of the countryside and all its creatures.**

**Both were rejected by their kith and kin;  
both clashed with the representatives  
of organized religion in their day.**

**When Jesus cleared the money changers from the Temple  
it was with words that had first been used by Jeremiah  
(7:11; cf. Mark 11:17)  
and it was our prophet  
that many people saw  
in Christ in His day (Matthew 16:13-14).**

**William Neil**

# Peanuts Philosophy



# Class Information

## Regular Pre-Class Components

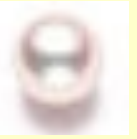
- Prayer List
  - Quote
  - Research or Thought Question
  - Comment from a Previous Class or Parallel
  - Review of the Purpose of the Class
  - Interesting Note Concerning Prophecy
  - Example of Poor Prophecy – when available
  - Interpretation of Scripture / Seeing the Connections
  - Prophecy Pointing to Christ (may be deferred to later in the lesson)
- used in past lessons

I want to cover some introductory and related material each week so that we can examine actual prophetic scripture earlier.

As we pursue this textual study,  
let us not forget David's lesson on putting our faith into action.

# The Purpose of This Class

To study the impact of the Prophets on the Christ –  
Looking for “Pearls”



In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. Hebrews 1:1-4

The prophets paved the path to establish Jesus as the Christ.

Their writings were the foundation  
of the Jew’s understanding of God’s plan.



# Mis(in)formed Pearls of Prophecy

Ideas?

## Interesting Notes

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A **prophet**? Yes, I tell you, and **more than a prophet**. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.' [Malachi 3:1]

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For **all the Prophets and the Law prophesied** until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Matthew 11:7-15

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Interesting Notes

**Jeremiah, more than any Old Testament prophet, prefigured the heart of Jesus.**

**Only one person exceeded Jeremiah in compassion and concern for his people – our Savior and Lord himself.**

**He [Christ] came to fulfill the prophet's promise of a new covenant and, like his predecessor, wept over his people.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Interesting Notes

... in many of those texts  
the words of the prophet  
and the words of God  
blend together so closely  
that it is difficult to be sure  
who the weeping speaker is.

It is not merely that Jeremiah speaks God's words;  
he also feels God's feelings.

Christopher Wright

Jeremiah is described as “The Weeping Prophet” -  
God also suffers and weeps!

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Interesting Notes

A rivalry existed between the **priests and prophets** for the conveying of religious truth.

Since he was from a **priestly** background, Jeremiah, at first, tended to side with their approach to worship.

But his disillusionment with the final result of Josiah's reform movement caused him to adopt the **prophetic** approach.

During the remainder of his life, he functioned as a **prophet**, not a **priest**.

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

## Interesting Notes – Praying for Someone

Although most of the many people who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written.

But **Hezekiah prayed for them**, saying,

“May the Lord, who is good, **pardon** everyone who sets their heart on seeking God - the Lord, the God of their ancestors - **even if they are not clean according to the rules of the sanctuary.**”

And the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

2 Chronicles 30:18-20

Hezekiah prayed for those who worshipped contrary to the law, though they were truly worshipping (in their heart).

God heard his prayer, and healed the people.

**Mercy triumphs over judgment.**

James 2:13b

## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes

**The Book of Hebrews shows  
how the Old Testament [covenant] and its legal structure  
is the foundation for the New Testament [covenant]  
and the much superior "structure" of Grace.**

**[Ray]**

**This is echoed by Paul:**

**Before the coming of this faith,  
we were held in custody under the law,  
locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed.**

**So the law was our guardian until Christ came  
that we might be justified by faith.**

**Now that this faith has come,  
we are no longer under a guardian. [schoolmaster (KJV), tutor...]**

**Galatians 3:23-25**

## Picking the Pearls

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**Galatians 3:23-25**



## Picking the Pearls

## Interesting Notes

[Jesus speaking to his disciples]

You will be betrayed even by  
parents,  
brothers and sisters,  
relatives and friends,  
and they will put some of you to death.

**Everyone will hate you because of me.**

**Luke 21:16**

**Consider how this relates to the life of Jeremiah (Jer. 20:7-8).**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

[Spoken through the prophet Isaiah]

**Matthew 3:3 40:3 (Describing John the Baptist) “This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah.”**

**Matthew 8:17 53:4 (Describing Jesus’s works of healing) “This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah.” ...**

**Matthew 12:17–21 42:1–4 (Describing Jesus’s healing people and instructing them not to make him known) “This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah” (Mt 12:17).**

**Luke 3:4–6 40:3–5 (Describing John the Baptist) “As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet” (Lk 3:3).**

**John 12:38 53:1 (Describing the unbelief of many in spite of witnessing ... Jesus’s miracles) “This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet.”**

**Romans 10:20–21 65:1–2 “And Isaiah boldly says” (regarding Israel’s current state of unbelief as Paul writes).**

**Bryan Beyer**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

Jeremiah's words were as human as he was, and yet they conveyed the message (the word) God wished to be communicated.

Paul makes a similar claim when he says, 'we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in **words taught by the Spirit**'.

Peter likewise affirms, 'prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were **carried along by the Holy Spirit**'.

Christopher J. H. Wright

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

### [The Unbelief of the Jews (2)]

John suggests that Isaiah's words were fulfilled in the unbelief of the general population.

John adds (John 12:41) that Isaiah said these things because he saw Jesus's coming glory. ...

**Bryan Beyer**

**The New Testament is completely connected to the Old!**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said,  
“Listen to me, everyone, and understand this.

Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them.

Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

After he had left the crowd and entered the house,  
his disciples asked him about this parable. [was this really a parable?]

“Are you so dull?” he asked.

“Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside  
can defile them?

For it doesn’t go into their **heart** but into their stomach,  
and then out of the body.”

(In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

Mark 7:14-19

Jesus actually goes “beyond” interpretation,  
as He leaves behind the rules about clean and unclean animals.

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

“But you are not to be called ‘**Rabbi**,’  
for you have one **Teacher**,  
and you are all brothers.

And do not call anyone on earth ‘**father**,’  
for you have one **Father**,  
and he is in heaven.

**Matthew 23:8-9**

Notice how we “interpret” what Jesus said  
about using the words “Teacher” and “Father”

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

For us, or everyone?”

### [Watchfulness]

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Peter asked, “Lord, **are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?**”

Luke 12:35-41

Peter interprets this as a parable...

Then he wants to know if the message is a limited one, not for everyone.

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

### A Warning Against Hypocrisy

“... be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Then they understood that  
he was not telling them  
to guard against the yeast used in bread,  
but against the teaching  
of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

**Matthew 16:11b-12**

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:

“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees  
sit in Moses’ seat.

So you must be careful  
to do everything they tell you.

But do not do what they do,  
for they do not practice what they preach.

**Matthew 23:1-3**



## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

### Regarding the Resurrection

**Martha answered,  
“I know he will rise again  
in the resurrection at the last day.”**

**John 11:24**

**Martha knew about the resurrection,  
Most likely from Jesus interpreting the Scriptures**

## Pointing to the Christ

Jesus, in his eyes, is the antitypical paschal lamb; here at least John is in agreement with Paul: “Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us” (1 Cor. 5:7).

It is doubtful if the title “the Lamb of God”, given twice to Jesus by John the Baptist in the Fourth Gospel (John 1:29, 36), has a paschal reference: the Passover lamb was not generally regarded as a sin-offering, whereas the Lamb of God is said to take away the sin of the world. **[The blood of the Passover lamb did indeed save the people]**

Probably no one Old Testament passage underlines the designation “the Lamb of God”; rather it sums up a number of Old Testament themes, of which the Passover lamb is one – others being the lamb of God’s providing spoken of by Abraham (Gen. 22:8) and (more especially) the suffering Servant, led like a lamb to the slaughter and giving his life as a sin-offering (Isa. 53:7, 10).

F.F. Bruce

Consider that our favorite Psalm (23) was not quoted by Jesus.

## Pointing to the Christ

**The reference to Jesse's line  
as opposed to David's line  
makes an important distinction.**

**Isaiah was not announcing the coming of David's successor;  
he was announcing the coming of another David.**

**Other prophetic passages also support this concept  
(Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 34:23–24; Hosea 3:5).**

**Bryan Beyer**

## Pointing to the Christ

**I have a feeling that the book of Isaiah was a favorite book of the apostle Paul.**

**He quoted from it or alluded to it at least **eighty** times in his Epistles and in at least three of his recorded messages (Acts 13:34, 47; 17:24–29; 28:26–28).**

**This interest in Isaiah may stem from the fact that Jesus quoted Isaiah 42:7, 16 when He spoke to Paul on the Damascus Road (Acts 26:16–18).**

**When Jesus encouraged Paul during his ministry to Corinth (Acts. 18:9–10), He referred to Isaiah 41:10 and 43:5.**

**Paul's call to evangelize the Gentiles was confirmed by Isaiah 49:6.22**

**Warren W. Wiersbe**

**The New Testament is completely connected to the Old!**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pointing to the Christ

**Kingship (David) and priesthood (Levites)**

**are two of the great realities of Old Testament Israel's life and faith that were explicitly declared to be 'forever'— just as 'forever' as God's covenant with creation itself.**

**... But we are taught very clearly in the New Testament that their 'forever-ness' is taken up and fulfilled by the kingly and priestly work of Christ.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

**Another type of duality: king and priest  
(note that David is also considered a prophet)**

**Consider the volume of sacrifices at certain times (thousands);  
The people were blessed by the meat from the sacrifice,  
and so, we are blessed through the more complete sacrifice of Christ.  
Also, God takes our sacrifices and turns them into blessings. [Ray]**

## Pointing to the Christ

**[The NT writers saw all the OT as pointing to Jesus Christ (1)]**

**The law of Moses, the prophets, and the writings  
all bore witness to his life and work (Lk 24:44). ...**

**With regard to Jesus and prophecy,  
the New Testament writers viewed Jesus's life and work  
as doing one of three things.**

**First, Jesus *directly fulfilled* the prophetic word.**

**That is, prophets predicted certain things about His life that came true as they said it would.**

**Second, Jesus *secondarily fulfilled* the prophetic word.**

**That is, some prophecies had their immediate application in another person or event but later were fulfilled in Him.**

**Third, Jesus *filled full* the prophetic word.**

**That is, the New Testament writers saw events in Jesus's life and work as paralleling concepts of which the prophets had spoken and hence "filling them full" of meaning.**

**Bryan Beyer**

## Pointing to Jesus

### [Belief and Unbelief Among the Jews]

Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.

This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

**“Lord, who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”**

Isaiah 53:1

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

**“He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their hearts,  
so they can neither see with their eyes,  
nor understand with their hearts,  
nor turn - and I would heal them.”**

Isaiah 6:10

Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

John 12:37-41

## Pointing to Christ

Therefore, discussing morality  
is in fact discussing the nature of God's law and truth,  
which Jesus famously suggests is found in him:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

...

What Jesus is saying explicitly and confrontationally  
to a Jewish audience very familiar with the Torah  
is that in him, through him,  
the life the Torah describes and highlights  
is available.

He is what the Law and the Prophets point to  
as the **fulfillment**  
of the righteous life of God  
(Matt. 5:17; 11:13; 22:40).



## Pointing to Christ

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So **she came running** to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. **Both were running**, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

**(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)**

**John 20:1-9**

# Pearls from the Prophets Outline

- **Introduction**
- **Information on the Prophets**
- **Seeing the Connections**
- **Picking the Pearls**
  - **Isaiah**
  - **Jeremiah**
  - **Ezekiel**
  - **Amos**
  - **Hosea**
  - **Zechariah**
  - **Malachi**
- **Conclusion**

# Pearls from the Prophets

## Seeing the Connections

### Why Study the Prophets?

Reading the book The Gospel according to God, by John F. MacArthur, made me realize how meaningful the prophecy of Isaiah is to the fact of Jesus being the Christ (our Savior).

Particularly chapters 52-53, even considering a contemporary meaning – this points to the powerful love of a suffering Savior.

The book of Isaiah is sometimes called the “fifth Gospel.”

John F. MacArthur

The evidence of copies of the book of Isaiah from the Dead Sea Scrolls that are dated long before the time of Christ give tremendous weight to the prophetic message.

# Pearls from the Prophets

## Picking the Pearls

### Prophetic Verses Applied to Christ in the New Testament

|                        |           |   |
|------------------------|-----------|---|
| <b>Amos 9:11-12</b>    | <b>in</b> | <b>Acts 15:16-18</b>                                  |
| <b>Hosea 1:10</b>      | <b>in</b> | <b>Romans 9:26</b>                                    |
| <b>Hosea 2:23</b>      | <b>in</b> | <b>Romans 9:25</b>                                    |
| <b>Hosea 11:1</b>      | <b>in</b> | <b>Matthew 2:15</b>                                   |
| <b>Hosea 13:14</b>     | <b>in</b> | <b>1 Corinthians 15:55</b>                            |
| <b>Isaiah 1:9</b>      | <b>in</b> | <b>Romans 9:29</b>                                    |
| <b>Isaiah 6:9-10</b>   | <b>in</b> | <b>Matthew 13:14-15, John 12:39-41, Acts 28:26-27</b> |
| <b>Isaiah 7:14</b>     | <b>in</b> | <b>Matthew 1:23</b>                                   |
| <b>Isaiah 8:14</b>     | <b>in</b> | <b>1 Peter 2:8</b>                                    |
| <b>Isaiah 8:18</b>     | <b>in</b> | <b>Hebrews 2:13</b>                                   |
| <b>Isaiah 9:1-2</b>    | <b>in</b> | <b>Matthew 4:15-16</b>                                |
| <b>Isaiah 10:22-23</b> | <b>in</b> | <b>Romans 9:27-28</b>                                 |
| <b>Isaiah 11:10</b>    | <b>in</b> | <b>Romans 15:12</b>                                   |

from John T. Willis

# Pearls from the Prophets

## Pearls of Great Price

**Again,  
the kingdom of heaven is like  
a merchant looking for fine pearls.**

**When he found one of great value,  
he went away  
and sold everything he had  
and bought it.**

**Matthew 13:45-46**

**In our study of the prophets and their messages,  
we will be hunting for Pearls  
that are of immense value!**

# Pearls from the Prophets

## Seeing the Connections

### My List of Special Prophetic Themes

- **impotent idols**
- **stretching out the heavens**
- **the blind and deaf**
- **water in the desert**
- **no other God**
- **light for the Gentiles**
- **God will save a remnant**
- **renewal and regrowth**
- **the Messiah (Christ)**

## Picking the Pearls

### Introduction – OT Passages Quoted by Christ (1)

Gen. 1:27

Gen. 2:24

Ex. 3:6

**Ex. 20:12**

**Ex. 20:13–16 Deut. 5:17–20**

Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9

Ex. 21:24; Lev. 24:20

**Lev. 19:18**

Deut. 6:4

**Deut. 6:5; 10:12; 30:6**

**Deut. 6:13; 10:20**

**Deut. 6:16**

**Deut. 8:3**

Deut. 17:6; 19:15

Ps. 6:8

Ps. 8:2

**Ps. 22:1**

**Ps. 31:5**

Ps. 35:19; 69:4

Ps. 37:11

Ps. 41:9

Ps. 82:6

Ps. 110:1

Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6

Matt. 19:5; Mark 10:7–8

Matt. 22:32; Mark 12:26; Luke 20:37

**Matt. 15:4; 19:19 Mark 7:10; 10:19; Luke 18:20**

**Matt. 19:18; Luke 18:20; Mark 10:19**

Matt. 15:4; Mark 7:10

Matt. 5:38

**Matt. 5:43; 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27**

Mark 12:29

**Matt. 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27**

**Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8**

**Matt. 4:7; Luke 4:12**

**Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4**

Matt. 18:16; John 8:17

Matt. 7:23; Luke 13:27

Matt. 21:16

**Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34**

**Luke 23:46**

John 15:25

Matt. 5:5

John 13:18

John 10:34

Matt. 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42–43

10 commandments

Great  
Commandments

temptations

on the cross

## Picking the Pearls

### Introduction – OT Passages Quoted by Christ (2)

Ps. 118:22–23

Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10–11; Luke 20:17

Ps. 118:26

Matt. 23:39; Luke 13:35

Isa. 6:9–10

Matt. 13:14–15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; John 12:40

Isa. 13:10

Matt. 24:29; Mark 13:24–25

Isa. 29:13

Matt. 15:8–9; Mark 7:6–7

Isa. 35:5–6

Matt. 11:5; Luke 7:22

Isa. 53:12

Luke 22:37

re: suffering servant Messiah

Isa. 54:13

John 6:45

Isa. 56:7

Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46

Isa. 61:1–2

Luke 4:18–19

Isa. 66:24

Mark 9:44, 46, 48

“I am He”

Jer. 7:11

Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46

Jer. 22:5

Matt. 23:38; Luke 13:35

Dan. 7:13

Matt. 16:28; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27

Dan. 9:27

Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14

Dan. 12:3

Matt. 13:43

Hosea 6:6

Matt. 9:13; 12:7

mercy

Hosea 10:8

Luke 23:30

Jonah 1:17

Matt. 12:40

Micah 7:6

Matt. 10:35–36

Zech. 13:7

Matt. 26:31; Mark 14:27

Mal. 3:1

Matt. 11:10; Luke 7:27

prepare the way

45 total passages  
from 13 books  
none of the History books, only  
Pentateuch (all but Numbers),  
Psalms,  
and the Prophets (8 of 17)



## Picking the Pearls

### Introduction – Christ speaks of “fulfilling” the Prophecy

- 1) **Matthew 3:15; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.”**
- 2) **Matthew 5:17; “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.**
- 3) **Matthew 13:14; In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.**
- 4) **Matthew 26:54; But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”**
- 5) **Matthew 26:56; But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.”**
- 6) **Mark 14:49; Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”**
- 7) **Luke 4:21; He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”**
- 8) **Luke 18:31; “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.**
- 9) **Luke 21:22; For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.**
- 10) **Luke 21:24; Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**
- 11) **Luke 22:37; It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”**
- 12) **Luke 24:44; Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”**
- 13) **John 13:18; But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.’**
- 14) **John 15:25; But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’**
- 15) **John 17:12; None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.**

# Pearls from the Prophets Outline

- Introduction
- Information from the Prophets
- Seeing the Connections
- Picking the Pearls
  - Isaiah
  - Jeremiah
  - Ezekiel
  - Amos
  - Hosea
  - Zechariah
  - Malachi
- Conclusion

# Pearls from the Prophets

## Picking the Pearls

### Introduction – NT Quotations of Isaiah

|                       |           |  |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>Matthew:</b>       | <b>9</b>  | <b>(7:14, 40:3, 9:1, 53:4, 42:1, 42:4, 6:9, 29:13, 56:7)</b>   |
| <b>Mark:</b>          | <b>6</b>  | <b>(40:3, 6:9, 29:13, 66:24, 56:7, 53:12)</b>  |
| <b>Luke:</b>          | <b>7</b>  | <b>(42:6, 49:6, 40:3, 61:1, 6:9, 56:7, 53:12)</b>  |
| <b>John:</b>          | <b>4</b>  | <b>(40:3, 54:13, 53:1, 6:10)</b>   |
| <b>Acts:</b>          | <b>5</b>  | <b>(66:1, 53:7, 55:3, 49:6, 6:9)</b>   |
| <b>Romans:</b>        | <b>19</b> | <b>(52:5, 59:7-8, 29:16, 10:22, 1:9, 8:14, 28:16, 52:7, 53:1, 10:20, 65:1, 65:2, 29:10, 59:20, 27:9, 40:13, 45:23, 42:4, 11:10, 52:15)</b> |
| <b>1 Corinthians:</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>(29:14, 64:4, 28:11, 22:13, 25:8)</b>   |
| <b>2 Corinthians:</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>(49:8, 52:11)</b>   |
| <b>Galatians:</b>     | <b>1</b>  | <b>(54:1)</b>  |
| <b>Ephesians:</b>     | <b>2</b>  | <b>(11:5, 59:17)</b>   |
| <b>Hebrews:</b>       | <b>1</b>  | <b>(8:17-18)</b>   |
| <b>1 Peter:</b>       | <b>6</b>  | <b>(40:6, 28:16, 8:14, 53:9, 53:5, 8:12)</b>   |
| <b>Revelation:</b>    | <b>1</b>  | <b>(22:22)</b>   |

# Pearls from the Prophets Outline

- **Jeremiah**
  - **Introduction**
  - **Finding the Pearls**

# Pearls from the Prophets

## Picking the Pearls

### Introduction – NT Quotations of Jeremiah

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Jeremiah 6:16</b>     | <b>Matthew 11:29; walk in the good ways</b>   |
| <b>Jeremiah 5:21</b>     | <b>Mark 8:18 those who are blind</b>  |
| <b>Jeremiah 7:11</b>     | <b>Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46;<br/>God's house became a den of robbers</b>           |
| <b>Jeremiah 9:23-24</b>  | <b>1 Corinthians 1:31; 2 Corinthians 10:17;<br/>Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom</b>      |
| <b>Jeremiah 10:7</b>     | <b>Revelation 15:3-4; no one as wise as God</b>   |
| <b>Jeremiah 12:3</b>     | <b>James 5:5; God examines our hearts</b>   |
| <b>Jeremiah 12:15</b>    | <b>Acts 15:16; God will bring a remnant back</b>  |
| <b>Jeremiah 22:24</b>    | <b>Romans 14:11; a signet ring pulled off</b>   |
| <b>Jeremiah 31:15</b>    | <b>Matthew 2:18; Rachel is weeping for her children</b>   |
| <b>Jeremiah 31:31-34</b> | <b>Heb 8:8-12; Heb 10:16-17; Rom 11:26;<br/>a new covenant, and a law written on our hearts</b> |

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Introduction

**Jeremiah ...**

**is the second longest book in the Bible,  
after Psalms.**

**The world of Jeremiah's youth was Assyrian.**

**By the time he died,  
the world was Babylonian.**

**Christopher Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Introduction

**Our survey of Jeremiah's times  
must begin by referring ...  
to the spiritual Dark Ages  
that descended on Judah-Jerusalem  
during the middle part of the seventh century,  
after the Sennacherib invasion of 701...**

**John W. Miller**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Introduction

**A person who approaches the Book of Jeremiah will soon notice its lack of chronological arrangement.**

**For its readers, it is a “jigsaw puzzle” that requires careful attention.**

**author?**

**Anyone who has come to grips with the Book of Isaiah, having registered the fact that it is not all the work of one prophet but of a whole school of prophets ranging over almost three centuries, might turn with relief to the Book of Jeremiah when he is told that there was only one Jeremiah.**

**His rejoicings would, however, in all probability be short-lived when he glanced through the Book of Jeremiah itself.**

**It is at first sight most confusing.**

**William Neil**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Introduction

**Certainly, compared to the book of Ezekiel,  
with its ... carefully dated oracles  
marching along  
in almost completely consistent chronological order,  
the book of Jeremiah seems  
to skip backwards and forwards in time,  
from one king's reign to another and back again,  
in a manner guaranteed to confuse the casual reader.**

**But chronology is not the only way to organize a text  
and casual is not the best way to read one.**

**Christopher Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Introduction

**In the account given in his book (ch. 1)  
we are able to see right from the start  
that if ever there was a reluctant prophet  
it was Jeremiah.**

**William Neil**

# Pearls from the Prophets Outline

- **Jeremiah**
  - Introduction
  - Finding the Pearls

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 1

The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah,  
one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin.  
The word of the LORD came to him  
in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah  
son of Amon king of Judah,  
and through the reign of Jehoiakim  
son of Josiah king of Judah,  
down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah  
son of Josiah king of Judah,  
when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

Jeremiah 1:1-3

In the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah of Judah (626 B.C.), God called a young man from Anathoth (about two miles north of Jerusalem) who was training to be a priest, to preach his message to the nations (Jer 1:1-2).

John T. Willis

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 1

#### [The Call of Jeremiah]

The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, [see Psalm 139:13]  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said,

“I do not know how to speak;  
I am too young.”

[remember Moses?]  
[a child...]

Jeremiah 1:4-6

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 1

But the Lord said to me,  
“Do not say, ‘I am too young.’

You must go to everyone I send you to  
and say whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them,  
for **I am with you and will rescue [deliver] you,**” declares the Lord.

Then the Lord reached out his hand  
and touched my mouth and said to me,  
“I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms  
to uproot and tear down,  
to destroy and overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

Jeremiah 1:7-10

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 1

[Jeremiah 1:8]

God utters the words that constitute statistically  
the most frequent divine command in the Bible:

**“Do not be afraid”**.

see also Jeremiah 30:10, Jeremiah 40:9, Jeremiah 42:11, Jeremiah  
46:27, Jeremiah 46:28, and Jeremiah 51:46

Christopher Wright

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 1

**[Jeremiah 1:9-10]**

**At this point, God acts to give Jeremiah the confidence that he needs to begin his ministry among the people.**

**He reaches with his hand and touches Jeremiah's mouth.**

**With this act, we see a connection with the call to Isaiah (Isa. 6:7).**

**In Isaiah's case it was an angel, specifically a seraph, who touched his lips with a burning coal, but the acts are similar enough to associate them with one another.**

**Tremper Longman**



**Truly humble people  
do not surround themselves  
with mirrors reflecting only themselves.**

**Instead, they surround themselves  
with windows  
through which they can see others  
and discover their needs.**

**Warren W. Wiersbe**



## Jeremiah and Moses

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 1

**[Jeremiah 1:1–19]**

**The dialogue that took place between Jeremiah and Yahweh parallels in many ways that of Moses and Yahweh.**

**Jeremiah, like the great Lawgiver,  
protested that he was not able to speak,  
but he also pointed out his tender age.**

**Where Moses may have felt he was too old for such a task,  
Jeremiah felt he was too young.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 1

The word of the Lord came to me:

“What do you see, Jeremiah?”

“I see the branch of an **almond tree**,”  
I replied.

The Lord said to me,

“You have seen correctly,

for I am **watching**

to see that my word is fulfilled.”

Jeremiah 1:11-12

The Hebrew for **watching**

sounds like the Hebrew for **almond tree**.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 1

**[Jeremiah 1:11-12]**

**The point of the oracle is made by virtue of the fact that the Hebrew word for almond tree (saqed) is similar to the verb watch (saqad).**

**Indeed, the almond was the first tree to blossom after winter.**

**The point is that God is watching over his word.**

**Tremper Longman**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 1

The word of the Lord came to me again:

“What do you see?”

“I see a pot that is boiling,” I answered.

“It is tilting toward us  
from the **north**.”

The Lord said to me,

“From the **north**  
disaster will be poured out  
on all who live in the land.

Jeremiah 1:13-14

**From the north** illustrates the coming invasion of Babylon, which comes from the north to avoid the desert.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

The word of the Lord came to me:

“Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem:

“This is what the Lord says:

“I remember the devotion of your youth,     [“*hesed*” – covenant love]  
how as a bride you loved me  
and followed me through the wilderness,  
through a land not sown.

Israel was holy to the Lord,  
the firstfruits of his harvest;  
all who devoured her were held guilty,  
and disaster overtook them,”  
declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 2:1-3

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

**[Jeremiah 2:1-3]**

**Jeremiah looks back to the exodus and wilderness period in verse 2, and describes it as a honeymoon.**

**God tells Israel that he remembers the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride (ESV), using two words frequently used of the love of God himself.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

This is what the Lord says:

“What fault did your ancestors find in me,  
that they strayed so far from me?  
They followed worthless idols  
and became worthless themselves.

Jeremiah notes that  
a person becomes  
like his god.

They did not ask, ‘Where is the Lord,  
who brought us up out of Egypt  
and led us through the barren wilderness,  
through a land of deserts and ravines,  
a land of drought and utter darkness...

I brought you into a fertile land  
to eat its fruit and rich produce.  
But you came and defiled my land  
and made my inheritance detestable.

Jeremiah 2:5-7

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

The priests did not ask, 'Where is the Lord?'

Those who deal with the law did not know me;  
the leaders rebelled against me.

The prophets prophesied by Baal,  
following worthless idols.

“Therefore I bring charges against you again,”  
declares the Lord.

“And I will bring charges  
against your children’s children.

Jeremiah 2:8-9

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

Has a nation ever changed its gods?  
(Yet they are not gods at all.)

But my people have **exchanged their glorious God  
for worthless idols.**

Jeremiah 2:11

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools  
and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God  
for images made to look like a mortal human being  
and birds and animals and reptiles.**

Therefore God gave them over  
in the sinful desires of their hearts ...

Romans 1:23-24

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world,  
yet forfeit their soul? [relate to the pearl of great price]  
Or what can anyone give in **exchange** for their soul? Matthew 16:26

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

**Be appalled at this, you heavens,  
and shudder with great horror,”  
declares the Lord.**

**“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 2:12-13**

**A cistern was a reservoir into which rainwater could drain from a roof, tunnel, or courtyard. Cistern water was less than satisfactory. Jeremiah contrasted the cisterns with the springs that produced clear, pure water. Anyone living in the Middle East would recognize this exchange of a spring for a cistern as a bad deal.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

**[Jeremiah 2:13]**

**Picking up and expanding Jeremiah's metaphor**

**he [Jesus] offers himself as**

**the water of life and the bread of life,**

**the sole sufficient source of life and fulfilment.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

“Long ago you broke off your yoke  
and tore off your bonds;  
you said, ‘I will not serve you!’

Indeed, on every high hill  
and under every spreading tree  
you lay down as a prostitute.

I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock.

How then did you turn against me into a corrupt, wild vine?

Although you wash yourself with soap  
and use an abundance of cleansing powder,  
the stain of your guilt is still before me,”  
declares the Sovereign Lord.

The rejection  
of God by  
His people!

We cannot  
cleanse  
ourselves!

Jeremiah 2:20-22

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

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.'

They say to wood, 'You are my father,'  
and to stone, 'You gave me birth.'

They have turned their backs to me  
and not their faces;  
yet when they are in trouble, they say,  
'Come and save us!'

**The pursuit  
of idols!**

**Jeremiah 2:25-27**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

Where then are the gods you made for yourselves?

Let them come if they can save you  
when you are in trouble!

For you, Judah, have as many gods  
as you have towns.

“Why do you bring charges against me?  
You have all rebelled against me,”  
declares the Lord.

“In vain I punished your people;  
they did not respond to correction.

Your sword has devoured your **prophets**  
like a ravenous lion.

The pursuit  
of idols and  
rebellion  
against God!

