

March 2, 1996
3rd-6th Grades

Godliness is the Goal, Not Popularity

Jeremiah Chapters 40-45
3JER25JR

Jeremiah



Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

Memorize the Books of the Old Testament.

“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.”
Jeremiah 29:11

The Prophet Jeremiah (The Weeping Prophet)
The People The Southern Kingdom of Judah
The Prophecy Exile to Babylon
The Principle Godliness is the goal, Not Popularity

Aim Questions:

1. Was Jeremiah taken captive? What was the captors' response?
2. Who was Ishmael and what was his mission? Was he successful?
3. Who was Johanan? Who agreed to pray for him? Did Johanan and the army listen to him? What happened to them?
4. Who is the Queen of Heaven? How was she involved with the Jewish people?
5. Do you ask God for advice but then do whatever pleases yourself?
6. Why do you listen to the word of God? What is in your heart? Is your heart full of excuses, habits, or doubts so that when you listen to the word of God you can barely respond? (Grace is freedom, not excuses!!!)

Hook:

Ad-Lib Story. Ask student to supply nouns and verbs to complete the “ad-lib” story.. Have one of the teachers fill out the story. Read the story during “TOOK” time. **3JER25JR.GF1**

Promise? Ask students to share the last time they made a promise. Did they keep their promise? Why or why not?

Queen of Heaven. Bring in the “Queen of Heaven” in a fancy dress and crown. Have the Queen tell how the Jewish people worshipped her by burning incense and pouring out drink offerings. Have the Queen be very proud and finish by stating the following truth: “Really I am nothing but the stone or wood I am made of. I cannot do anything for anybody. The Jewish people misplaced their trust. God had always followed through on His promises and still the people wanted another opinion. Seek God first, and only God!”

See It. This is an overhead of the Queen of Heaven but can you see it? Have the Bible students study the picture and see what they think it is. **Overhead. 3JER25JR.GF2**

**Book:****Presentation Ideas -****Johanan. Overhead 3JER25JR.GF3****Ishmael. Overhead 3JER25JR.GF4****Bible Adventure -**

Last week we heard about a very sad day in the history of the people of Judah. After years of warnings from Jeremiah and from others of God's prophets, the city of Jerusalem fell into the hands of the Babylonians, just as God had said it would. The city walls were torn down, the palace and all the houses burned, the temple destroyed, many Judeans killed and many taken captive. How would you react if something like that happened in Spokane, especially if God had been giving warnings for years? It would certainly get your attention, wouldn't it? Would you cry out to God, asking him for mercy and for rescue? What do you suppose the people of Judah did in Jeremiah's time? Now that Jerusalem had fallen, was their rebellion at an end? Let's look at the last few chapters of Jeremiah together and find out!

After Jerusalem fell, Jeremiah was taken in chains with the other captives to Ramah. It was there that the captain of the Babylonian guard found him and released him. He honored Jeremiah by giving him the choice of where he would go. Even the Babylonians recognized that Jeremiah had been speaking God's words in his prophecies. Jeremiah decided to remain in Judah with the poor Jews left there. He went to Mizpah and stayed with Gedaliah, the man who was now placed as governor over Judah.

After the fall of Jerusalem, there were still Jewish army officers and soldiers out in the land surrounding the city. When they heard that Gedaliah had been made governor, they came to him. Two of these men were Ishmael and Johanan. Gedaliah told all the men not to be afraid to serve the Babylonians. Many more Jews in nearby countries heard of this and came back to the land of Judah and began working for the Babylonians. During this time, Johanan became aware that the king of Ammon had sent Ishmael to kill Gedaliah. The Ammonite king did not want peace in Judah. Possibly he hoped to keep things so unsettled there that Babylon would not think of attacking Ammon. Unfortunately, Gedaliah did not believe Johanan's warnings. While he was sharing a meal with Ishmael and ten of his men, the men got up and killed him with a sword, as well as all the Jews there and all the Babylonian soldiers. Ishmael also killed a group of Jewish men who were coming into the city to worship God. Then he took all the rest of the people in Mizpah captive and headed for Ammon. When Johanan and the rest of the army officers heard what Ishmael had done, they chased after him, but he escaped. Johanan and the rest of the people were afraid of the Babylonians because of what Ishmael had done. They were running to Egypt to escape.

