



**Materials I Need:**

**Memory Verse:**

This is what the Lord says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He 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.”  
Jeremiah 17:5-8

The Prophet    Jeremiah  
The People     Judah  
The Prophecy   God’s punishment is exile to Babylon  
The Principle   Godliness is the goal, not popularity

**Aim Questions:**

1. How many years of prophecy and history of God’s people does Jeremiah cover? [40]
2. Who were the 4 kings during those 40 years? [Shallum, Jehoikim, Jehoichin & Zedekiah]
3. Why was Jeremiah’s life spared when he was accused of being a false prophet?
4. Why did God ask Jeremiah to make a yoke and place it on his neck? What is a yoke anyway?
5. Jeremiah sent a letter to the captives in Babylon. What were some of its main points?
6. What plans do you think God has for you?



**Hook:**



**LETTERS.** Collect some “old” letters together and bring them to class. Have them arranged nicely on a table for the Bible students to pick and check out. There are some copies of letters President Lincoln wrote. Copy them onto parchment style paper for an authentic look. **3JER22JR.GF7a/b**  
Debrief: Listen to today’s Adventure and find out why a letter was so important.



**PROPHETS.** Have several pretend prophets enter the classroom. They can tell the class things that will tickle their ears, things they want to hear. Have someone come in and tell them a truth, “The Lord knows the plans He has for you.” Who was the real “pretend” prophet? How could you be sure? How could the Israelites know for sure?



**YOKE.** Bring in, borrow, or create a yoke so that the Bible students can see what one is. How does it work? How does it make two work as one? [The yoke seemed to illustrate a couple of things. First, the absolute stubbornness of Israel had made it necessary for God to handle them as one handles an animal. The yoke was meant to weigh upon an animal as well as support what lines he was pulling. With a good stiff yoke, most animals were ready to submit. Second, it showed the choke hold that Babylon was gaining on the nation.] You may use color page **3JER22JR.GF10** as an illustration.



## Book:

### **Presentation Ideas -**



**KINGS OF JUDAH. JEHOIAKIM 3JER22JR.GF1 and JEHOIACHIN 3JER22JR.GF2.** Use the pictures of these kings during the Bible Adventure as you are talking about them.



**DEAR ONES IN BABYLON.** Can be used as an overhead during your Bible Adventure (please order 1 week ahead if used) **or** have a messenger just arrive at this point in the Adventure and deliver the message to the Captives in Babylon (the Bible students). **3JER22JR.GF3**

### **Bible Adventure -**

The book of Jeremiah is an amazing book. In it, Jeremiah records 40 years of prophecy and of the history of God's people. Jeremiah's prophecies were delivered during the reigns of four different Kings of Judah. Let's review who those kings were: Shallum, Jehoikim, Jehoichin, and Zedekiah. As Jeremiah recorded these prophecies he would often move from the time of one king's reign to another. Last week the prophecies moved from one king to the next. This week we begin in the reign of King Jehoikim. God told Jeremiah to go to the courtyard of the temple and warn them about their disobedience to God's law. God told the people that if they did not listen, He would cause the temple to be empty and abandoned and the city of Jerusalem to be cursed. Jeremiah's words made the people so angry they grabbed him and said he must die. They claimed he was a false prophet because he said in the Lord's name that the temple and the city would be deserted. The people's hearts were so far from God that they did not believe this prophecy could come from Him! Jeremiah defended himself by saying that the Lord had indeed sent him to deliver this message. He warned them again that if they did not change their ways and actions God would bring the disaster He had promised them. Jeremiah also warned them that if they killed him they would have the blood of an innocent man on their hands. Then some of the people remembered that another prophet, Micah, had given the same warning to the people almost 70 years earlier. They remembered that because King Hezekiah had listened to Micah, God did not bring the judgment on them that Micah had predicted. The people then said that Jeremiah should not be put to death. Jeremiah's life was spared.

Jeremiah next wrote about a time during King Zedekiah's reign. God asked Jeremiah to make a yoke and place it on his neck. A yoke was a large frame that fit over the heads of two animals, usually oxen. The yoke would join the two animals together and make it easier for them to work together. It also put enough weight on the animal that it would be obedient to commands. Why did God ask Jeremiah to do such an unusual thing? The answer is that God knew what His people had been thinking and saying. Some of the people of Judah had already been taken to Babylon as captives at this time. Jeremiah had predicted that they would stay as captives for 70 years, but there were false leaders who were promising that Judah could rebel against Babylon and escape. God sent Jeremiah with the yoke to tell them that they were to submit to the yoke of being servants to the King of Babylon. If they tried to rebel, God would bring judgment upon them. Jeremiah warned the people not to listen to the false leaders and the false prophets, who were saying that some of the items taken from the temple by the Babylonians would soon be returned. One of these false prophets, a man named Hananiah, challenged Jeremiah by saying that God's people would not be held captive in Babylon for 70 years. Hananiah said his message from God was that within two years God would bring back all the items taken from the temple, and all the people who had been taken captive as well. Hananiah illustrated his prophecy by taking the yoke off Jeremiah's neck and breaking it!

Imagine the confusion and uncertainty of the people listening! Here were two prophets, with totally opposite prophecies, and both claiming to be speaking God's words! Perhaps if the people had stopped to think, they would have remembered that Jeremiah had given prophecies about Jehoikim and Jehoichin that had already come true. The people knew that the way to know for sure that a prophet was speaking God's word was that the prophecy would always come true to the last detail.

God had a prophecy for Hananiah, too. God told Hananiah through Jeremiah that though he had broken the yoke on Jeremiah's neck, God would place a unbreakable iron yoke on the nations who were rebelling against His will. Because Hananiah had told lies to the people of Judah, Jeremiah prophesied that Hananiah would die within 7 months. When this happened, it was further proof to the people that Jeremiah was God's true prophet.

Jeremiah then sent a letter to God's people who were being held captive in Babylon. Jeremiah told them they would be there for a long time. He did this because even in Babylon there were false prophets telling the people they would be captives for only a short time. Jeremiah warned the people not to listen to these false prophets. He told them to prepare for a long stay--to live life like normal and to work hard to help Babylon prosper. They were even to pray for Babylon. God would use those 70 years to cause His people to turn back to Him. They needed God's yoke to make them obedient to Him again. Before the 70 years, God's people were stubborn and would not listen to Him. They preferred lies to the truth.

