



“Open Church – Open Bible”

Clabon Bogan Jr. – Interim Pastor



Sunday Church School

August 1, 2021

“Jeremiah Stands Up to Deadly Threats”-- Jer. 26:1, 4-15

Golden Text: Jer. 26:13

“Open Church – Open Bible”

Jer. 26:1-15

¹ In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD, saying,

² "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship *in* the LORD'S house, all the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word.

³ Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.'

⁴ And you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: "If you will not listen to Me, to walk in My law which I have set before you,

⁵ to heed the words of My servants the prophets whom I sent to you, both rising up early and sending *them* (but you have not heeded),

⁶ then I will make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth." ‘ ‘

“*Open Church – Open Bible*”

⁷ So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD.

⁸ Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded *him* to speak to all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, "You will surely die!

⁹ Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without an inhabitant?'" And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰ When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and sat down in the entry of the New Gate of the LORD'S *house*.

¹¹ And the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, "This man deserves to die! For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears."

“Open Church – Open Bible”

¹² Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying: "The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city with all the words that you have heard.

¹³ Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God; then the Lord will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you.

¹⁴ As for me, here I am, in your hand; do with me as seems good and proper to you.

¹⁵ But know for certain that if you put me to death, you will surely bring innocent blood on yourselves, on this city, and on its inhabitants; for truly the Lord has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

TODAY'S AIM

Facts: to realize that those who preach the Word of God are subject to persecution.

Principle: to emphasize that faithfulness to God is more important than escaping the persecution of the world.

Application: to trust the Lord to protect you when you feel threatened for speaking up for Him.

“Open Church – Open Bible”

FAITHFUL PREACHING



► Personal Opinion

► Confusion

► Ridicule

Jeremiah 26 has connection to Jeremiah 7 in that they both deal with Jeremiah's sermon given in the temple.

The sermon is summarized in V 3–7, where the emphasis is on *hearing the Word of God* (see also 25:3–8).

Jeremiah preached exactly what God commanded him to preach and didn't alter the message in order to please the people.

The false prophets of his day preached what the people wanted to hear, but Jeremiah preached what the people needed to hear.

- God told Jeremiah “Whatever I command thee thou shalt speak” (1:7).

“Open Church – Open Bible”

Life in 608 B.C. in Jerusalem was tumultuous to say the least; as the nation of Judah was grieving the death of one of her greatest kings, Josiah.

Unfortunately, his sons did not uphold the righteous values that marked Josiah’s reign, and the nation began a very rapid downward spiral.

- The people rejected God in spite of the warnings of many prophets of God, most notably Jeremiah.
- Jeremiah often stood alone against the wickedness of his culture, and his righteous stance nearly cost him his life on more than one occasion.

The people in the temple, however, encouraged by the priests and false prophets, rejected Jeremiah’s message and treated him like a false prophet who deserved to die.

To them, it was blasphemous for Jeremiah to declare that Jehovah would allow the holy city and His holy temple to fall into the defiling and destructive hands of the heathen the way the ark at Shiloh fell into the hands of the Philistines (1 Sam. 4).

“Open Church – Open Bible”

Since God’s covenant with David protected the city and the temple, actually Jeremiah was denying the covenant!

- They felt he was leading the people astray and deserved to die (Deut. 18:20).

Receiving a report about a tumult in the temple, the officials left the palace and came to the temple to see what was occurring.

- This reminds us of Paul’s experience recorded in Acts 21:27–40.

After hearing the **people, priests, and prophets** charge Jeremiah with blasphemy, they gave the prophet opportunity to speak.

- Jeremiah then presented three arguments in his defense.

The LESSON OUTLINE:

- I. JEREMIAH’S MESSAGE FROM THE LORD —Jer. 26:1, 4-6**
- II. THE CROWD’S ANGRY REACTION —Jer. 26:7-11**
- III. JEREMIAH’S DEFENSE AND WARNING —Jer. 26:12-15**

“Open Church – Open Bible”

I. JEREMIAH’S MESSAGE FROM THE LORD —Jer. 26:1, 4-6

- To get the proper perspective for our lesson, we must jump back in time a little more than 150 years before Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls.
- That places us at “the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah,” who was the last godly king Judah would ever have before the Exile.
- The Prophet Jeremiah began his ministry about halfway through Josiah’s reign, and he lamented the former king’s death when he perished in an ill-advised battle against Pharaoh Necho of Egypt.
- It was Necho who quickly deposed Josiah’s son Jehoahaz, who had succeeded his father, and installed Jehoahaz’s older brother, Jehoiakim, on the throne (II Kgs. 23:29-36).
- Unlike his father, Jehoiakim was an ungodly monarch who was unremittingly hostile to Jeremiah.
- He once showed his contempt for the prophet’s writings by cutting up his scroll with a knife and burning the pieces in a firepot (Jer. 36:21-24). The Lord responded by having Jeremiah write it all out again—this time with added material (V 28-32).

