

## One Year Bible – Week 44

### **Summary: Titus / Philemon / Hebrews Reading**

The book of Titus is the last of the three pastoral letters. It is written as an instructional letter to Titus whom he sent to handle a difficult situation at the church on Crete.

The letter of Philemon is from Paul to Philemon and his church. Philemon's slave Onesimus has run away from Philemon. If found, it was Philemon's lawful right to have Onesimus executed for being a fugitive slave. Paul writes to Philemon telling him that he is sending Onesimus back to Philemon and urging him to accept Onesimus back graciously.

No one knows for sure who wrote the book of Hebrews. However, it is clear that the book of Hebrews is an argument for Christianity over Judaism. For a Jew to leave Judaism and to become a Christian was a point of no return. To a large degree, becoming a Christian meant forsaking a heritage that has been around for thousands of years; one with deep family roots. Hebrews is written to Jews using many Old Testament quotations with the express purpose of saying, Jesus is the way. Leaving Judaism and becoming a Christian was a big decision.

### **Summary: Jeremiah / Lamentations Reading**

The book of Jeremiah ends with a retelling of the account of the fall of Jerusalem as told in chapter 39 and a complemented ending with 2Kings 25.

The book of Lamentations is a series of 5 poems about the fall of Jerusalem (language of "Zion" refers to Jerusalem). The book fits its title as a book of lament; an account of the horrible atrocities that came with the fall of the great city. Chapter 1 – The Destruction of Jerusalem. Chapter 2 – God's Anger. Chapter 3 – Prayer for Mercy. Chapter 4 – The Siege of Jerusalem. Chapter 5 – Prayer for Restoration.

### **Things to Look for and Questions to Ponder as You Read:**

- *OT* – Read the opening of the book of Hebrews – 1:1-4. What do you think the listeners would be thinking and feeling at the moment of beginning this letter? Why do you think the author of the book of Hebrews begins this letter as he does? We know Christ and can study his Word but the listeners of this letter were hearing about Christ with fresh ears. This letter was appealing to them to see their faith in a different context – one that meant change. As you read the book of

Hebrews, read with an awareness of the weight of the decision before its readers. Imagine what reactions this letter would have elicited. – *Oct 30*

### **Small Group Questions:**

- 1) *OT* – Take a few moments in silence and everyone read Lamentations 3:19-42. How would you describe the reason for the author's hope as identified in v 21? Reread verses 19-21. Here and other places the author acknowledges his pain – here he says his "soul is downcast within him." Knowing the author's feelings, how is it that you think he says what he does about hope in verses 21-42? What response is the author calling for from his readers? Why do you think the author is asking for this response? – *Oct 30*
- 2) *NT* – Read Titus 2:11-14. How would you say the grace of God "teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self controlled, upright and godly lives..." (v 12)? Why does Paul say Jesus gave himself in v 14? What does this mean in terms of the way we live? Read Titus 3:5a. How does this verse and its context connect to the verses we just read? – *Oct 27-28*

### **Journal the Psalms this week:**

Read Psalm 100. This is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving for who he is and consequently what he has done. Pray these words as if they are your own. Pray them as if you are proclaiming to those you know to praise God with thanksgiving because of who he is. What do you feel? Journal about your time with God praying Psalm 100. – *Oct 28*

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### **Reading Schedule:**

Jer = Jeremiah / La = Lamentations / 2Ti = 2Timothy / Tit = Titus / Phm = Philemon / Heb = Hebrews / Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



Oct 25 – Jer 48:1-49:22 / 2Ti 4:1-22 / Ps 95:1-96:13 / Pr 26:9-12  
Oct 26 – Jer 49:23-50:46 / Tit 1:1-16 / Ps 97:1-98:9 / Pr 26:13-16  
Oct 27 – Jer 51:1-53 / Tit 2:1-15 / Ps 99:1-9 / Pr 26:17  
Oct 28 – Jer 51:54-52:34 / Tit 3:1-15 / Ps 100:1-5 / Pr 26:18-19  
Oct 29 – La 1:1-2:19 / Phm 1:1-25 / Ps 101:1-8 / Pr 26:20  
Oct 30 – La 2:20-3:66 / Heb 1:1-14 / Ps 102:1-28 / Pr 26:21-22  
Oct 31 – La 4:1-5:22 / Heb 2:1-18 / Ps 103:1-22 / Pr 26:23