Sometimes God's truth may seem harsh to us, but God's intention is always to bring us to obedience to Him. False teachers will always be around to tell us about an easier way, but only God's way will pay off in the end. God's promise to His people in Jeremiah 29 can also become our promise:

"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 a hope and a future. Then you will call upon me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."



### Look:



**CLUES.** This is a simple color page. How do you find God? It can be very easy because He's not hiding. **3JER22JR.GF8** Also do the Word Search for **3JER22JR.GF12**. The words to find are the ones underlined in the verse.



**COPY IT.** Turn to Jeremiah 29:11-13, copy the scripture on **3JER22JR.GF4** to send to your missionary. Copy it again onto a 3x5 card for your own benefit. Scripture can encourage you! Be encouraged, God has a plan for your life!



**HIDDEN PICTURE.** Color in the spaces marked with a "g" gray, the spaces marked with a "w", white and the spaces marked with "y", yellow. What does this picture have to do with today's lesson? Can you think of another word that sounds like yolk? The yolk is a play on words. Lead your students to the conclusion, YOKE! Why did Jeremiah make and wear a yoke? What was God's point?

**3JER22JR.GF5**



**LETTER.** Provide a picture of the missionary Jeremiah for the Bible students to attach to the front of their card. Have the Bible students write a letter of encouragement to the class missionary. Jeremiah was writing a letter of encouragement to the Israelite captives but they didn't seem to see it that way at all. They preferred lies to the truth. Sometimes God's truth may seem harsh to us, but God's intention is always to bring us to obedience to Him. We are not prophets but God can use us to encourage others. Encourage your missionary in the work they are doing for the Lord. Tell them how the Lord is working in your own life. **3JER22JR.GF4**



### Took:



**4 P's.** The four P's is a little ditty to help you remember the prophet, people, prophecy and principle of each book of the Old Testament that we are studying this year. You can jump rope to each little ditty if you can do that rhythm thing!

The Prophet is Jeremiah  
The People are from Judah  
The Prophecy . . . God's Punishment  
Exile . . . to Babylon  
The Principle . . . godliness goal  
Popularity No.  
These are the 4 P's  
Got 'em from Jeremiah  
Now it's time . . . to jump out.



**BE LIKE A TREE.**

*[This is your last day to teach this song to the younger Bible students as a class. Have fun with it and use lots of actions. 3rd-6th Graders, enjoy the younger Bible students.]*

*Paul and Denise Smith copyright 1994 Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP*


I've gotta be like a tree  
Planted by the water  
Trusting in the Father  
To keep me strong  
I've gotta be like a tree  
Planted by the water  
Trusting in the name  
Of the Lord  
I've gotta be like a tree  
Planted by the water  
Trusting in the Father  
To help me grow  
I've gotta be like a tree  
Planted by the water  
Trusting in the name  
Of the Lord.


The deeper the roots go  
The better the fruits grow  
The Blessings bloom out  
For all to see

The deeper the roots go  
The more my life shows  
That Jesus is the Lord of me.

(Repeat Chorus and verse)


I've gotta be like a tree  
Planted by the water  
Trusting in the Father  
To keep me strong  
I've gotta be like a tree  
Planted by the water  
Trusting in the name  
Of the Lord  
Trusting in the name  
Of the Lord  
Trusting in the name  
Of the Lord  
Trusting in the name  
Of the Lord.

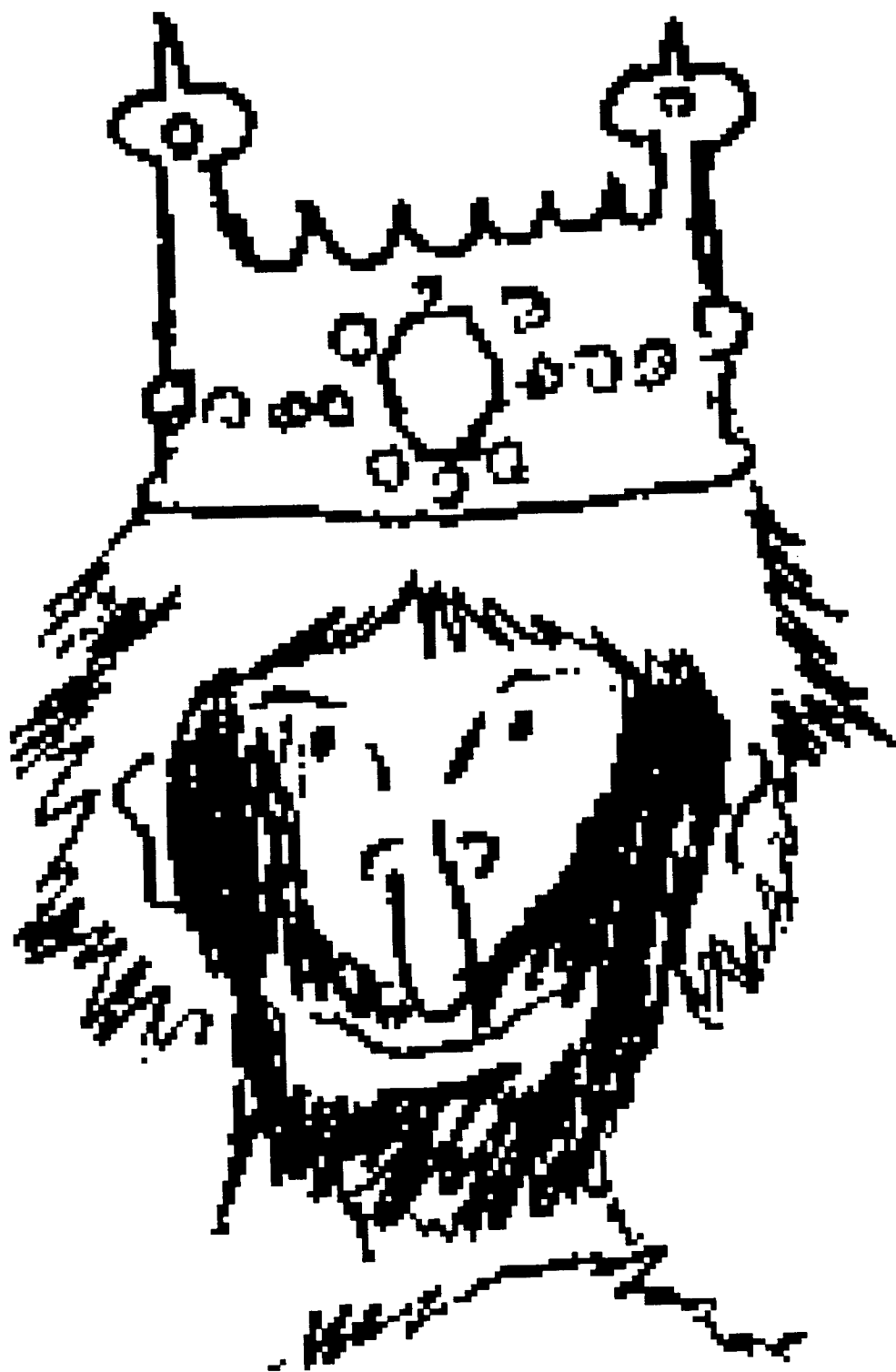
 **GOOD GUYS & BAD GUYS.** Make several copies of **GOOD GUY/BAD GUY** and distribute them to your Bible students. Assign parts to each of the students. [Several students can be assigned the roles or priests, prophets, officials & elders.] Read the first dialogue out loud with feeling! Discussion: Why did the "Bad Guys" want Jeremiah sentenced to death? Why do the officials think he should live? Read the second dialogue. How can you tell if a prophet is really from God or not? Are there prophets today? **3JER22JR.GF6**