Jeremiah 2:28-30



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 2

“You of this generation,  
consider the word of the Lord:

“Have I been a desert to Israel  
or a land of great darkness?

Why do my people say,  
‘We are free to roam;  
we will come to you no more’?

Does a young woman forget her jewelry,  
a bride her wedding ornaments?

Yet my people have forgotten me,  
days without number.

**Rebellion against God  
compared to the  
unlikelihood of a bride  
forgetting her wedding  
jewelry!**

**Jeremiah 2:31-32**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 3

[Jeremiah's description of the faithlessness of Israel (chapter 3) –  
"under every spreading tree"]

**“Return, faithless people,” declares the Lord,  
“for I am your husband. I will choose you  
- one from a town and two from a clan – [the remnant]  
and bring you to Zion.**

**Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, [like David]  
who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.**

**Jeremiah 3:14-15**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 3

**[God promises a renewed relationship]**

**In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land,” declares the Lord,**

**“people will no longer say,  
‘The ark of the covenant of the Lord.’**

**It will never enter their minds or be remembered;  
it will not be missed,  
nor will another one be made.**

**At that time they will call Jerusalem**

**The Throne of the Lord,  
and all nations will gather in Jerusalem  
to honor the name of the Lord.**

**No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.**

**Jeremiah 3:15-17**

**The ark of the covenant will not be needed, for there is a new covenant in place.**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 3

**The picture of the nations gathering in Jerusalem to worship the Lord is found elsewhere in prophets (Isa. 2:2–4; 56:6–7; Jer. 12:15–16; 16:19; Mic. 4:1–3; [and] Zech. 2:11, 8:2-23, 14:16–17).**

**In the New Testament, the fact that the Gentiles were turning to Christ was surely thought to be a fulfillment of this Old Testament anticipation.**

**Tremper Longman**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 3

**[The relationship will reconcile peoples]**

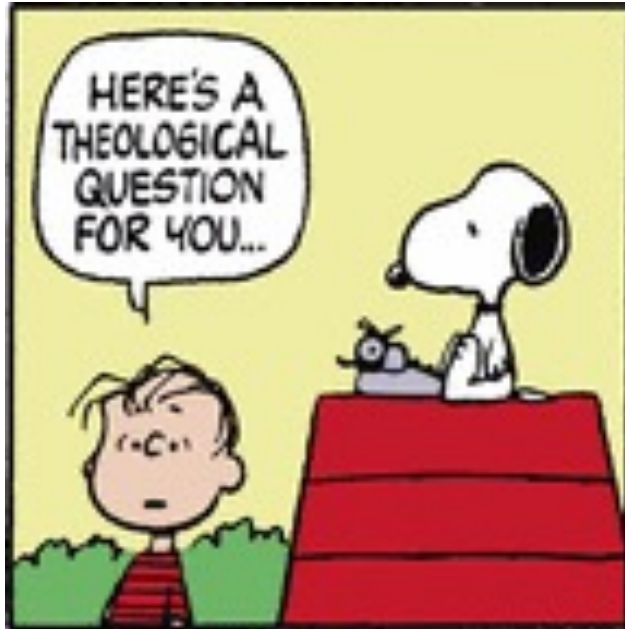
**In those days the people of Judah  
will join the people of Israel,  
and together they will come  
from a northern land [from captivity]  
to the land I gave your ancestors as an inheritance.**

**Jeremiah 3:15-17**

**The Holy Spirit  
takes our tongues of flesh  
and renders them tongues of fire.**

**Max Lucado**

# Peanuts Philosophy



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 4

**[Circumcise your hearts]**

**Circumcise yourselves to the Lord,**

**circumcise your hearts,**

**you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem,**

**or my wrath will flare up and burn like fire**

**because of the evil you have done –**

**burn with no one to quench it.**

**Jeremiah 4:4**

**We must get rid of the “dross”, scale, or impurities  
that limit the proper action of our hearts.**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 4

**Circumcise your hearts, therefore,**  
and do not be stiff-necked any longer.

Deuteronomy 10:16

The Lord your God will **circumcise your hearts**  
and the hearts of your descendants,  
**so that you may love him with all your heart**  
**and with all your soul,**  
**and live.**

Deuteronomy 30:6

No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly;  
and circumcision is **circumcision of the heart,**  
by the Spirit,  
not by the written code.

Romans 2:29a

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 4

“My people are fools;  
they do not know me.

They are senseless children;  
they have no understanding.

They are skilled in doing evil;  
they know not how to do good.”

Jeremiah 4:22

What are we most skilled in?  
Doing Good or Evil?  
For which side do we hone our tools?

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 5

“Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem,  
look around and consider,  
search through her squares.

**If you can find but one person**  
who deals honestly and seeks the truth,  
I will forgive this city.”

[hyperbole?]

Jeremiah 5:1

Consider the parallel to Abraham pleading with God in a similar way  
over the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:16ff).

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 5

As it is written:

“There is **no one** righteous, not even one;  
there is **no one** who understands;  
there is **no one** who seeks God.

All have turned away,  
they have together become worthless;  
there is **no one** who does good,  
not even one.”

Romans 3:10-12

Paul quotes from Psalms 14:1-3, 53:1-3, and Ecclesiastes 7:20

Only Christ is righteous (Hebrews 4:15)

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 5

[Paul continues]

“Their throats are open graves;  
their tongues practice deceit.”

[Psalm 5:9]

“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”

[Psalm 140:3]

“Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

[Psalm 10:7]

“Their feet are swift to shed blood;  
ruin and misery mark their ways,  
and the way of peace they do not know.”

[Isaiah 59:7,8]

“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

[Psalm 36:1]

Romans 3:13-18

Paul illustrates the overall failure of man...  
He uses many quotes from prophets to do this.

**The real test of what I actually believe is  
“Does it guide what I do?”**

**The aim ...**

**this is a key point of controversy  
between Jesus and the Pharisees –  
the Pharisees’ aim in the New Testament,  
as most of those conflicts are described,  
was to get people to do right things.**

**But Jesus’ aim**

**was for people to become  
the sort of persons  
who would automatically  
do right things.**

**concept referenced  
later in lesson**

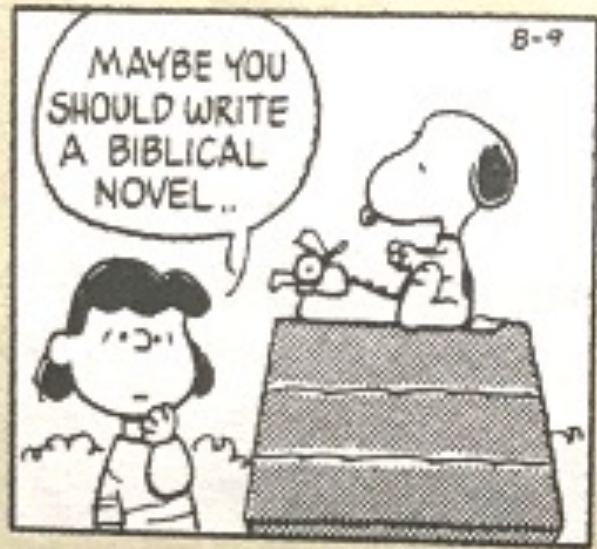
**Dallas Willard**

## Call and Ministry

**There were similar features in the call and ministry of Moses and Jeremiah:**

- both had a dramatic experience of God's call;**
- both shrank back and objected;**
- both heard words of God's over-ruling and promise of protection;**
- both were commissioned to speak truth to power**
  - confronting human authorities at various levels;**
- both had a passion for God's honour**
  - and a horror at the unfaithfulness of God's people.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**





## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes – Jesus / Isaiah (1)

Jesus returned to Galilee  
in the power of the Spirit,  
and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

He was teaching in their synagogues,  
and **everyone praised him.**

Luke 4:14-15

Note how that prior to the monumental announcement  
to the citizens of Nazareth  
about fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah,  
Jesus was already widely accepted  
in the area around His home town.

referenced  
later in lesson

Before He pointed to Himself as the promised one, He was popular.  
Afterwards, though, He gained enemies.

## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes – Jesus / Isaiah (2)

Jesus ... went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him.

Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

... he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the **poor**.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the **prisoners**

and recovery of sight for the **blind**, to set the **oppressed** free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

[compare to Matthew 25]

Luke 4:16-19

Think of the shock value to the people there listening to him;  
but I believe that there is another sort of shock here.

Jesus in this scripture is basically telling his audience

**that they also should be taking care of people in need.**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

### [The Unbelief of the Jews (3)]

**Paul contended that just as their ancestors had fulfilled Isaiah's words by their unbelief, so his unbelieving hearers were fulfilling Isaiah's words by their unbelief.**

**Consequently, Paul asserted, the gospel would now go to the Gentiles (Acts 28:28). ...**

**Paul's words stand as particularly instructive in that they suggest a multiple fulfillment of Isaiah's words.**

**Bryan Beyer**

## Picking the Pearls

### Pointing to Christ

**[Isaiah 61:1-11]**

**Here is the great theological breakthrough of Isaiah's vision and the heart of his gospel.**

**The Messiah must suffer and rise again. Only thus can the year of the LORD's favor be ushered in.**

**No wonder, then, that Jesus took up the scroll of the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue at Nazareth and read this very passage at the beginning of his ministry.**

**He had been designated the Messiah before his birth, and in his baptism and temptation he had chosen the path of servanthood and suffering.**

**He knew that Isaiah's vision of a suffering Messiah was to be fulfilled in him; indeed, it had already begun to be fulfilled that day.**

**Barry G. Webb**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 5

“Yet even in those days,” declares the Lord,  
“I will not destroy you completely.

[remnant]

And when the people ask,

‘Why has the Lord our God done all this to us?’  
you will tell them,

‘As you have forsaken me  
and **served foreign gods**  
in **your own land**,  
so now you will **serve foreigners**  
in a **land not your own.**’

Jeremiah 5:18-19

Since they have worshiped foreign gods,  
they will now serve foreigners in a strange land.

Tremper Longman

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 5

Hear this,  
you foolish and senseless people,  
who **have eyes but do not see,**  
who **have ears but do not hear:**

**Theme: blind and deaf  
(just like their idols!)**

“Should you not fear me?”  
declares the Lord.

“Should you not tremble in my presence?”

**Jeremiah 5:21-22**

**Blind and Deaf – one of the recurring messages of the prophets!**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 5

...

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**.

Should I not punish them for this?”  
declares the Lord.

“Should I not avenge myself  
on such a nation as this?”

Jeremiah 5:28-29

God's wish is for us to help the helpless  
– another one of the recurring messages of the prophets!

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 5

“A horrible and shocking thing  
has happened in the land:

The **prophets** prophesy lies,  
the **priests** rule by their own authority,  
and **my people** love it this way.

But what will you do in the end?

Jeremiah 5:30-31

**The view of authority has been reversed, and the people love it so!**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 6

[Jeremiah reacts to those who reject him and the Lord]

To whom can I speak and give warning?

Who will listen to me?

**Their ears are closed  
so they cannot hear.**

**Theme: blind and deaf**

The word of the Lord is offensive to them;  
they find no pleasure in it.

But I am full of the wrath of the Lord,  
and I cannot hold it in.

**Jeremiah 6:10-11b**

**Jeremiah is about to explode!**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 6

[Jeremiah reacts to those who reject him and the Lord]

They dress the wound of my people  
as though it were not serious.

'Peace, peace,' they say,  
when there is no peace.

Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct?  
No, they have no shame at all;  
they do not even know how to blush.

Jeremiah 6:14-15a

The false prophets emphasize peace and the status quo.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 6

[Jeremiah is given a task by the Lord]

“Stand at the crossroads and look;

ask for the ancient paths,

ask where **the good way** is, [The Worthy Way]

and walk in it,

and you will find rest for your souls.

Jeremiah 6:16a-b

God asks us all to “Walk the Worthy Way”.  
We must go much deeper than just checking boxes.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 6

[The people would not listen]

But you said,  
‘We will not walk in it.’

I appointed watchmen over you and said,  
‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’

But you said,  
‘We will not listen.’

Theme: blind and deaf

Jeremiah 6:16c-17a

God asks us all to “Walk the Worthy Way”.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 6

**[God responds to this rejection]**

**Therefore hear, you nations;  
you who are witnesses,  
observe what will happen to them.**

**Hear, you earth:  
I am bringing disaster on this people,  
the fruit of their schemes,  
because they have not listened to my words  
and have rejected my law.**

**What do I care about incense from Sheba  
or sweet calamus from a distant land?**

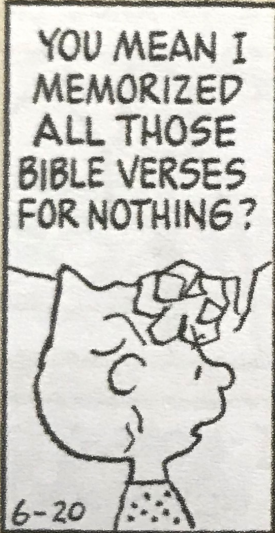
**Your burnt offerings are not acceptable;      [worship]  
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**Jeremiah 6:18-20**

**The ancient rabbis likened Scripture to a palace,  
alive and bustling, full of grand halls, banquet rooms,  
secret passages, and locked doors.**

**“The adventure,” wrote Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky  
in Reading the Book,  
lies in “learning the secrets of the palace,  
unlocking all the doors  
and perhaps catching a glimpse  
of the King in all His splendor.”**

**Think of our study of the Bible  
as like picking up a mass of rocky dirt;  
it looks useless, ugly, and perhaps even horrible;  
but you have to pick out the trash  
to reveal the gems underneath.**



## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes – Isaiah and the Worthy Way (1)

But let us concentrate for a moment  
on the highway of [Isaiah 35:8].

It is the way to everlasting joy.  
It is the way to Zion,  
the city of God,  
and all that it symbolizes.

In New Testament terms  
it is the **highway to heaven**.

And it is the **Way of Holiness**,  
which puts us in touch again  
with a major theme of the book.

For Isaiah,  
holiness is the defining characteristic of God himself.

Barry G. Webb



## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes – Isaiah and the Worthy Way (2)

Above all else, God is holy (Isaiah 6:3),  
so **the way of holiness**  
is not just the way to Zion,  
or the way to heaven;  
it **is the way to God.**

It is not the golden streets or the pearly gates  
that make heaven what it is,  
but the presence of God.

To be in heaven is to be with God forever,  
in totally joyous, unspoiled fellowship.

And the way to heaven  
is provided by God himself.

Barry G. Webb

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

**Make the heart of this people calloused;  
make their ears dull and close their eyes.**

**[consider Pharoah]**

**Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts,  
and turn and be healed.”**

**Isaiah 6:10**

### **[The Unbelief of the Jews (1)]**

**When John cited Isaiah 6:10, he gave a different rendering.**

**In John’s rendering, the Lord plays a more active role in blinding the eyes and hardening the hearts of those who **refuse** to believe.**

**Interestingly, the rendering can also be supported by the Hebrew text if one alters the vowels, which were not part of the original Hebrew manuscripts.**

**Bryan Beyer**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

**They perish because**

**they refused to love the truth**  
**and so be saved.**

**For this reason**

**God sends them a powerful delusion**  
**so that they will believe the lie**  
**and so that all will be condemned**  
**who have not believed the truth**  
**but have delighted in wickedness.**

**2 Thessalonians 2:10b-12**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pointing to the Christ

The climax in Old Testament covenant history was Jeremiah's prophecy of a **new covenant**.

Jesus Christ fulfilled that promise.

This invalidated the Mosaic covenant that was conditional from the start, but not the one with Abraham.

Through his seed,  
Jesus Christ,  
the world is being blessed today.

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

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**Your burnt offerings are not acceptable;      [worship]  
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## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 6

**[Here comes an invading army!]**

**This is what the Lord says:**

**“Look, an army is coming from the land of the north;  
a great nation is being stirred up from the ends of the earth.**

**They are armed with bow and spear;  
they are cruel and show no mercy. ...**

**They sound like the roaring sea as they ride on their horses;  
they come like men in battle formation to attack you... ”**

**We have heard reports about them, and our hands hang limp.**

**Anguish has gripped us, pain like that of a woman in labor.**

**Do not go out to the fields or walk on the roads,**

**... the enemy has a sword, and **there is terror on every side.** [Fear!]**

**Put on sackcloth, my people, and roll in ashes;**

**mourn with bitter wailing as for an only son,**

**for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us.**

**Jeremiah 6:22-26**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 6

[The image of refining metals is used]

“I have made you a tester of metals  
and my people the ore,  
that you may observe  
and test their ways.

They are all hardened rebels, going about to slander.

They are bronze and iron; they all act corruptly.

The bellows blow fiercely  
to burn away the lead with fire,  
but the refining goes on in vain;  
the wicked are not purged out.

They are called **rejected** silver, [they will not permit the cleansing]  
because the Lord has **rejected** them.”

Jeremiah 6:27-30

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 7

[The word at the gate of the Lord's house]

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord:

“Stand at the gate of the Lord's house  
and there proclaim this message:

“Hear the word of the Lord,  
all you people of Judah  
who come through these gates  
**to worship** the Lord.

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says:

**Reform your ways and your actions,**  
and I will let you live in this place.

Jeremiah 7:1-4

Jeremiah continually proclaims their failure but offers salvation.



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 7

[The temple of the Lord is not a magic talisman]

Do not trust in deceptive words and say,

**“This is the temple of the Lord,  
the temple of the Lord,  
the temple of the Lord!”**

[false confidence –  
like in an idol]  
[note triple emphasis]

If you really change your ways and your actions  
and deal with each other justly,

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,  
then I will let you live in this place,  
in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever.

But look,

you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.

Jeremiah 7:5-8

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 7

Jeremiah's sermon on the "church building" (7:9-11):

- 1) The popular belief that regular attendance at the temple (or any church building) guarantees God's continued care and protection, is false
- 2) The sort of religion which God desires consists in helping the poor, the orphans, the widows, and all who are in distress as a sincere expression of compassion for suffering humanity
- 3) It is possible to make the temple (or the church building) a hideout for crooks rather than a hospital for penitent sinners

John T. Willis

**PDE: See the contrast between:**

- loving our religion (i.e., the temple)
- vs. loving God and our neighbor (those in need)

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 7

[The temple of the Lord is not a magic talisman]

“Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, 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? Has this house, **which bears my Name**, become a **den of robbers to you?** [see Matthew 21:13]

But I have been watching! declares the Lord.

“Go now to the place in **Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name**, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel. While you were doing all these things, declares the Lord, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer. Therefore, **what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears my Name, the temple you trust in**, the place I gave to you and your ancestors. I will thrust you from my presence, just as I did all your fellow Israelites, the people of Ephraim.’

Jeremiah 7:9-14

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 7

**[Jeremiah 7:11]**

**During the judgeship of Eli,  
while Samuel was a youth,  
God punished Israel  
by allowing the Philistines to defeat its armies  
at the battle of Ebenezer and capture the ark.**

**Presumably,  
at this time the city of Shiloh  
was also destroyed (Ps. 78:60).**

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[Jeremiah 7:11]

They had turned the temple  
into a **den of robbers**. ...

Jesus quoted this verse [Mark 11:17 and Luke 19:46]  
in his prophetic enactment of the destruction of the temple.

But his point was not merely  
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Jesus was not objecting to commerce in a holy place.

Rather, it was the fact that the temple commerce  
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**Jeremiah's temple sermon  
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### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 7

**[God tells Jeremiah not to pray for the people]**

**So do not pray for this people  
nor offer any plea or petition for them;  
do not plead with me,  
for I will not listen to you.**

**Jeremiah 7:16**

## Picking the Pearls

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One of the essential functions of the prophet was to pray for the people.

Abraham was the first person titled a prophet and he was called such in the context of praying for Ahimelech's life (Gen. 20:7).

Tremper Longman

At the transition point of his ministry, when he went from being a judge to assuming a prophetic role, Samuel told the people

“far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by **failing** to pray for you” (1 Sam. 12:23).

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**[God shows what He really wants]**

**I did not just give them commands  
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**Obey me,  
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**Walk in obedience to all I command you,  
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**But they did not listen or pay attention;  
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**They went backward and not forward.**

**Jeremiah 7:22b-24**

**The ancient rabbis likened Scripture to a palace,  
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**“The adventure,” wrote Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky  
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**Think of our study of the Bible  
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it looks useless, ugly, and perhaps even horrible;  
but you have to pick out the trash  
to reveal the gems underneath.**

## Envy vs Mercy

Whereas envy consists of sorrow over another person's good fortune, mercy consists of compassion toward another person's misfortune.

The former is rooted in pride, and the latter in love.

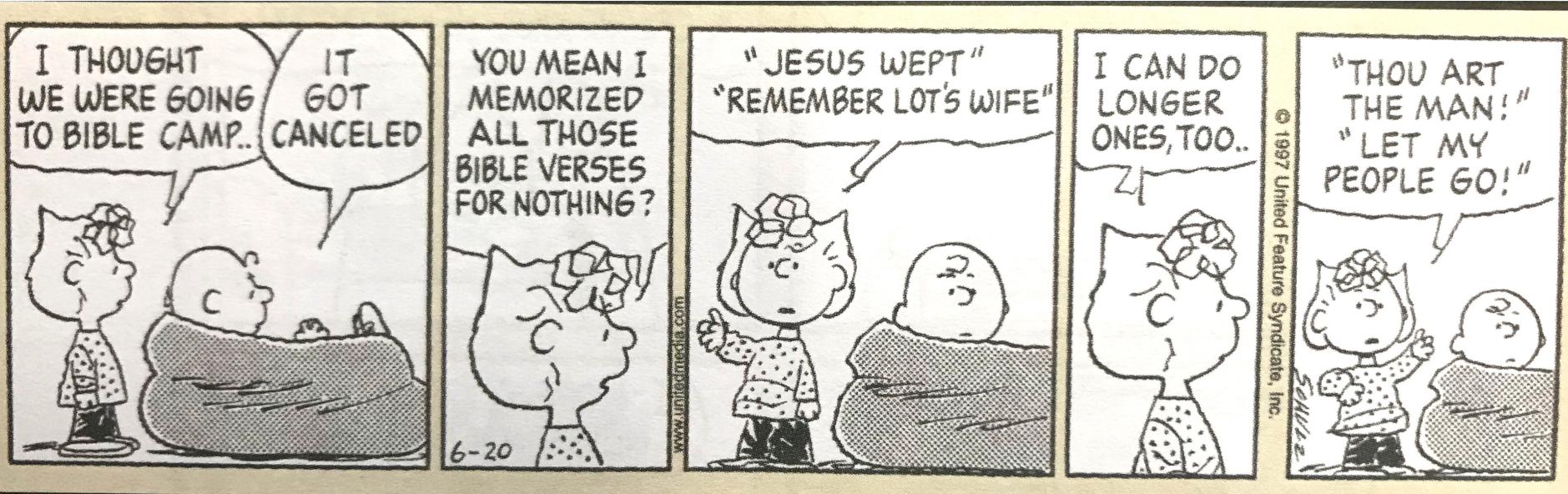
Consider the following:

### Envy

- Grieves over another person's good fortune
- Rooted in love of self

### Mercy

- Grieves over another person's misfortune
- Rooted in love of neighbor



## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes – Isaiah and the Worthy Way (1)

**But let us concentrate for a moment  
on the highway of [Isaiah 35:8].**

**It is the way to everlasting joy.**

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**For Isaiah,  
holiness is the defining characteristic of God himself.**

**Barry G. Webb**

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### Interesting Notes – Isaiah and the Worthy Way (2)

Above all else, God is holy (Isaiah 6:3),  
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is not just the way to Zion,  
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## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

**Make the heart of this people calloused;  
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[The temple of the Lord is not a magic talisman]

Do not trust in deceptive words and say,

**“This is the temple of the Lord,  
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One of the essential functions of the prophet was to pray for the people.

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Tremper Longman

At the transition point of his ministry, when he went from being a judge to assuming a prophetic role, Samuel told the people

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of their evil hearts.**

**They went backward and not forward.**

**Jeremiah 7:22b-24**

[In Mary's Magnificat]

her prayer is a manifesto

of God's loving concern

for the poor, the hungry, the lowly, and the powerless.

Brian D. McLaren

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

...

His mercy extends to those who **fear** [respect, worship] him,  
from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are **proud** in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down **rulers** from their thrones

but has lifted up the **humble**.

He has filled the **hungry** with good things

but has sent the **rich** away empty.

Luke 1:46b-53

**[In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37],**

**Jesus tells a parable**

**that makes it clear**

**that one's neighbor includes**

**the stranger,**

**the other,**

**the outsider,**

**the outcast, and**

**the unclean.**

**Brian D. McLaren**



**In the Sermon on the Mount,  
Jesus doesn't teach a list of beliefs  
to be memorized and recited. [though it is good to do to]**

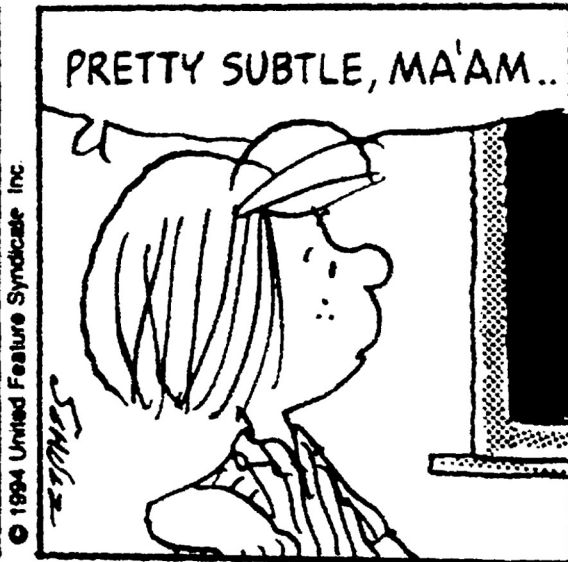
**Instead,  
He teaches a way of life  
that culminates in a call  
to **revolutionary love**...**

**Brian D. McLaren**

## Different Views of the Worthy Way

- The **Way** in Isaiah 6 and 8 is the way to everlasting joy. It is the **way** to Zion, the city of God, and all that it symbolizes. In New Testament terms it is the highway to heaven. It is the **Way** of Holiness; it is the Way to God.
- In the middle of all his pain and losses, Job says, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him” (Job 13:15, KJV).
- “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my **path**.” (Psalm 119:105)
- “worthy is the lamb that was slain” (Revelation 5:12); We follow the most worthy **path** in the universe.
- There is no greater story or life possible – it leads to the “more abundant life” (John 10:10)
- the most “excellent **way**” of Love (1 Corinthians 13) is the “worthy” **way**
- Christ is the **Way** (John 14:6). This “**Way**” is absolutely beautiful!
- As such, Christ lights our way: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never **walk** in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).
- Even though I **walk** through the valley of the shadow of death... I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. (Psalm 23:4a, 6b)
- Whoever claims to live in Him must **walk** as Jesus did. (1 John 2:6)
- Christians said to be on the “**Way**”; Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4, 24:14,22 [Tom]

The Worthy Way is a path of relationship to God!



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Interesting Notes

As far as we know,  
Uriah was as much faithful a messenger of God's word  
as Jeremiah was.

Yet God permitted the sword for him  
but safety for Jeremiah.

One wonders what John the brother of James thought  
when God decreed the sword for James,  
but a rescuing angel for Peter (Acts 12).

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

**There's a charming true story of a small child's literalism.**

**One day at Sunday school the class was asked to draw pictures of Bible stories.**

**This child drew a rectangle, with four wheels.**

**The rectangle was obviously a cart, and seated in it were two stick figures.**

**The cart was being driven by another stick figure.**

**When the child was asked what the picture was about, the answer was,**

**"It's God driving Adam and Eve out of the Garden."**

**Madeleine L'Engle**

**This interpretation is somewhat like Dustin's image of Jesus flipping over the tables in the temple area.**

## Pointing to the Christ

**The Bible as a whole presents the grand narrative that runs from creation to new creation.**

**God's plan and purpose (or God's mission) is to bring the whole creation, spoiled and broken by human and satanic evil, into unity in Christ, through whom he has accomplished its reconciliation by the blood of the cross.**

**And that new creation will be populated by people from every tribe and nation and language and people, who will have been redeemed through the Lord Jesus Christ, in fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham that through him and his descendants all nations on earth would enter into God's blessing.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Introduction – OT Passages Quoted by Christ (1)

Gen. 1:27

Gen. 2:24

Ex. 3:6

**Ex. 20:12**

**Ex. 20:13–16 Deut. 5:17–20**

Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9

Ex. 21:24; Lev. 24:20

**Lev. 19:18**

Deut. 6:4

**Deut. 6:5; 10:12; 30:6**

**Deut. 6:13; 10:20**

**Deut. 6:16**

**Deut. 8:3**

Deut. 17:6; 19:15

Ps. 6:8

Ps. 8:2

**Ps. 22:1**

**Ps. 31:5**

Ps. 35:19; 69:4

Ps. 37:11

Ps. 41:9

Ps. 82:6

Ps. 110:1

Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6

Matt. 19:5; Mark 10:7–8

Matt. 22:32; Mark 12:26; Luke 20:37

**Matt. 15:4; 19:19 Mark 7:10; 10:19; Luke 18:20**

**Matt. 19:18; Luke 18:20; Mark 10:19**

Matt. 15:4; Mark 7:10

Matt. 5:38

**Matt. 5:43; 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27**

Mark 12:29

**Matt. 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27**

**Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8**

**Matt. 4:7; Luke 4:12**

**Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4**

Matt. 18:16; John 8:17

Matt. 7:23; Luke 13:27

Matt. 21:16

**Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34**

**Luke 23:46**

John 15:25

Matt. 5:5

John 13:18

John 10:34

Matt. 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42–43

10 commandments

Great  
Commandments

temptations

on the cross

## Picking the Pearls

### Introduction – OT Passages Quoted by Christ (2)

Ps. 118:22–23

Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10–11; Luke 20:17

Ps. 118:26

Matt. 23:39; Luke 13:35

Isa. 6:9–10

Matt. 13:14–15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; John 12:40

Isa. 13:10

Matt. 24:29; Mark 13:24–25

Isa. 29:13

Matt. 15:8–9; Mark 7:6–7

Isa. 35:5–6

Matt. 11:5; Luke 7:22

Isa. 53:12

Luke 22:37

re: suffering servant Messiah

Isa. 54:13

John 6:45

Isa. 56:7

Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46

Isa. 61:1–2

Luke 4:18–19

Isa. 66:24

Mark 9:44, 46, 48

“I am He”

Jer. 7:11

Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46

Jer. 22:5

Matt. 23:38; Luke 13:35

Dan. 7:13

Matt. 16:28; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27

Dan. 9:27

Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14

Dan. 12:3

Matt. 13:43

Hosea 6:6

Matt. 9:13; 12:7

mercy

Hosea 10:8

Luke 23:30

Jonah 1:17

Matt. 12:40

Micah 7:6

Matt. 10:35–36

Zech. 13:7

Matt. 26:31; Mark 14:27

Mal. 3:1

Matt. 11:10; Luke 7:27

prepare the way

45 total passages  
from 13 books  
none of the History books, only  
Pentateuch (all but Numbers),  
Psalms,  
and the Prophets (8 of 17)



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 7

[God shows what He really wants]

I did not just give them commands  
about burnt offerings and sacrifices,  
but I gave them this command:

**Obey me,  
and I will be your God  
and you will be my people.**

Theme!

