

# Lesson 42

## “I Will Write It in Their Hearts”

### Jeremiah Part 2

Purpose: To encourage us to participate in God’s great latter-day work and to have his law written in our hearts.

My lessons take a different path than the Gospel Doctrine lesson manual. The lesson outline looks closer at the doctrinal topics included in the lesson purpose and scripture block. The lessons are designed to challenge mature, active Latter-Day Saints who have a solid Gospel foundation and are looking for insights into the scriptures that will broaden their faith and understanding.

If you are interested in downloading the PowerPoint file, links to source material or reading posts about improving Gospel Doctrine class preparation, delivery and engagement, you can join my Facebook Group and have full access to the content posted there. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188904648521022/>

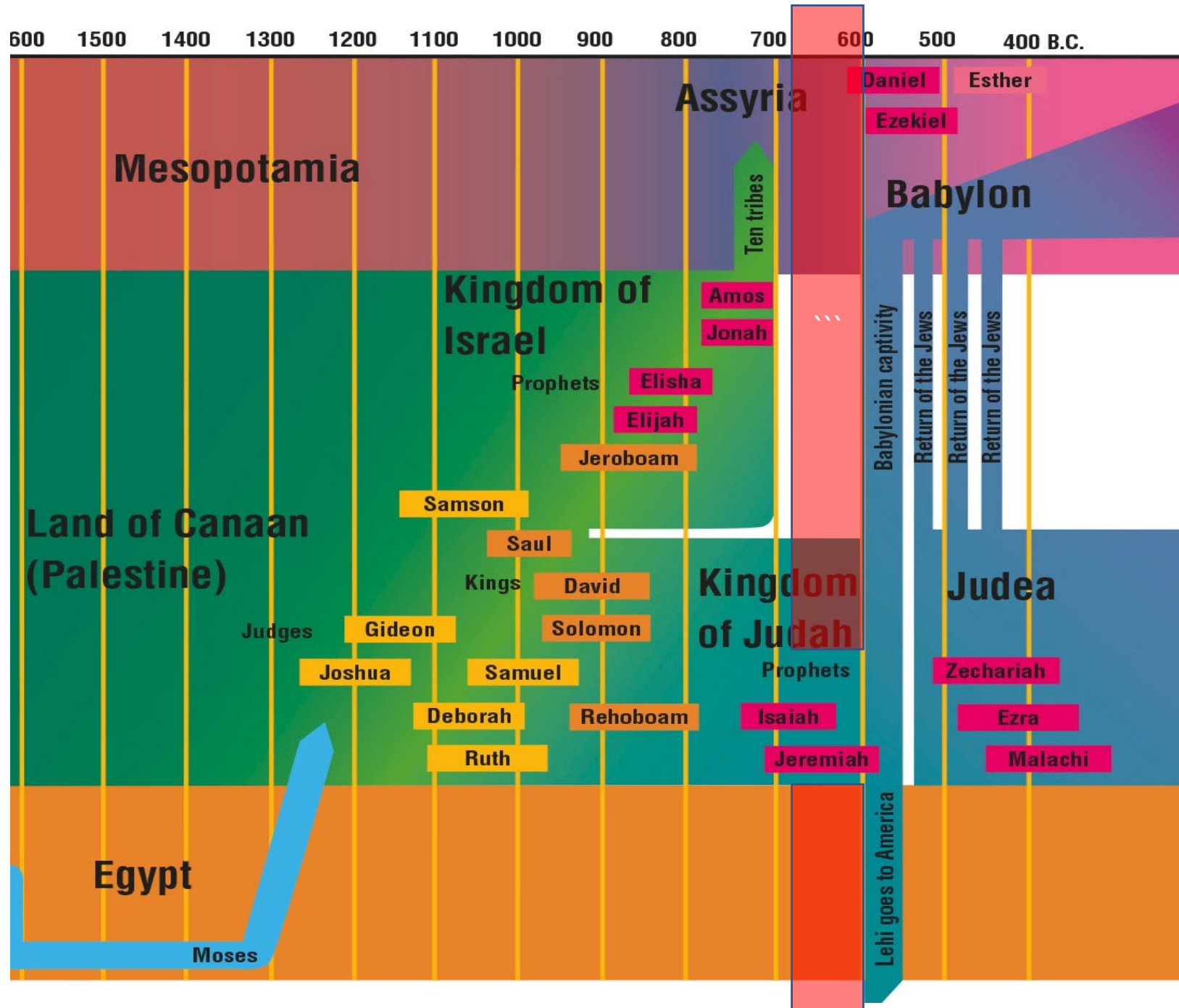
# Last Week's Lesson Challenge

Last week we were asked to remember when you had a time of great opposition or adversity. Who did you fall back upon, yourself or faith in Jesus Christ?