 **YOKE OF OXEN.** Instructions for craft are on the page. While making craft, discuss why oxen are yoked and how they work together.

### **AIM QUESTIONS**

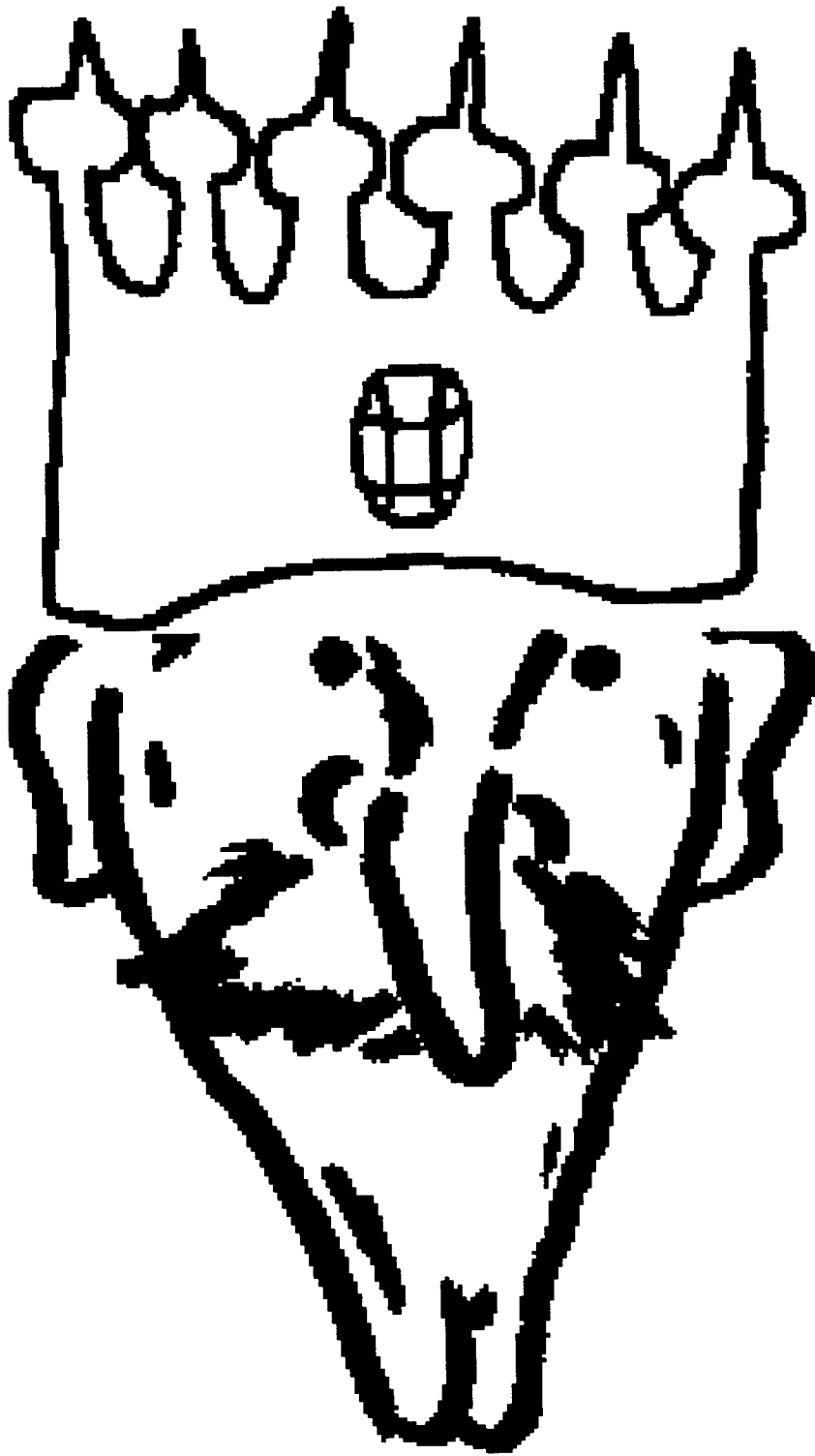
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2. Who were the 4 kings during those 40 years? [Shallum, Jehoikim, Jehoichin & Zedekiah]
3. Why was Jeremiah's life spared when he was accused of being a false prophet?
4. Why did God ask Jeremiah to make a yoke and place it on his neck? What is a yoke anyway?
5. Jeremiah sent a letter to the captives in Babylon. What were some of its main points?
6. What plans do you think God has for you? **3JER22JR.GF5**

 **TREE REVIEW.** Bring in the tree branch you have been using for the past two weeks. What are the green leaves for? Are you deeply rooted in Christ? What plans do you think the Lord has for your future? [This is the last week for the tree. Have everyone who has memorized the scripture passage Jeremiah 17:5-8 put their names in a hat. Whoever is picked can take that tree home!] Why would you want to be like the tree in the scripture?