God wants a relationship!

Walk in obedience to all I command you,  
that it may go well with you.

But they did not listen or pay attention;  
instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations  
of their evil hearts.

**They went backward and not forward.**

Which direction are we going?

Jeremiah 7:22b-24

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 7

**[Jeremiah 7:22-24]**

**What was the first thing God required of Israel  
when he redeemed them out of Egypt?**

**That they should set up a sacrificial system?**

**No, that they should listen to him,  
obey him (same word in Hebrew),  
and walk in his ways  
as set out in the covenant law (7:23; cf. Exod. 19:4-6).**

**Only after that had been established at Sinai,  
agreed by the people and sealed in blood (Exod. 19-24),  
did God speak about a tent, an altar, and sacrifices.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 7

[God tells Jeremiah not to pray for the people]

From the time your ancestors left Egypt until now,  
day after day,  
again and again  
I sent you **my servants the prophets.**

But they did not listen to me  
or pay attention.

They were stiff-necked  
and did more evil than their ancestors.'

Jeremiah 7:25-26

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 7

**[God tells Jeremiah that the people will not listen]**

**“When you tell them all this,  
they will not listen to you;  
when you call to them,  
they will not answer.**

**Therefore say to them,  
‘This is the nation  
that has not obeyed the Lord its God  
or responded to correction.**

**Truth has perished; [from them]  
it has vanished from their lips.**

**Jeremiah 7:27-28**

**So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance;  
truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.**

**Isaiah 59:14**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 8

[God describes the rejection of His people]

Why then have these people turned away?

Why does Jerusalem always turn away?

They cling to deceit; they refuse to return.

I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right.

None of them repent of their wickedness, saying, “What have I done?”

Each pursues their own course like a horse charging into battle.

Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons,

and the dove, the swift and the thrush  
observe the time of their migration.

**Remember Isaiah 1:3**

**But my people do not know  
the requirements of the Lord.**

**Jeremiah 8:5-7**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 8

“How can you say, “We are wise, for we have the law of the Lord,”  
when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely?”

The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped.

Since they have rejected the word of the Lord,  
what kind of wisdom do they have?

Consider 1 Cor. 1:18ff

... From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain;  
**prophets and priests alike**, all practice deceit.

They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious.

“**Peace, peace,**” they say,  
**when there is no peace.**”

Remember Isaiah 6:14

Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct?

No, they have no shame at all;

they do not even know how to blush.

Jeremiah 8:8-12a

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 8

[God reveals his feelings about the hurt of His people]

**Since my people are crushed, [Remember Jesus was crushed for us]  
I am crushed;  
I mourn,  
and horror grips me.**

**Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?**

**Why then is there no healing  
for the wound of my people?**

**Jeremiah 8:21-22**

[also Jeremiah 46:11 and 51:8] Gilead was known for its balsam trees. An ointment was made from their resin which was used in healing wounds (giving us the word balm; cf. Gen. 37:25).

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

**Believed to be the earliest formal declaration of Christian belief,  
the Apostles' Creed does not once mention  
love, service, hope, the "least of the brothers and sisters,"  
or even forgiveness  
- anything, actually,  
that is remotely actionable.**

**Richard Rohr**



## Weeping for the Lost

**What do you make of Isaiah's remarkable reaction to the prophecy against Babylon (Isaiah 21:3-4)?**

**A prophecy against the Desert by the Sea...**

**A dire vision has been shown to me...**

**At this my body is racked with pain,**

**pangs seize me, like those of a woman in labor;**

**I am staggered by what I hear,**

**I am bewildered by what I see.**

**My heart falters, fear makes me tremble;**

**the twilight I longed for has become a horror to me.**

**Jonah had the opposite attitude towards enemies**

**How do you explain it?**

**How is it related to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41)**

**As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it**

**and Paul weeping for unbelieving Jews; (Rom 9:2)?**

**I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.**

**If so, what does this teach us about compassion for the lost?**

**Andrew M. Davis**

**This points to the "weeping prophet" that will be discussed later.**



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**We are so easily distracted (or bewitched?)**

## Interesting Notes

**A person who studies the Book of Jeremiah  
needs to stay in touch  
with the facts about all five kings  
who ruled during the prophet's ministry.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

**These kings are (Jeremiah 1:2-3 skips a couple of generations):**

**Josiah (son of Amon) – Jeremiah 1:2-3**

**Jehoahaz / Shallum (2 Chronicles 36:1)**

**Jehoakim – Jeremiah 1:2-3**

**Jehoiachin / Coniah (2 Chronicles 36:9)**

**Zedekiah – Jeremiah 1:2-3**

**Note: There was a governor (Gedaliah) after Zedekiah was captured.**

**Is there a prophet who's career spanned more kings?**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

When evening came,  
many who were demon-possessed were brought to him,  
and he drove out the spirits with a word  
and healed all the sick.

This was to fulfill what was spoken  
through the prophet Isaiah:

**“He took up our infirmities  
and bore our diseases.”** [Isaiah 53:4]

**Matthew 8:16-17**

**Notice how the idea of “carrying” our diseases,  
is interpreted as healing the sick.**

## Pointing to the Christ

We do not know to what extent the New Testament writers distinguished carefully between directly fulfilled, secondarily fulfilled, and filled full prophetic words.

What appears obvious is that as they looked at Jesus and at the Old Testament, they had **no doubt** that Jesus was the one who fulfilled the Old Testament promise.

Bryan Beyer

The Gospel writer Matthew sought to show his Jewish readers that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the anointed one announced by the prophets to usher in God's everlasting kingdom.

Consequently, we often read in Matthew comments similar to "and so the words of the prophet were fulfilled."

Matthew frequently linked something Jesus said or did with the prophetic word.

Bryan Beyer

## Picking the Pearls

Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 9 – the “weeping prophet”

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.

I will **weep and wail** for the mountains  
and take up a lament concerning the wilderness grasslands.

This is what the Lord Almighty says:  
“Consider now! Call for the **wailing** women to come;  
send for the most skillful of them.  
Let them come quickly and wail over us  
till our eyes **overflow with tears**  
and **water streams from our eyelids.**”

The sound of **wailing** is heard from Zion:

Teach your daughters how to **wail**; teach one another a lament.

Jeremiah 9:1, 10a, 18-19a, 20b

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Speaking of Tears

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. (9:1)

Let them come quickly and wail over us till our eyes overflow with **tears** and water streams from our eyelids. (9:18)

If you do not listen, I will **weep** in secret because of your pride; my eyes will weep bitterly, overflowing with **tears**, because the Lord's flock will be taken captive. (13:17)

“Speak this word to them: “Let my eyes overflow with **tears** night and day without ceasing; for the Virgin Daughter, my people, has suffered a grievous wound, a crushing blow. (14:17)

This is what the Lord says: “Restrain your voice from **weeping** and your eyes from **tears**, for your work will be rewarded,” (31:16)

“In those days, at that time, the people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in **tears** to seek the Lord their God. (50:4)

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Speaking of Tears (1)

[**Tears** in heaven]

Jesus **wept**. ...

He **wept** over Jerusalem,  
as he anticipated it suffering yet again  
the same fate that had brought **tears** to the eyes of Jeremiah.

His prediction, like Jeremiah's,  
was fulfilled in the horrors of siege, blood and death.

... the **tears** of the weeping Messiah  
mirrored the **tears** of the **weeping** prophet,  
and the **tears** in the heart of God himself.

Christopher J. H. Wright



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Speaking of Tears (2)

Of course, we have heard the **sobs** of God before,  
through the **tears** of Jeremiah (9:10–11).

The fact that God **weeps**  
not only over the suffering of his own people Israel  
as he brings judgment upon them,  
but also over the comparable suffering of other nations,  
is an astonishing and very important insight  
into the character of the God of biblical revelation.

It is not enough to affirm with Ezekiel  
that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

We must also affirm with Jeremiah that God **weeps** over it.

It is a divine grief  
that found human outlet in our **weeping** prophet  
and incarnate expression in Jesus himself.

Christopher J. H. Wright

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 9

This is what the Lord says:

“Let not the wise boast of their wisdom  
or the strong boast of their strength  
or the rich boast of their riches,

Consider 1 Cor. 1:18ff

but let the one who boasts boast about this:  
that they have the understanding to know me,

that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness,  
justice and righteousness on earth,  
for in these I delight” ...

Jeremiah 9:23-25

This for Jeremiah is the true meaning of devotion to God,  
beside which outward forms of worship are secondary.

William Neil

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 9

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
“when I will punish all who are **circumcised only in the flesh** –  
Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab  
and all who live in the wilderness in distant places.

For all these nations are really uncircumcised,  
and even the whole house of Israel  
is **uncircumcised in heart.**”

Jeremiah 9:25-26

The Lord your God will **circumcise your hearts** and the hearts of your  
descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all  
your soul, and live. Deuteronomy 30:6

No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and **circumcision is  
circumcision of the heart**, by the Spirit, not by the written code.

Romans 2:29

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 10

[The absurdity of worshipping man-made idols]

For the practices of the peoples are worthless;  
they cut a tree out of the forest,  
and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel.

They adorn it with silver and gold;  
they fasten it with hammer and nails  
**so it will not totter.**

Remember Isaiah 2:8,  
40:20, 44:10ff, etc.

Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field,  
their idols cannot speak;  
they must be carried **because they cannot walk.**

**Do not fear them;**  
they can do no harm  
nor can they do any good.”

Jeremiah 10:3-5

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 10

[The response concerning God's power]

**No one is like you, Lord;**  
you are great,  
and your name is mighty in power.

Who should not fear you,  
King of the nations?  
This is your due.

Among all the wise leaders of the nations  
and in all their kingdoms,  
**there is no one like you.**

Jeremiah 10:6-7

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 10

[The response concerning God's power]

But God made the earth by his power;  
he founded the world by his wisdom  
and **stretched out the heavens**  
by his understanding.

When he thunders,  
the waters in the heavens roar;  
he makes clouds rise  
from the ends of the earth.

He sends lightning with the rain  
and brings out the wind  
from his storehouses.

Jeremiah 10:12-13

**Out in the pasture,  
the sheep have no walls and are free to move about,  
while in the fold they are confined;  
and both are needed in the Christian life.**

**There are some areas of life that require walls and fences,  
and if we ignore them,  
we get into trouble.**

**There are other areas of Christian life  
that are open and free  
and about which the saints may even disagree.**

**Warren W. Wiersbe**

**The Creative God offers us the opportunity to be creative in our love  
(within His limits, of course).**

# Peanuts Philosophy



Are we clear about who we are worshipping?



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

#### [The Covenant Is Broken]

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord:

“Listen to the terms of this covenant and tell them to the people of Judah and to those who live in Jerusalem. Tell them that this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Cursed is the one who does not obey the terms of this covenant - the terms I commanded your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the iron-smelting furnace.’

I said, ‘Obey me and do everything I command you,  
and **you will be my people, and I will be your God.**

**Theme!**

Then I will fulfill the oath I swore to your ancestors, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey’ - the land you possess today.”

I [Jeremiah] answered, “Amen, Lord.”

Jeremiah 11:1-5

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

[Remember when the Book of the Law Found]

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he ... did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and **followed completely** the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

In the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah sent the secretary, **Shaphan** ... to the temple of the Lord. ... [age: 26]

Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the Lord.” He gave it to Shaphan, who read it. ... Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law,  
**he tore his robes.** [this led to a national renewal of the covenant]  
2 Kings 22:1-11

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

**[The Book of the Law Found]**

**It was probably only a part of the complete Book of Deuteronomy that we have today.**

**Those scholars who suggest chapters 12–26 are probably correct.**

**[Who kept the other OT documents?**

**Was it just that the royal hierarchy had not kept up with it, and the loyal priesthood kept the records?]**

**[Jeremiah 11:1–17]**

**This first part of his message is almost entirely made up of quotes from Deuteronomy.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

[God's people had followed other gods to serve them]

Therefore this is what the Lord says:

'I will bring on them a disaster they cannot escape.

Although they cry out to me,  
I will not listen to them.

...

You, Judah, **have as many gods as you have towns;**  
and the altars you have set up to burn incense  
to that shameful god Baal  
are as many as the streets of Jerusalem.'

**“Do not pray for this people or offer any plea or petition for them,  
because I will not listen when they call to me  
in the time of their distress.”**

Jeremiah 11:11-14

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

[There is a plot against Jeremiah]

Because the Lord revealed their plot to me, I knew it,  
for at that time he showed me what they were doing.

I had been **like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter;**  
I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree and its fruit;  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
that his name be remembered no more.”

But you, Lord Almighty, ... to you I have committed my cause.

Therefore this is what the Lord says about the people of Anathoth who are threatening to kill you, saying, ‘Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord or you will die by our hands’ ...

“I will punish them.”

Jeremiah 11:18-22

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

#### **‘A lamb led to the slaughter’ (Jeremiah 11:18–23)**

**The death-threat was so unexpected that Jeremiah says he would not even have guessed it if God had not warned him. It seems he had become vaguely aware of a plot being hatched in the village. But in his innocence, he had no idea that ‘it was against me they were scheming their schemes’ (literal word order).**

**In comparison to their vicious intention to obliterate him, he had been like a vulnerable lamb led to the slaughter – an image that connects the suffering of Jeremiah with the suffering servant of Isaiah 53:7 and is another item in the list of ways in which **Jeremiah prefigures Jesus**.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

**[Jeremiah in Danger]**

**Jeremiah was the son of a priest from Anathoth,  
a priestly village (1:1).**

**Amazingly, it was the men of Anathoth  
who plotted against Jeremiah  
and sought to kill him (11:21).**

**Jeremiah couldn't believe it.**

**He likened himself to**

**“a gentle lamb led to the slaughter” (11:19).**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

Because he denounced

a **mere external worship** at the temple

in the early part of Jehoiakim's reign (Jeremiah 7 and 26...),  
Jeremiah was banned from going to the temple.

**John T. Willis**

But as we have seen

he [Jeremiah]

was met with incredulity and violent opposition.

His words made nonsense

of all that Israel had come to recognize

as the truth about herself ...

**William Neil**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

[Jeremiah in Danger]

Jeremiah avoided execution. He stood his ground and fortunately had the support of Ahikam. The prophet's befriender was the son of **Shaphan**, a trusted servant of King Josiah.

Ahikam supervised the cleansing of the temple in Josiah's early years. When the law book was discovered in the temple, Hilkiyah the priest gave it to **Shaphan**.

Ahikam his son was one of a group who consulted Huldah the prophetess about its validity (2 Kgs. 22:1–14). After the fall of Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar chose Gedaliah, son of Ahikam, son of **Shaphan**, to be governor of the land (2 Kgs. 25:22).

Jeremiah was fortunate to have the support of this godly and influential family.

Did you know the name Shaphan?

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

[Jeremiah in Danger]

He spoke of his simplistic understanding with a phrase that we also find in another prophet's writings to describe our Savior's voluntary sufferings in the redemptive work at Calvary:

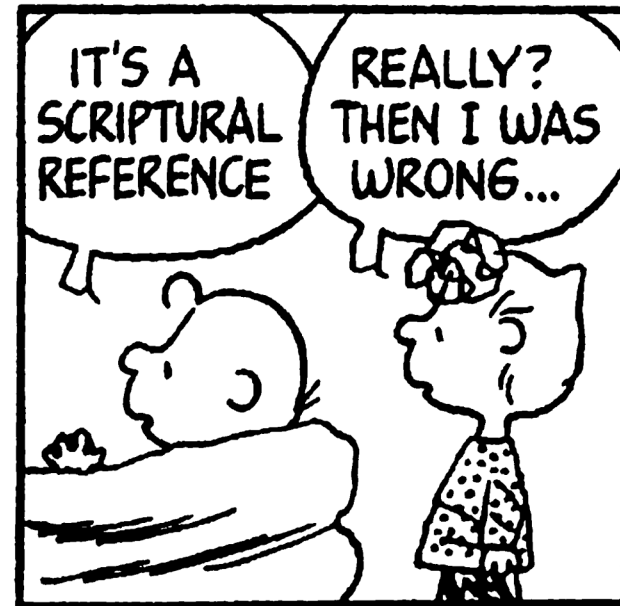
**like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter** (v. 19; Isa. 53:7).

This was probably a current expression in the prophet's day, but it reached undying fame when it was incorporated into God's redemptive activity.

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

**The church is not a group of people  
who believe all the same things;  
the church is a group of people  
caught up in the same story,  
with Jesus at the center.**

**Rachel Held Evans**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 11

Scattered throughout the Book of Jeremiah are several poems dealing with the inner life of the prophet.

They provide insight into his character and feelings.

Old Testament scholars call them the “Confessions of Jeremiah.”

The generally agreed upon confessions are:

11:18–12:6;

15:10–21;

16:1–3;

17:9–18;

18:18–23;

20:7–18.

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

Consider the correspondence of this to many of the Psalms

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 12

You are always righteous, LORD,  
when I bring a case before you.

Yet I would speak with you about your justice:  
Why does the way of the wicked prosper?  
Why do all the faithless live at ease?

You have planted them,  
and they have taken root;  
they grow and bear fruit.

You are always on their lips  
but far from their hearts.

Jeremiah 12:1-2

Our natural tendency is to focus on earthly belongings  
vs. eternal blessings. [PDE]

God will not separate the wheat and tares until the end [Morris]

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 12

**The second section of this material (12:1–6) contains some of the most heartrending words in the entire Book of Jeremiah.**

...

**Jeremiah acknowledged Yahweh's righteousness.**

**The prophet then raised a question that has disturbed interpreters through the centuries:**

**“Why do evil people live free of adversity while those who seek to serve the Lord constantly face reverses and hardships?”**

**Or to state the question in the more popular format:**

**“Why do the righteous suffer and the wicked prosper?”**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 12

[God's answer]

“If you have raced with men on foot  
and they have worn you out,  
how can you compete with horses?

If you stumble in safe country,  
how will you manage  
in the thickets by the Jordan?

Jeremiah 12:5

God seems to be saying,  
quit whining about your problems  
and get moving!

This is similar to God's challenge to Job to carry on in awe of Him.  
Also consider in Romans that what we know of God can be clearly  
seen. [Romans 1:20] [PDE]



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 12

**[Betrayal by Jeremiah's family]**

**Your relatives, members of your own family -  
even they have betrayed you;  
they have raised a loud cry against you.**

**Do not trust them,  
though they speak well of you.**

**Jeremiah 12:6**

**How can you deal with it when your family turns against you?**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 12

In verse 6, Yahweh revealed to Jeremiah the most shocking news yet.

It was the third of three progressive steps informing him how intensely opposition to him had developed.

First, he found out a plot had developed against him.

Second, he learned it began and was centered in his hometown.

Third, God informed him,  
Your brothers, your own family –  
even they have betrayed you.

This was the most unkind cut of all.

They had played the game of pretend, and Yahweh warned,  
Do not trust them,  
though they speak well of you.

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 12

The book of Jeremiah contains five passages in which Jeremiah bitterly complains to God:

- 1) 11:18-12:6,
- 2) 15:15-21,
- 3) 17:14-18,
- 4) 18:19-23,
- 5) 20:7-18

In order to encourage them [the people of God], he delivered a number of hope oracles, which painted a beautiful picture of a bright future for the faithful (see 30:3, 18; 31:23; 32:44; 33:7, 11, 26)

John T. Willis

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 13

#### [A Linen Belt]

This is what the Lord said to me:

“Go and buy a linen belt  
and put it around your waist,  
but do not let it touch water.”

So I bought a belt,  
as the Lord directed,  
and put it around my waist.

Then the word of the Lord came to me a second time:

“Take the belt you bought  
and are wearing around your waist,  
and go now to Perath  
and hide it there in a crevice in the rocks.”

So I went and hid it at Perath,  
as the Lord told me.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 13

[A Linen Belt]

Many days later the Lord said to me,

“Go now to Perath and get the belt I told you to hide there.”

So I went to Perath and dug up the belt

and took it from the place where I had hidden it,

but now it was ruined and completely useless.

Then the word of the Lord came to me:

“This is what the Lord says:

‘In the same way I will ruin the pride of Judah

and the great pride of Jerusalem.

These wicked people,

**who refuse to listen to my words,**

who follow the stubbornness of their hearts

and go after other gods to serve and worship them,

will be like this belt –

completely useless!

[present or future?]

Jeremiah 13:6-10

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 13

**[A Linen Belt]**

**For as a belt is bound around the waist,  
so I bound all the people of Israel  
and all the people of Judah to me,'  
declares the Lord,  
'to be my people  
for my renown  
and praise  
and honor.**

**But they have not listened.'**

**Jeremiah 13:11**

**The belt is linen**

**because Jeremiah is a priest (or the son of a priest)  
and priests wear linen undergarments. [Exodus 28:42-43]**

**Tremper Longman**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 13

**[A Linen Belt]**

**... many scholars think  
that he was to go to a nearby wadi by the name of Perath (as in NIV).**

**The consonants of that name are identical to the Euphrates in Hebrew;  
there is just one vowel-point difference.**

**This would have meant a shorter journey  
and the effect on the cloth would have been the same.**

**But possibly the play on words would have been noticed by the people,  
later at least –  
given that Euphrates was the great river of Babylon  
to which they themselves would later be exiled.**

**Christopher J. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 13

**[A Linen Belt]**

**... the snug fit of a waistband was a picture  
of how God wanted his people to cling close to him.**

**...**

**On the one hand,  
God had bound Israel to himself in a covenant relationship  
in which they were to cling to, or hold fast, to him  
in covenant loyalty, trust and obedience.**

**...**

**On the other hand,  
God wanted 'to look good' wearing Israel.**

**Christopher J. Wright**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 13

**[A Linen Belt]**

**[Jeremiah's waistband] is an unusual metaphor,  
but a powerfully suggestive one.**

**It raises challenging questions  
about our mission in the world.**

**Are we the kind of 'clothing' that God is pleased to wear  
in order to attract the nations to himself?**

**Or are we so soiled  
that people wrinkle their noses at us [analogy to the aroma of Christ - PDE]  
and at the God we represent?**

**Christopher J. Wright**

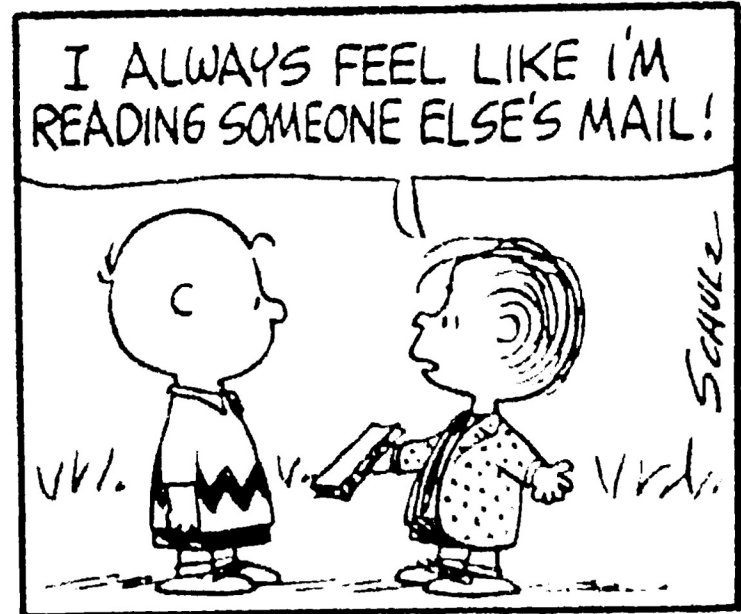
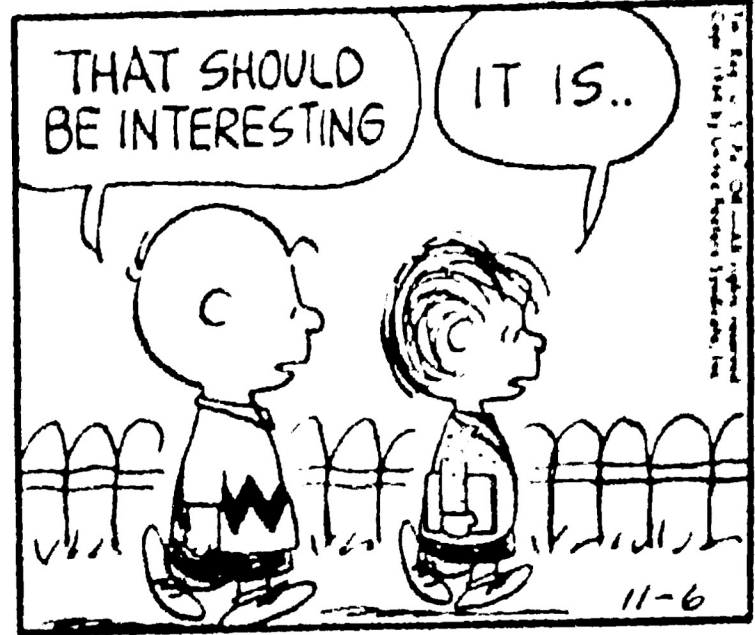
**But Jesus realizes that the most restful gift  
he can give the tired  
is a new way to carry life,  
a fresh way to bear responsibilities....**

**Realism sees that life is a succession of burdens;  
we cannot get away from them;  
thus instead of offering escape,  
Jesus offers equipment.**

**Jesus means that obedience to his Sermon on the Mount [his yoke]  
will develop in us a balance  
and a “way” of carrying life  
that will give more rest  
than the way we have been living.**

**John Mark Comer**

# Peanuts Philosophy



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 13

#### [Threat of Captivity]

Hear and pay attention, do not be arrogant, for the Lord has spoken.

Give glory to the Lord your God  
before he brings the **darkness**,  
before your feet stumble on the **darkening** hills.

You hope for light,  
but he will turn it to utter **darkness**  
and change it to **deep gloom**.

If you do not listen,  
I will weep in secret because of your pride;  
my eyes will weep bitterly, overflowing with tears, [see tears in vs 17]  
because the Lord's flock will be taken captive.

...

All Judah will be carried into exile,  
carried completely away.

Jeremiah 13:15-19

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 13

[Getting too deep in evil]

Can an Ethiopian change his skin  
or a leopard its spots?

Neither can you do good  
who are accustomed to doing evil.

Jeremiah 13:23

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 14

[The people have wandered away from God]

This is what the Lord says about this people:

“They greatly love to wander;  
they do not restrain their feet.

So the Lord does not accept them;  
he will now remember their wickedness  
and punish them for their sins.”

Then the Lord said to me,

“**Do not pray for the well-being of this people.**

Although they fast,  
I will not listen to their cry;  
though they offer burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them. ...”

Jeremiah 14:10-11

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 14

[Jeremiah is blocked by False Prophets]

But I said, “Alas, Sovereign Lord! The **prophets** keep telling them,  
‘You will not see the sword or suffer famine.  
Indeed, I will give you lasting peace in this place.’”

Then the Lord said to me, “The **prophets** are **prophesying** lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are **prophesying** to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds. Therefore this is what the Lord says about the **prophets** who are prophesying in my name: I did not send them, yet they are saying, ‘No sword or famine will touch this land.’

Those same **prophets** will perish by sword and famine. And the people they are **prophesying** to will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and sword. There will be no one to bury them, their wives, their sons and their daughters. I will pour out on them the calamity they deserve.

Jeremiah 14:13-16

False prophets typically tell their audience what they want to hear.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 14

[They do not get what they hoped for]

We hoped for peace  
but no good has come,  
for a time of healing  
but there is only terror.

Jeremiah 14:19b



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 15

**[God will not relent]**

**Then the Lord said to me:**

**“Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before me,  
my heart would not go out to this people.  
Send them away from my presence!  
Let them go!**

**Jeremiah 15:1**

**[Somewhat similar language is used by Ezekiel]**

**“... even if Noah, Daniel and Job were in [the land],  
they could save neither son nor daughter.”**

**Ezekiel 14:14-20**

**Jeremiah’s prophetic intercession stands in the great tradition of Moses  
(Exod. 32:11–14, 30–34; Num. 14:13–19) and Samuel (1 Sam. 7:5–11; 12:17–23).**

**Tremper Longman**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 15

[Jeremiah is God's Spokesman]

When your **words** came, I **ate** them;  
they were my joy and my heart's delight,  
for I bear your name,  
Lord God Almighty.

...

if you utter worthy,  
not worthless, words,  
you will be my spokesman.

Jeremiah 15:16,19

Ezekiel also ate words (a scroll), Ezekiel 3:3.  
John also ate words (a scroll), Revelation 10:10.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 16

**[God tells Jeremiah of the extent of the coming disaster]**

**Then the word of the Lord came to me:**

**“You must not marry and have sons or daughters in this place.”**

**[they will not survive]**

**“Do not enter a house where there is a funeral meal;  
do not go to mourn or show sympathy,  
because I have withdrawn my blessing,  
my love and my pity from this people...”**

**Both high and low will die in this land. They will not be buried or mourned...”**

**“And do not enter a house where there is feasting  
and sit down to eat and drink. ...**

**Before your eyes and in your days**

**I will bring an end to the sounds of joy and gladness  
and to the voices of bride and bridegroom in this place.”**

**Jeremiah 16:1-9**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 16

[God tells Jeremiah of the extent of the coming disaster]

“When you tell these people all this and they ask you,  
‘Why has the Lord decreed such a great disaster against us?  
What wrong have we done? ... then say to them,  
‘It is because your ancestors forsook me,’ declares the Lord,  
‘and followed other gods and served and worshiped them.  
They forsook me and did not keep my law. ...’