“Open Church – Open Bible”

- About three years after the events in chapter 26, the Babylonians marched on Jerusalem under their powerful new ruler Nebuchadnezzar,
- The Babylonians besieged Jerusalem in 605 B.C. and soon carried off the first set of captives to Babylon which included Daniel and his friends.
- The circumstances of Jehoiakim’s death are uncertain, but he died shortly before Nebuchadnezzar returned in 597 to take more captives.
- But before all this happened, we are told in Jeremiah 26:1 that the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah.
- He was to go to the outer court of the temple and deliver an important message to the people of Judah (V. 2).
- Jeremiah did not have to guess at what the message would be, for the Lord gave him the exact words to say.
- It was not a complicated message: “If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law” “to hearken to the words of my servants” “then I will make this house like Shiloh (7:14 “desolate”) and make this city a curse “ (V 4-6)

“Open Church – Open Bible”

- The obvious problem, of course, was that the people had not been living in line with God’s law and they had been spurning it for a long time.
- If they did not start listening and change their ways, trouble was about to ensue.
- The Lord expanded on the previous challenge, mentioning His servants the prophets, whom He had repeatedly sent to the people (Hebraism V5 “rising up early”)
- Despite God’s strong sense of urgency and persistence, the people’s response was numbingly consistent: “Ye have not hearkened.”
- God is extraordinarily patient (*longsuffering*) with people who spend their lives with their backs turned to Him.
- He will send appeal after appeal and warning after warning, for it gives Him no pleasure to bring judgment.
- But a point comes when repeated spurning reaches its limit, and judgment must descend; and Judah were right at that point now.
- The Lord had started with a simple condition, an “if” (V4); and now He revealed the conclusion, “then” (v6) He stated what would happen.

“Open Church – Open Bible”

II. THE CROWD’S ANGRY REACTION

—Jer. 26:7-11

- Regarding Jeremiah’s audience, the statement in V 7 almost sounds promising as all gathered [priests, prophets, and people] appeared to be attentive as they [“heard Jeremiah speaking these words.”]
- The word rendered “heard” could just as well be translated “listened” or even “hearkened.”
- There is no question they got the message. But that is the best that can be said. After that point, everything immediately went downhill.
- Jeremiah finished his message, repeating everything the Lord had commanded him to say.
- Obviously, the full message was more extensive than the summary sentences given in V 4-6, depicting details of the nation’s infidelity to God.
- Although calm and quiet while Jeremiah spoke, as soon as he was finished, the crowd erupted into a mob scene.
- Everyone—the priests, the prophets, and the people (the repetition in V 8 is clearly deliberate)—crowded around him and forcibly grabbed him

“Open Church – Open Bible”

- Shouts for his death went up from the mob: [“Thou shalt surely die” carries the emphatic force of “You must die!” or even “Kill him!”]
- The people were particularly upset with Jeremiah’s declaration that the temple would be destroyed like Shiloh.
- What right did he have to prophesy a horrible thing like that? Their use of the words “in the name of the Lord” (V 9) indicates they were accusing Jeremiah of false prophecy.
- The thought that it might actually be from the Lord was something they were unwilling to consider.
- They were just as offended by the warning that Jerusalem was to be made “desolate without an inhabitant.”
- The question for us is, how could they hold such vehement hostility toward these warnings?
- Nobody, of course, likes to hear that their city or country or church is about to be destroyed in divine judgment.

“Open Church – Open Bible”

- Many people today react negatively, either with scoffing or hostility, when a preacher proclaims that God’s judgment is coming.
- But the reaction of the Jerusalem crowd went deeper than that. When Jeremiah spoke against the temple, he violated a deeply held taboo in his society.
- The temple, after all, was the place where God had chosen to put His name; it was the dwelling place of His presence among His people.
- That made it a holy place, and any attack on it, verbal or otherwise, was viewed as an act of desecration and sacrilege—literally speaking against God.
- All of this was true as far as it went, but the people of Judah had gone beyond a legitimate and devout respect for God’s dwelling place.
- In fact, they flagrantly disrespected the temple by their unholy living and flouting of God’s will for them.
- Instead, they had transferred respect for the Lord to a veneration of the physical structure in their midst
- As Jesus said in Luke 19:46 dishonorable acts turn God house into a den of thieves

“Open Church – Open Bible”