Last week's lesson challenge was to consider where your real heart lies before adversity comes again and consider what greater value a strong faith in Jesus Christ's redeemer power will have as you struggle.

Would anyone wish to share their thoughts at this time?

# Isaiah



## Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 ¶ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

These scriptures, especially Verse 3, *“I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”* can be interpreted in several ways. Like many scriptures, they have different meanings often for different people or times.

**One way to interpret the phrase is to place it in an individual context.** Up to Jeremiah’s time, Israel and then Judah’s law was the Law of Moses, a complex system of not only beliefs, but also ways to live, things to eat, clothing to wear and so forth. This can be called the letter of the law, the lesser law or the Aaronic Priesthood law because, due to their idol worship at the foot of Mount Sinai, the spirit of the law, the higher law or the Melchizedek Priesthood was generally taken from them.

**Another way to interpret the phrase is in the context of the restoration of Israel in the Latter Days.** Judah was under siege by the Assyrians and then the Babylonians. Jeremiah knew Judah and Jerusalem would fall into the hands of the Babylonians. Jeremiah was told that Israel would be redeemed in the Latter Days and the difference would be, not through a series of lesser laws, but with the higher law. Israel would be redeemed and return to Jerusalem and Zion through the Melchizedek Priesthood and the Fullness of Times.

We are going to look at both of these interpretations.

How do we individualize Jehovah's call:

*“I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*

The people of Jeremiah's Jerusalem had hardened their hearts and lived the lesser laws not by faith, but because they had always done it that way. They knew no other way to live and their society expected them to not deviate from those lesser laws.

Can we guilty of a similar way of faith and life?

In our daily lives can our faith be more a blind devotion to the lesser laws of the Church than the higher laws of the Gospel? If so, in what way?

If we had the laws of the Gospel "put in our inward parts" and "written" in our hearts, would we think, act and live our lives differently? Again, if so, in what way?

## Romans 2:28-29

28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:  
29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Letter of the Law (Lesser Law)	Spirit of the Law (Higher Law)
Paying tithing	Consecrating your time and talents
Paying a fast offering	Going out and feeding and clothing the poor
Holding a grudge because you are right	Forgiving no matter the circumstances
Praying to overcome your own difficulties	Praying for guidance to help others overcome their difficulties
Home or visiting teaching once a month as requested	Ministering on a daily basis by having your neighbor in your thoughts and prayers and making an effort to be of continual comfort and assistance
Talking with a friend about the Gospel when asked	Always being a true friend, being an example of the Gospel in action and inviting friends, when prompted by the Holy Spirit, to learn about the Gospel



In an April 2018 General Conference address, Sister Jean B. Bingham, Relief Society General President said the following:

The Savior is our example in everything—not only in what we should do but why we should do it. “His life on earth was [an] invitation to us—to raise our sights a little higher, to forget our own problems and [to] reach out to others.” As we accept the opportunity to wholeheartedly minister to our sisters and brothers, we are blessed to become more spiritually refined, more in tune with the will of God, and more able to understand His plan to help each one return to Him. We will more readily recognize His blessings and be eager to extend those blessings to others. May we show our gratitude and love for God by ministering with love to our eternal sisters and brothers.

I gladly bear my personal witness that these revelatory changes are inspired of God and that, as we embrace them with willing hearts, we will become better prepared to meet His Son, Jesus Christ, at His coming. We will be closer to becoming a Zion people and will feel surpassing joy with those whom we have helped along the path of discipleship.