“However, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when it will no longer be said, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ but it will be said, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ For **I will restore them** to the land I gave their ancestors.”

**... this time I will teach them my power and might.  
Then they will know  
that my name is the Lord.**

**There is hope!**

**Jeremiah 16:10-21**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 16

**[16:1–4]**

**Yahweh gave Jeremiah a stern order.**

**He must not marry and have sons or daughters.**

**He explained that future conditions would be so terrible  
that the prophet should not subject a family to them.**

**The Lord had a special ministry for Jeremiah.**

**It required him to remain single and to forego having children.**

**Such was not Jeremiah's choice; the Lord commanded him not to marry and  
have children (16:2).**

**The Lord forbade him from participating in societal events (16:5) and normal  
social activities (16:8).**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

**[16:1–21]**

**Jeremiah is forbidden from presenting the people's pain to God,  
but he is commanded to present God's pain to the people.'**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 17

[Judah's sin has left an indelible mark]

Judah's sin is engraved with an iron tool,  
inscribed with a flint point,  
on the tablets of their hearts  
and on the horns of their altars.

Jeremiah 17:1-4

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 17

Judah's sin was so thorough  
that Jeremiah pictured it as deeply ingrained.

He used the metaphor of a stylus or diamond point  
set into iron.

Such tools were used in ancient times for writings  
like the Moabite Stone.

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

Judah's indelible sin ... is written permanently and deeply on a tablet with flint.

The use of such a writing instrument may indicate  
that the tablet is stone or metal, rather than the less durable clay.

In any case, the tablet represents their heart. ...

The Hebrew word translated flint (shamir) may be diamond,  
referring to the diamond point of an engraving stylus.

In any case, it is a very hard stone ...

Tremper Longman

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 17

This is what the Lord says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,  
who draws strength from mere flesh  
and whose heart turns away from the Lord.

That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;  
they will not see prosperity when it comes.  
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,  
in a salt land where no one lives.

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
whose confidence is in him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought  
and never fails to bear fruit.”

There is hope!

This is so much like Psalm 1

Jeremiah 17:5-8



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 17

**Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.**

**That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither -  
whatever they do prospers.**

**Not so the wicked!  
They are like chaff that the wind blows away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.  
For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

**The point Maxwell drives home again and again  
is that one has to become the kind of individual  
who can treat others in a loving, altruistic manner  
in order  
for the Golden Rule  
to appear in the first place.**

**It cannot be legislated  
in policy.**

**It has to be **incarnated**  
in people.**

**Dallas Willard and Gary Black**

## Praying for Enemies

Early on,

Jeremiah prayed for his enemies and those who persecuted him.

Listen to me, Lord; hear what my accusers are saying!

Should good be repaid with evil?

Yet they have dug a pit for me.

Remember that I stood before you

and spoke in their behalf

to turn your wrath away from them.

Jeremiah 18:20

[evidently earlier, before they really attacked and rejected him;  
in later verses Jeremiah asked for their punishment]

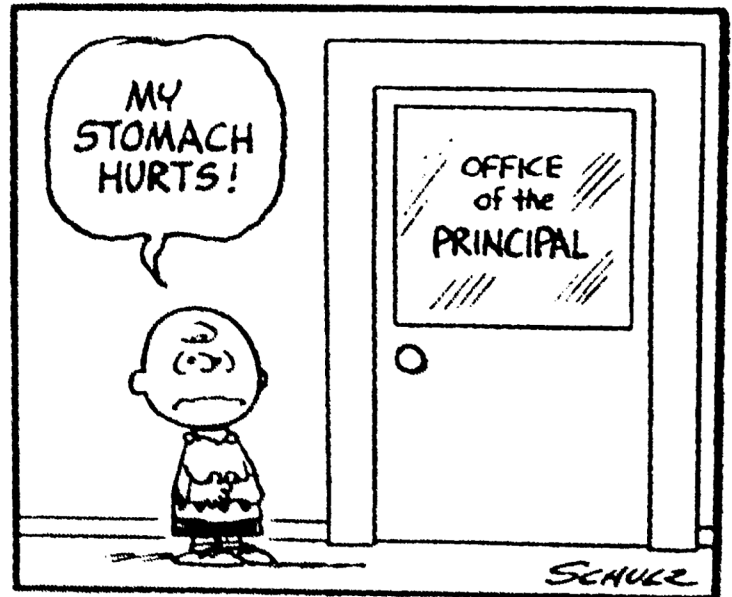
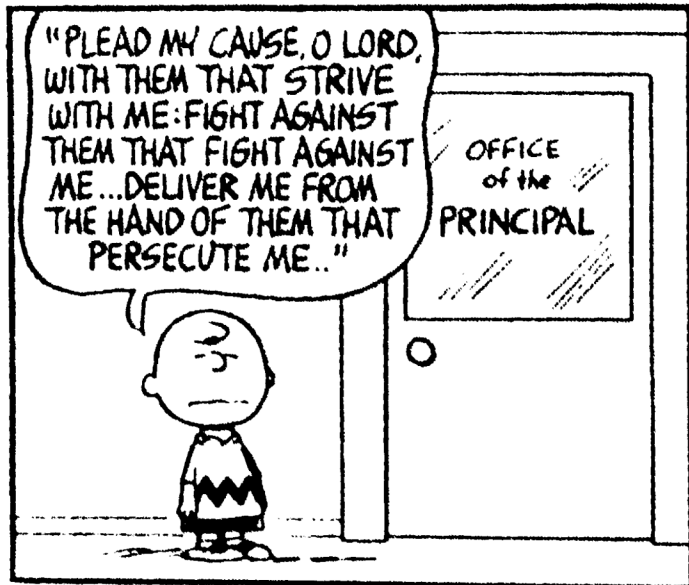
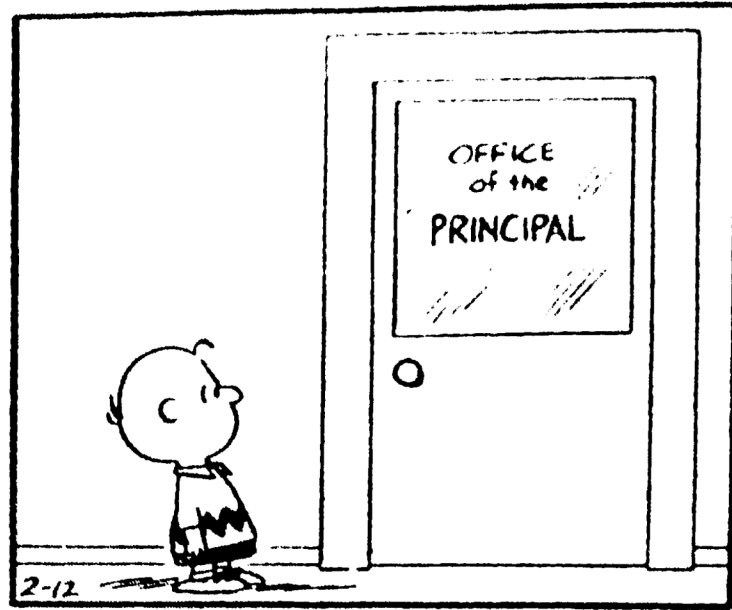
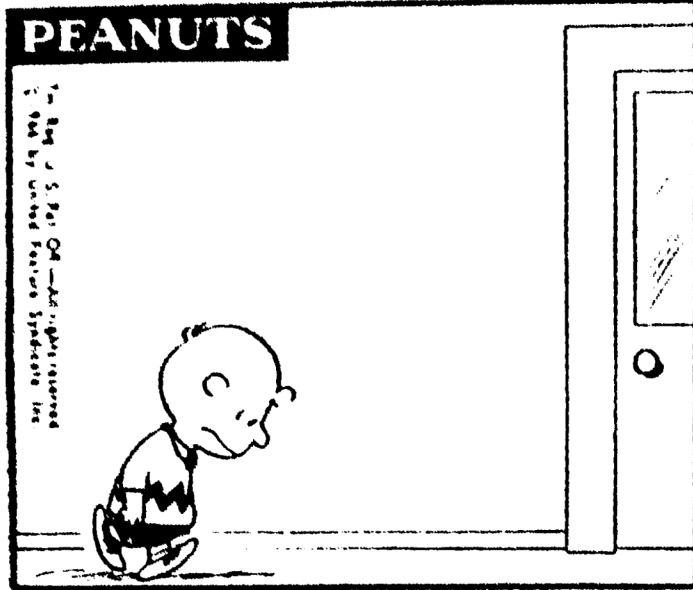
About six hundred years later,

Jesus instructed his disciples to deal with their enemies  
in the same way.

But I tell you, love your enemies

and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 5:44-45



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 13 - God and Darkness

Give glory to the Lord your God before he brings the **darkness**,  
before your feet stumble on the **darkening** hills.  
You hope for light, but he will turn it to utter **darkness**  
and change it to **deep gloom**.

Jeremiah 13:16

And God said, “Let there be **light**,” and there was **light**. God saw that the **light** was good,  
and he separated the **light** from the **darkness**.

Genesis 1:3-4

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that **darkness**  
spreads over Egypt - **darkness** that can be felt.”

Exodus 10:21

... my God turns my **darkness** into **light**.

Psalms 18:28b

I form the **light** and create **darkness**...

Isaiah 45:7

The **light** [Christ] shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** has not overcome it. John 1:5

For God, who said, “Let **light** shine out of **darkness**,” made his **light** shine in our hearts  
to give us the **light** of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

God is **light**; in him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5b

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 18

**[At the Potter's House]**

**This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord:**

**“Go down to the potter's house,  
and there I will give you my message.”**

**So I went down to the potter's house,  
and I saw him working at the wheel.**

**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.**

**Then the word of the Lord came to me.**

**He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does? ...**

**Like clay in the hand of the potter,  
so are you in my hand, Israel.”**

**Jeremiah 18:1-8**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 18

**... If there is nothing so workable  
as a clay pot in the making,  
there is nothing so unalterable  
as the finished article.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

**Judah's stubbornness made it like hardened clay.**

**No longer pliable,  
they could not be reshaped.**

**Fred M Wood and Ross McLaren**

**We must submit ourselves to God  
so that we can be changed into His likeness.**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 18

#### [At the Potter's House]

If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, 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.

“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.**’

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 18:9-12



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 18

**Most interpreters agree that verse 4 contains the heart of this story.**

**We find in it two great truths.**

**First, as the potter worked the product was disfigured.**

**Second, the potter changed his purpose or direction  
and produced something other than what he had originally planned.**

**This story, of all Jeremiah's “acted out parables,”  
has appealed to many subsequent writers.**

**Paul's letter to the Romans uses it  
to illustrate spiritual truths.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

**The Potter did not make a mistake through poor craftsmanship,  
but adjusted to the nature of the clay.**

**The Potter can change the product as long as it is soft and workable.**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 18

Jeremiah had witnessed something very interesting in the relationship between potter and clay. While the potter remained in control, it was not entirely a one-sided affair. Sometimes there was something in the clay that caused the potter to change his original intention.

True, the potter had the power to do what he chose with the clay. But the clay had the 'power' to cause the potter to change his plans. The final result was a mysterious combination of the sovereign will of the potter on the one hand and the condition of the clay on the other. ...

Jeremiah's point is different. He is not so much focusing on the sovereign will of the potter (though that is assumed in v. 6), as on the 'responsibility' of the clay, and on God's freedom to change his plans according to what the 'clay' does. ...

It is not that God is changeable, but that God will consistently respond to our changeability.

Christopher J. H. Wright

As he did with the boy's small lunch of fish and bread,  
**Jesus is able to multiply our seemingly insignificant efforts  
in phenomenal ways.**

Such is the nature of the kingdom of God.

...

The sense of futility is one of the greatest evils of the day.

...

People say,

“What can one person do?

What is the sense of our small effort?”

Remember David's lessons on  
putting our faith into action.

They cannot see that we can only lay one brick at a time,  
take one step at a time;  
we can be responsible only  
for the one action of the present moment.

But we can beg for an increase of love in our hearts  
that will vitalize and transform all our individual actions,  
and know that **God will take them and multiply them,  
as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes.**

Dallas Willard and Gary Black



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 18

Most interpreters agree that verse 4 contains the heart of this story.

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## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 18

#### [God's Sovereign Choice]

One of you will say to me:

“Then why does God still blame us?  
For who is able to resist his will?”

But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? [consider Job]

“Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it,  
‘Why did you make me like this?’”

Does not the potter have the right  
to make out of the same lump of clay  
some pottery for special purposes  
and some for common use?

Romans 9:19-21

But we do resist His will!

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 18

[The people threaten Jeremiah]

They said,

“Come, let’s make **plans** against Jeremiah;  
for the teaching of the law by the priest will not cease,  
nor will counsel from the wise,  
nor the word from the prophets.

So come,  
let’s attack him with our tongues  
and pay no attention to anything he says.”

Jeremiah 18:18

[Then Jeremiah prayed to God for revenge...

Jeremiah 18:19–23]

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 18

**This prayer represented everything Jesus condemned.**

**The prophet wanted God's wrath poured out on these people who opposed him.**

**He asked for revenge not only on the men but also on their wives and children.**

**When God's people get out of control, they say strange things, even in their prayers.**

...

**These words of Jeremiah give the record of a struggling soul. [like the Psalms]**

**They open a window on that battlefield with which no other conflict can be compared – the moral struggle of a person with himself.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 19

[Pots – Part Two]

This is what the Lord says:

“Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. [the jar is a finished, hardened item]

Take along some of the elders of the people and of the priests  
and go out to the Valley of Ben Hinnom,  
near the entrance of the **Potsherd** Gate.

There proclaim the words I tell you, and say,  
‘Hear the word of the Lord,  
you kings of Judah and people of Jerusalem.

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says:

Listen! I am going to bring a disaster on this place  
that will make the **ears** of everyone who hears of it **tingle**.

Jeremiah 19:1-3

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 19

[Pots – Part Two]

For they have forsaken me  
and made this a place of foreign gods;  
they have burned incense in it to gods  
that neither they nor their ancestors  
nor the kings of Judah ever knew,  
and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent.

They have built the high places of Baal  
to burn their children in the fire as offerings to Baal –  
something I did not command or mention,  
**nor did it enter my mind.**

So beware, the days are coming, declares the Lord,  
when people will no longer call this place Topheth [fire pit]  
or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, [Gehenna – symbol for Hell]  
but the Valley of Slaughter.

Jeremiah 19:4-6

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 19

[Pots – Part Two]

Then break the jar while those who go with you are watching,  
and say to them,

‘This is what the Lord Almighty says:

I will smash this nation and this city

just as this potter’s jar is smashed

and **cannot be repaired**. [except by God]

Jeremiah 19:10-11a

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 19

The word for the large wine jar Jeremiah was holding was **baqbuq**.

It was probably onomatopoeic – the sound of the word matching the sound of water or wine gurgling out of the narrow neck.

And the word translated ‘ruin’ in verse 7 is **bāqaq** – meaning ‘to empty out, make void, nullify’.

The wordplay (noted in the NIV footnote), suggests that as Jeremiah declared that God was about to ‘empty’ the plans of Judah and Jerusalem, he dramatically poured the whole contents of the jar out on the rubbish dump.

Christopher J. H. Wright

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 20

[Jeremiah and Pashhur]

When the priest Pashhur son of Immer,  
the official in charge of the temple of the Lord,  
heard Jeremiah prophesying these things,  
he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten  
and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin  
at the Lord's temple.

The next day, when Pashhur released him from the stocks,  
Jeremiah said to him,  
“The Lord's name for you is not Pashhur,  
but **Terror on Every Side**. [What a nickname to be given!]

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.’

Jeremiah 20:1-4a

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 20

[Jeremiah's Opposition – Part One]

You deceived [or persuaded] me, Lord,  
and I was deceived [or persuaded];  
you overpowered me and prevailed.

I am ridiculed all day long;  
everyone mocks me.

[remember Jesus' claim  
that everyone would hate his disciples, Luke 7:16]

Whenever I speak, I cry out  
proclaiming violence and destruction.

So the word of the Lord has brought me  
insult and reproach all day long.

Jeremiah 20:7-8

How could the people believe that Jeremiah was benefitting from his work?

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 20

#### [Jeremiah's Motivation]

But if I say, “I will not mention his word  
or speak anymore in his name,”  
his word is in my heart like a fire,  
a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in;  
indeed,  
**I cannot.**

Jeremiah 20:9

Jeremiah was so unhappy  
with the message which God gave him to preach  
that he tried to quit preaching altogether;  
but God would not leave him alone.

John T. Willis

Paul felt compelled to preach (1 Corinthians 9:16).

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 20

[Jeremiah's Opposition – Part Two]

I hear many whispering,

**“Terror on every side!** [the “nickname” is now being applied to Jeremiah]  
**Denounce him! Let's denounce him!”**

**All my friends**

are waiting for me to slip, saying, [similar to those who watched Jesus]  
“Perhaps he will be deceived;  
then we will prevail over him  
and take our revenge on him.” [Jeremiah is being tested]

**Jeremiah 20:10**

[magor-missabib means “terror on every side”]

... the phrase is found 5 times in Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 6:25, Jeremiah 20:3, Jeremiah 20:10, Jeremiah 46:5, and  
Jeremiah 49:29



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 20

[Jeremiah's Help from the Lord]

But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior;  
so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.  
They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;  
their dishonor will never be forgotten.

Lord Almighty, you who examine the righteous  
and **probe the heart and mind**, [think of how the Spirit knows our thoughts]  
let me see your vengeance on them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord!

Give praise to the Lord!

He rescues the life of the needy  
from the hands of the wicked.

Hope!

Jeremiah 20:11-12

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 20 (a Parallel)

#### [Jeremiah's Distressing Cry]

**Cursed be the day I was born!**

**May the day my mother bore me not be blessed!**

**Cursed be the man who brought my father the news,  
who made him very glad, saying,**

**“A child is born to you - a son!”**

**Jeremiah 20:14-15**

#### [Job's Similar Cry]

**After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.**

**He said:**

**“May the day of my birth perish,  
and the night that said,  
‘A boy is conceived!’**

**[more discussion follows]**

**Job 1:1-3**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 20 (a Parallel)

In his “regression to abnormality,”

Jeremiah poured out a series of curses on himself.

This section resembles Job's outcry (Job 3:1–16) but with one difference.

Job expressed his disillusionment with everything

about his life

and the universe.

Jeremiah focused on his own problems.

His despair drove him to curse first himself

and then all the conditions surrounding his existence.

But he refrained from pronouncing an anathema against his parents or God.

Jeremiah even proclaimed harsh words

against the person who announced his birth.

This was another way of saying he wished he had never been born.

Like Job, he grieved because he did not die in his mother's womb.

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

## Picking the Pearls

### Parallel: Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 20 (a Parallel)

**‘Perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned’ [2 Cor. 4:8]**

**The Apostle Paul uttered the words ... in circumstances of crushing stress.**

**The same kind of stress led to Jeremiah’s outburst in this,  
the last of his personal laments recorded in the book.**

**For both Jeremiah and Paul there was the pain of rejection and desertion  
even by former close friends.**

**For both men the experience was like a sentence of death –  
feared or wished for.**

**Yet both of them managed to turn their struggles around  
towards renewed faith  
in God’s power and protection.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 20

**‘Interpreters should be careful to assess what difference it makes that this is a lament and not a carefully crafted theological statement.**

**What pray-ers say about God in their screams in the night they may not want integrated into a credal statement.’**

**Fretheim quoted by Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 20

#### [Discussion]

**Tom:** Jeremiah apparently had a miserable life? Did he believe in resurrection?

**Ty:** People don't respond well to someone screaming at them to believe what they do.

**Ray:** We need to speak of God's love, not beat people with our perceived "truth".

**David:** Contrast to the way Nathan spoke to David and caused him to respond from the heart.

**Steve:** But Jeremiah was pronouncing God's word, which his audience, the Jewish people, were very familiar with (although they pursued their own agenda).

**Jonah** had much greater success with those who were not God's people!

**Jesus was a man of truth.**

**The Holy Spirit  
is the Spirit of truth,  
not of correct doctrine.**

**Dallas Willard**

**God seeks a balance.**

**“God is spirit,  
and those who worship him  
must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24).**

**Max Lucado**

**Consider the possibility that this could also refer to  
acting in the “spirit” of the over-arching rules –  
that of loving God and each other.**

**We obey God’s commands, [they are the foundation (Matthew 22:40)]  
but with overarching love and mercy.**

**For the law was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

**John 1:17**

**Mercy triumphs over judgment.**

**James 2:13b**

## Jeremiah and Christ

God was answering Jeremiah's petition in verse [Jeremiah 11] 20b.

But you, Lord Almighty,  
who judge righteously and test the heart and mind,  
let me see your vengeance on them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

Now that petition may seem harsh.

Certainly, it is one place where Jeremiah differed from Jesus.

They may both have been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter,  
but whereas Jeremiah cried out,  
Jesus was silent.

Whereas Jeremiah asked God for retribution on his unjust attackers,  
Jesus asked for their forgiveness.

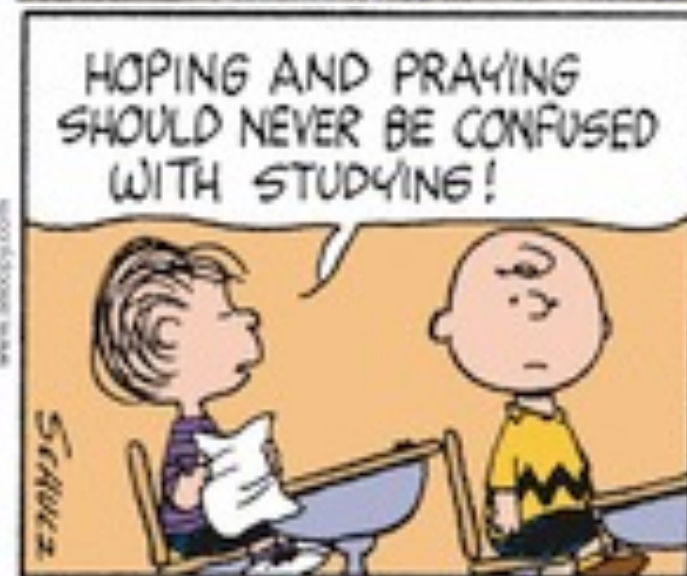
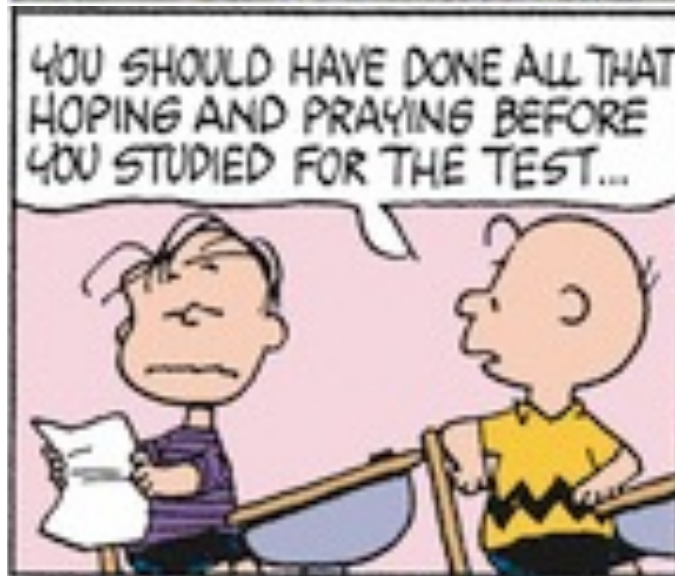
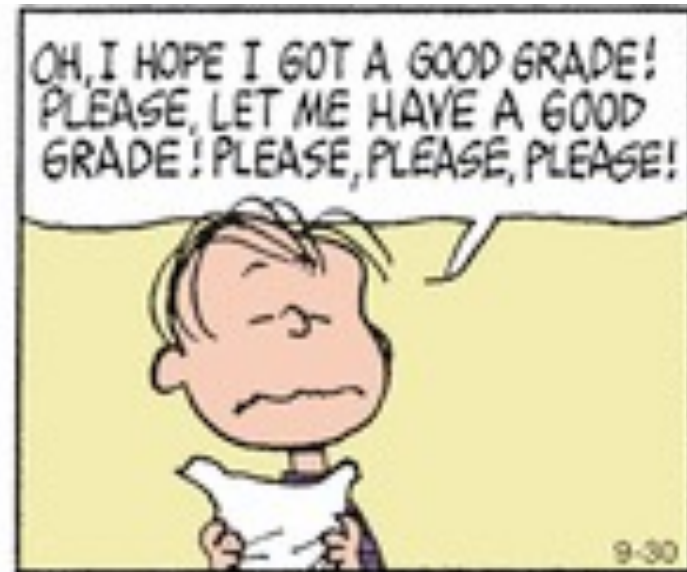
...

And again we have to contrast them with those of Jesus,  
and remind ourselves that it is the example of Jesus,  
not of Jeremiah,  
that we are commanded to imitate.

Christopher J. H. Wright



# Peanuts Philosophy



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## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes

**[Jeremiah's condemnations of four groups of leaders in Judah]**

- 1. the king and his royal princes (1:18, 32:31-32),**
- 2. priests (6:13, 8:10),**
- 3. prophets 23:33 ((with priests - 14:18, 23:11) – also 1:18; 2:8; 26:5:31, 13:13; 20:1; etc.),**
- 4. wise men or wisdom teachers (8:8-9; also 9:12, 23; 18:18)**

**John T. Willis**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

### Regarding Rumors

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them.

...

When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

Jesus answered,

“If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?

You must follow me.”

Because of this,

the rumor spread among the believers  
that this disciple would not die.

[Ray: a rumor, believed long enough...  
becomes a doctrine]

But Jesus did not say that he would not die;

he only said,

“If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

John 21:20-23

Interpretation is also an issue  
when we try to communicate with each other.

## Pointing to Christ

**[Stephen's Sermon (A)]**

**“This is the Moses who told the Israelites,**

**‘God will raise up for you**

**a prophet**

**like me**

**from your own people.’ [Deuteronomy 18:15]**

**He was in the assembly in the wilderness,**

**with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai,**

**and with our ancestors;**

**and he received living words**

**to pass on to us.**

**Acts 7:37-38**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 21

**Jeremiah 21:1–23:40**

**In the midst of his assessment of these evil kings,  
Jeremiah presented the basics of good government  
and the responsibilities of rulers.**

**He identified **justice and righteousness**  
as **the two key ingredients of good government** (21:11–22:9).**

**Jeremiah contrasted these evil rulers  
with the coming ideal righteous king (23:1–8).**

**The section ends with Jeremiah's denunciation  
of false prophets (23:9–40).**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 21

“Furthermore, tell the people,  
‘This is what the LORD says:  
See, I am **setting before you**  
**the way of life and the way of death.**”

Jeremiah 21:8

[Moses presented a similar choice]

See, I **set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.**

For I command you today to love the Lord your God,  
to walk in obedience to him,  
and to keep his commands, decrees and laws;  
then you will live and increase,  
and the Lord your God will bless you  
in the land you are entering to possess.

Now **choose** life...

Deuteronomy 30:15-16,19

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapters 21 and 22

This is what the Lord says to you, house of David:

“Administer justice **every morning**;  
rescue from the hand of the oppressor  
the one who has been robbed ...

Jeremiah 21:12a

This is what the Lord says: ...

Do what is **just and right**.

Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed.

Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow,  
and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

Jeremiah 22:3

“He [Josiah] did what was **right and just**, so all went well with him.

He defended the cause of the poor and needy ...

**Is that not what it means to know me?”**

declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 22:15b-16

We must all walk the Worthy Way... every day!

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 23

[The Righteous Branch – Good Shepherd]

“Woe to the shepherds  
who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!”  
declares the Lord.

Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel,  
says to the shepherds who tend my people:

“Because you have scattered my flock  
and driven them away and have not **bestowed** care on them,  
I will **bestow** punishment on you for the evil you have done,”  
declares the Lord.

“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock  
out of all the countries where I have driven them  
and will bring them back to their pasture,  
where they will be fruitful and increase in number.

**I will place shepherds over them who will tend them,**  
and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,”  
declares the Lord.



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 23

[The Righteous Branch]

“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. [the worthy way]

In his days Judah will be saved  
and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:

**The Lord Our Righteous Savior.**

Jeremiah 23:5-6

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 23

**The LORD our Righteousness (Jer 23:5–6)**

**At some unspecified future date God himself  
will raise up to David a righteous Branch.**

**And this son of David  
will be the one who will combine a reign of **righteousness and justice**  
with the blessing of salvation.**

...

**Jeremiah here follows Isaiah  
and prepares the ground for Ezekiel 29  
in prophesying a coming Davidic king  
who will exercise the kingship of God himself  
and will be the Saviour of his whole people.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 23

The name **The LORD Our Righteousness**  
formed from the divine name Yahweh  
plus the word tsedeq  
is a play on the name of the last king of Judah **Zedekiah**  
(English “zedeq” from the Hebrew tsedeq  
and “iah” from a short form of Yahweh).

The idea is that Zedekiah is not the righteous king; [hsl: What a contrast!]  
another will come in the future.

Tremper Longman

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 23

**[God is not Limited by Space]**

**“Am I only a God nearby,”  
declares the Lord,  
“and not a God far away?”**

**Who can hide in secret places  
so that I cannot see them?”  
declares the Lord.**

**[reminder that Adam and Eve tried to hide]**

**“Do not I fill heaven and earth?”  
declares the Lord.**

**Jeremiah 23:23-24**

In a sense, the Scriptures are a tuning fork  
for adjusting our ears to the tone of God's voice.  
It attunes us to the quality, the pitch and the cadence of God's voice,  
and to the character that his voice expresses,  
so that we can identify his true voice over false ones. [sheep]

What do you think God sounds like?

The very first time we encounter God's voice is as Creator.

Genesis opens on a scene of deep, ancient silence.

When God's voice breaks in with "Let there be light,"

how do you hear it?

Is it a rumbling vocal thunderclap, a sonic boom of speech

that scatters the seas and jolts the land into place?

Do you hear it as the voice of an artist

who thoughtfully and quietly paints words on a silent canvas?

Perhaps you hear a whisper,

[Elijah]

the nudge of a Creator who feels no need to shout.