When they stopped near Bethlehem, Johanan and the other officers went to Jeremiah and asked him to pray for them, that God might tell them where they should go and what they should do. Jeremiah agreed to pray. Then the people promised to obey whatever God told them to do. Ten days later, Jeremiah had God's word for the people. God wanted the people to stay in Judah, so that he could build them up again. He promised to protect them and to care for them through the Babylonian king. God also warned them not to continue on to Egypt--that was not His plan for them. The warning was a strong one--those who disobeyed and went to Egypt would die there.

Can you guess what happened next? Had God's people learned their lesson? Were they ready to obey, as they said they were? I'm afraid not. Jeremiah spoke truly in chapter 17 when he said, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" The deceitful hearts of these people were still at work. They accused Jeremiah of lying to them and wanting them to stay in Judah so that the Babylonians could take them captive. Johanan and the army officers led all the people into Egypt in disobedience to God. They went as far as Tahpanhes. There, God instructed Jeremiah to deliver another message to his people. Jeremiah was to take some large stones and bury them in clay at the entrance of Pharaoh's palace, in full view of all the Jewish people. He then told the people that God would send Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to set up his throne over the stones. Nebuchadnezzar would attack Egypt, killing some and capturing some. Egypt would be devastated, just as Jerusalem was.

Sometime later, Jeremiah had another prophecy for the Jews living in Egypt. He reminded them of the destruction of Jerusalem and other towns in Judah. He reminded them that it was because of their great

evil of worshipping false gods that He had brought the destruction. Now God saw that His people were doing the same thing in Egypt. He told them He was going to bring disaster on them, too. Did the people show any respect or fear at this? Just the opposite!! They said to Jeremiah (44:16), "We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord! We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her." The Queen of Heaven was a false goddess to whom the people gave credit for having plenty of food and for keeping them safe. They thought the trouble they had just gone through was because they had stopped sacrificing to this goddess. Jeremiah reminded the people that it was because of their worship of false gods that God's judgment had fallen on them. The judgment of these rebellious Jews in Egypt would be further proof that God's word would stand, not theirs.

We might listen to this story and shake our heads at the foolishness of God's people. They asked for God's direction and ignored it. When Jeremiah confronted them about their false worship, they defiantly said they would continue. How do you handle God's word when you hear it? Do you store up more and more bits of knowledge, but when it comes to putting it into practice, you're not really interested? Think for a moment about what pleases God. Is it the person who knows all about the Bible but does very little with it, or the person who learns a little and puts it into practice because he loves God? Knowing Bible stories is not enough. The people Jeremiah spoke to knew about God, and about His law, but chose to turn away and not obey or love God. God has given us His Word and sent His Son to show us the way to come to Him. What will you do with that?



Look:



Crossword. From today's adventure, fill in the crossword puzzle. **3JER25JR.GF5**



Track. Complete the "Tracking Jeremiah" worksheet. Work in small groups with teachers. Number each event 1-5 in the order they occurred. Then, place the number of each event next to the city that corresponds. Now, you can follow Jeremiah's path! **3JER25JR.GF6**



Promises. Promises, Promises. Divide the class into 2 teams. Provide bells or buzzers for the students to indicate when they have an answer. Flip a coin to decide which team will begin. A correct answer is worth 1 point and the team also has an opportunity to answer the second part of the question. The second part of the question is whether the promise was kept or not. Watch out for #2, it's tricky. The Promises follow:

Jeremiah 42:4 I will certainly pray to the LORD your God as you have requested: I will tell you everything the LORD says...

Jeremiah 42:6 Whether it is favorable or unfavorable, we will obey the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, so that it will go well with us, for we will obey the LORD our God.

Jeremiah 42:11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you now fear...for I am with you and will save you...

Jeremiah 44:12 I will take away the remnant of Judah who were determined to go to Egypt to settle there. They will all perish in Egypt...


Jeremiah 44:13 I will punish those who live in Egypt with the sword, famine and plague, as I punished Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 44:16 We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD! ...We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her...

Jeremiah 44:29,30 This will be the sign to you that I will punish you in this place...I am going to hand Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt over to his enemies who seek his life, just as I handed Zedekiah king of Judah over to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon...


Jeremiah 46:27 I will surely save you out of a distant place your descendants from the land of their exile.


Jeremiah 51:64 So will Babylon sink to rise no more because of the disaster I will bring upon her, and her people will fall.