- In essence, they came to believe that the mere presence of the temple protected them from all danger, even (and perhaps especially) divine wrath.
- The sacredness of the temple had morphed into a convenient but deeply entrenched belief in their own immunity from harm’ placing them above the law
- The outcry against Jeremiah became so loud and persistent that it reached the ears of the royal officials in the palace.
- They quickly made their way over and took their places at the New Gate entrance to the Lord’s house, intending to investigate the disturbance.
- The priests and the court prophets duly presented their accusations to the officials and to all the people assembled around them.
- Sadly, they began their adjudication with “judgment” and not “investigation” declaring that Jeremiah was deserving of death.
- Then they stated the crime: “he hath prophesied against this city” (V 11); so speaking against **the city** and **the Temple**, Jeremiah was guilty of treason

“Open Church – Open Bible”

III. JEREMIAH’S DEFENSE AND WARNING —Jer. 26:12-15

- The presence of the palace officials brought some order to the mob chaos surrounding Jeremiah, and he was allowed to speak in his own defense.
- He unapologetically, declared to both the officials and the people that it was the Lord who had sent him to prophesy against both the temple and the city.
- Jeremiah then turned the focus directly around, stating the insult and injury to the temple came not from him but from the people and leaders themselves.
- And they could remove the threat by changing the evil way they were living. “Amend your ways and your doings” (V 13) is a call for repentance.
- Trying to find security in the temple’s presence while dishonoring the will of the One who had hallowed it was a dangerous exercise.
- Jeremiah declared that if the people heeded this call, the Lord would rescind the decree of disaster He had pronounced against them.
- This put the responsibility for the temple and city’s well-being squarely on their shoulders, where it belonged.

“Open Church – Open Bible”

- Jeremiah realized that his outspoken defense might have no effect on the crowd’s determination to do away with him.
- He therefore conceded that he was in their power and they could do to him whatever they saw fit – but that concession came with a warning.
- The warning was simple: If they put Jeremiah to death as they had intended, they would “bring innocent blood” upon themselves (V 15)
- This was a standard way of saying that they, the whole city and its inhabitants would incur the guilt of killing an innocent man.
- The severity of the warning is extended by the fact that the declaration that just heard was from the Lord who had sent him to speak the words they heard
- They could eliminate him, but they would never free themselves of the truth of his words or the impending judgment against them.



“Open Church – Open Bible”

“ADVANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”



1. When does our lesson take place?
2. How did the Lord begin His message to the people? What did the Lord promise to do if the people did not heed the message?
3. What happened when Jeremiah finished speaking? What was most offensive to the people in what Jeremiah had said?
4. Why did the royal officials step into the situation?
5. Why did the priests and people call for Jeremiah's death?
6. How did Jeremiah turn the charge of treason back on his accusers?
7. What was the gist of Jeremiah's warning about killing him? Where was the truth in the dispute at hand?