I wonder, along with much smarter people such as C. S. Lewis,

if the Creator **sang** the creation into existence. Adam McHugh

## Jesus and Jeremiah

**When Jeremiah challenges God  
as to why God allows such wickedness to continue,  
God answers with a direct parallel to himself.**

**He too is the victim of a conspiracy  
from his own home and family.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**



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## Interesting Notes

### [Jeremiah's images of response to God's Love]

- 1) a thirsty traveler desperately searching for water,
- 2) a wedding ceremony where a bride forgot her attire,
- 3) even inanimate nature accept God, but not men,
- 4) a man walking down a road who stumbles and gets back up; if he takes a wrong turn he must retrace his steps,
- 5) migratory birds flying south and then north,
- 6) snow that stays on the tops of mountains.

John T. Willis



## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

Trying to understand the Law (which was a prophecy)

The crowd spoke up,

**“We have heard from the Law  
that the Messiah will remain for ever,  
so how can you say,  
‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’?”**

John 12:34

**overlooked**

The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind:  
“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

Psalm 110:4

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.  
He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

Isaiah 9:7

He was given authority, glory and sovereign power;  
all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him.  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away,  
and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 7:14

## Interpretation / Pointing to Christ (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

By this gospel you are saved,  
if you hold firmly  
to the word I preached to you.

Otherwise,  
you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you  
as of first importance

that Christ died for our sins

**according to the Scriptures,**

that he was buried,

that he was raised on the third day

**according to the Scriptures,**

1 Corinthians 15:2-4

**overlooked**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 23

[How God feels about false prophets]

“I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ How long will this continue in the hearts of these **lying** prophets, who prophesy the **delusions** of their own minds? ...

For what has straw to do with grain? Is not my word like **fire**, and like a **hammer** that breaks a rock in pieces?

Therefore. I am against the prophets who **steal** from one another words supposedly from me. ...

I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, ‘The Lord declares.’ Indeed, I am against those who prophesy **false** dreams.

They tell them and lead my people astray with their **reckless lies**, yet I did not send or appoint them.

They do not benefit these people in the least.”

Jeremiah 23:25-31

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 23

**Who is the real burden? (23:33–40)**

**This final section is a somewhat odd appendix,  
with some teasing play on the Hebrew word *maśśā*'.**

**It can mean literally something that is lifted up and carried –  
a burden.**

**But it can also mean an oracle –  
a message given by God  
that is a burden to be carried and delivered. ...**

**The NRSV, for example, has:**

**'When this people, or a prophet, or a priest asks you,  
"What is the burden of the LORD?"**

**you shall say to them,  
"You are the burden,  
and I will cast you off, says the LORD.'"**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 23

In the text of Jeremiah 23:9-40  
our editors have combined  
what may have been separate denunciations  
of these false religious leaders  
on different occasions  
into a composite diatribe –  
the most sustained of its kind in the Old Testament.  
Christopher J. H. Wright

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 24

#### [Two Baskets of Figs]

After [the king and many others] were carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Lord showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the Lord.

One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early;  
the other basket had very bad figs, so bad they could not be eaten.

Then the Lord asked me, “What do you see, Jeremiah?”

“Figs,” I answered. “The good ones are very good,  
but the bad ones are so bad they cannot be eaten.”

Jeremiah 24:1-4a

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 24

#### [Two Baskets of Figs]

Then the word of the Lord came to me: “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Like these **good figs**, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians. My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. **I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.**

“‘But like the **bad figs**, which are so bad they cannot be eaten,’ says the Lord, ‘so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem, whether they remain in this land or live in Egypt. I will make them abhorrent and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth, a reproach and a byword, a curse and an object of ridicule, wherever I banish them. I will send the sword, famine and plague against them until they are destroyed from the land I gave to them and their ancestors.’”

Jeremiah 24:4b-10

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 25

#### [Seventy Years of Captivity]

... though the Lord has sent all his servants the prophets to you again and again, you have not listened or paid any attention. They said, “**Turn now**, each of you, from your evil ways and your evil practices, and you can stay in the land the Lord gave to you and your ancestors for ever and ever.” ...

“But you did not listen to me,” declares the Lord, “and you have aroused my anger with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves.”

Therefore the Lord Almighty says this: “Because you have not listened to my words ... This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon **seventy years**.”

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 ... They themselves will be enslaved by many nations and great kings ...”

Jeremiah 25:1-14



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 25

It is interesting to note that in 536 B.C. (70 years after 605 B.C.) some of the Jews in Babylonian captivity returned to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua to rebuild the temple, as Cyrus, King of Persia, had authorized (cf. Ezra 1).

John T. Willis

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 26

#### [Jeremiah Threatened With Death]

Early in the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came from the Lord:

“Stand in the courtyard of the Lord’s house and speak to all the people of the towns of Judah who come to worship in the house of the Lord. Tell them everything I command you; do not omit a word. Perhaps they will listen and each will turn from their evil ways. Then I will relent and not inflict on them the disaster I was planning because of the evil they have done.

Say to them, ‘This is what the Lord says:

If you do not listen to me and follow my law, which I have set before you, and if you do not listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I have sent to you again and again (though you have not listened), then I will make this house like **Shiloh** and this city a curse among all the nations of the earth.’”

Jeremiah 26:1-6

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 26

#### [Jeremiah Threatened With Death]

The priests, the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speak these words in the house of the Lord.

But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the Lord had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, “You must die! Why do you prophesy in the Lord’s name that this house will be like **Shiloh** and this city will be desolate and deserted?” And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the Lord and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the Lord’s house.

Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, “This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!”

Jeremiah 26:7-11

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 26

#### [Jeremiah Threatened With Death]

Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: “The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the Lord your God. Then the Lord will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you.

As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the Lord has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.”

Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets,

**“This man should not be sentenced to death!**

**[saved from death]**

**He has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God.”**

**Jeremiah 27:12-16**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 26

#### [Jeremiah Threatened With Death]

Some of the elders ... stepped forward and said to the ... assembly of people,

“Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. ...

“Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the Lord and seek his favor? And did not the Lord relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them? We are about to bring a terrible disaster on ourselves!”

... Uriah ... was another man who prophesied in the name of the Lord ... the same things against this city and this land as Jeremiah did. When King Jehoiakim and all his officers and officials heard his words, the king was determined to put him to death. But Uriah heard of it and fled in fear to Egypt. Jehoiakim, however, sent Elnathan ... to Egypt, along with some other men... [They] brought Uriah out of Egypt and took him to Jehoiakim, who had him struck down with a sword and his body thrown into the burial place of the common people.

Furthermore, **Ahikam son of Shaphan supported Jeremiah,**  
and so he was not handed over to the people to be put to death.

Jeremiah 26:17-24

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 26

The great historical Psalm 78 describes the sins of Israel from the exodus to the emergence of the kingdom of David.

But it is easy to see how sentiments like Psalm 78:58–72 could feed popular belief that what happened to Shiloh could never happen to Jerusalem.

On the contrary, says Jeremiah, what happened to Shiloh is precisely what God will now do to the temple in Jerusalem. Judah is doomed to exile, just as the people of Ephraim (Israel) had been.

That was the unthinkable conclusion to an intolerable sermon.

That was the point at which the crowd seized Jeremiah, intent on killing him for such dangerous blasphemy (26:6–9), anticipating the similar reaction to Stephen when he also dared to challenge the assumptions of another generation of temple-trusters.

[parallel]  
source info lost

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 26

[26:18]

... this snippet of Micah's prophetic message is found in Micah 3:12.

The verse appears in the context of an oracle

where there is a strong contrast between Micah,

[contrast]

who is “filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD,  
and with justice and might” (Mic. 3: 8),

and the prophets

“who lead my people astray,

if one feeds them,

they proclaim ‘peace’” (3:5).

Tremper Longman

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 26

[26:16–19]

At this point we encounter another interesting group who appear to be **sympathetic to Jeremiah** – the elders of the land.

These would be leaders of village communities, heads of local families – men who were not intimidated by the royal party and its ideology, and probably not terribly impressed with the temple establishment either.

And they know their scriptures, too.

By quoting from the prophet Micah they show us that there must have been written collections of the words of the prophets of the previous century.

Christopher J. H. Wright



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 27

#### [The Yoke of Bondage]

Early in the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah ...  
the Lord said to me:

“Make a **yoke** out of straps and crossbars and put it on your neck.

...

If, however, any nation or kingdom

will not serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon

or bow its neck under his **yoke**,

I will punish that nation with the sword, famine and plague, ...  
until I destroy it by his hand.

So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners,

your interpreters of dreams, your mediums or your sorcerers  
who tell you, ‘You will not serve the king of Babylon.’

Jeremiah 27:1-10

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 28

#### [The Yoke of Bondage]

In the fifth month of that same year, the fourth year, early in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, the prophet Hananiah ... said to me in the house of the Lord in the presence of the priests and all the people:

“This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two years I will bring back to this place all the articles of the Lord’s house that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon removed from here and took to Babylon. I will also bring back to this place Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and all the other exiles from Judah who went to Babylon,’ declares the Lord, ‘for I will break the **yoke** of the king of Babylon.’”

Jeremiah 28:1-4

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 28

#### [The Yoke of Bondage]

Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah before the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord.

He said, “Amen! May the Lord do so! May the Lord fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing the articles of the Lord’s house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon.

Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people: ... the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the Lord only if his prediction comes true.”

Then the prophet Hananiah took the **yoke** off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah and broke it, and he said before all the people, “This is what the Lord says: ‘In the same way I will break the **yoke** of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon off the neck of all the nations within two years.’”

At this, the prophet Jeremiah went on his way.

Jeremiah 28:5-11

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 28

#### [The Yoke of Bondage]

After the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah:

“Go and tell Hananiah,  
‘This is what the Lord says:  
You have broken a **wooden yoke**,  
but in its place you will get a **yoke of iron.**”

Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet,  
“Listen, Hananiah! The Lord has not sent you, yet you have persuaded this nation to trust in lies.

Therefore this is what the Lord says: ‘I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you are going to die, because you have preached rebellion against the Lord.’”

In the seventh month of that same year, Hananiah the prophet died.

Jeremiah 28:10-17

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 28

Jeremiah wasted no time in returning to Hananiah and his audience.

This time he had no doubt or uncertainty.

Fearlessly he reaffirmed his previous decree.

Rather than returning within two years,  
Hananiah would die that very same year.

The writer of the account added without comment,  
In the seventh month of that same year,  
Hananiah the prophet died.

This is one of the most amazing fulfillments of a prediction  
to be found in the Old Testament.

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 29

#### [A Letter to the Exiles]

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel,  
says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

“Build houses and settle down;  
plant gardens and eat what they produce.

settle down

Marry and have sons and daughters;  
find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage,  
so that they too may have sons and daughters.

Increase in number there; do not decrease.

Also, seek the peace and prosperity  
of the city to which I have carried you into exile.

Pray to the Lord for it,  
because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

pray for your captors

Jeremiah 29:4-7

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 29

**[Jeremiah 29:5-7]**

**Jeremiah's declaration is a reminder  
that God's design  
is for His people to prosper  
and for us to seek the prosperity  
of the place in which we live.**

**Micah Fries, Stephen Rummage, and Robby Gallaty**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 29

[A Letter to the Exiles]

Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says:

“Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you.

Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have.

They are prophesying lies to you in my name.

I have not sent them,”

declares the Lord.

70 years: the length of  
captivity prophesied

This is what the Lord says:

“When seventy years are completed for Babylon,

I will come to you and fulfill my good promise

to bring you back to this place.

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,

plans to give you hope and a future.

God has a plan for us!

Jeremiah 29:8-11



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 29

**Jeremiah 29:11 probably ranks  
as one of the most quoted and most claimed promises of the Bible.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

**I mentioned on Facebook one day  
that an idea had popped into my mind:  
perhaps I could learn origami,  
that venerable Japanese paper craft,  
so that I might turn some of my hate mail  
into pretty birds and ships, flowers and kites.**

**Rachel Held Evans**

**Consider the “hate mail” that Jeremiah received.**

**In a way, God turned His “hate mail”, from rebellious peoples,  
into a most beautiful display of love,  
through the His gracious gift of His Son.**

**Who had a pleasant sleep?**

**Jeremiah**

**At this I awoke and looked around.**

**My sleep had been pleasant to me.**

**Jeremiah 31:26**

**Also,**

**[Ty] Ecclesiastes 5:12; The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.**

## Jesus and Jeremiah

**It is impossible to read chapter 26  
with its account of Jeremiah on trial for his life  
because of his preaching in the temple  
without thinking of Jesus  
and how he walked the same road.**

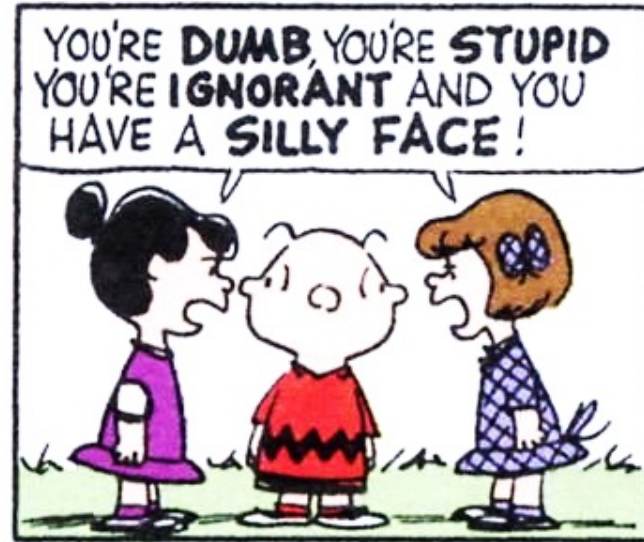
**We know that people compared Jesus to Jeremiah.**

**One reason for that may be that, like Jeremiah,  
he stood out against popular consensus  
(anti-Babylonian, anti-Roman violent attitudes),  
and certainly criticized both people and government for their ways.**

**Furthermore, Jesus' symbolic action in the temple was interpreted,  
like Jeremiah's preaching,  
as a direct threat,  
and that was a key element  
in the charge brought against him soon after-wards,  
leading to his execution.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

# Peanuts Philosophy



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## Interesting Notes

### [Jeremiah's images of response to God's Love]

- 1) a thirsty traveler desperately searching for water,
- 2) a wedding ceremony where a bride forgot her attire,
- 3) even inanimate nature accepts God, but not men,
- 4) a man walking down a road who stumbles and gets back up; if he takes a wrong turn he must retrace his steps,
- 5) migratory birds flying south and then north,
- 6) snow that stays on the tops of mountains.

**John T. Willis**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

Trying to understand the Law (which involved prophecies about "forever")

The crowd spoke up,

**"We have heard from the Law  
that the Messiah will remain forever,  
so how can you say,  
'The Son of Man must be lifted up'?"**

John 12:34

The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind:

**"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."**

Psalm 110:4

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever.

Isaiah 9:7

He was given authority, glory and sovereign power;

all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away,  
and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 7:14

## Interpretation / Pointing to Christ (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

By this gospel you are saved,  
if you hold firmly  
to the word I preached to you.

Otherwise,  
you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you  
as of first importance:

that Christ died for our sins

**according to the Scriptures,**

that he was buried,

that he was raised on the third day

**according to the Scriptures,**

1 Corinthians 15:2-4

Perhaps this refers to Hosea 6:2 –

After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us...

Later Jesus connects to Jonah and the three days spent in the fish.



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 29

[A Letter to the Exiles]

Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says:

“Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you.

Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have.

They are prophesying lies to you in my name.

I have not sent them,”

declares the Lord.

70 years: the length of  
captivity prophesied

This is what the Lord says:

“When seventy years are completed for Babylon,

I will come to you and fulfill my good promise

to bring you back to this place.

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

“plans to prosper you and not to harm you,

plans to give you hope and a future.

God has a plan for us!

Jeremiah 29:8-11

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 29

**[A Letter to the Exiles]**

**Then you will call on me  
and come and pray to me,  
and I will listen to you.**

**You will seek me and find me  
when you seek me  
with all your heart.**

**I will be found by you,”  
declares the Lord,**

**Jeremiah 29:12-14**

**The beauty of the world  
is Christ's tender smile for us,  
coming through matter.**

**Simone Weil**

**The big and hidden secret is this:  
an infinite God seeks and desires intimacy  
with the [each (hsl)] human soul.**

**Richard Rohr**

## The Perspective of the Crowd on the Subject of Bread

**Instead of accepting their Messiah,  
the crowd began to debate with Jesus.**

**They contrasted Christ's miracle of feeding the five thousand  
with the miracle of the manna in Moses' day,  
when God provided "bread from heaven" (Ex. 16; see also Ps. 78:24).**

**Jesus provided bread for the Jews only once,  
but Moses fed them six days a week for thirty-eight years.**

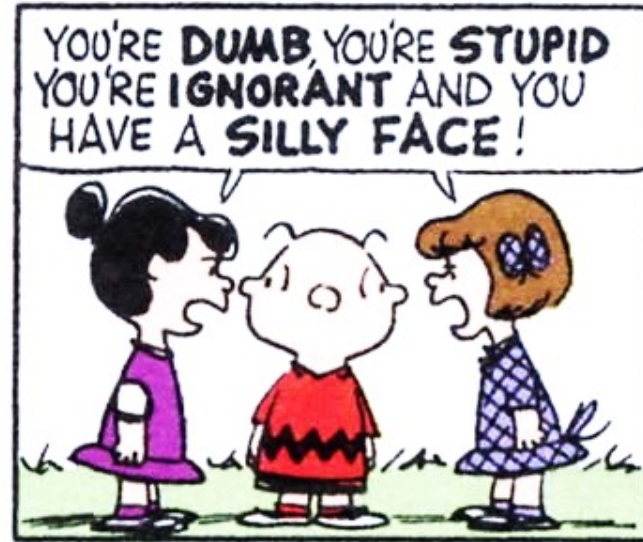
**Furthermore, Moses fed an entire nation,  
but Jesus fed only several thousand people.**

**Jesus borrowed a child's lunch to provide the bread,  
but Moses brought down the bread from heaven.**

**Warren Wiersbe**

**They had problems expanding their minds  
to a Messiah that could give living bread forever,  
and what that "living bread" meant.**

# Peanuts Philosophy (last week's)



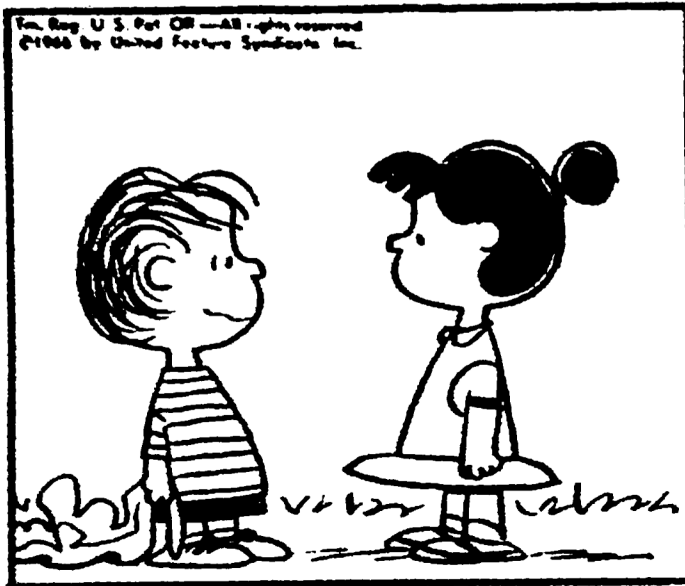
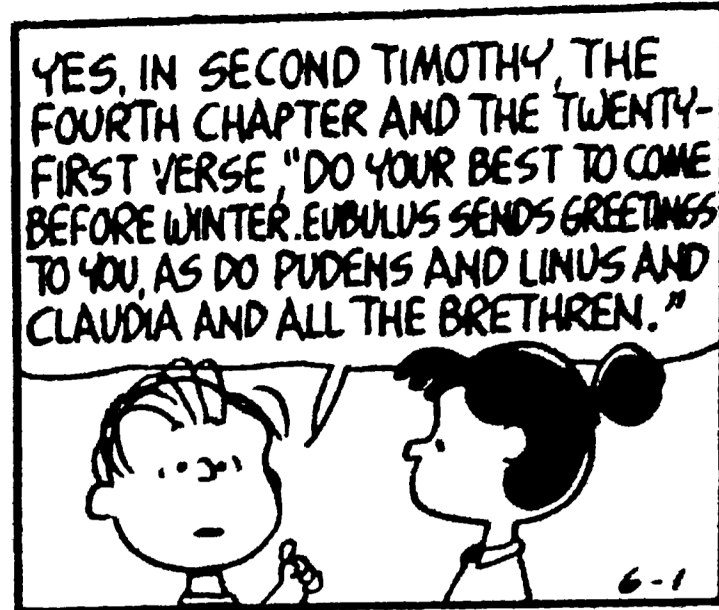
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# “Spiritual” Scratching Post (for cats)

54





Consider 1 Corinthians 8:1b – “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up”

## Jeremiah – Interesting Notes

The high point of Jeremiah's prophecy is chapters 30-33.

Scholars call this “the Book of Consolation”  
because God reveals to his people in these chapters  
his final response to their sinfulness,  
and it is not what they deserve.

...

[... 29 chapters of Israel's sinfulness,  
these four chapters of hope,  
and the rest of the book  
is judgment against the nations...]

Dane Orland

Ray: We must realize that there were always some people who had faith  
and were obedient to God.



## Interpretation / Pointing to Christ (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

The “mystery” of interpretation.

In reading this, then,  
you will be able to understand my insight  
into the **mystery** of Christ,  
which was not made known to people in other generations  
as it has now been **revealed** by the Spirit  
to God’s holy apostles and prophets.

This **mystery** is that  
through the gospel  
the Gentiles are **heirs together** with Israel,  
members together of one body,  
and sharers together  
in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:4-6

The Jews thought that in blessing all nations they would be at the top of the heap; they did not consider that they would be on an equal basis with the Gentiles.

## Pointing to Christ

**[Paul's Defense Before Felix; His Faith in Christ]**

**However,**

**I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors  
as a follower of the Way,  
which they call a sect.**

**I believe everything**

**that is in accordance with the Law**

**and that is written in the Prophets,**

**and I have the same hope in God**

**as these men themselves have,**

**that there will be a resurrection**

**of both the righteous and the wicked.**

**Acts 24:14-15**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 29

**‘Pray for them’, insists Jeremiah.**

**‘Seek their welfare.’**

**This word of Jeremiah to the exiles**

**is possibly the closest we come in the Old Testament**

**to the words of Jesus,**

**spoken to people who felt like exiles in their own land**

**under the heel of Roman occupation:**

**‘I tell you,**

**love your enemies**

**and pray for those who persecute you.’**

**Matthew 5:43-48**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 29

One might interpret the second phrase  
(because if it prospers, you too will prosper)  
as self-interested.

But it is no more so than one of the reasons Paul gives  
when he instructs Christians to pray for pagan authorities. [1 Tim. 2:1–2] ...

**It's hard to go on hating someone  
when you pray for them every day.**

**I urge, then, first of all,  
that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving  
be made for all people –  
for kings and all those in authority,  
that we may live peaceful and quiet lives  
in all godliness and holiness.**

**1 Timothy 2:1-2**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapters 30-33

The next few chapters (chs. 30-33) –  
sometimes called the “Book of Consolation” –  
record Jeremiah’s **hope** for the future,  
particularly embodied  
in his great prophecy of the **New Covenant** (31:31-34)

William Neil

The Jews likely had to ask the question:  
Why do we need a new covenant?

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapters 30-33

The section ... (chs. 30–33)  
is one of the most obvious  
in the entire book's material.

Scholars almost unanimously call it  
the “Book of Comfort.”

Chapter 31 continues God's assurance  
of a glorious future for his people.

As the chapter progresses,  
the emphasis moves toward the spiritual blessings awaiting the people.

The latter half of the chapter (31:27–40)  
contains the new covenant  
that Yahweh will make with his people.

Many interpreters consider this passage  
the **zenith** of Old Testament revelation.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 30

[Restoration of Israel]

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord:

“This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says:

**‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you.**

**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.”**

**Jeremiah 30:1-3**

**Yahweh will not forsake his people permanently.**

**He has chosen them for a mission**

**and will continue to work with them**

**to accomplish the goal he has in mind.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 30

**The declaration “days are coming”  
was one of Jeremiah's favorite expressions.**

**He used it elsewhere to announce judgment  
(7:32; 9:25; 19:6; 48:12; 49:2; 51:52).**

**Also, however,  
it appears as indicating future blessings  
(16:14; 23:5– 7; 31:27,31,38; 33:14).**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 30

[Restoration of Israel]

“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.

Instead, they will serve the Lord their God  
and **David their king**,  
whom I will raise up for them.

paraphrase of Hosea 3:5

Jeremiah 30:8-9

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 30

[The Lord is with us – a Jeremiah theme]

**I am with you and will save you,'  
declares the Lord.**

**Jeremiah 30:11**

**Other prophets echo the theme:**

**“The LORD your God is with you, (Zephaniah 3:17).**

**“I am with you” (Haggai 1:13).**

**“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).**

**“I am with you...” (Acts 18:9–10).**

**God himself will be with them; (Revelation 21:3–4).**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 30

[Restoration of Israel]

‘But I will **restore** you to health and **heal** your wounds,’  
declares the Lord ...

“I will **restore** the fortunes of Jacob’s tents ...  
the city will be rebuilt on her ruins,  
and the palace will stand in its proper place.

From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing...

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?’

“**So you will be my people,  
and I will be your God.**”

theme

Jeremiah 30:18-22

**Prayer isn't about  
moving heaven to do things our way  
but about moving us  
to do things God's way on earth.**

**Ann Voskamp**

**Prayer isn't giving God information to act upon  
but God giving us intimacy to rest in.**

**Ann Voskamp**

**Father,  
into your hands  
we commit our dreams  
and nightmares.**

**Ann Voskamp**

## Noah and Abraham

In the Old and New Testaments alike Abraham is the prototype of those who are elected by God.

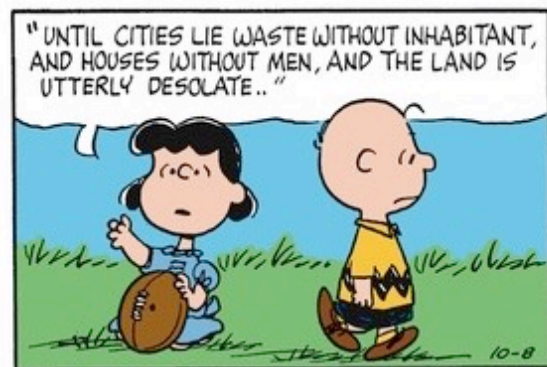
It might be said, indeed, that Noah, not Abraham, was the first man in the biblical record to be **chosen**...

But, if we grant this, we must make the point that, whereas the election of Noah and his family meant the destruction of the rest of mankind, the election of Abraham and his family meant the blessing of the rest of mankind; and it is Abraham's election, not Noah's, that provides the scriptural prototype for God's electing grace.

As Abraham's election was designed to bring blessing to "all the families of the earth" (Gen. 12:3), so Abraham's spiritual progeny, described in Eph. 1:4 as "chosen in Christ before the world's foundation to be holy and blameless in the sight of God", are presented not only as God's **masterpiece of reconciliation** but also as his pilot scheme for the reconciled universe of the future.

F.F. Bruce

# Peanuts Philosophy



**Even Satan could quote Scripture to tempt others!**

## Interesting Notes

**Of course, the return of the exiles from Babylon to rebuild the rubble-filled city of Jerusalem was an immediate fulfillment.**

**But it is insufficient.**

**Only forty-two thousand Jews returned with Ezra.**

**And though the resumption of Israel's history in the promised land was significant, it was merely the setting of the stage for the real drama to come: the atoning death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ as predicted in Isaiah 53.**

**So the outpouring of the Spirit on the church in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost unleashed the forces that would result in the fulfillment of Isaiah 54:2-3.**

**Andrew M. Davis**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

The “veil” as a view of interpretation.

We are not like Moses,  
who would put a **veil** over his face to prevent the Israelites  
from seeing the end of what was passing away.

But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same **veil** remains  
when the old covenant is read.

It has not been removed,  
because only in Christ is it taken away.

Even to this day when Moses is read,  
a **veil** covers their hearts.

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord,  
the **veil** is taken away. ...

And we all, who with **unveiled** faces contemplate the Lord’s glory,  
are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory,  
which comes from the Lord,  
who is the Spirit.



## Pointing to Christ

**Beginning with the earliest Christian interpreters of the Bible,  
there has been a belief that Jesus is the protagonist  
not only of the New Testament  
but also of the Old Testament.**

**All the Scriptures point to him,  
find their fulfillment in him  
and are permeated by his presence,  
even when the authors do not use his name.**

**There are some texts in which his voice is stronger than others,  
but the **Lion of Judah** prowls through every page of the Bible,  
and no matter where we turn to  
we can gather our voices with John the Baptist  
and proclaim,**

**“Behold the Lamb of God!”**

**Adam McHugh**

**Note that the Christ is known as both  
the “Lion of Judah” and the “Lamb of God”**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 30

[Restoration of Israel]

‘But I will **restore** you to health and **heal** your wounds,’  
declares the Lord ...

“I will **restore** the fortunes of Jacob’s tents ...  
the city will be rebuilt on her ruins,  
and the palace will stand in its proper place.

From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing...

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?’

“**So you will be my people,  
and I will be your God.**”

theme

Jeremiah 30:18-22

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 30

[30:18–21]

Or as Kidner eloquently puts it:

... something new: a ruler...

who will be what no king had ever been allowed to be:  
their mediator **and** priest.

It is one of the boldest

but least-known messianic prophecies

(for this ruler is clearly the 'David' of v. 9)...

Once again God is lifting their eyes beyond the return from Babylon...

to the promised priest-king whom David had foreseen,  
and whose benefits we now enjoy

(Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:7–10; 7:11–28).

Christopher J. Wright

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 30

**The glorious truth of this section  
is that Yahweh would restore his people to health.**

**He would heal their wounds,  
which had been called incurable.**

**The Great Physician of the New Testament  
is prefigured in this prophetic promise.**

**Truly, the new  
is in the old concealed.**

**The old  
is in the new revealed.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

**This chapter is one of the most important in the Bible.**

**It is the climax of all Jeremiah's recorded messages.**

**What chapter 53 is to the Book of Isaiah  
and chapter 11 to the Book of Hosea,  
so chapter 31 is to Jeremiah.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

“At that time,” declares the Lord,

“I will be the God of all the families of Israel,  
and they will be my people.”

theme

Jeremiah 31:1

Look how 30:22 and 31:1 take the great Sinai covenant phrases –

“you will be my people, and I will be your God”;...