 **Captain of the Guard.** Have all the Bible students sit in a circle. One person is selected to be the “Captain of the Babylonian Guard”. This person must go outside the room for a short time. Once the “Captain” is gone, select a “Jeremiah”. “Jeremiah” will begin an action and everyone in the circle must copy him as quickly as possible. As “Jeremiah” and the circle get going someone invites the “Captain” back in. The “Captain’s” job is to find “Jeremiah” and release him. Allow the “Captain” two or three guesses. If the “Captain” finds “Jeremiah”, he frees him by sending him out into the hall and the game continues. If the “Captain” is unsuccessful, he goes into the hall and a new “Jeremiah” is selected.




Took:

 **Ad-lib.** Read the completed ad-lib story. Discuss knowledge and faith. Is knowing about God enough to save a person? What about promises and good intentions? **3JER25JR.GF1**

 **Jumpin’ 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.

 **Memorable.** Think back through Jeremiah. What was most memorable? Will you do anything different in your life because of what you’ve learned? If so, what is it?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Noun - thing _____ | 7. Noun - thing _____ | 13. Noun - place _____ |
| 2. Noun - thing _____ | 8. Verb _____ | 14. Noun - place _____ |
| 3. Noun - thing _____ | 9. Noun - place _____ | 15. Verb _____ |
| 4. Noun - place _____ | 10. Noun - thing _____ | 16. Verb _____ |
| 5. Noun - thing _____ | 11. Noun - thing _____ | 17. Noun - thing _____ |
| 6. Noun - thing _____ | 12. Noun - thing _____ | ("thing" nouns can be living things) |

The sound of a slamming 1 _____ told Mom that Katie was home from school. She found her in the kitchen making a 2 _____ and 3 _____ sandwich. "Are we doing anything tonight?" Katie asked.

"Dad wants to take you to (the) 4 _____ when he gets home, but first, I want you to walk the 5 _____, feed the 6 _____, and empty the 7 _____ . If you don't have these things done when Dad gets home, you won't be able to go to (the) 4 _____ ."

"I'll do it; I promise," said Katie, "just as soon as I finish my 2 _____ and 3 _____ sandwich." But after she finished, Mom noticed that Katie began to 8 _____ with her cat. So she reminded her to walk the 5 _____ . "Where shall I go?" Katie asked.

"Just go down to (the) 9 _____ and come right back," said Mom.

"I will," Katie said before she started to read a 10 _____ .

After awhile, she looked up from her 10 _____ and asked, "What does the 6 _____ like to eat?" Mom told her that it would probably like some 11 _____ (s). "I'll feed it right away," said Katie.

Then Katie started to play with her new 12 _____ . Mom interrupted her with a second request to empty the 7 _____ . "Where is it?" asked Katie.

It's right in (the) 13 _____ , " Mom answered. "Just take it to (the) 14 _____ . It should only take a minute."

"No problem," said Katie. "You want me to get the 7 _____ out of (the) 13 _____ and take it out to (the) 14 _____ . I'll do it just as soon as I finish 15 _____ ing with my 12 _____ ."

