

Through The Bible In One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, David W. Shockey.

Daily Scripture Selection

Week 40

Day 274. Isaiah 62.6-65.25; Philippians 2.19-3.4a;
Psalm 73.1-28; and Proverbs 24.13-14.

Day 275. Isaiah 66.1-24; Philippians 3.4b-21;
Psalm 74.1-23; and Proverbs 24.15-16.

Day 276. Jeremiah 1.1-2.30; Philippians 4.1-23;
Psalm 75.1-10; and Proverbs 24.17-20.

Day 277. Jeremiah 2.31-4.18; Colossians 1.1-20;
Psalm 76.1-12; and Proverbs 24.21-22.

Day 278. Jeremiah 4.19-6.14; Colossians 1.21-
2.7; Psalm 77.1-20; and Proverbs 23-25.

Day 279. Jeremiah 6.15-8.7; Colossians 2.8-23;
Psalm 78.1-31; and Proverbs 24.26.

Day 280. Jeremiah 8.8-9.26; Colossians 3.1-17;
Psalm 78.32-55; and Proverbs 24.27.

Through The Bible In One Year: Week 40 Sunday Worship Lessons

First Lesson (Old Testament): Jeremiah 1.4-10
Psalm: 73.21-28

Second (New Testament) Lesson: Philippians 4.4-13

Theme: A Can Do Faith In A Can't Do World

Sunday Scripture Selection and Theme Explanation, Week 40:

Can we not just survive day by day, but in point of fact prevail over the chaos? Modern life in modern society is simply impossible, with all its pressure cooker complications and strictures. In truth, joyful and free life in this fallen world has always been...and will always be...unmanageable and impossible without a can do faith. Even Jeremiah, when called on by God to take an world changing role as a prophet and proclaimer of God's Word, balked declaring 'I am just a youth.' Paul himself had experienced abundance and poverty and even persecution, and yet he learned the 'secret' of a contentment and peace that passes all human understanding. This is the peace we all long for deep within our souls. This peace is available to everyone right now. Paul says confidently "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." As Jeremiah experienced the call of God and received from God the strength he needed to carry out his difficult mission in this contrary world, so Paul found the source of strength and contentment in Jesus Christ himself. His strong personal relationship with Christ was his anchor in the storm and his compass to find direction in this directionless world. Peace and contentment are within everyone's grasp right now, if only they will grasp Christ's outstretched hand in faith and following.

Alternate Readings & Themes:

1. **"Beware the Quicksand of Religion."** Through Jeremiah God warns the Old Testament people of God not to trust in their outward show of religion, or the external trappings of religion like the Temple, in which they placed inordinate trust. Instead, he calls them to turn toward a real relationship with him that is reflected in real justice and compassion toward others. So also, centuries later, Paul warns the Colossian Christians about false teachers who for self-gain would lead them astray, calling them instead to cling to the truth of God's Word and way in Christ. Jeremiah 7.3-14; Psalm 77.1-12; Colossians 2.8-18.
2. **"A New People For A New World."** Our world is dying, and everyone in it. Isaiah the prophet spoke to people that was oppressed and near destruction. In the darkness he proclaimed that God would make a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth. With the death and resurrection of Christ, God has begun making a new humanity, with Christ himself as the firstborn of many sons and daughters to follow. All who are in Christ are called and empowered now to be transformed into new beings created in the image and likeness of Christ. All who believe therefore are to be signs themselves of the new creation God has begun and will one day make complete as at the end of time he ushers in the new heaven and earth Isaiah foretold. Isaiah 65.17-25; Psalm 78.51-55; Colossians 3.1-14.