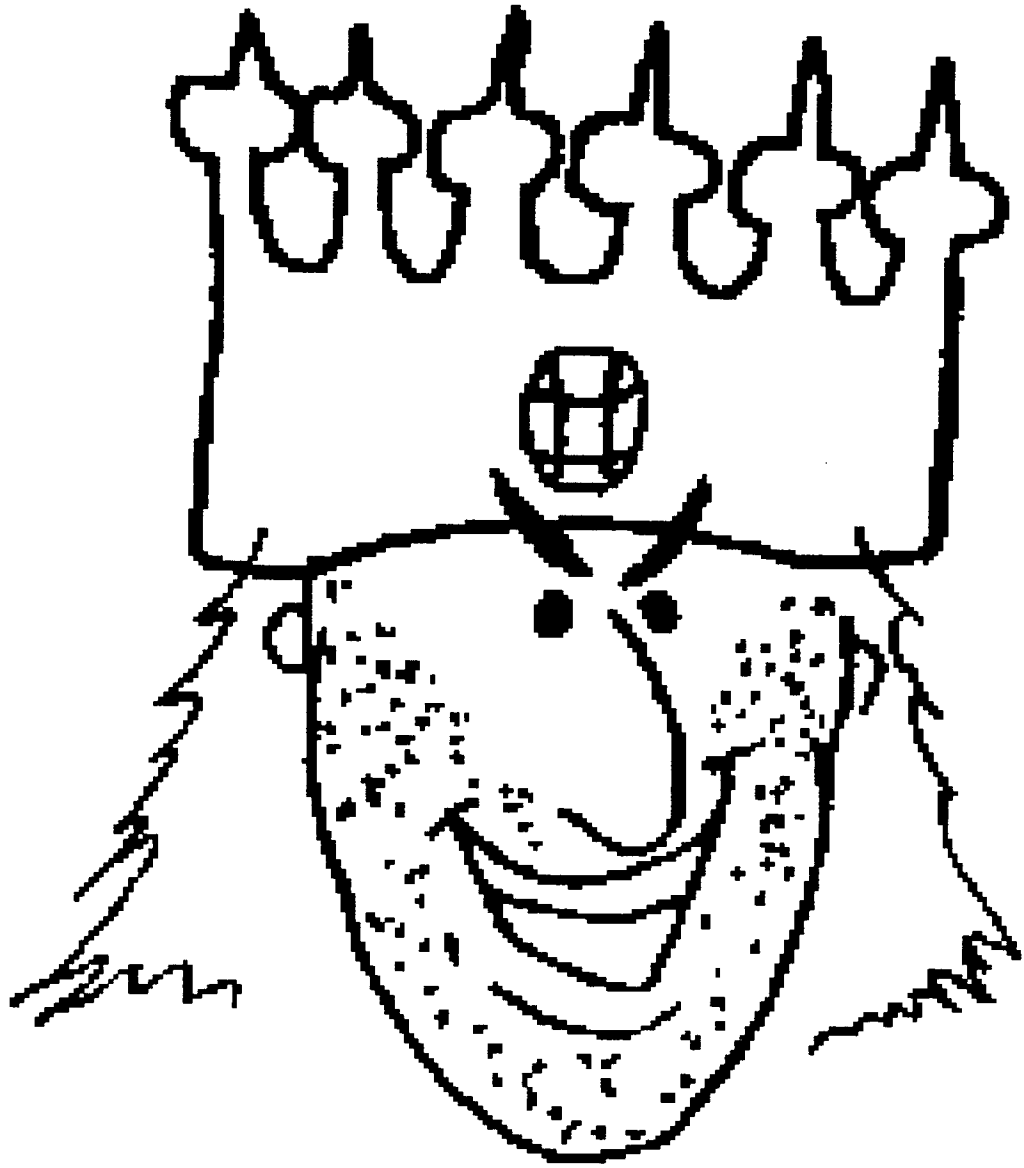


JEHOLAKIM

3JER22JR.GF1

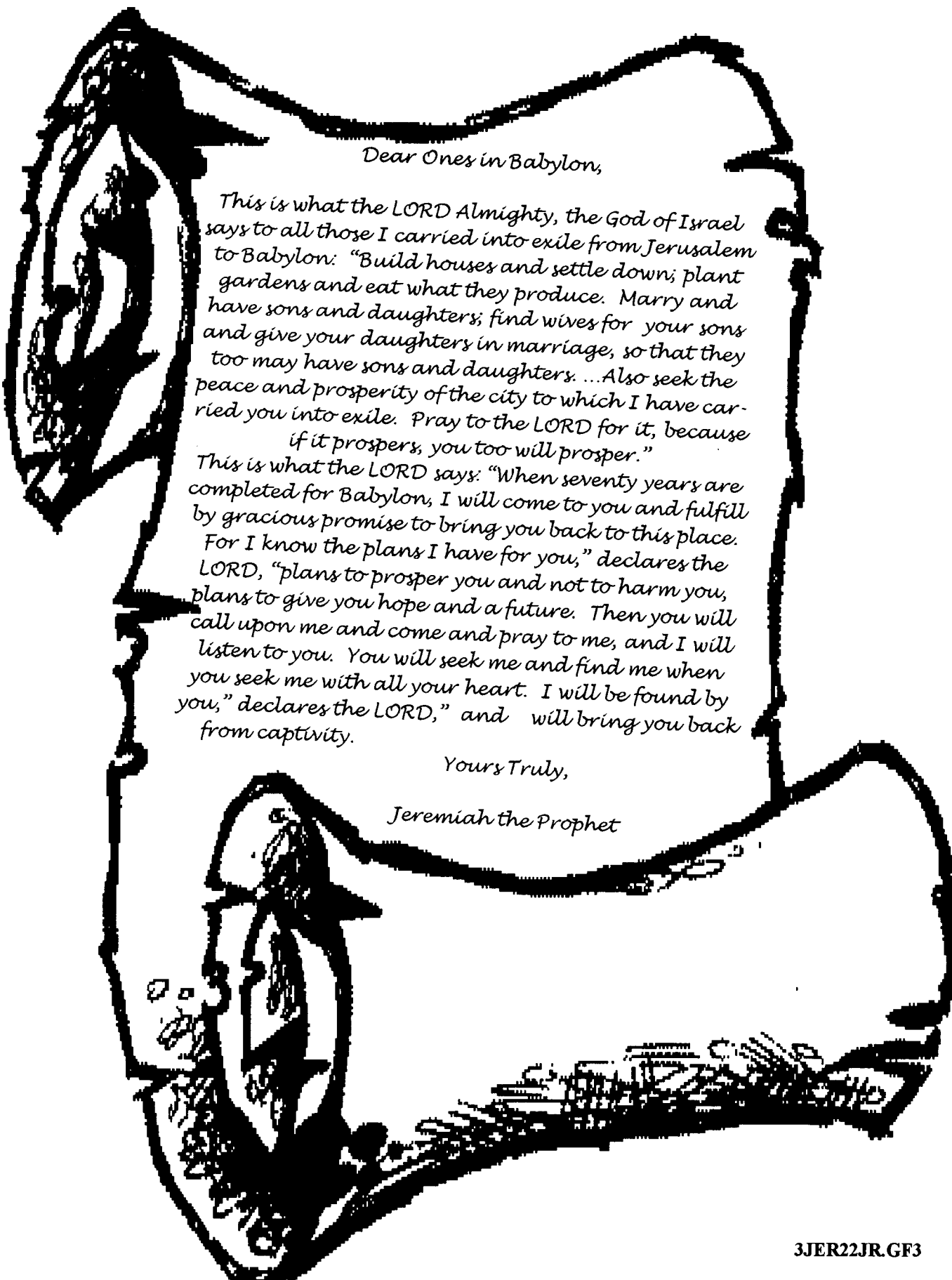


JEHOIACHIN



**King Zedekiah**

3JER22JR.GF2



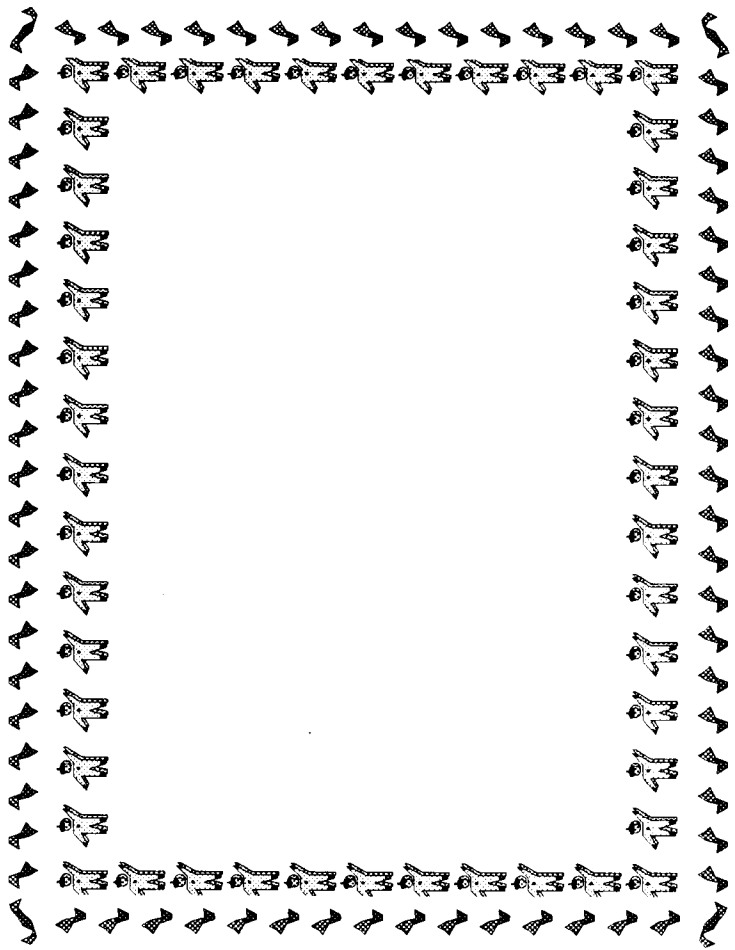
*Dear Ones in Babylon,*

*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. 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. ...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."*