“I will be the God of all the families of Israel,  
and they will be my people” –

and place them,

neatly in reverse order,

on either side of the earlier oracle of woe.

Christopher J. H. Wright

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

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.”

Jeremiah 31:15

[When Herod killed the young boys in trying to kill the Messiah – how horrible!]

Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was **fulfilled**:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more.”

Matthew 2:17-18

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

**Rachel's agony in the birth of Benjamin  
later became a symbol of Israel's waiting  
painfully but patiently  
for the Messiah  
while in exile in a foreign land.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

“Is not Ephraim my dear son,  
the child in whom I delight?  
Though I often speak against him,  
I still remember him.

Like so many parents  
struggling with the  
actions of their children

Therefore **my heart yearns for him;**  
I have great compassion for him,”  
declares the Lord.

“Set up road signs; put up guideposts.  
Take note of the highway, the road that you take.

Pre-GPS days

Return, Virgin Israel, return to your towns.

How long will you wander,  
unfaithful Daughter Israel?

The Lord will create a new thing on earth—  
the woman will return to [protect, or surround] the man.”

Jeremiah 31:20-22

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

[verse 21]

Amazingly, miraculously,  
in a way impossible for man or woman,  
the unfaithful Daughter Israel –  
the self-prostituting wife –  
will return to God as his Virgin Israel –  
a bride without spot or blemish.

Christopher J. H. Wright

**This is an outstanding image of God's Grace!**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

[Preface to the New Covenant]

“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.

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.

“In those days people will no longer say,  
‘The parents have eaten sour grapes,  
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’

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

Jeremiah 31:27-30

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

[The New Covenant]

“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.

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.

Jeremiah 31:31-32

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

[The New Covenant]

**“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.**

**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.”**

new covenant



theme

**True courage is not so much about self-glorification  
as it is about self-emptying:  
being willing to be the bridge  
over which others  
may cross to safety.**

**Louis Markos**

## Standing By...

**Jesus went to the cross alone.**

**The cross was not a team effort.**

**Everyone abandoned Jesus at the cross.**

**Like David had done,**

**Jesus ran out onto that field alone  
to face the giant of our sin  
while we all stood  
in unfaithfulness  
on the sidelines.**

**J. D. Greear**

# Peanuts Philosophy





## Interesting Notes

### **In 2 Kings**

**there is no mention of the prophets**

**since it concentrates on the lives and deeds (good or evil)  
of the kings,**

**but it provides essential background reading  
for the prophets from Amos to Ezekiel.**

**Christopher J.H. Wright**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable,  
and you will do well to pay attention to it,  
as to a light shining in a dark place,  
until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture  
came about by the prophet's own **interpretation** of things.

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will,  
but prophets,  
though human,  
spoke from God  
as they were carried along  
by the Holy Spirit.

The prophets are the vehicle,  
with their own personal "flavor"

2 Peter 1:19-21

## Pointing to Christ

**Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,  
called to be an apostle  
and set apart for the gospel of God –  
the gospel he promised beforehand  
through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures  
regarding his Son,  
who as to his earthly life  
was a descendant of David,  
and who through the Spirit of holiness  
was appointed the Son of God in power  
by his resurrection from the dead:  
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Romans 1:1-4**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

[The New Covenant]

“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.

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.

Jeremiah 31:31-32

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

[The New Covenant]

**“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.**

**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.”**

new covenant



theme

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

For if there had been nothing wrong with that first **covenant**,  
no place would have been sought for another.

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.

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.

Hebrews 8:7-9

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

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.

theme

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.

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

Hebrews 8:10-12

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

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

Hebrews 8:13

The “evolving” nature of God’s covenanting with mankind  
is like educating us into maturity;  
this new covenant will be like a graduation to the next level –  
where Christ is the prophesied King and Priest.



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

**[Jeremiah 31:31–34]**

**... the quotation of these verses  
in full**

**by the writer to the Hebrews (8:8–12)  
constitutes the longest continuous quotation  
of any Old Testament text in the New.**

**author not recorded**

**... the precise words ‘new covenant’  
occur nowhere else than Jeremiah 31:31 in the Old Testament,  
though its concepts do [appear]).**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

**The word “know” means intimate experience.**

**In the new era every person will be his or her own priest  
because everyone will have  
a genuine experience of salvation  
and assurance of forgiven sin.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

**Jeremiah announced the new covenant in 31:31–34  
(see also 32:36–40; 33:6–9).**

**This is the last of a series of Old Testament covenants  
beginning with Noah (Gen. 9:9–11),  
continuing with Abraham (Gen. 15:18–21),  
with Moses and the Israelites (Exod. 19:3–6; 24:3–8),  
with the Levites (Num. 25:10–13),  
and concluding with David (2 Sam. 7:11–16; 23:5).**

Add Adam and Eve

**How does this new covenant compare  
with the other biblical covenants?**

**How does the new covenant in Jeremiah 31  
relate to Jesus' announcement of the new covenant  
[commemorated in the Lord's Supper]  
(Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25)?**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

... the Lord would establish an everlasting covenant with his people (59:21).

His Spirit would rest on his children forever,  
and they would see his Spirit rest  
on their children and grandchildren as well.

Throughout all generations,  
the Lord would be there.

Isaiah's words of the everlasting covenant  
dovetail with Jeremiah's description  
of the new covenant God would establish (Jer 31:31–34).

**These words find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ,  
who will one day fulfill the prophet's words.**

Indeed, the New Testament provides us a more complete context  
in which we can understand Isaiah's already amazing words.

Bryan Beyer

**Blessed is the Christian  
whose focus is on others.**

**Miserable is the Christian  
whose focus is on self.**

**Max Lucado**

## Falling away in every Generation

[Jeremiah has many references to the people's worship of Baal, and felt a portion of God's grief at their betrayal]

... when they came to Baal Peor,  
they consecrated themselves to that shameful idol  
and became as vile as the thing they loved.

But the more they were called, the more they went away from [God].

They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.

... Israel had become a disappointment to God,  
despised by others, and a disaster to themselves.

It is a pattern that did not end with Old Testament Israel.

The Lord Jesus Christ himself detected the same thing  
in the church at Ephesus to whom he wrote:

**'You have forsaken the love you had at first.**

**Consider how far you have fallen!**

**Repent and do the things you did at first' [Rev. 2:4-5]**

– words that carry a perennial warning and challenge to us  
in every generation.

# Peanuts Philosophy



## Building / Development Projects Grossly Underestimated [PDE]

**A Senate subcommittee in 1967 ... predicted  
that by 1985,  
the average American would work  
twenty-two hours a week  
for twenty-seven weeks a year  
because of all the leisure time  
this new technology would free up.**

**In reality,  
“the average time people spend on leisure  
has decreased since the 1980s.”**

**Tyler Staton**



## Interesting Notes

**[Jeremiah's list of relationship analogies]**

**God loved Judah as**

- 1) a husband loves his wife,**
- 2) a father loves his child,**
- 3) a physician cares for the well-being of his patient.**

**John T. Willis**

(Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

Just like we can savor a classic piece of music over and over,  
listening for all the parts and layers and lines of instrumentation,  
hearing something new each time,  
we can return again and again to a passage of Scripture  
because its richness and beauty is never exhausted  
and because God shows us new things  
and speaks fresh words to us each time.

Then we can take what we have heard and carry it with us all day,  
a song we want stuck in our heads,  
playing and replaying  
and reminding us of Immanuel,  
**God with us.**

Adam S. McHugh

## Pointing to Christ

**[Stephen's Sermon (B)]**

**“You stiff-necked people!**

**Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised.**

**You are just like your ancestors:**

**You always resist the Holy Spirit!**

**Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute?**

**They even killed those**

**who predicted the coming of the Righteous One.**

**And now you have betrayed and murdered him —**

**you who have received the law**

**that was given through angels**

**but have not obeyed it.”**

**Acts 7:51-53**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

[The New Covenant]

“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.

new covenant



theme

Jeremiah 31:33

This is the critical message of Jeremiah!

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

Christ is the mediator of a new **covenant**, [echoed in Hebrews 12:24]  
that those who are called  
may receive the promised eternal inheritance—  
now that he has died as a ransom  
to set them free  
from the sins committed under the first **covenant**.

Hebrews 9:15

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this.

First he says:

“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.”**

restatement

Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts  
I will remember no more.”

And where these have been forgiven,  
sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

Hebrews 10:15-18

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

**It is significant that God does not promise  
to give a 'new law'.**

**Rather what is promised is a new ability,  
from within,  
to live in accordance  
with the essence of the law  
God has given.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

**The term “my people”  
occurs more than forty times in the book of Jeremiah  
(see especially 30–33).**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 31

Now the law is written

both on tablets of stone (Exodus 31:18)

and within your heart too (Deuteronomy 10:18),

and the old **covenant**

has rightly morphed into the new (Jeremiah 31:31–34).

Richard Rohr

**Sincerely caring for another person  
before trying to change him or her  
is the only way that person will change anyway.**

**Richard Rohr**

## The Meeting of Two Different Crowds

[re: raising the son of the woman of Nain from the dead]

Two crowds met –

One rejoicing at God's presence,  
the other mourning at God's seeming absence;

Two only sons met –

One was alive, but destined to die,  
the other was dead, but destined to live.

Two sufferers met --

The mother who lost her son  
and "the Man of Sorrows"  
as described in Isaiah as carrying our burdens to the cross

Two enemies met –

The giver of life (life incarnate)  
versus death itself (death incarnate)

from Warren Wiersbe

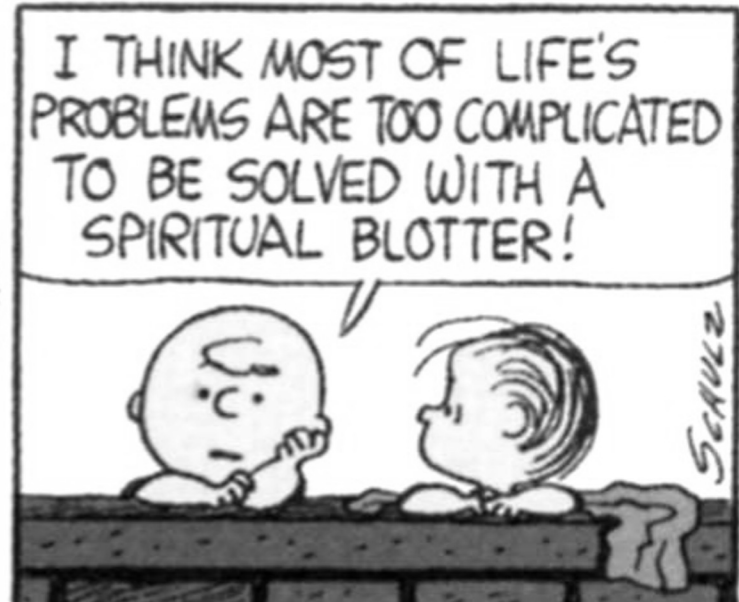
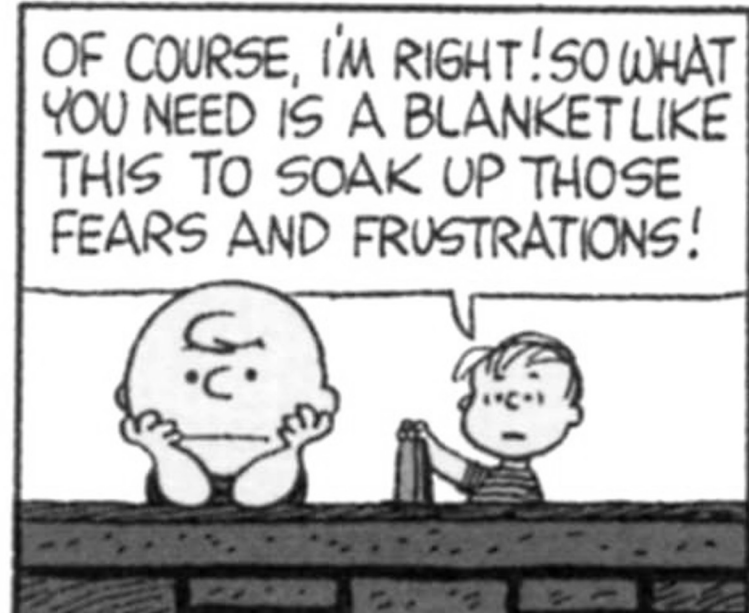
There is also a parallel between Jesus and His mother  
and the widow of Nain and her son.

[Michael Reynolds]

This event was a foreshadowing of the fact that the God that raised this man from death  
will one day provide the ultimate healing for all who have died.

[PDE]

# Peanuts Philosophy



## Interesting Notes

**Jeremiah and Josiah were roughly the same age.**

**(An educated guess is that Jeremiah was two years older than Josiah.)**

**Jeremiah grew up in a priest's home in the village of Anathoth, only two miles and less than an hour's walk from the Jerusalem royal palace where Josiah lived.**

**Were they boyhood friends?**

**It is tempting to imagine they were.**

**The scroll was discovered in the temple by the high priest Hilkiah.**

**Jeremiah's father was a priest with the name Hilkiah.**

**Was the priest who was Jeremiah's father the same as the Hilkiah who discovered the Deuteronomy scroll?**

**Maybe.**

**Eugene H. Peterson**

## Interpretation / Pointing to Christ (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

When everything had been arranged like this,  
the priests entered regularly into the outer room  
to carry on their ministry.

But only the high priest entered the inner room,  
and that only once a year,  
and never without blood,  
which he offered for himself  
and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

The Holy Spirit was showing by this  
that the way into the Most Holy Place  
had not yet been disclosed  
as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning.

This is an illustration for the present time,  
indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered  
were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper.

Hebrews 9:6-9

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 32

**[Jeremiah Buys a Field – Key message about looking to the future]**

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. The army of the king of Babylon was then besieging Jerusalem...

Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me: 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.’

“I knew that this was the word of the Lord; so I bought the field ... and weighed out ... seventeen shekels of silver. I signed and sealed the deed, had it witnessed... I took the deed of purchase - the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions, as well as the unsealed copy - and I gave this deed to Baruch ... in the presence of ... Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.

“In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions: ‘This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents... and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time. For ... **houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.**’

Jeremiah 32:1-15

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 32

Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah:

**“I am the Lord,  
the God of all mankind.**

**Is anything too hard for me?”**

**Jeremiah 32:26-27**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 33

[Pray for Knowledge and Wisdom]

Call to me

and I will answer you

and tell you great and unsearchable things

you do not know.”

Jeremiah 33:3

If any of you lacks wisdom,

you should ask God,

who gives generously to all

without finding fault,

and it will be given to you.

James 1:5

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 33

#### [God's Promises]

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

“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.

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.’**

‘David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of Israel,  
nor will the Levitical priests ever fail to have a man to stand before me  
continually to ... present sacrifices.’”

Jeremiah 33:14-17

[The National Promises were still Conditional – see Jeremiah 33:17-26]

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 33

**Jeremiah 33:17–18 adds two more promises.**

**In verse 17 the Lord says, David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel.**

**In verse 18, he adds another thought: nor will the priests, who are Levites, ever fail to have a man to stand before me continually to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to present sacrifices.**

**Yahweh used two illustrations (vv. 20–23) from earlier days to reinforce his pledge.**

**First, his promise that David would never fail to have a son reigning on the throne is as secure as God's decree that night will follow day.**

**Second, God promises that the descendants of David and the Levites will be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand on the seashore.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

**Jesus Christ serves as King and High Priest forever!**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 33

Jeremiah used an interesting metaphor.

The word Branch comes from a verb that means  
“to shoot, sprout, grow up, spring up, arise.”

This same figure, though not expressed with the same terms,  
was used by Isaiah (Isa. 11:1)  
to predict the coming of the messianic Servant of the Lord.

He would arise from the remnant of a crushed nation. ...

After the exile the word Branch became a classic word  
to describe the expected ideal king.

Actually,  
no political figure who approximated this predicted ruler ever arose.

**This prediction was fulfilled  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who became the true King of the Jews. ...**

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 33

**[The Branch, or Root]**

**Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

**He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.**

**Isaiah 53:1-2a**

**Jeremiah's prophecy talks about the renewal of growth from a stump. Isaiah talks about that shoot in the passage above.**

**Paul talks in Romans 11 about the Gentiles being grafted into the main branch; they become a part of the branch but something separate, a somewhat different image of the growth of the kingdom through the new branches (which must not become overconfident).**

**[Ray]**

**Jesus talks about the vine and the branches; the branches are dependent on the vines, and not a dead stump.**

**[PDE]**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 33

The interesting fact about this prophecy is that Jeremiah used a play on words to express his thought.

**Zedekiah's name meant  
“Yahweh is my righteousness.”**

The One whom Jeremiah predicted would come was Yahweh's true Righteousness.

Human kings had failed.

The One divinely sent would not fail.

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – The Two Halves of the book of Jeremiah

While we have seen that the first half of the book is predominantly filled with judgment, and the major promises of hope and blessing in the future come in the second half, nevertheless there are promises of salvation woven through that first half also. ...

But in the second half of the book, although the voice of judgment is by no means muted, the word of grace beyond judgment is heard.

Christopher J. H. Wright

There are different balances between judgment and grace in the two halves.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 34

#### [Freedom]

The word came to Jeremiah from the Lord  
after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem  
to proclaim freedom for the slaves. ...

So all the officials and people who entered into this covenant  
agreed that they would free their male and female slaves  
and no longer hold them in bondage.

They agreed, and set them free.

But **afterward they changed their minds**  
and took back the slaves they had freed and enslaved them again.

“Therefore this is what the Lord says:  
You have not obeyed me;  
you have not proclaimed freedom to **your** own people.

So I now proclaim ‘freedom’ for you, declares the Lord –  
‘freedom’ to fall by the sword, plague and famine.



**We think of guidance  
as God telling us what to do.**

**God is more interested  
in telling us what to be.**

**John Lennox  
[Tom Marcrom]**

## The Births of John and Jesus

**Like Jesus,  
John's birth was a miraculous event  
that included an improbable conception  
and a visit from the angel Gabriel.**

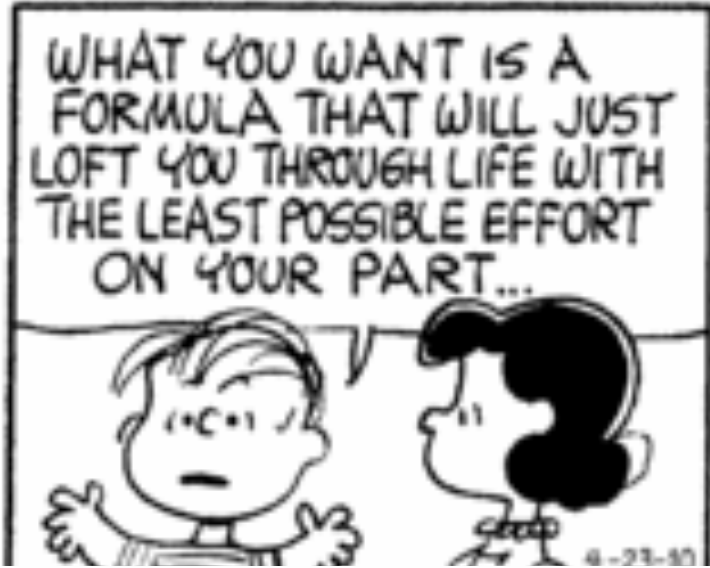
**Unlike Jesus,  
lots of people knew about John's birth  
and the circumstances surrounding it.**

**That's because John was the son of a priest,  
a known commodity.**

**And the miracles connected to that moment  
were witnessed by other known commodities in Jerusalem  
rather than shepherds from the hills of Bethlehem.**

**Louie Giglio**

# Peanuts Philosophy



## Interpretation / Pointing to Christ (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

Concerning this salvation,  
the prophets,  
who spoke of the grace that was to come to you,  
**searched intently and with the greatest care**,  
trying to find out the time and circumstances  
to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing  
when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah  
and the glories that would follow.

**It was revealed to them**  
that they were not serving themselves but you,  
when they spoke of the things that have **now** been told you  
by those who have preached the gospel to you  
by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.

Even angels  
long to look into these things.

1 Peter 1:10-12

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 35

**[The Rekabites – the standard of faithfulness]**

**This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord during the reign of Jehoiakim ... king of Judah: “Go to the Rekabite family and invite them to come to one of the side rooms of the house of the Lord and give them wine to drink.”**

**So I went to get ... the whole family of the Rekabites. I brought them into the house of the Lord ... Then I set bowls full of wine and some cups before the Rekabites and said to them, “Drink some wine.”**

**But they replied, “We do not drink wine, because our forefather Jehonadab son of Rekab gave us this command: ‘Neither you nor your descendants must ever drink wine. Also you must never build houses, sow seed or plant vineyards; you must never have any of these things, but must always live in tents. Then you will live a long time in the land where you are nomads.’ We have obeyed everything our forefather Jehonadab son of Rekab commanded us.**

**But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded this land, we said, ‘Come, we must go to Jerusalem to escape the Babylonian and Aramean armies.’ So we have remained in Jerusalem.”**

**Jeremiah 35:1-11**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 35

**[The Rekabites – the standard of faithfulness]**

**“This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Go and tell the people of Judah ... ‘Will you not learn a lesson and obey my words?’ declares the Lord. ‘Jehonadab son of Rekab ordered his descendants not to drink wine and this command has been kept. To this day they do not drink wine, because they obey their forefather’s command.**

**”Again and again I sent all my servants the prophets to you. ... But you have not paid attention or listened to me. The descendants of Jehonadab son of Rekab have carried out the command their forefather gave them, but these people have not obeyed me.’ ...**

**Then Jeremiah said to the family of the Rekabites, “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘You have obeyed the command of your forefather Jehonadab and have followed all his instructions and have done everything he ordered.’ Therefore ... ‘Jehonadab son of Rekab will never fail to have a descendant to serve me.’”**

**Jeremiah 35:12-17**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 34 and 35

**We can see ... that the two chapters ought to be read (and preached) together.**

**They are enclosed between two declarations by God about what is about to happen to the city and nation (34:1–7; 35:17–19), but in each case the words of engulfing judgment are combined with a positive alternative future (potentially for Zedekiah and actually for the Rekabites).**

**Both stories are about covenants or commands made by a leader (Zedekiah, 34:8; Jehonadab, 35:6), though the response of their respective followers is very different.**

**Both stories involve something that happened in the temple (Zedekiah's covenant, 34:15; Jeremiah's drinks party, 35:2–5).**

**Both stories highlight repeatedly the theme of listening (or not) to the word of God and choosing to obey (or disobey) what God has commanded (the Hebrew word šāma'—'to hear, to obey'— occurs multiple times through both chapters).**

**Both stories climax with words of judgment beginning with the ominous therefore (34:17; 35:17).**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 36

#### [Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah's Scroll]

In the fourth year of Jehoiakim ... king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now. Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, they will each turn from their wicked ways; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin."

So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the Lord had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll. Then Jeremiah told Baruch, "I am restricted; I am not allowed to go to the Lord's temple. So you go to the house of the Lord on a day of fasting and read to the people from the scroll the words of the Lord that you wrote as I dictated. Read them to all the people of Judah who come in from their towns. Perhaps they will bring their petition before the Lord and will each turn from their wicked ways, for the anger and wrath pronounced against this people by the Lord are great."

Jeremiah 36:1-7



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 36

#### [Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah's Scroll]

Baruch son of Neriah did everything Jeremiah the prophet told him to do; at the Lord's temple he read the words of the Lord from the scroll. In the ... fifth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, a time of fasting before the Lord was proclaimed for all the people in Jerusalem and those who had come from the towns of Judah. ... Baruch read to all the people at the Lord's temple the words of Jeremiah from the scroll.

When Micaiah ... heard all the words of the Lord from the scroll, he went down to the secretary's room in the royal palace, where **all the officials were sitting**: ... After Micaiah told them everything he had heard Baruch read to the people from the scroll, all the officials sent Jehudi ... to say to Baruch, "Bring the scroll from which you have read to the people and come." So Baruch son of Neriah went to them with the scroll in his hand. They said to him, "**Sit down, please, and read it to us.**"

So Baruch read it to them.

Jeremiah 36:8-15

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 36

#### [Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah's Scroll]

When they heard all these words, they looked at each other in fear and said to Baruch, “We must report all these words to the king.” Then they asked Baruch, “Tell us, how did you come to write all this? Did Jeremiah dictate it?” “Yes,” Baruch replied, “he dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them in ink on the scroll.”

Then the officials said to Baruch, “You and Jeremiah, go and hide. Don't let anyone know where you are.”

After they put the scroll in the room of Elishama the secretary, they went to the king in the courtyard and reported everything to him. The king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and Jehudi brought it ... and read it to the king and all the officials standing beside him. It was the ninth month and the king was sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him.

Jeremiah 36:16-22

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 36

#### [Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah's Scroll]

Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire. The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes. Even though Elnathan, Delaiah and Gemariah urged the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them.

Instead, the king commanded Jerahmeel, a son of the king, Seraiah son of Azriel and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to arrest Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet. But the Lord had hidden them.

Jeremiah 35:23-26

This was one of the most audacious rejections of God's Word in the Bible.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 36

#### [Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah's Scroll]

After the king burned the scroll containing the words that Baruch had written at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: **“Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll,** which Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up.

Also tell Jehoiakim king of Judah, ‘This is what the Lord says: You burned that scroll ...

Therefore this is what the Lord says about Jehoiakim king of Judah: He will have no one to sit on the throne of David; ... I will punish him and his children and his attendants for their wickedness; I will bring on them ... and the people of Judah every disaster I pronounced against them, because they have not listened.’”

So Jeremiah took another scroll and ... Baruch wrote on it all the words of the scroll that Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And **many similar words were added to them.**

Jeremiah 36:27-32

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 36 [Contrast]

(Jeremiah 36:20-26)

Jehoiakim's rejection of the word of God was not a hasty mistake.

**It was the most deliberate act of defiance of the spoken and written word of God recorded in the Bible** – 'an awesome attempt to eliminate the concrete, sovereign word and will of God'. ...

Undoubtedly the story highlights the **contrast** between Josiah who, when he heard the Book of the Law read to him, tore his clothes in anguished fear and repentance, and Jehoiakim who, hearing the word of God showed no fear and refused to tear his clothes (24), but instead tore the word of God and burned it (the word cut in v. 23 is the same Hebrew word as tear in v. 24).

Christopher J. H. Wright

### Trying to stop God

The Catholic Church trying to stop the flow of Tyndale Bibles  
Gamaliel warned that you couldn't fight against God (Acts 5:38-39)

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 36 [Interpretation]

In Jeremiah 36, in fact, we have a most illuminating insight into the Bible in the making.

Of course, it only describes the origin of one book in the Bible (even if it is almost the longest!), but it may well be illustrative of how other books came into being over the centuries. ...

Then comes a little postscript, the scribe's weary footnote: 'And many similar words were added to them' (36: 32).

Christopher J. H. Wright

**There is no imprisonment  
so exquisite  
nor so complete  
as love.**

**unknown  
[Ray Marcrom]**

**Love is always  
the narrow way  
that limits one's options  
but expands and fulfills one's soul.**

**Ann Voskamp**

**There were those sent to verify John the Baptist:**

**[John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah]**

**“Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.”**

**John 1:19**

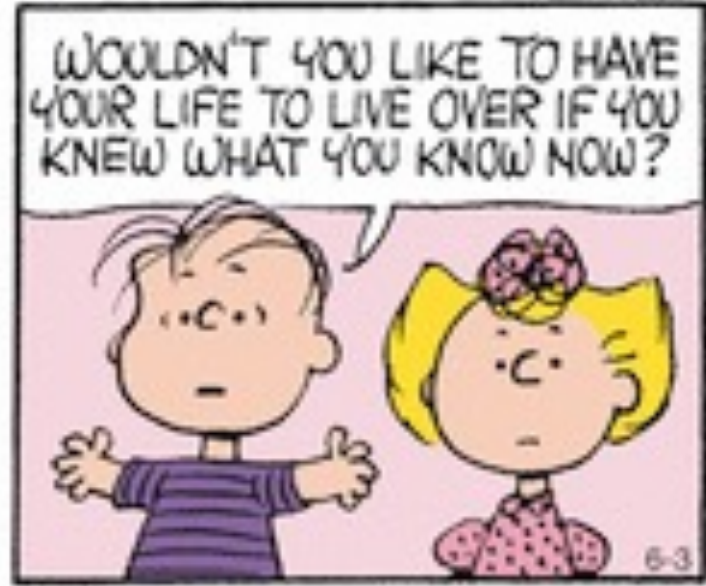
**John the Baptist himself sent some to verify Jesus:**

**When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’”**

**Luke 7:20**



# Peanuts Philosophy



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## Jeremiah – Interesting Notes

**Jeremiah's instructions here [where?] form part of a wider biblical tradition that God's people can serve God by serving wider society in various occupations.**

**The stories of Joseph, Daniel, Nehemiah and even Esther are Old Testament examples.**

**Erastus is one such in the New Testament.**

**All forms of legitimate service can be ways of 'seeking the welfare of the city'.**

**Christopher Wright**

## Interpretation / Pointing to Christ (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

The “veil” as a view of interpretation.

Understand, then,  
that those who have faith are children of Abraham.

**Scripture foresaw**  
that God would justify the Gentiles by faith,  
and **announced the gospel in advance** to Abraham:

“All nations will be blessed through you.”

So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham,  
the man of faith.

Galatians 3:7-9

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 36 [Interpretation]

In Jeremiah 36, in fact, we have a most illuminating insight into the Bible in the making.

Of course, it only describes the origin of one book in the Bible (even if it is almost the longest!), but it may well be illustrative of how other books came into being over the centuries. ...

Then comes a little postscript, the scribe's weary footnote: 'And many similar words were added to them' (36:32).

Christopher J. H. Wright

Remember John reporting that there was much much more to the life of Jesus than what he had written (John 21:28).