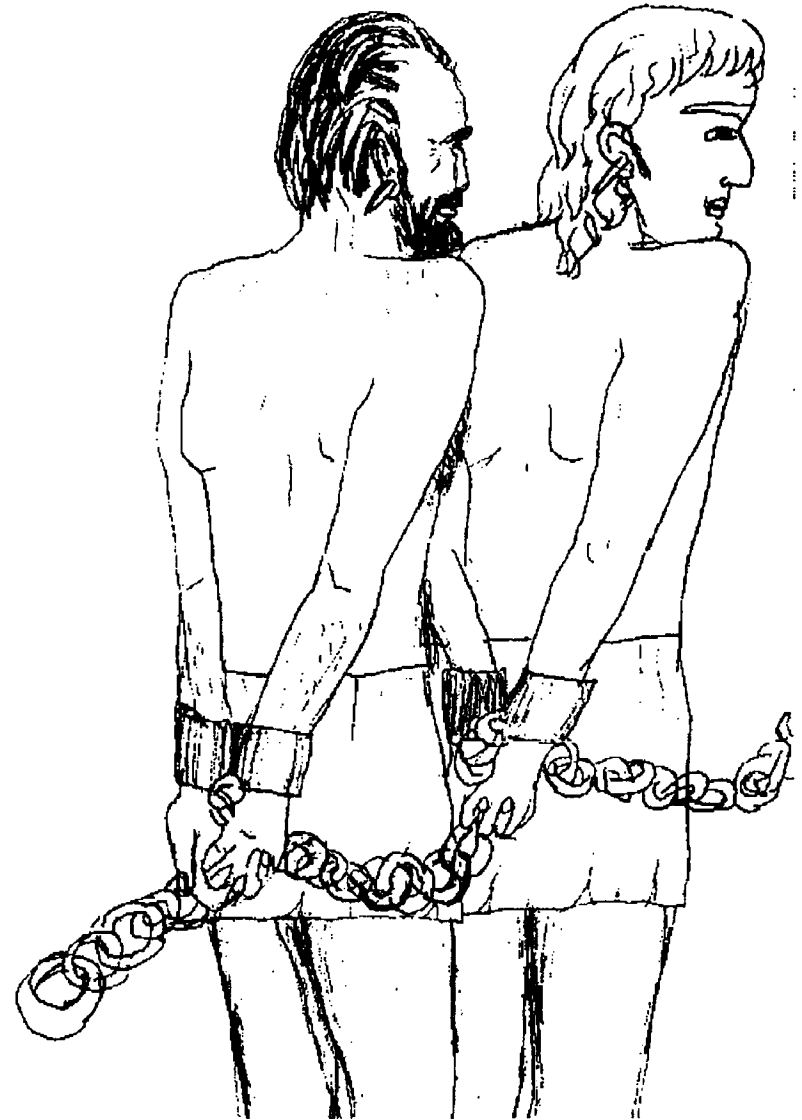
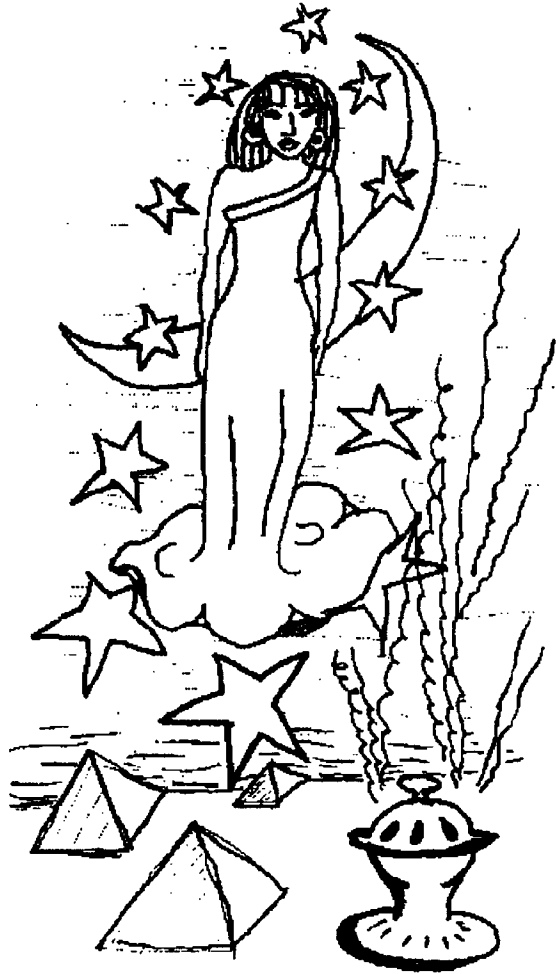
But while Katie was still 15 _____ ing with her 12 _____ , Dad came home and 16 _____ (ed) into the house. "Are you ready to go to (the) 4 _____ ?" he asked.

"Just let me get my 17 _____ !" she replied.

"Not so fast," said Mom. "Did you walk the 5 _____ , feed the 6 _____ , and empty the 7 _____ like I told you?"