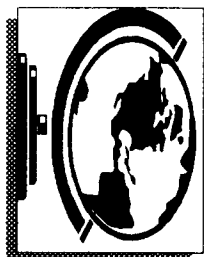
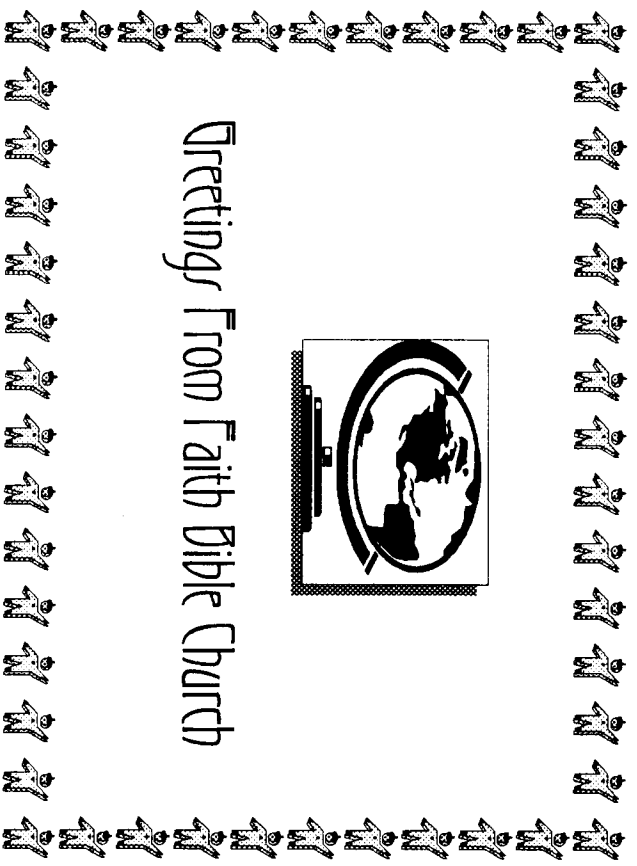
*This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill by gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon 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," and will bring you back from captivity.*