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 36 [Interpretation]

**Baruch joins a company of writers that includes Tertius (who wrote Paul's letter to the church in Rome) and Silas (who wrote Peter's letter), most of whom remain unnamed – the people who first wrote down the texts through which God continues to speak. ...**

**So this event, in which a tiny fraction of the Bible got written, contains truths and principles that apply to the rest of the scriptures. The whole Bible, like Baruch's scroll, was written by human beings in very particular circumstances; was written at God's initiative and instruction; contains words that must be read and interpreted as simultaneously human words and the word of God; was written in order to lead people to repentance, forgiveness and salvation; and was written for all to hear and heed. ...**

**Jeremiah 36 was intended by the compilers of the final book of Jeremiah as a revealing insight into how the words of the prophet spoken by his living voice became the written words of Scripture, and how the living word of God stands behind both.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 36 [Interpretation]

[Jeremiah's suffering at the hands of the people]

**Jeremiah's via dolorosa [sorrowful way]** – is how some commentators describe the prolonged suffering of his final years in Jerusalem.

The comparisons with the passion of Christ are notable: there is unjustified arrest, false accusation, the malice of leaders who felt threatened, the collusion of the one man with authority to release God's servant, the steadfast refusal to speak other than God's truth, the prospect of a slow and horrible death.

One major difference is that Jesus, having won the battle in prayer with his Father in Gethsemane, at no point asked his human captors or executioners to release him or ease his suffering, as Jeremiah understandably did.

For Jeremiah, however, it was his attempt to help others save their lives (38: 2) that led to him losing, if not his own life, certainly his freedom and security – what Kidner calls 'this faint foreshadowing of his Master's suffering, of whom it would be said, "He saved others; himself he cannot save."'

Christopher J. H. Wright

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 37

#### [Jeremiah in Prison]

King Zedekiah ... sent Jehukal ... with the priest Zephaniah to Jeremiah the prophet with this message: “Please **pray** to the Lord our God for us.”

Now Jeremiah was free to come and go among the people, for he had not yet been put in prison.

After the Babylonian army had withdrawn from Jerusalem because of Pharaoh’s army, Jeremiah started to leave the city to go to the territory of Benjamin to get his share of the property among the people there. But when he reached the Benjamin Gate, the captain of the guard ... **arrested** him and said, “You are deserting to the Babylonians!” [why didn’t they let him go?]

“That’s not true!” Jeremiah said. “I am not deserting to the Babylonians.” But Irijah would not listen to him; instead, he arrested Jeremiah and brought him to the officials. They were angry with Jeremiah and had him **beaten** and **imprisoned** ...

[Zedekiah was not in control]

Jeremiah 37:1-11

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 37

#### [Jeremiah in Prison]

Jeremiah was put into a vaulted cell in a dungeon, where he remained a long time.

Then King Zedekiah sent for him and had him brought to the palace, where he asked him **privately**, “Is there any word from the Lord?”

“Yes,” Jeremiah replied, “you will be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon.”

Then Jeremiah said to King Zedekiah, “What crime have I committed against you or your attendants or this people, that you have put me in prison? ... Do not send me back to the house of Jonathan the secretary, or I will die there.”

King Zedekiah then gave **orders** for Jeremiah to be placed in the courtyard of the guard and given a loaf of bread from the street of the bakers each day until all the bread in the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard.

[they knew the city was doomed]

Jeremiah 37:12-21



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 37

**[Jehoiakim and Zedekiah]**

**Both kings heard Jeremiah's words, loud and clear.**

**The difference was that Jehoiakim chose to listen in detail with the deliberate intention of rejecting every word he heard.**

**Zedekiah, on the other hand, actually asked to listen with what appears to be an open mind, prepared at least to believe that Jeremiah did have access to the mind of God.**

**In the end, of course, it made no difference to the outcome since Zedekiah's ultimate refusal to act on Jeremiah's advice amounted to a rejection of God's word to him, as verse 2 summarily states.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

**Jeremiah the king was the epitome of wishy-washy.**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 37

#### [Jeremiah Thrown Into a Cistern]

[the king's officials] heard what Jeremiah was telling all the people ...

“This is what the Lord says: ‘Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague, but whoever goes over to the Babylonians will live. They will escape with their lives; they will live. ... This city will certainly be given into the hands of the army of the king of Babylon, who will capture it.’”

Then the officials said to the king, “This man should be put to death. He is discouraging the soldiers who are left in this city, as well as all the people, by the things he is saying to them. This man is not seeking the good of these people but their ruin.”

“He is in your hands,” King Zedekiah answered. **“The king can do nothing to oppose you.”**

So they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern of ... the king's son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud.

Jeremiah 38:1-6

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 37

#### [Jeremiah Thrown Into a Cistern]

But **Ebed-Melek, a Cushite**, an official in the royal palace, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern. [think of the risk to this foreign ambassador]

While the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate, Ebed-Melek went out of the palace and said to him, “My lord the king, these men have acted wickedly in all they have done to Jeremiah the prophet. They have thrown him into a cistern, where he will starve to death when there is no longer any bread in the city.”

Then the king commanded Ebed-Melek the Cushite, “Take thirty men from here with you and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies.”

So Ebed-Melek took the men with him and went to a room under the treasury in the palace. He took some old rags and worn-out clothes from there and let them down with ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern. Ebed-Melek the Cushite said to Jeremiah, “Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to pad the ropes.” Jeremiah did so, and they pulled him up with the ropes and lifted him out of the cistern.

And Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard.

Jeremiah 38:7-13

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 38 [a Parallel]

**The king acquiesces with their demand  
in a way that shows his terrible weakness (38:5) –  
‘perhaps the most abject surrender in biblical history  
until the moment when Pilate  
washed his hands before the multitude (Mt. 27:24)’.**  
**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 38

**So, in an eerie re-enactment of what Joseph's brothers did to him and probably for the same reason, they put Jeremiah in a place where he was bound to die, but they could always deny blood-guilt and say they hadn't laid a finger on him.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

**Ebed-Melek took care to help Jeremiah, and Jeremiah responded by recording this wonderful story of self-sacrifice.**

**Jesus modeled servant leadership in that  
he showed the disciples  
he led a life totally yielded to God,  
his Father.**

**Through his total surrender,  
he won ultimate victory.**

**Richard Rohr**

**The Bible is the story of two gardens: Eden and Gethsemane.**

**In the first, Adam took a fall.**

**In the second, Jesus took a stand.**

**In the first, God sought Adam.**

**In the second, Jesus sought God.**

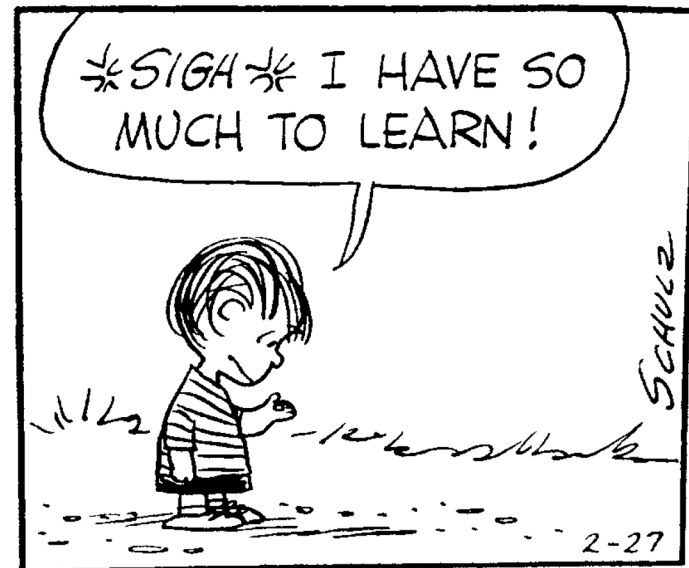
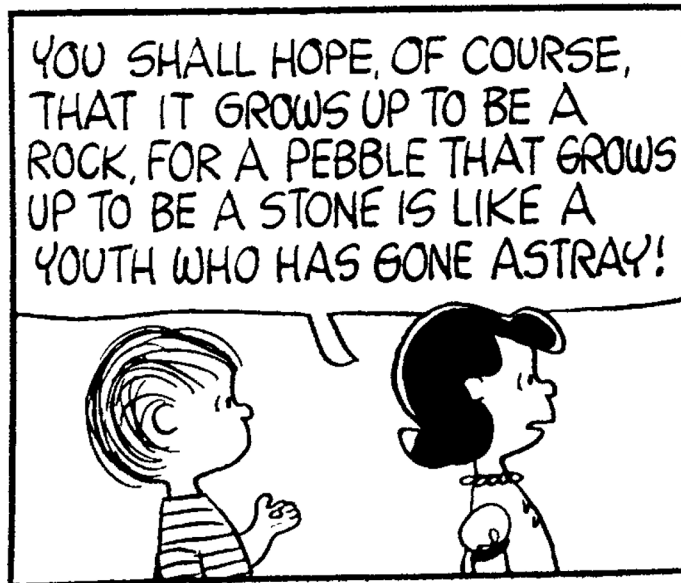
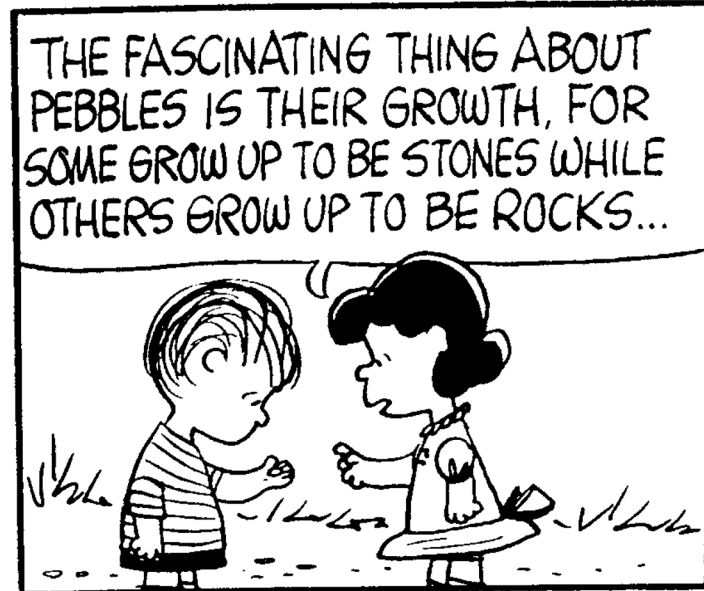
**In Eden, Adam hid from God.**

**In Gethsemane, Jesus emerged from the tomb.**

**In Eden, Satan led Adam to a tree that led to his death.**

**From Gethsemane, Jesus went to a tree that led to our life.**

**Max Lucado**



**We need to be careful what we learn from some people!**



## Interesting Notes

**At the beginning of the chapter (36),**

**God tells Jeremiah to get a scroll and write down**

**“all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel,  
Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you  
in the reign of Josiah till now” (36:2).**

**The verse reveals that these prophetic oracles were not written down  
for years, even decades,**

**after they were spoken on the streets by the prophet. ...**

**Notable for our present subject, however,**

**is the fact that on this new scroll Baruch added “many similar words.”**

**Thus, we get a glimpse at the growth of a biblical book.**

**Tremper Longman**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “  
Am I leading a rebellion,  
that you have come out with swords and clubs  
to capture me?

Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching,  
and you did not arrest me.

But this has all taken place  
that the writings of the prophets  
might be fulfilled.” ...

**Matthew 26:55-56**

## Pointing to Christ

When the apostles heard Jesus speak of forgiveness and confession, they understood Him in light of what they knew — the sacraments of the Old Covenant ...

Again, Jesus didn't merely conclude the Old Covenant;  
**He fulfilled it.**

He invested the trappings of the Old Covenant with greater capacities.

In a mysterious way, the Old Covenant is concluded by — and included in — the New Covenant.

**Scott Hahn**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 38

#### [Zedekiah Questions Jeremiah Again]

Then King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the prophet and had him brought to the third entrance to the temple of the Lord. “I am going to ask you something,” the king said to Jeremiah. “Do not hide anything from me.”

Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “If I give you an answer, will you not kill me? Even if I did give you counsel, you would not listen to me.”

But King Zedekiah swore this oath secretly to Jeremiah: “As surely as the Lord lives, who has given us breath, I will neither kill you nor hand you over to those who want to kill you.”

Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “This is what the Lord God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘If you surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, your life will be spared and this city will not be burned down; you and your family will live. But if you will not surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, this city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians and they will burn it down; you yourself will not escape from them.’”

Jeremiah 38:14-18

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 38

[Zedekiah Questions Jeremiah Again - "Spin"]

King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "I am afraid of the Jews [PDE: his former subjects] who have gone over to the Babylonians, for the Babylonians may hand me over to them and they will mistreat me."

"They will not hand you over," Jeremiah replied. "Obey the Lord by doing what I tell you. Then it will go well with you, and your life will be spared. ...

But if you refuse to surrender, this is what the Lord has revealed to me: ... You ... will be captured by the king of Babylon; and this city will be burned down."

Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "Do not let anyone know about this [Spin] conversation, or you may die. If the officials hear that I talked with you, and they come to you and say, 'Tell us what you said to the king and what the king said to you; do not hide it from us or we will kill you,' then tell them, 'I was pleading with the king not to send me back to Jonathan's house to die there.'"

...

And Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard until the day Jerusalem was captured.

Jeremiah 38:19-28

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 38

**Enter Ebed-Melek.**

**This man, who is more or less nameless  
since the words just mean ‘servant of the king’,  
joins the company of distinguished rescuers of God’s servants,  
some of them also nameless  
like the widow of Zarephath who saved Elijah’s life  
(1 Kings 17:7–24).**

**And e.g. Joseph’s cup-bearer friend (Gen. 41:9–13),  
Moses’ sister Miriam (Exod. 2:1–10),  
David’s friend Jonathan (1 Sam. 20),  
Paul’s friends in Ephesus and his nephew in Jerusalem  
(Acts 19:23–41; 23:12–22).**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 38

**There are some very important unimportant people in the Bible.**

**That is, there are those who have no glory  
in the histories of world empires,  
but who play a vital role in the service of God  
and the outworking of his kingdom purposes.**

**We might list among them**

**Moses' mother and sister who saved the life of Israel's greatest leader;  
the unnamed widow who preserved Elijah's life;  
the slave girl who introduced Naaman to Elisha;  
the women who provided for Jesus' needs;  
the nephew who gave Paul the tip-off about the threat to his life.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 38

**Ebed-Melek.**

**This faithful African brother had saved the life of Jeremiah.**

**In return his own life would be saved.**

**In fact, the vocabulary of salvation granted to him (39:17–18) echoes the same words first promised to Jeremiah himself at his call (1:8, 19; 15:20–21).**

**However, it is interesting that God’s final word to Ebed-Melek is not that God will save him because he saved Jeremiah, but rather because “you trust in me” (39:18).**

**Here is a foreigner who was doing what the Israelite leaders were refusing to do – trusting in God.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**



## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 38

**This chapter continues and concludes the events in Jeremiah's life up to the time when the city of Jerusalem fell.**

**This was the most painful experience of any prophet of whose life we have a record.**

**Only Jesus suffered more.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 39 - 45

**[Jeremiah's subsequent history]**

**Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem, and eventually captured it.**

**He killed King Zedekiah's family and officials and put his eyes out after.**

**Gedaliah was appointed governor over the land;**

**he was soon assassinated.**

**People fled to Egypt in fear of Babylonian reprisals.**

**Many people asked Jeremiah to ask God what they should do.**

**Jeremiah spoke the word of God,**

**telling them to stay in the land and not flee to Egypt**

**or disaster would follow them.**

**The people rejected the word of God, though,**

**["my servants, the prophets", see Jeremiah 44:4]**

**and took Jeremiah and Baruk with them to Egypt.**

**Jeremiah prophesied disaster for all of those who went to Egypt,**

**and had Baruch write his words on a scroll.**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 39 - 44 - Parallel

**Jeremiah [chose to stay] in Judah  
rather than go to Babylon showed his noble spirit.**

**Few people would have chosen to remain a minister of God  
with the poor people left in the land.**

**This is another way Jeremiah  
was probably more like our Savior  
than any man who ever lived.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

**Note: Some families probably stayed in Egypt  
when Moses led the group out.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

**Cardinal Suhard says,**

**“To be a witness  
does not consist in engaging in propaganda,  
nor even in stirring people up,  
but in **being a living mystery.**”**

**It means to live in such a way  
that one’s life  
would not make sense  
if God did not exist.”**

**Madeleine L'Engle**

## When Jesus Marveled (or was amazed - NIV)...

Twice in the Gospel record  
we are told that Jesus marveled.

... in Capernaum,

He marveled at the **faith** of a Gentile [centurion] (Matthew 8:13, Luke 7:1-10);

and in Nazareth,

He marveled at the **unbelief** of the Jews  
[in his own home town] (Mark 6:6).

Warren Wiersbe



What really indicates our interest in theology or religion?

## Interesting Notes

... preaching serves to expose the hardness of the people's hearts, the persistent, willful, state of rebellion they were in, and their refusal to pay heed to any of God's pleas. ...

This is probably close to what Jesus meant by his puzzling comments on the effect of his preaching on those of his generation who heard his words but refused to change.

... since they had insisted on exchanging the glory of their God for the worthlessness of idols, they would pay the cost in exchanging the blessing of their land for the curse of exile.

Christopher J. H. Wright

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie,  
and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator  
Romans 1:25

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

[Peter teaching Cornelius]

**All the prophets testify about him  
that everyone who believes in him  
receives forgiveness of sins  
through his name.”**

**Acts 10:43**



## Pointing to Christ

**[Paul's Discussions with Roman Jewish Leaders; His Faith in Christ]**

**They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day,  
and came in even larger numbers  
to the place where he was staying.**

**He witnessed to them from morning till evening,  
explaining about the kingdom of God,  
and from the Law of Moses  
and from the Prophets  
he tried to persuade them about Jesus.**

**Acts 28:23-30**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 42 - 44

**(Ezekiel 42:1 – 44:30)**

**... though the people deliberately and emphatically  
shut their ears to the word of the Lord,  
they still took Jeremiah with them  
and so could not escape that word of God  
that he embodied in their midst.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 39 – 44

**Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah –  
released from captivity by the Babylonians,  
only to be taken into captivity by their own people,  
forced for the rest of their days  
to dwell among a disobedient people  
in the land from which  
God had delivered their ancestors ...**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

**There would be no community return by Egyptian Jews to the land  
(as was promised to, and experienced by, the exiles in Babylon),  
though a few individuals would survive and return ...**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 46 - 52

**This final section contains nine messages, ten if we consider the words to Kedar and Hazor separately - to or about non-Israelite nations (Jer. 46–51). ...**

**Though the title does not appear in the Old Testament, scholars are virtually unanimous in calling them the “Foreign Prophecies.”**

**Some, however, insist on speaking of them as “Prophecies Against the Nations.”**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

**Chapter 46 – Egypt**

**Chapter 47 – the Philistines**

**Chapter 48 – Moab**

**Chapter 49 – Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar, Hazor, Elam**

**Chapter 50 – Babylon**

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 50 - 51

It may not feel like it as we read through Jeremiah 50 – 51,  
but in this massive oracle  
we are already anticipating

**the cosmic accomplishment of the cross  
and resurrection of Christ**

**and the climactic events that will accompany his return.**

That is why the last book of the Bible  
can make such extensive theological and rhetorical use  
of these last chapters of the book of Jeremiah  
to depict the destruction of evil  
and the victory of God.

Christopher J. H. Wright

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 51

He made the earth by his power;  
he founded the world by his wisdom  
and **stretched out the heavens** by his understanding.

PDE: echoes  
of John 1

When he thunders,  
the waters in the heavens roar;  
he makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth.

He sends lightning with the rain  
and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

Jeremiah 51:15-16

Just a note on the awesome power and wisdom of God.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 51

This is the message Jeremiah the prophet gave to the staff officer Seraiah son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, [Baruch was also a son of Neriah, Jeremiah 32:12 & 16, and others] when he went to Babylon with Zedekiah king of Judah ...

Jeremiah had written on a scroll about all the disasters that would come upon Babylon – all that had been recorded concerning Babylon.

He said to Seraiah,

“When you get to Babylon, see that you read all these words aloud.

When you finish reading this scroll, [another copy?] tie a stone to it and throw it into the Euphrates. destroyed as a lesson]

Then say, ‘So will Babylon sink to rise no more because of the disaster I will bring on her. And her people will fall.’”

The words of Jeremiah end here.

## Picking the Pearls

### Jeremiah – Pearls from Chapter 51

**It is possible ... that after Jeremiah died  
Baruch left Egypt and travelled to Babylon.**

**His brother Seraiah was already there (51:59–64),  
and possibly others of his family.**

**As a member of a high-ranking family  
who had supported a pro-Babylonian policy,  
he could expect a friendly reception.**

**This is pure conjecture, of course,  
but it might explain how the edited scroll of Jeremiah's prophecies  
eventually reached the exiles in Babylon.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**



**Picking the Pearls**

**End of Jeremiah**

**Picking the Pearls**

**Looking at Lamentations**

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

**Although the chapters and verse numbers were not added until many centuries after Lamentations was written, these divisions in our modern Bibles do reflect the clear divisions of the book itself.**

**You'll notice that of the five chapters, the first two and the last two each have twenty-two verses.**

**The middle chapter, chapter 3, has three times that many – sixty-six.**

**Each chapter is a carefully constructed lament.**

**Dane Ortlund**

**We should make it a rule  
never to try  
to merely prove  
that we are right.**

**Dallas Willard**

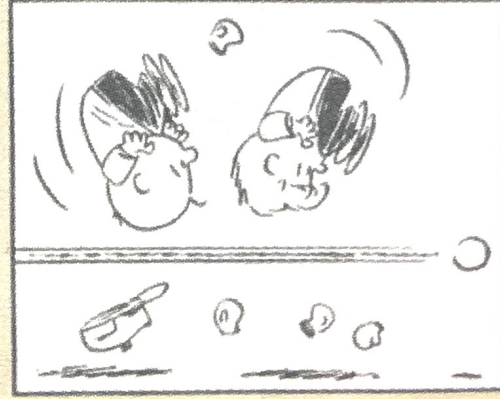
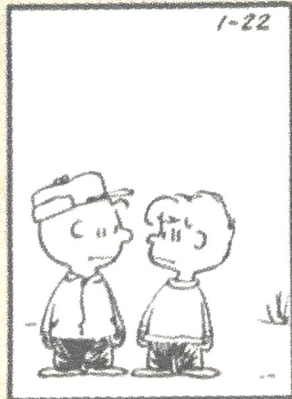
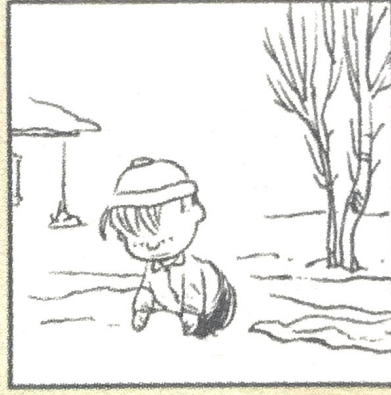
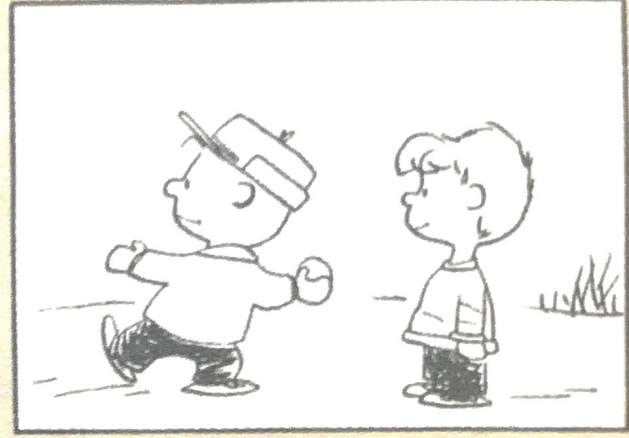
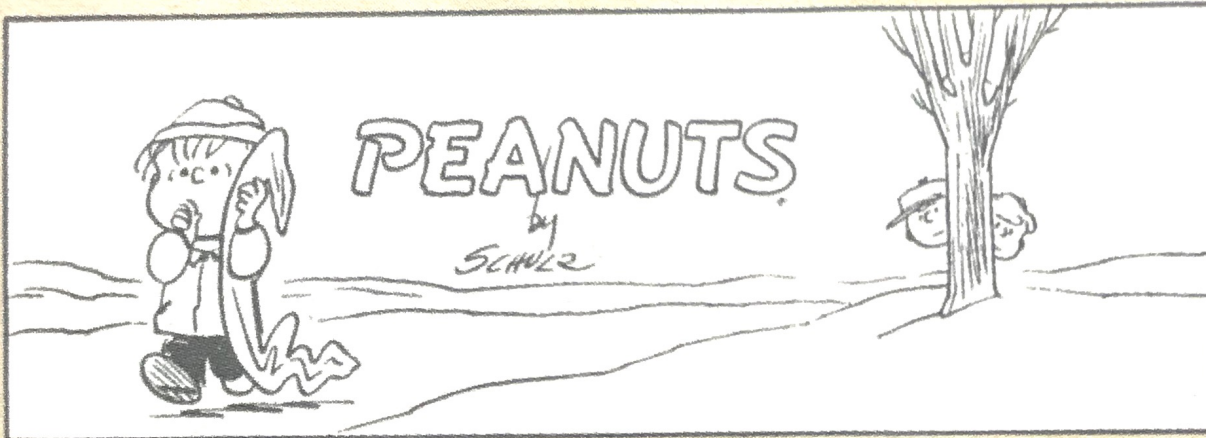
## Three Times at the Feet of Jesus

**“Mary of Bethany is seen three times in the gospel record,  
and on each occasion,  
she is in the same place:  
at the feet of Jesus.**

**She sat at His feet and listened to His word (Luke 10:39),  
fell at His feet and shared her woe (John 11:32),  
and came to His feet and poured out her worship (John 12:3).**

**It is interesting to note that in each of these instances,  
there is some kind of fragrance:  
in Luke 10, it is **food**;  
in John 11, it is **death** (John 11:39 – about Lazarus);  
and in John 12, it is **perfume**.”**

**Warren Wiersbe**



## Interesting Notes

If one takes the date of this prophecy as 605 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar came to power, then the ending of Babylon's power and the consequent ending of the exile of Judah in 538 BC came 67 years later.

The seventy years is thus an approximation for the Babylonian empire itself, not the actual period of exile (... just less than 50 years).

Or, if one starts with the destruction of the temple in 587, it would be approximately 72 years until it was rebuilt in 515.

That is how Zechariah 1:12 understands the period. ...

**More likely the figure is a round number** signifying a long period of time, in which at least two or three generations would pass.

Christopher J. H. Wright

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

So Moses went out and told the people what the Lord had said.

He brought together seventy of their elders ... Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and **he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied — but did not do so again.**

However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ aide since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!”

But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? **I wish that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!**” Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Numbers 11:24-30



## Pointing to the Christ

**Something new needs to happen,  
something that will fulfill scripture in a whole new way,  
something that will launch the new Exodus,  
the new covenant,  
with the divine Presence coming  
to dwell right inside God's people,  
as Jeremiah (31) and Ezekiel (36) had always promised.**

**N.T. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

**Jeremiah – Who is the “Queen of Heaven”? [Ray]**

**The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes to offer to the **Queen of Heaven**. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to arouse my anger.**

**Jeremiah 7:18**

**[The Israelites respond to Jeremiah by claiming that when they quit worshiping the Queen of Heaven that they were suffering greatly. ... and their husbands knew all about it. Jeremiah 44:17-25]**

**This title [Queen of Heaven] referred to Ishtar [Ashtoreth or Astarte], an Assyrian and Babylonian goddess ... thought to be the wife of the false god Baal, also known as Molech. The motivation of women to worship Ashtoreth stemmed from her reputation as a fertility goddess, and, as the bearing of children was greatly desired among women of that era, worship of this “queen of heaven” was rampant among pagan civilizations. Sadly, it became popular among the Israelites as well.**

**<https://www.gotquestions.org/Queen-of-Heaven.html>**

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

**Although the chapters and verse numbers were not added until many centuries after Lamentations was written, these divisions in our modern Bibles do reflect the clear divisions of the book itself.**

**You'll notice that of the five chapters, the first two and the last two each have twenty-two verses.**

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**Each chapter is a carefully constructed lament.**

**Dane Ortlund**

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

In the Hebrew Bible, the Book of Lamentations is called **eka**, which means “How!”

It is not the interrogative pronoun but a word of profound exclamation.

The unusual designation comes from a custom of the Jews.

They gave their canonical books titles based on the first word or significant expression in the text.

This word eka was habitually used to begin a dirge.

Later Jewish writers called this book Qinot or “dirges.”

This was based on the Hebrew word that means “dirge or lament.”

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren

## Picking the Pearls

### A Once-Popular Present-Day Lament

**Gloom, despair,  
and agony on me  
Deep, dark depression,  
excessive misery  
If it weren't for bad luck,  
I'd have no luck at all  
Gloom, despair,  
and agony on me**

**From the TV show Hee Haw  
Lyrics by Bernie Brillstein, Frank Peppiatt and John Aylesworth**

## Picking the Pearls

### The Depth of the Lament

**The point of lament,  
woven thus into the fabric of the biblical tradition,  
is not just that it's an outlet  
for our frustration, sorrow, loneliness and sheer inability  
to understand what is happening or why.**

**The mystery of the biblical story  
is that God also laments.**

**N. T. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

**Chapters 1-4 are arranged in alphabetic-acrostic structures; the acrostic pattern does not appear in chapter 5.**

**Each of the 22 verses in chapters 1, 2 and 4 begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet, while the acrostic appears in triplicate in the 66 verses in chapter 3.**

**The acrostic pattern does not appear in chapter 5, but its influence is felt in that it has 22 verses, the same as the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

**Consider how inspiration from God works in this book (and some Psalms): the human author works hard to start each phrase (verse) with the sequence of letters in the alphabet in his own language.**

**But God works with that to get His message across to us.**

## Picking the Pearls

### Acrostic Poems in the Bible

While most examples of English acrostics are poems that spell out a word, name, or phrase, the acrostic poems in the Old Testament are all *alphabetic* acrostics.

Scholars generally agree that there are fourteen alphabetic acrostic poems in the Old Testament, found across four biblical books:

Psalms 9–10 (which is considered to be one poem), 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145;

Proverbs 31:10-31;

Lamentations 1, 2, 3, 4; and

Nahum 1 (the exact verses of the acrostic in Nahum 1 are debated).