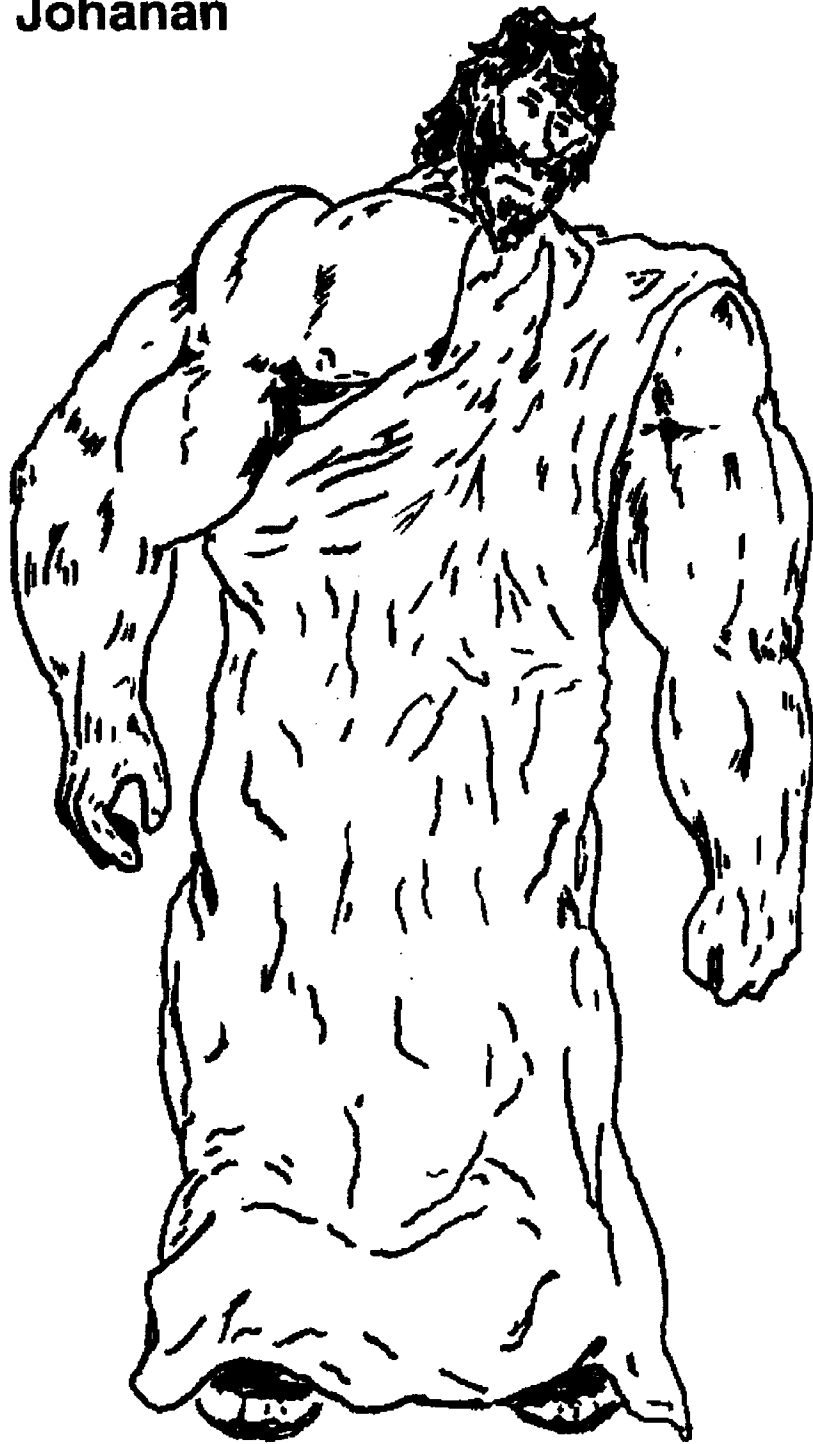
"Not exactly, but I know just what to do," Katie offered. "I should take the 5 _____ to (the) 9 _____ . The 7 _____ is right in (the) 13 _____ and it goes in the 14 _____ . The 6 _____ likes to eat 11 _____ . See? I know everything I need to know. It's easy."

"Katie, you were supposed to have these things done before I got home." Dad said sternly. "you didn't actually walk the 5 _____ or feed the 6 _____ did you?" asked Dad. "You didn't empty the 7 _____ either. I'm afraid It's not good enough to know all about what you should do. You actually have to do it. I'm sorry you won't be coming to (the) 4 _____ with me. Next time, do what you know you should do. All the information in the world won't help you if you don't use it."