*Yours Truly,*

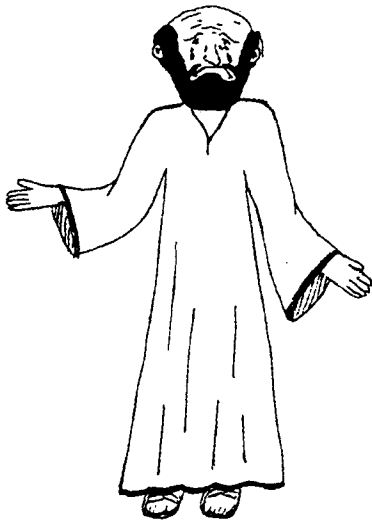
*Jeremiah the Prophet*



*FBC Original*



Greetings From Faith Bible Church

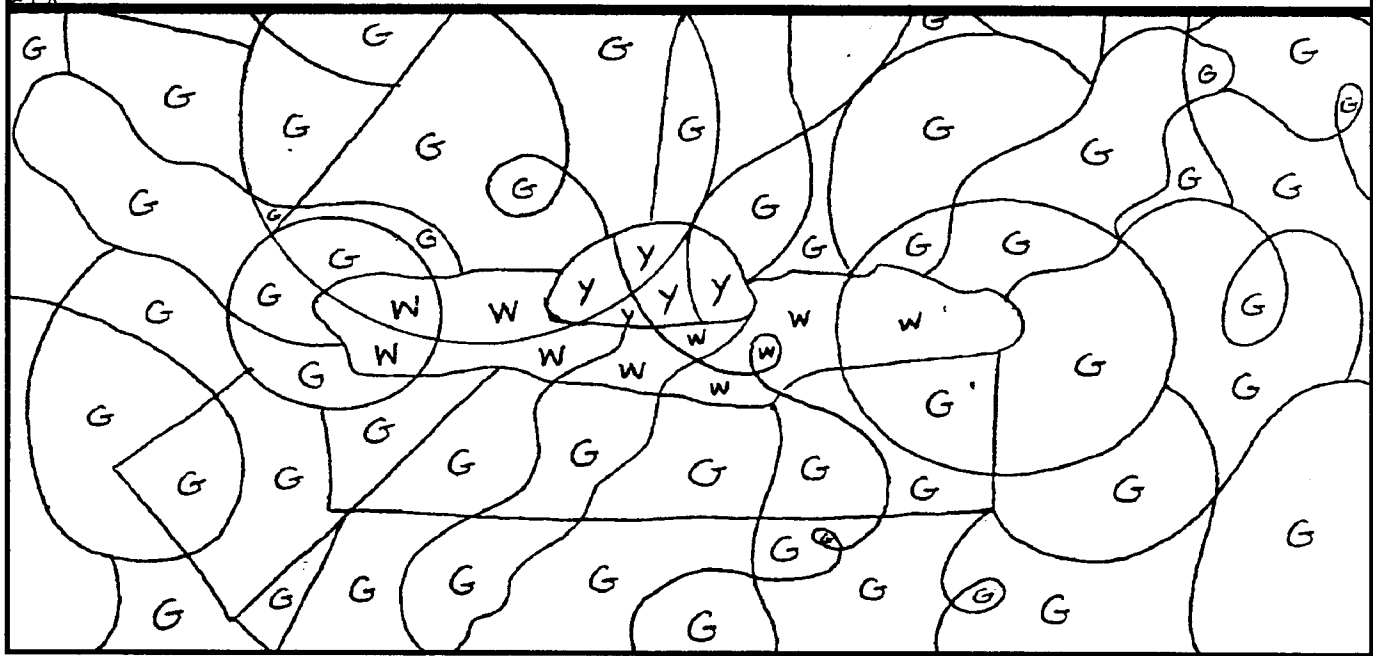


“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Then you will call upon me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.’”

Jeremiah 29:11-13

**CAN YOU FIND THE HIDDEN PICTURE?**

Color the spaces marked G. -green, W. -white, Y. -yellow.



**Aim Questions:**

1. How many years of prophecy and history of Gods people does Jeremiah cover?
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## GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS

*Good guys are Jeremiah and the elders and officials. The bad guys are Hananiah, the other false prophets, and the priests. Dialog alternates between these two groups.*

**Jeremiah:** 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 an object of cursing among all the nations of the earth."

**False Priests and Prophets:** "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? ... This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!"

**Jeremiah:** "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."

**Officials:** "This man should not be sentenced to death! He has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God!"

**Elders:** "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.'" "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!"

\* \* \* \* \*

**Hananiah:** "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:** "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: From early times the prophets who preceded you and me have prophesied war, disaster and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the LORD only if his prediction comes true."

**Hananiah:** "This is what the LORD says '...I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon off the neck of all the nations within two years.' "

**Jeremiah:** "This is what the LORD says: 'You have broken a wooden yoke, but in its place you will get a yoke of iron. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "I will put an iron yoke on the necks of all these nations to make them serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will serve him. I will even give him control over the wild animals.'" "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.' "

**LETTER TO HORACE GREELEY.  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.  
EXECUTIVE MANSION.**

Washington, August 22, 1862

*Hon. Horace Greeley:*

Dear Sir: --I have just read yours of the 19th, addressed to myself through the *New York Tribune*. If there be in it any statements or assumptions of fact which I may know to be erroneous, I do not, now and here, controvert them. If there be in it any inferences here, controvert them. If there be in it any inferences which I may believe to be falsely drawn, I do not, now and here, argue against them. If there be perceptible in it an impatient and dictatorial tone, I waive it in deference to an old friend whose heart I have always supposed to be right.

As to the policy I "seem to be pursuing," as you say, I have not meant to leave any doubt.

I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored, the nearer the Union will be the "Union as it was." If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and it is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that. What I do about slavery and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union. I shall do less whenever I shall believe what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do more whenever I shall believe that doing more will help the cause. I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views.

I have stated my purpose according to my view of official duty; and I intend no modifications of my oftexpressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free.