Psalms 119 is one of the most well-known psalms, principally because of its impressive length of 176 verses. Yet, another part of its notability is its unique structure: it is an acrostic psalm in which each group of eight lines begins with consecutive letters of the Hebrew alphabet, and it is marked as such in English Bibles by headings of ‘*aleph*’, ‘*beth*’, and so on.

<https://tyndalehouse.com/explore/articles/hebrew-acrostics/>



## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

**(Lamentations 3:1–66)**

**The alphabetic acrostic continues in this poem  
but with a slightly varied format.**

**Rather than twenty-two verses,  
each beginning with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet,  
we have sixty-six verses.**

**Three continuous verses begin with the same letter,  
giving a similar literary effect.**

**As in the previous chapter,  
the sixteenth and seventeenth letters are reversed.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

**The Holy Spirit is like a divine archeologist  
digging through the layers of our lives.**

**Peter Scazzero**

**... The Spirit searches all things,  
even the deep things of God.**

**1 Corinthians 2:10**

**Consider also:**

**For the word of God is alive and active.**

**Sharper than any double-edged sword,  
it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow;  
it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**

**Hebrews 4:12**

**God rejected Saul and chose David**

**(2 Sam. 6:21; cp. 1 Sam. 10:24; 16:8-13; Ps. 78:68).**

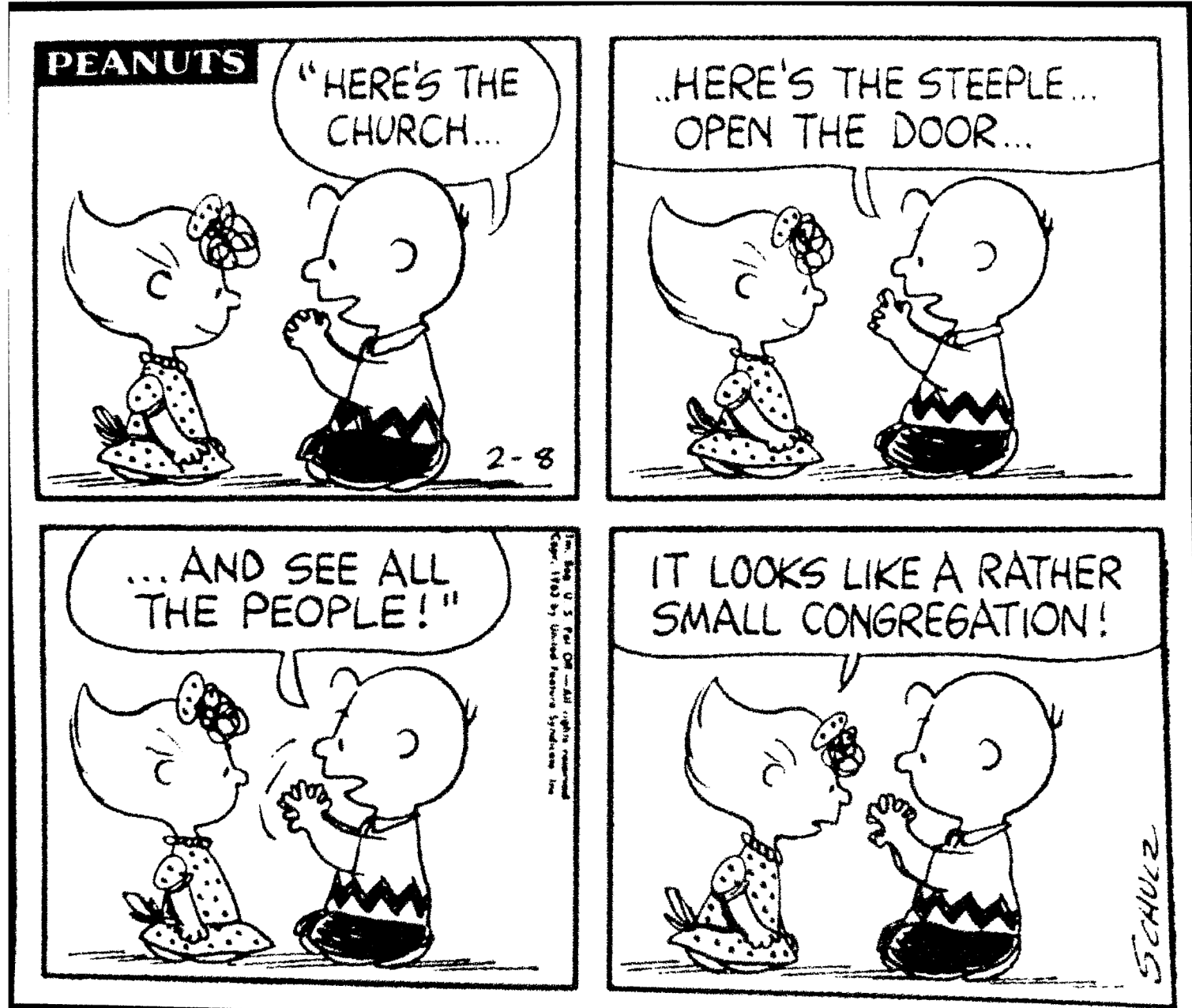
**Note that the choice of David was by God's mysterious standards,  
not by human criteria.**

**The rejection of Saul came on grounds of relationship to God,  
not on political or military grounds.**

**This rejection of one previously chosen shows  
the tension the Bible holds in the doctrine of election.**

**God chooses people for his service  
but holds them accountable  
and responsible to obey him.**

**Max Anders**



## Interesting Notes

**But Nebuchadnezzar's victory was**

**(a) God's doing, and**

**(b) short-lived (in the grand scheme of things). ...**

**His empire was one of the shortest**

**in the long history of human empires.**

**Babylon was God's immediate agent,  
but not God's long-term agenda.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

**[parable of the Good Samaritan]**

**In the Western world the Christ figure in this story  
is the Good Samaritan.**

**But in the Russian Orthodox world,  
according to ... the late Edward N. West ...  
the Christ figure is the man set upon by thieves.**

**It is exactly the same story,  
but there are two totally different ways of looking at it.**

**So it is with all stories,  
including those in Scripture.**

**Madeleine L'Engle**

## Pointing to Christ

[Peter speaks to onlookers (1)]

“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer.

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus.

Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Acts 3:17-21

## Picking the Pearls

**Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations**

**The Psalms,  
Lamentations,  
the Book of Job,  
and the life of David,  
are all useful in giving people a biblical basis  
and framework  
for grieving.**

**Peter Scazzero**



## Picking the Pearls

Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

My eyes fail from weeping,  
I am in torment within;  
**my heart is poured out on the ground**  
because my people are destroyed ...

Lamentations 2:11a,b

These tears are really from God, concerned for His people.

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

The hearts of the people  
cry out to the Lord.

... let your **tears flow like a river**  
day and night ...

Arise, cry out in the night,  
as the watches of the night begin;  
**pour out your heart like water**  
in the presence of the Lord.

Lamentations 2:18a,19a

“Pouring out our hearts” is like letting tears of sorrow and repentance flow.

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

**(Lamentations 3:1–21)**

**Jeremiah spoke in verse 2 of how he had been driven,  
like an animal,  
to walk in darkness  
rather than light.**

**He was perplexed  
about why he had been called on to suffer.**

**God had given him a crippling illness of some kind  
that left him unable to cope.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

song

I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him."

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,  
to the one who seeks him;  
it is good to wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.

Lamentations 3:22-27

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

**God's ways are much higher  
and more expansive  
than we can imagine.**

**And like Jeremiah  
in the midst of the disaster of Jerusalem's destruction  
at the hand of the Babylonians,  
we discover the depths of his love and faithfulness  
that are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22–24).**

**Peter Scazzero**

imagine a day when,  
as J. R. R. Tolkien put it,  
“everything sad [is] going to come untrue,”

Joshua D. Chatraw

## Historical Record

**New Testament scholar Justin Bass  
describes the evidence in this manner:**

**“Tiberius was the most powerful man in the world of his day.**

**Jesus was one of the poorest,  
belonging to the peasant class  
as a Jewish carpenter.**

**He even died the most shameful death,  
a slave’s death,  
on a cross during Tiberius’ reign.**

**Yet we have far more reliable written sources  
and closer to the time of Jesus’ actual life and death  
than this Caesar of Rome.**

**J. Warner Wallace**



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SCHULZ



## Interesting Notes

**The order of the three major prophets is according to their putative historical settings.**

**Jeremiah's life and work begins before that of Ezekiel, though the latter is contemporary with the last part of Jeremiah's prophetic work.**

**In terms of length, Jeremiah is notable for being the second longest biblical book, preceded only by the massive book of Psalms.**

**Tremper Longman**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

### Whose Son Is the Messiah?

Then Jesus said to them,

“Why is it said that the Messiah is the son of David?  
David himself declares in the Book of Psalms:

“The Lord said to my Lord:  
“Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet.””

David calls him ‘Lord.’

How then can he be his son?”

Luke 20:41-44

**Jesus Himself illustrates the difficulty in understanding prophecy until it is fulfilled and explained.**

## Pointing to Christ

**[Peter speaks to onlookers (2)]**

**For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.’ [Deut. 18:15,18,19]**

**“Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days.**

**Acts 3:21-24**

**[Stephen also uses this part of the Scripture]**

**This is the Moses who told the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.’ He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us.’**

**Acts 7:36-38**

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

Let him offer his cheek  
to one who would strike him,  
and let him be filled with disgrace.

[see Matthew 5:39]

For **no one is cast off**  
**by the Lord forever.**

Though he brings grief,  
he will show compassion,  
so great is his unfailing love.

For he does not willingly bring affliction  
or grief to anyone.

Lamentations 3:31-33

**In the midst of the lament, there is hope in God.**

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

**John Calvin called the Psalms**

**“the anatomy of all the parts of the soul.” ...**

**Theologian J. Todd Billings writes that Augustine saw the Psalms as**

**“God’s way of reshaping our desires and perceptions  
so that [we] learn to lament in the right things  
and take joy in the right things.”**

**Tish Harrison Warren**

## Picking the Pearls

**Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations**

**You have covered yourself with a cloud  
so that no prayer can get through.**

**Lamentations 3:31-44**

**The people had gone too far – so that God quit listening.  
Remember that God told Jeremiah to quit praying for the people.**

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

**(Lamentations 3:40–51) [Parallel]**

**This was clearly a cry for pardon because of God's mercy.**

**It is one of the most plaintive cries in the Old Testament.**

**In verse 51, Jeremiah made a statement about the women of his city that reveals his tender character. ...**

**The prophet referred literally to women who were suffering from [abuse] by the enemy.**

**This was one of the ways Jeremiah was most like Jesus.**

**Though neither had a wife,  
both showed a spirit of compassion  
for the pains women were called on to endure.**

**Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren**

## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

(Lamentations 4:1–22)

One writer has called this poem “Jerusalem in the Past and in the Present.”

**A portion:**

The kings of the earth did not believe ...

that enemies and foes could enter the gates of Jerusalem.

But it happened because of the **sins of her prophets**

**and the iniquities of her priests** ...

who shed within her the blood of the righteous.

They are so defiled with blood that no one dares to touch their garments.

“Go away! You are unclean!” people cry to them.

“Away! Away! Don’t touch us!” ...

The Lord himself has scattered them; he no longer watches over them.

The priests are shown no honor, the elders no favor.

(12–16) The comparison of a fallen spiritual leader with an unclean leper is one the most appropriate in the Old Testament.

Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren



## Picking the Pearls

### Follow-on to Jeremiah – Pearls from Lamentations

**Write a psalm of lament about your own life or about your work.**

**Read several lament psalms first and use them as a template.**

**Tish Harrison Warren**

**Picking the Pearls**

**End of Lamentations**

## Theme: God's People

**Exodus 6:7; I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.**

**Leviticus 26:12; I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.**

**Isaiah – curiously no statements**

**Jeremiah 7:23; Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people.**

**Jeremiah 11:4; Obey me ... and you will be my people, and I will be your God.**

**Jeremiah 24:7; I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord.**

**They will be my people, and I will be their God,**

**for they will return to me with all their heart.**

**Jeremiah: 6**

**Jeremiah 30:22; So you will be my people, and I will be your God.**

**Jeremiah 31:33; “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.**

**Jeremiah 32:38; They will be my people, and I will be their God.**

**Ezekiel 11:20; Then they will follow my decrees ...**

**They will be my people, and I will be their God.**

**Ezekiel 14:11; They will be my people, and I will be their God.**

**Ezekiel 36:28; ... you will be my people, and I will be your God.**

**Ezekiel 37:23; They will be my people, and I will be their God.**

**Ezekiel 37:27; My . place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.**

**Ezekiel: 5**

**2 Corinthians 6:16; [from OT verses] I will be their God, and they will be my people.”**

**Hebrews 8:10; [quoting Jeremiah 31:33] I will be their God, and they will be my people.**

**Revelation 21:7; I will be their God and they will be my children.**

**Don't get tricked into being a puddle  
when your life was meant to be lived  
as deep as the ocean.**

**Do you think God wants us  
to toil meaninglessly in our work?**

**Of course not.**

**He wants us to reflect pieces of Him  
in whatever we create and do.**

**Bob Goff**

**[Haman and Mordecai]**

**Behold the first of several reversals of fortune in this story.**

**Haman intended to put Mordecai on a spike.  
Instead, Haman placed him on a horse.**

**Haman planned to lead Mordecai to the gallows  
to the sound of jeers.  
Instead, he led him through the streets  
to the sound of cheers.**

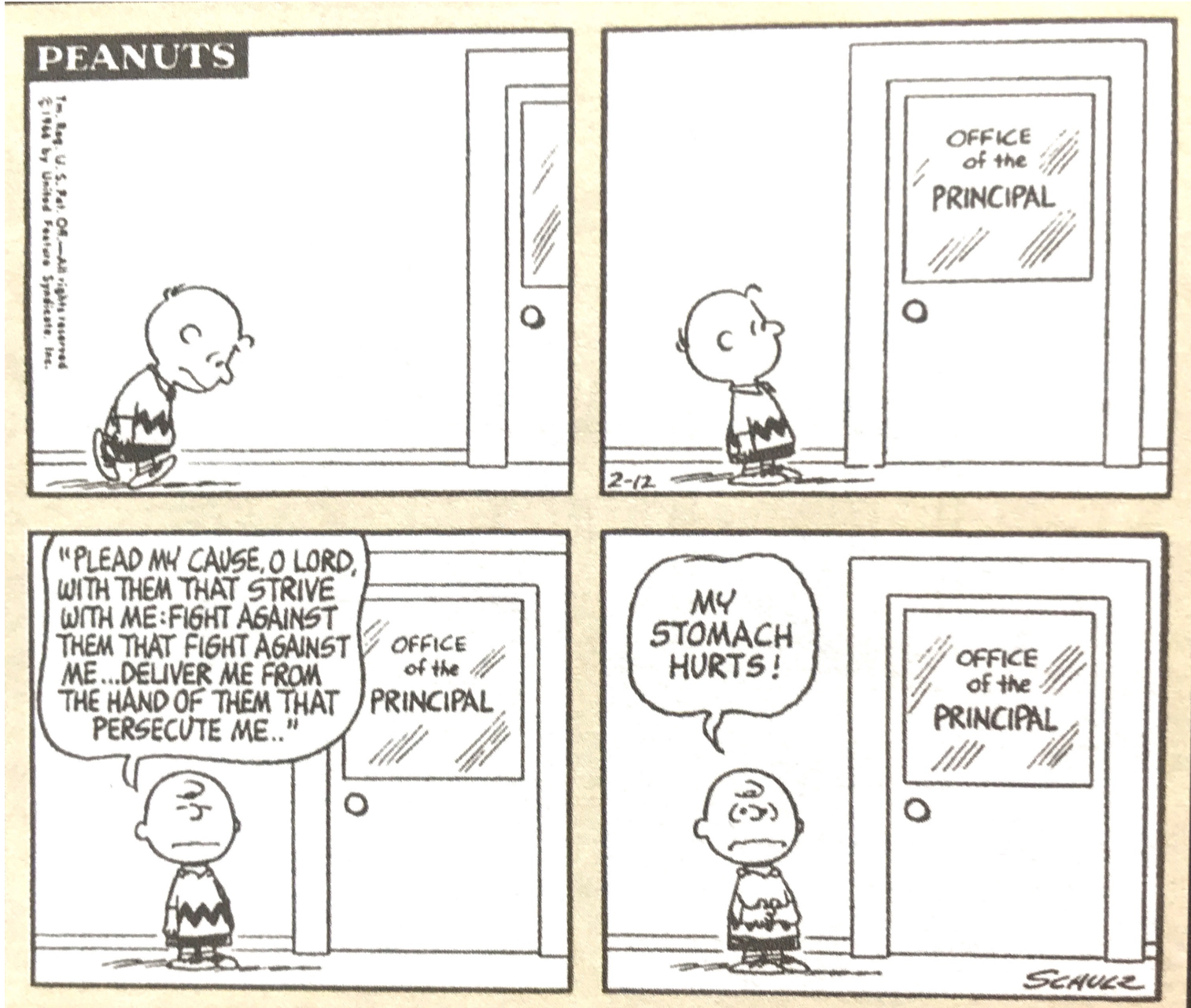
...

**Haman, who wanted to kill a Jew  
for not falling down in his presence,  
was caught falling down  
before a Jew.**

**Max Lucado**

# Peanuts Philosophy – A Lament

66



## Interesting Notes

**One of my college professors listed what he called three important results of the exile –**

- (1) a thorough purging of idolatrous rituals in worship and acceptance of monotheism,**
- (2) the rise of synagogues as teaching institutions, and**
- (3) a deeper longing for their Messiah.**

**Fred M. McLaren**

**The Pharisees and Sadducees indeed created a more structured and non-idolatrous environment.**

## Interpretation (Prophecy, Scripture, etc.)

### The Prophet

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites.

You must listen to him.

For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said,

“Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.”

The Lord said to me: “What they say is good.

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth.

He will tell them everything I command him.

I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19



## Picking the Pearls

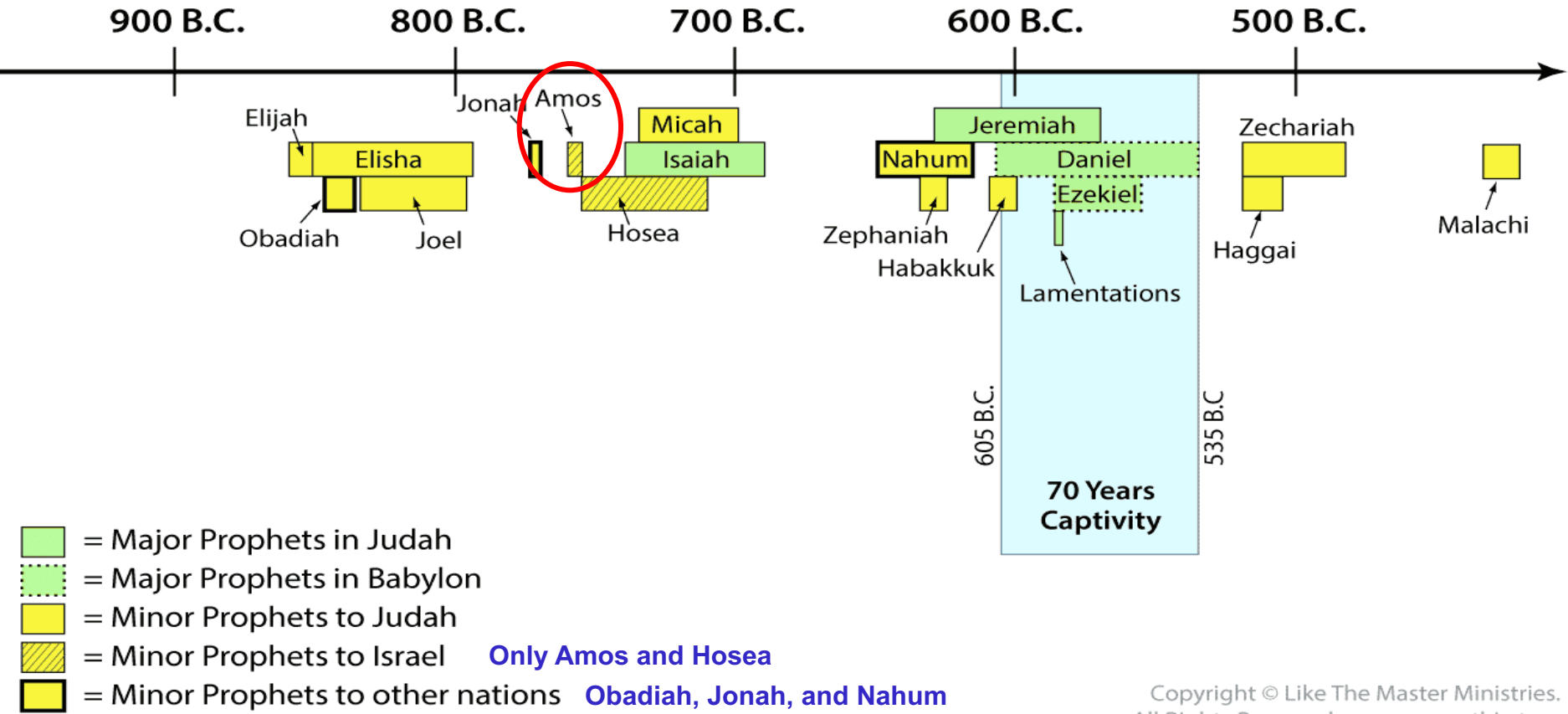
### Jeremiah – Pointing to the Christ

And so the wrath and judgment of God  
visited on Jerusalem in 587 BC,  
and the grace and redemption of God  
that raised the people to new life again,  
both found their ultimate expression and saving power  
when Jesus

**‘died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures...  
and was raised on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures’.**

**Christopher J. H. Wright**

## Interesting Notes – Major and Minor Testament Prophets



**[some] prophets had international ministry.  
Elisha and Elijah were both involved with kings of other nations.  
Christopher J.H. Wright**

## Picking the Pearls

### The Minor Prophets – “The Twelve”

**When we speak of “The Twelve”,  
meaning the prophetic books which occupy the final part  
of the Old Testament in our English Bible,  
we are following an ancient usage (cf. Ecclesiasticus 40:10).**

**They are always found together in the Hebrew Bible;  
they were considered to make up one book,  
and their place is at the end of the prophetic section,  
the second of the three sections of the Canon.**

**It was St. Augustine who first spoke of them as the Minor Prophets;  
he did so only because of the brevity of the books.**

**The serial order in which they are found in our English Bible  
is that of the Hebrew;  
it was considered to be the order in which they were written.**

**John Mauchline**

## Picking the Pearls

### The Minor Prophets – “The Twelve”

The twelve books show a remarkable range of type. Hosea, Amos, and Micah are fairly normal collections of prophetic utterances,

together with narratives of the prophet's life.

Jonah, on the other hand,

contains very few words spoken by Jonah and is a book about him, probably to be read as an allegory of (instructive) poem.

In the first part of Zechariah a series of visions has a prominent place, and may be taken to be a record of visionary experiences of the prophet or as a literary mode.

In Malachi,

argument between the prophet and his hearers is frequently found, as well as direct prophetic utterance,

showing possibly how the prophet had to present his message to a critical land disbelieving audience.

John Mauchline

## Picking the Pearls

### The Minor Prophets – “The Twelve”

In the second part of Zechariah  
imagery connected with visions of the future is prominent.

Each of the prophets  
**spoke to the needs of his age,**  
used the methods  
which he considered necessary or convenient,  
and believe that he was speaking the word of God  
which he had received.

John Mauchline

## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes (Amos)

**It is generally recognized that Amos was the first of the Israelite prophets whose words were assembled in a scroll...**

**Compared with the other prophetic books the Book of Amos is well organized.**

**There are hints, however, that it too (like the other prophetic books) was compiled by “friends” and grew by stages.**

**John W. Miller**

## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes (Amos)

**A good place to begin an analysis of the book's compositional history is with the heading:**

**“The words of Amos one of the shepherds of Tekoa.**

**The visions he had about Israel  
in the time of Uzziah king of Judah  
and Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel,  
two years before the earthquake” (1:1).**

**John W. Miller**

## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes (Amos)

**[Amos' three jobs: shepherd, herdsman (cattle), and tree dresser]**

**... to tend sycamores is sometimes thought of as a poor man's job, for the sycamore is a fig tree whose fruit had to be scratched, one by one, before it would open properly – a tedious, dirty job done usually by day-laborers.**

**... sycamores do not grow in the region of Tekoa, but along the Mediterranean coastal plain and in the Jordan valley.**

**So each year at the proper time, Amos travelled to one of these areas and cut open the fig-like fruit of these trees in order to get rid of the insects that invaded them.**

**John W. Miller**



# Peanuts Philosophy (on taking care of trees) 66



## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes (Amos)

**Unlike other Old Testament messengers,  
Amos was not a professional prophet;  
he had no special training,  
nor was he related to any other prophets.**

**He was a peasant farmer and sheep tender  
called by God for a special mission.**

**A native of the southern kingdom of Judah,  
Amos received a powerful commission from God  
to preach to the people of the northern kingdom of Israel.**

**In the first half of the eighth century BC,  
during a time of great expansion and prosperity in Israel,  
Amos spoke out against the economic injustices  
between urban elites and the poor.**

**S. Claiborne, J. Wilson-Hartgrove, & E. Okoro**

## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes (Amos)

**The concept of religion which an individual or a group of people possesses determines their attitudes and their way of life.**

**The Israelites of the eight century B.C. regarded religion as only one aspect of life.**

**It consisted of external acts that they carried out when they went to different temples in the land.**

**They prided themselves in their expensive “church buildings” (Amos 5:4-5; 7:9, 13).**

**They boasted of the numerous sacrifices which they offered, and of the fact that they offered them exactly as the Law prescribed (Amos 4:4-5, 5:22).**

**They gloried in their perfect attendance record at the worship services (Amos 5:21).**

**They were well pleased with their efforts to sing praises to the Lord (Amos 5:23).**

**John W. Miller**

## Picking the Pearls

### Interesting Notes (Amos)

**By way of contrast,**

**Amos rejected the idea that quantity, numbers, and external show was really religion.**

**He declared that religion is not just one aspect of life, but is the whole of life.**

**It involves military and political beliefs and decisions, social and economic views and activities, and all attitudes of the regular worshipper.**

**For Amos, there was no phase of life which was irreligious.**

**Activities which take place in the “church building” were only a small part of religion.**

**John W. Miller**

## Picking the Pearls

### Pearls from Amos chapters 1 and 2

Note the literary form that Amos used:

This is what the Lord says:

For three sins of \_\_\_\_\_,  
even for four,  
I will not relent.

Because (he or she) ...

I will ...

This was applied to:

Damascus

Gaza

Tyre

Edom

Ammon

Moab

Judah

Israel

Consider the “shock” value of this condemnation of their nation, after their total approval of the condemnation of the other nations

## Picking the Pearls

### Pearls from Amos chapter 3

**Surely**  
the Sovereign LORD does nothing  
without revealing his plan  
to his servants the prophets.

**Amos 3:7**

## Picking the Pearls

### Pearls from Amos chapter 4

Note the literary form that Amos used here:

[God punished the people]

... yet you have not returned to me,  
declares the Lord.

This was applied to:

famine

drought

blight and mildew

plagues

overthrow

[... and the result is...]

“... prepare to meet your God”

Amos 4:12

Amos has one central point: Israel must “prepare to meet your God”.

Trent Butler

## Picking the Pearls

### Pearls from Amos chapter 5

[Amos' summary]

**Seek good, not evil,**  
that you may live.

Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you,  
just as you say he is.

**Hate evil, love good;**  
maintain justice in the courts.

Perhaps the Lord God Almighty  
will have mercy  
on the remnant of Joseph.

**Amos 5:14-15**



## Picking the Pearls

### Pearls from Amos chapter 5

#### [False Worship]

“I hate, I despise your religious festivals;  
your assemblies are a stench to me.

Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,  
I will have no regard for them.

Away with the noise of your songs!  
I will not listen to the music of your harps.

**But let justice roll on like a river,  
righteousness like a never-failing stream!**

**Amos 5:21-24**

But you have turned justice into poison  
and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness—

**Amos 6:12b**

## Picking the Pearls

### Pearls from Amos chapter 7

**[Amos intercedes – note the literary form]**

**This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me (7:1, 4):**

**... swarms of locusts**

**... stripped the land clean (7:1-2)**

**[What do you see, Amos?]**

**... judgment by fire (7:4)**

**[What do you see, Amos?]**

**I cried out, “Sovereign Lord, forgive! How can Jacob survive?**

**He is so small!**

**So the Lord relented. (7:3, 6)**

## Picking the Pearls

### Pearls from Amos chapters 7 and 8

[... but then...]

This is what he showed me (7:7):

... a plumb line (7:7)

[What do you see, Amos?]

Then the Lord said,

“Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel;  
I will spare them no longer.” (7:8)

This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me (8:1):

... a basket of ripe fruit (8:1)

[What do you see, Amos?]

Then the Lord said to me (8:2),

“The time is ripe for my people Israel;  
I will spare them no longer.” (vs 8:2)

## Picking the Pearls

### Pearls from Amos chapter 8

“In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord,  
“the songs in the temple will turn to wailing. ...

Hear this, you who trample the needy  
and do away with the poor of the land,

saying,

“When will the New Moon be over  
that we may sell grain,  
and the Sabbath be ended  
that we may market wheat?”—  
skimping on the measure,  
boosting the price  
and cheating with dishonest scales,  
buying the poor with silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
selling even the sweepings with the wheat.

Amos 8:3-6

# Pearls from the Prophets

## Picking the Pearls

### Pearls from Amos chapter 9

**[Israel's Restoration]**

**“In that day**

**“I will restore David's fallen shelter—**

**I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins—**

**and will rebuild it as it used to be,**

**so that they may possess the remnant of Edom**

**and all the nations that bear my name,”**

**declares the Lord, who will do these things.**

**Amos 9:11-12**

# Pearls from the Prophets

## Picking the Pearls

### Pearls from Amos chapter 8

#### [Israel's Restoration]

**“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
“when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman  
and the planter by the one treading grapes.**

**New wine will drip from the mountains  
and flow from all the hills,  
and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.**

**“They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them.  
They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;  
they will make gardens and eat their fruit.**

**I will plant Israel in their own land,  
never again to be uprooted  
from the land I have given them,”  
says the Lord your God.**

**Amos 9:13-15**

# Pearls from the Prophets

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# Pearls from the Prophets

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