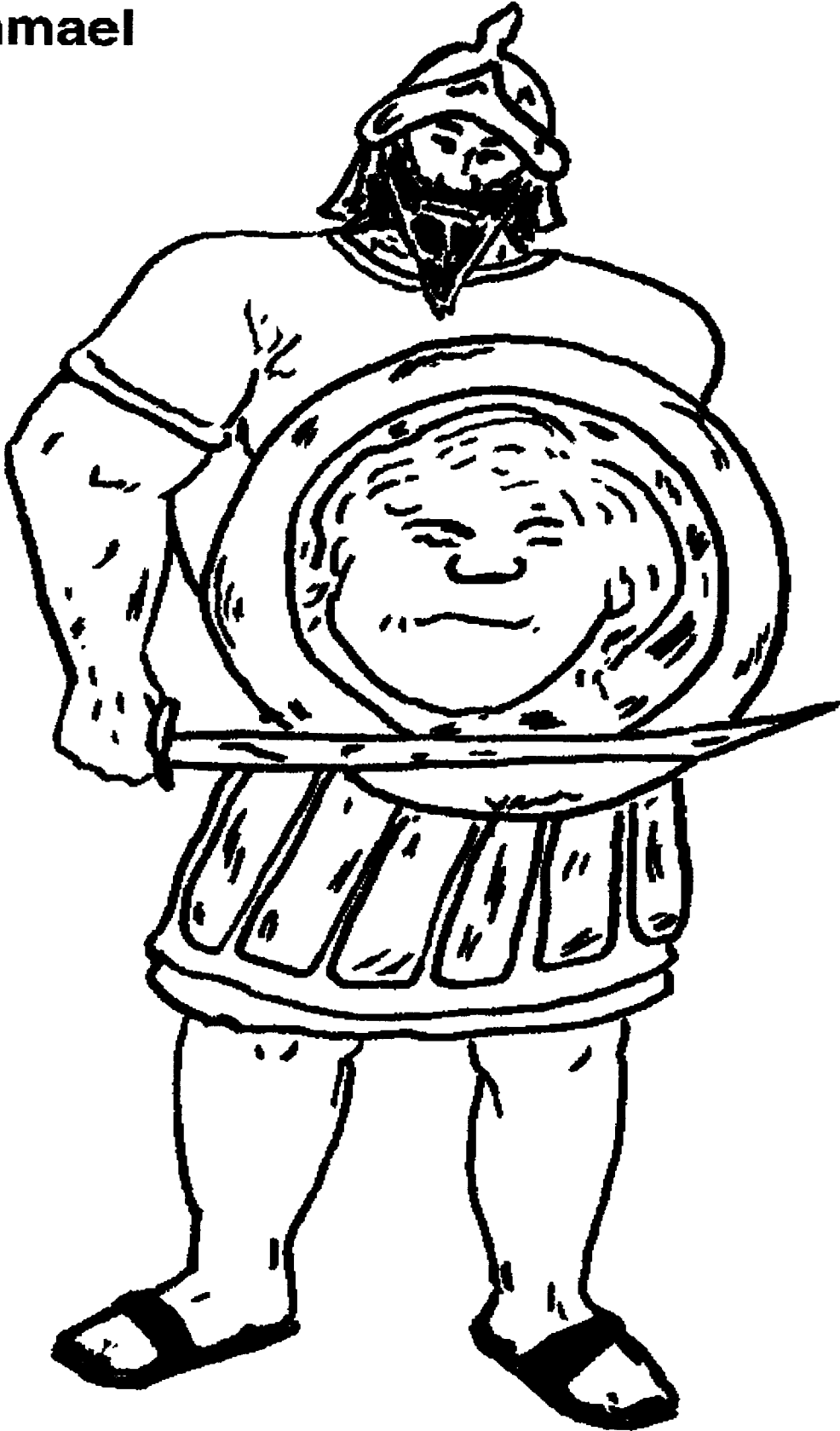
3JER25JR.GF2

Johanan



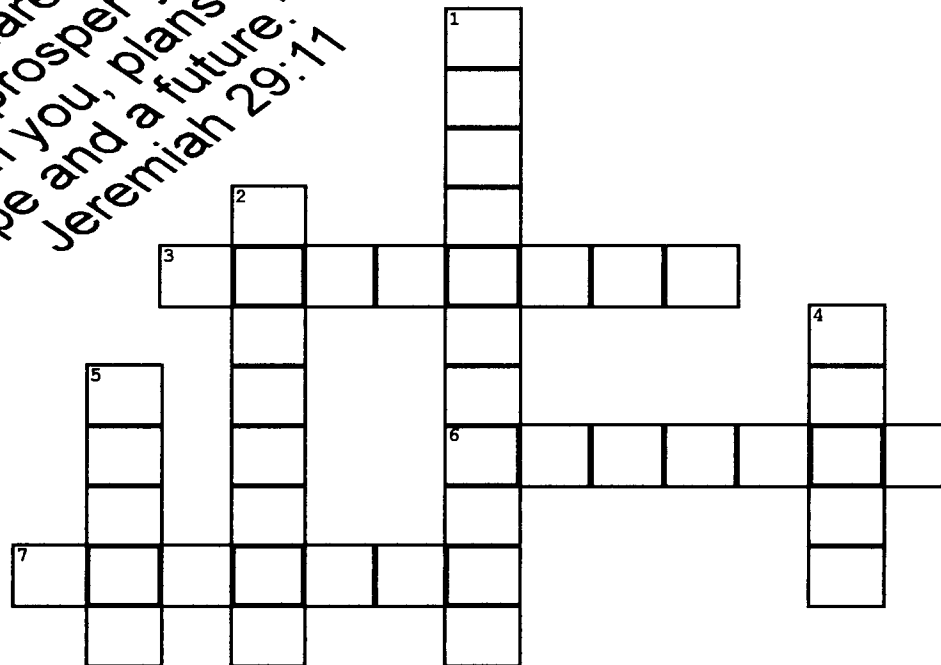
3JER25GF3

Ishmael



3JER25GF4

'For I know the plans I
 have for you,' declares the
 LORD 'plans to prosper the
 and not to harm you, plans to
 give you hope and a future.'
 Jeremiah 29:17