Yours,

A. Lincoln.

**AT INDEPENDENCE HALL  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
Philadelphia, Feb. 21, 1861**

*I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing here in this place, where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle from which sprang the institutions under which we live. You have kindly suggested to me that in my hands is the task of restoring peace to the present distracted condition of the country. I can say in return, sir, that all the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated in and were given to the world from this hall. I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence. I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here, and framed and adopted that Declaration of Independence. I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that independence. I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this confederacy separation of the colonies from the mother-land, but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but, I hope, to the world, for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weight would be lifted from the shoulders of all men. This is the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence. Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest of men in the world if I can help to save it. If it cannot be saved upon that principle, it will be truly awful. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it. Now, in my view of the present aspect of affairs, there need be no bloodshed or war. There is no necessity for it. I am not in favor of such a course; and I may say in advance that there will be no bloodshed unless it be forced upon the government, and then it will be compelled to act in self-defense.*

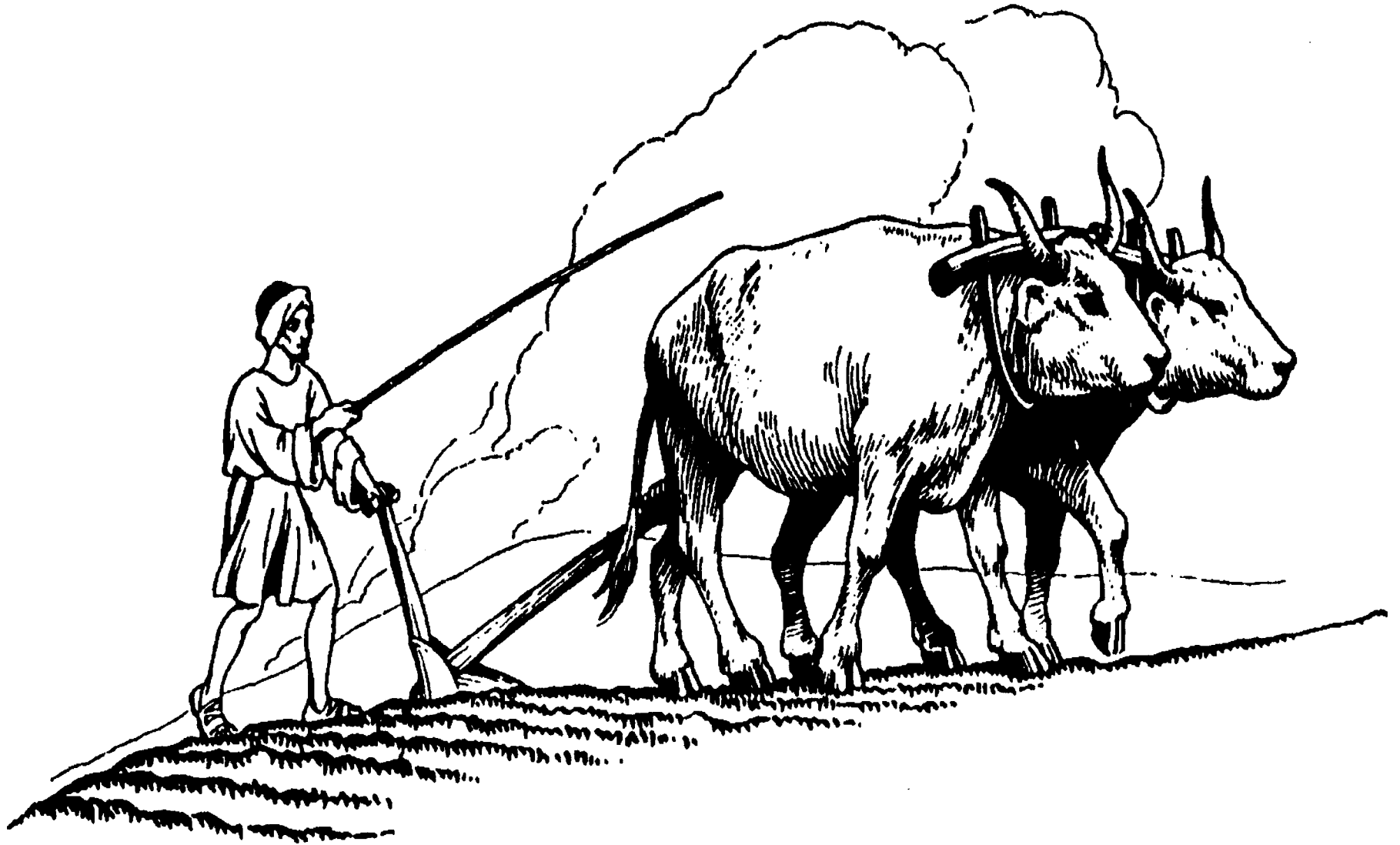
*My friends, this is wholly an unexpected speech, and I did not expect to be called upon to say a word when I came here. I supposed it was merely to do something towards raising the flag—I may, therefore, have said something indiscreet. I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and if it be the pleasure of Almighty God, die by.*

## CLUES FOR FINDING GOD (AND HE'S NOT EVEN HIDING)



“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 a hope and a future. Then you will call upon 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.”