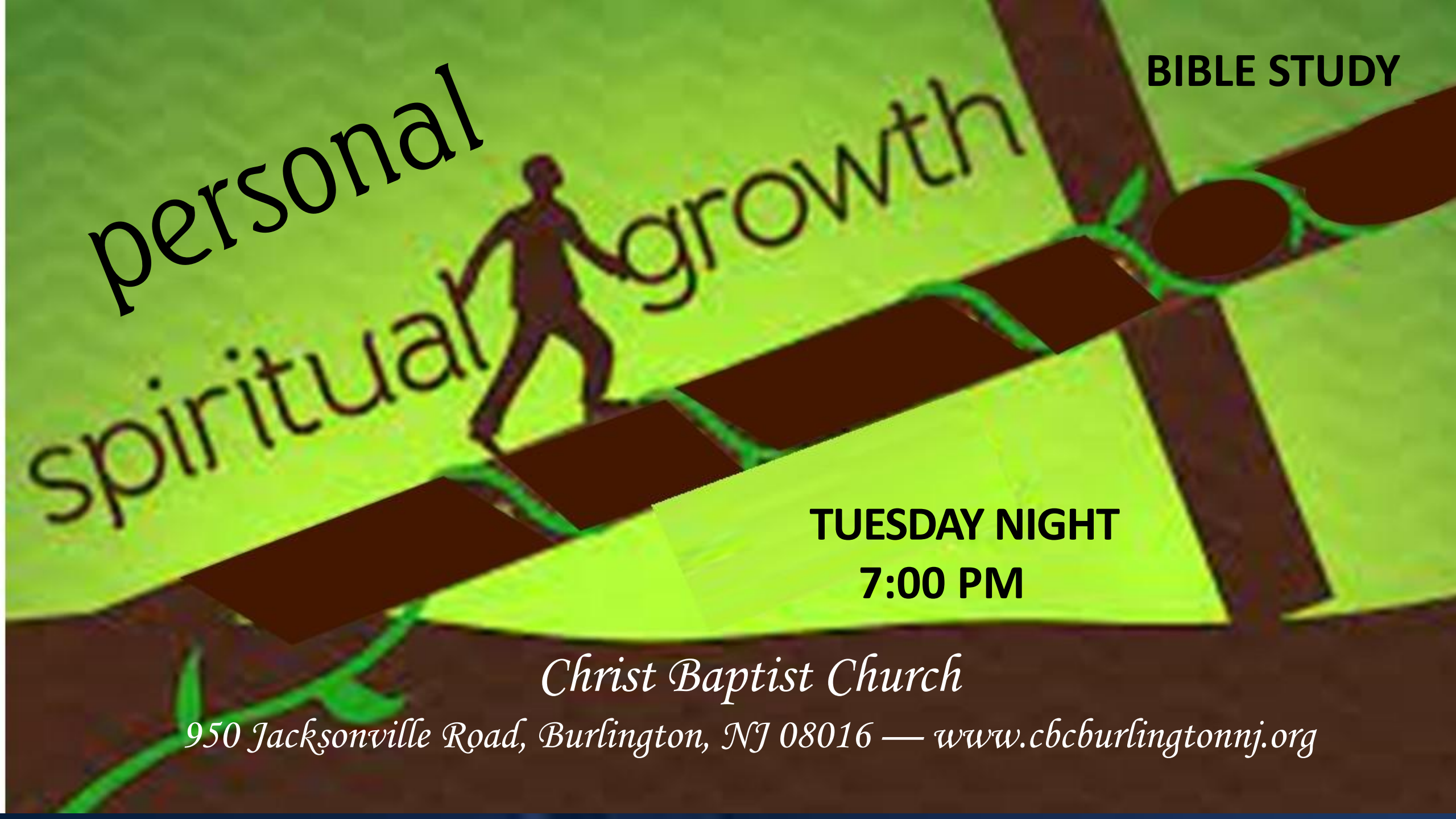


“Open Church – Open Bible”

“DEVELOPING THE LESSON”



- 1. Jeremiah preaches God’s word (Jer. 26:1, 4-6).** Josiah’s second son, Jehoiakim, became king of Judah after the very brief reign of his older brother, Jehoahaz. At some point near the beginning of Jehoiakim’s reign, the Lord gave a message to Jeremiah for the people of Judah. It was not only a message of judgment but also a call to repentance. What is involved in repentance?
- 2. The people reject Jeremiah (Jer. 26:7-11).** Jeremiah’s audience included priests, prophets, and the people in Jerusalem. When he finished speaking, they all grabbed him and said he must die for speaking such terrible things to them. What are the distinctions between a true prophet and a false prophet?
- 3. Jeremiah rebukes the people (Jer. 26:12-15).** Jeremiah was being formally charged with treason for speaking against Jerusalem. He defended himself by saying that the Lord had sent him with this message. How do we determine if the message is from man or from God?



BIBLE STUDY

personal spiritual growth

**TUESDAY NIGHT
7:00 PM**

Christ Baptist Church

950 Jacksonville Road, Burlington, NJ 08016 — www.cbcburlingtonnj.org

Fuel for Courage

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 7:00 PM

Live Interactive Bible Study

Zoom 890 6756 9781

Passcode 510309

Fuel

For

Courage

Man 2 Man

MENS ZOOM FELLOWSHIP

Saturday August 14, 2021 - 8:00 AM

IRON SHARPENS IRON,
AND ONE MAN
SHARPENS ANOTHER

ZOOM ID

833 7785 8650

Password: 114660

FACILITATORS

Rev. Guy Bowens

Min. Nate Cheers

PROVERBS 27:17

“Open Church – Open Bible”

Communication Information

Thank you for sharing today at the “Open Church-Open Bible Ministry at the Christ Baptist Church.

If this lesson has been a blessing to you, and you desire to support Christ Baptist , please go to <http://www.cbcburlingtonnj.org/>, click on the **GIVE tab at the top of the page and follow the prompts**

**Or Send Your Donations by Mail to
Christ Baptist Church, PO Box 10, Burlington NJ 08016**

A copy of this lesson can be obtained by going to the **CBC Website at <http://www.cbcburlingtonnj.org/>, **Click at the SUNDAY SCHOOL TAB**
A copy of the Weekly Lesson PDF will be available for downloading**

www.cbcburlingtonnj.org e-mail churchoffice@cbcburlingtonnj.org 609.387.1234