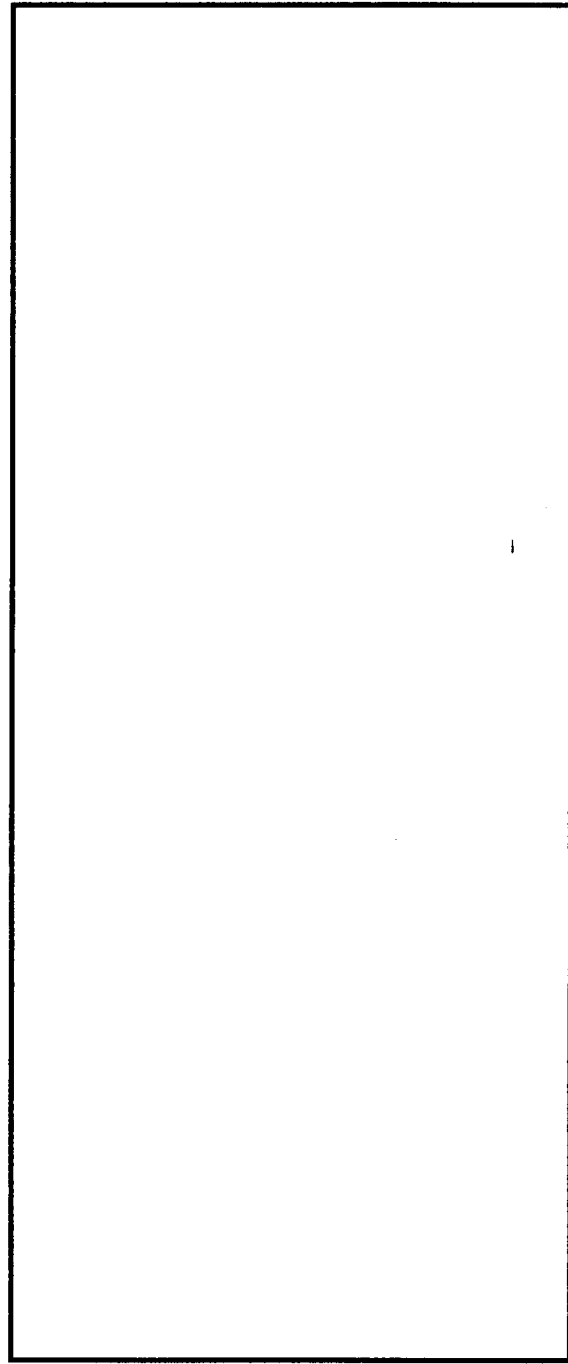


ACROSS

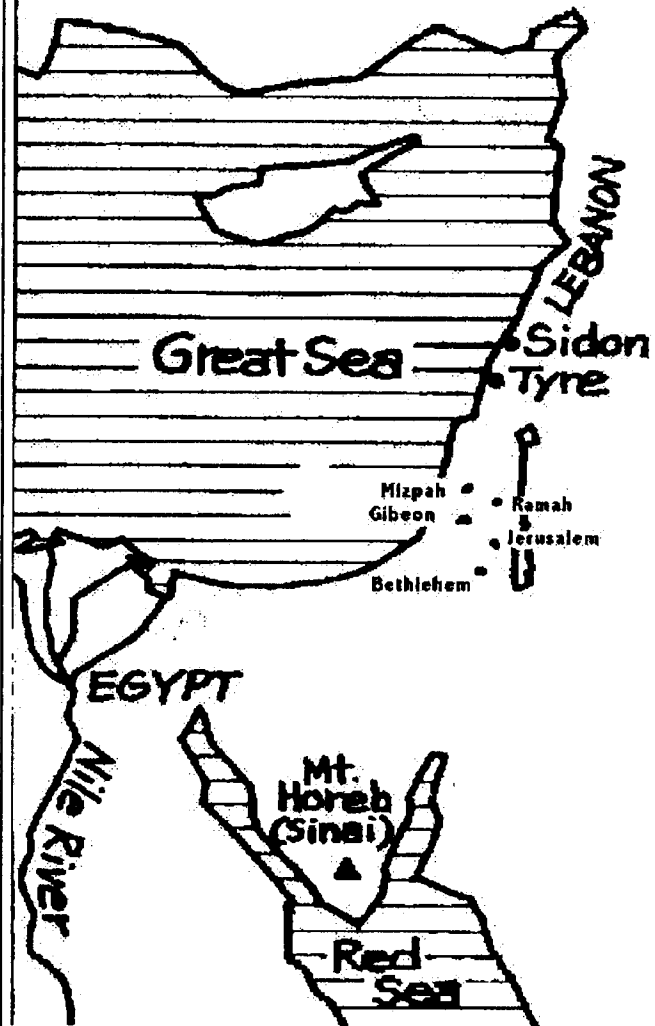
- 3. GOVERNOR OF JUDAH
 THAT JEREMIAH
 STAYED WITH
- 6. KING AMMONS HIRED
 ASSASIN
- 7. JEWISH ARMY
 OFFICER WHO
 WARNED GEDALIAH

DOWN

- 1. USED BY GOD TO
 PUNISH ISRAELITES
- 2. WEEPING PROPHET
- 4. _____ OF HEAVEN
 WAS A FALSE
 GODDESS
 WORSHIPPED BY THE
 JEWISH PEOPLE
- 5. KING FROM HERE
 SENT ISHMAEL TO
 KILL GEDALIAH



Tracking Jeremiah



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Tracking Jeremiah

Cut these events apart and attach them to the map page in chronological order.

Johanan heard about Ishmael's crimes and caught up with him in Gibeon. Johanan freed the captives, but Ishmael got away.

Jeremiah went to Mizpah to stay with Gedaliah the new governor of Judah. A freedom fighter named Johanan came to Mizpah to warn Gedaliah. He said that another freedom fighter named Ishmael was being sent by the Ammonite king to kill him. Gedaliah didn't believe Johanan; but Ishmael did kill Gedaliah in Mizpah. He also killed many other Jews and Babylonians and threw all their bodies in a cistern. He took many captives and headed for Ammon.

Ten days later, Jeremiah told the people that God wanted them to stay in their land: not go to Egypt. In disobedience to God, the people of Judah entered Egypt and when they got to Tahpanhes, Jeremiah laid stones in the entrance to Pharaoh's palace. He told his people that God would destroy them and punish Egypt.

Jeremiah was in Ramah with the captives headed for Babylon, but the Babylonian commander released him and told Jeremiah to go wherever he wanted to go.

Johanan and the other surviving Jews decided to go to Egypt to get away from the Babylonians, but they stopped near Bethlehem. They told Jeremiah to ask the LORD what they should do and they promised to obey him.