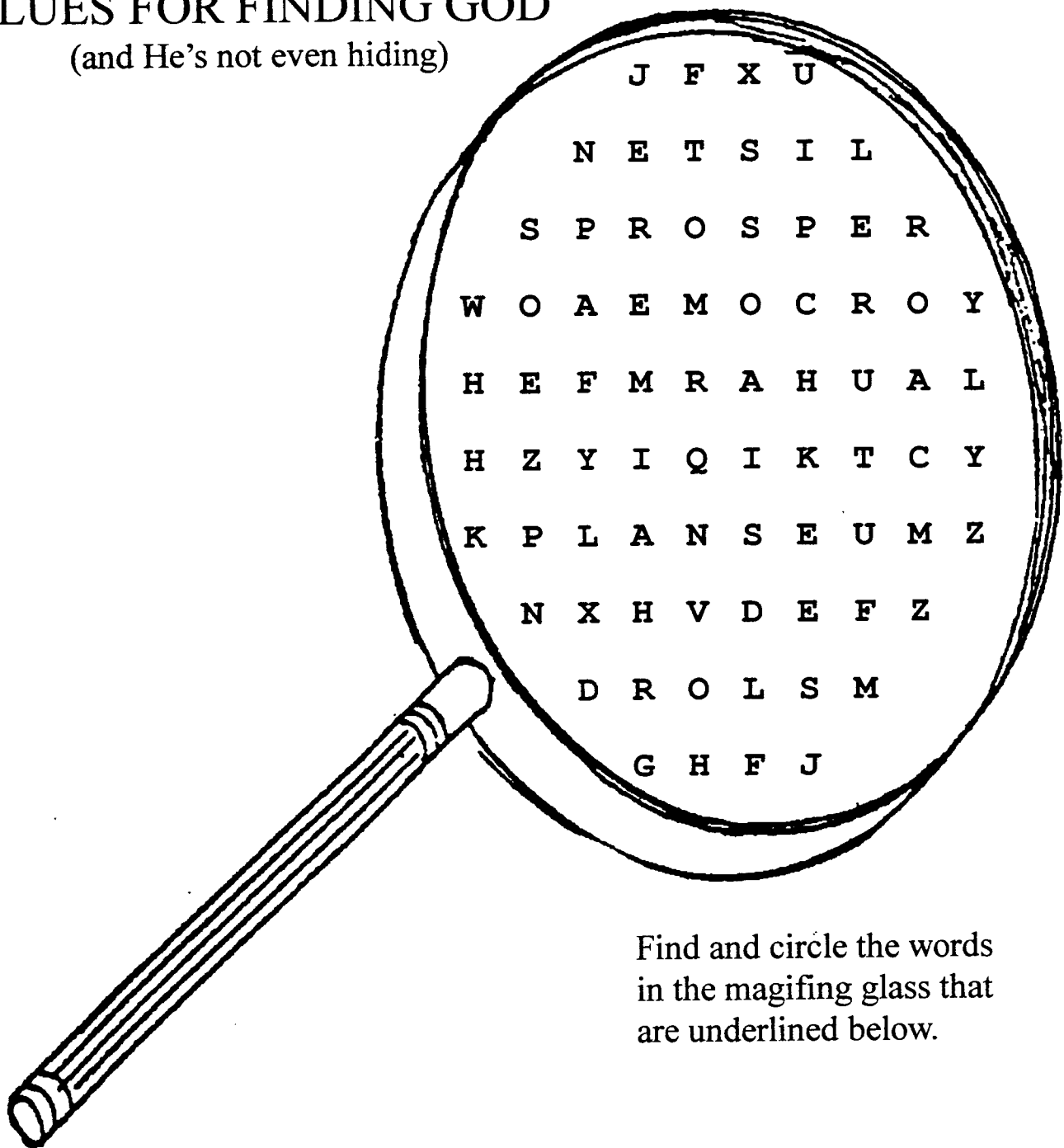
JEREMIAH 29:11-13



What is the purpose of the yoke on the two oxen?

# CLUES FOR FINDING GOD

(and He's not even hiding)



Find and circle the words  
in the magnifying glass that  
are underlined below.

“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,” DECLARES  
THE LORD,” PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT HARM YOU,  
PLANS TO GIVE YOU A HOPE AND A FUTURE. THEN YOU  
WILL CALL UPON 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.”

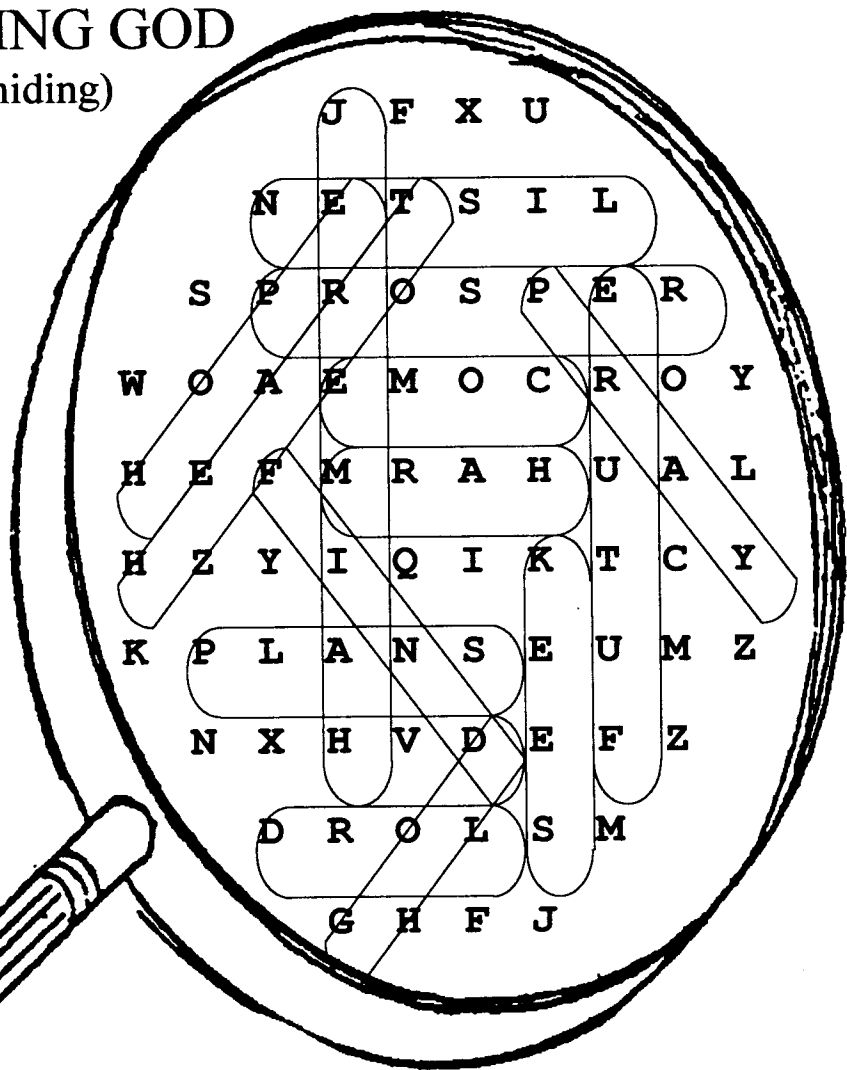
**JEREMIAH 29:11-13**

3JER22ELGF.12

# CLUES FOR FINDING GOD

(and He's not even hiding)

## TEACHERS ANSWER KEY



Find and circle the words  
in the magifying glass that  
are underlined below.

“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,” DECLARES  
THE LORD,”PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT HARM YOU,  
PLANS TO GIVE YOU A HOPE AND A FUTURE. THEN YOU  
WILL CALL UPON 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.”

**JEREMIAH 29:11-13**

3JER22ELGF.12

# YOKE OF OXEN!!

## Mr. and Mrs. Oxen

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**  
2 toilet paper roll tubes  
Mr. & Mrs. oxen  
Colored pencils.  
A stapler .  
Glue.

### DIRECTIONS:

Color Mr. & Mrs. oxen and cut them out.  
Cut 1" off of each paper roll tube for the yoke. Glue the front and rear ends of the oxen on the longest tubes to form Mr. and Mrs. Oxen. Staple the shortest tubes together to form the yoke. Cut open the outer edges of the yoke and fit the yoke over the tubes (bodies) of Mr. & Mrs. Oxen.