What can understand about what Jehovah was teaching Jeremiah and, eventually us, about the restoration of Israel and Judah through the scripture:

*“I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*

The prophet Jeremiah lived through one of the most troubled periods of history in the ancient Near East. He witnessed the fall of a great empire (Assyria) and the rising of another (Babylon). In the midst of this turmoil the kingdom of Judah was ruled by five kings, four of them deplorable. Jeremiah declared God's message for forty years, warning of coming disaster and appealing in vain to the nation to turn back to God.

The Lord showed Jeremiah a vision of the future that put the calamities he had witnessed into a perspective of hope. Like other prophets of his time (Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, Micah, and Zechariah), Jeremiah was shown that scattered Israel would one day be gathered, that Judah would return to the lands of her possession, and that eventually all of Israel would become great. These visions and prophecies were recorded by Jeremiah and for centuries have provided hope to a nation of suffering people. They hold a very important place in the latter-day work of restoration.

## [Jeremiah 33:9-14](#)

9 ¶ And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

10 Thus saith the Lord; Again there shall be heard in this place, which ye say shall be desolate without man and without beast, even in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, that are desolate, without man, and without inhabitant, and without beast,

11 The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the Lord of hosts: for the Lord is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the Lord.

12 Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down.

13 In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the vale, and in the cities of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, shall the flocks pass again under the hands of him that telleth them, saith the Lord.

14 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

Jeremiah, after all that he had seen and all the pain and suffering he had endured at the hands of the Judeans, see a vision of Jehovah's future for Judah and Jerusalem where the happiness that it had in Jehovah when it was obedient, returns in the Latter Days.

### **Jeremiah 33:11**

*11 The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the Lord of hosts: for the Lord is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the Lord.*

Regarding the restoration of the House of Israel and Judah in the Latter-Days, the Prophet Joseph Smith, talking to the Latter-Day Saints said the following:

“Christ, in the days of His flesh, proposed to make a covenant with them, but they rejected Him and His proposals, and in consequence thereof, they were broken off, and no covenant was made with them at that time. But their unbelief has not rendered the promise of God of none effect: no, for there was another day limited in David, which was the day of His power; and then His people, Israel, should be a willing people;—and He would write His law in their hearts, and print it in their thoughts; their sins and their iniquities He would remember no more.

“Thus after this chosen family had rejected Christ and His proposals, the heralds of salvation said to them, ‘Lo, we turn unto the Gentiles;’ and the Gentiles received the covenant, and were grafted in from whence the chosen family were broken off; but the Gentiles have not continued in the goodness of God, but have departed from the faith that was once delivered to the Saints, and have broken the covenant in which their fathers were established [see Isaiah 24:5]. ...

“And now what remains to be done, under circumstances like these? I will proceed to tell you what the Lord requires of all people, high and low, rich and poor, male and female, ministers and people, professors of religion and non-professors, in order that they may enjoy the Holy Spirit of God to a fulness and escape the judgments of God, which are almost ready to burst upon the nations of the earth. Repent of all your sins, and be baptized in water for the remission of them, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and receive the ordinance of the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power, that ye may receive the Holy Spirit of God; and this is according to the Holy Scriptures, and the Book of Mormon; and the only way that man can enter into the celestial kingdom. These are the requirements of the new covenant.” (History of the Church, 1:313–14.)

The restoration of both the Jews to Judah has occurred. In the Lord's time, the Ten Tribes of Israel will also return. The Gospel has been restored to humankind and the restoration of the Melchizedek Priesthood has brought back the Fullness of Times so that we can enjoy the opportunity of Eternal Life.

However, we must do our part. Jesus Christ, through the Atonement, has fulfilled Jeremiah 31:33. His supreme sacrifice for not only ourselves, but humankind, has fulfilled the promise made to Jeremiah:

### **Jeremiah 31:33**

*33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

Just as the Atonement has been laid out before us, there for us to take through our humility and obedience, so Jesus Christ has placed his Gospel in our “inward parts, and write it in their hearts.” Further, we can accept what has been written in our hearts by living gospel principles of faith, hope and charity.

## **This Week's Lesson Challenge**

To recognize and acknowledge that Jesus Christ has placed his Gospel in our “inward parts, and write it in their hearts” we must live Gospel principles of faith, hope and charity.

This week's challenge is to look for ways in our daily lives that we can show our acknowledgement of the Gospel in our inward parts and heart through ministering to those around us.