LESSONS THIS QUARTER
1) 05 June .............. Jeremiah 1 .............. Accept Your Commission
2) 12 June .............. Jeremiah 2-6 .............. Get Back on Track
3) 19 June .............. Jeremiah 7-10 .............. Live Above Board
4) 26 June .............. Jeremiah 11-15 .............. Rise above the Tide
5) 03 July .............. Jeremiah 16-18 .............. Never Say it is Hopeless
6) 10 July .............. Jeremiah 19-21 .............. Submit to Divine Discipline
7) 17 July .............. Jeremiah 22-25 .............. Keep Your Behavior in Line
8) 24 July .............. Jeremiah 26-29 .............. Settle Down
9) 31 July .............. Jeremiah 30-33 .............. Check Your Direction

10) 07 Aug .............. Jeremiah 34-39 ................ Stay True
11) 14 Aug .............. Jeremiah 40-45 .............. Follow Orders
12) 21 Aug .............. Jeremiah 52 .............. Recognize the Lord’s Authority
13) 28 Aug .............. Lamentations 1-5 .............. Rely on the Lord’s Love

INTRODUCTION
- Abstaining from alcohol blessed the Rechabites for all eternity
- Six other groups of people were also to avoid alcohol/drunkenness
  1. Nazarites (those who took a special vow) ........ Numbers 6:2-3
  2. Spiritual Leaders (Priests) ....................... Leviticus 10:9
  3. Political Rulers (Kings) ......................... Proverbs 31:4
  4. Church Elders (not given to drunkenness) .... 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7
  5. Church Deacons (not given to much wine) ...... 1 Timothy 3:8
  6. Spiritually mature women (not given to much wine) .... Titus 2:3

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<th>Passage</th>
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| Jeremiah 34:1-22 | The Jews Worship God with their lips…
| • To curvy God’s favor the Jews who owned Hebrew slaves set them free – but only for a time
| • By law, the Jews could own Hebrew slaves, but only for 6 years ................................. Exodus 21:2
| • v16. When the Jews reneged on their covenant and enslaved their poor brothers again, God took it as polluting His name
| • vv17-22. Punishment would be harsh enslavement of the slave owners and destruction of Jerusalem
| • Psalms 66:3 ’... Because of the greatness of Your power Your servants give feigned obedience to You’
| Jeremiah 35:1-19 | Rechabites Will Always Stand Before God
| • vv1-2.6. God tested the Rechabites by asking them to drink wine – but they refused since it would be in violation of their dad’s orders to drink no wine
| • vv18-19. God’s promise to the faithful Rechabites – They would always have a man standing before Him
| • This was a challenge to the Jews to obey God as the Rechabites obeyed their earthly father
| Other Long Term Promises | 1. David will always have a man on his throne .......... Jer 33:17
| 2. Levites will always be offering burnt offerings .......... 33:18
| 3. Sons of Zadok will always be before God ................. Ezek 44:15
| 36:1-32 | Every Generation Is One Generation Away from Apostasy
| • King Josiah, one of the best Kings of Judah, attempted to turn Israel around for God .......................... 2 Kings 23
| • vv24-25. Josiah’s, Jehoiakim, destroyed God’s word
| 37:21 | False Accusations Impрин the Innocent Man
| • vv14-15. Jeremiah’s accused of being a traitor
| • Jesus and the Apostles were frequently falsely accused
| • Their response and ours should be – bless and pray for those who despitefully use you ................................ Mat 5:44
| Jeremiah’s Situation Goes from Bad to Worse | v6. Jeremiah is put into a cistern to die
| v7-13. Ebedmehel seems to be Jeremiah’s one lone convert after years of preaching for the Lord, and rescues Jeremiah from the cistern very carefully
| 38:1-28 | Babylon captures Jerusalem and King Zedekiah
| • vv6-7. The cruelty of war – Zedekiah’s sons are killed before his eyes, then his eyes are put out and he is exiled

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<th>Key Passages on Intoxicating Drinks</th>
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| Genesis 9:21 He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. | First incidence of drinking alcohol in the Bible reveals it releases inhibitions
| Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. | 2nd incidence of wine in the Bible reflects it was a favored component for socializing
| Genesis 19:32 “Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him that we may preserve our family through him | 3rd incidence of wine in the Bible led to incest and the creation of 2 wicked nations (Moabites and Ammonites)
| Genesis 27:28 Now may God give you of the … fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine; | Wine (or possibly beer made from grain) was considered a blessing from God
| Exodus 29:40 … and there shall be … one-fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering with one lamb | Wine, because of its economic significance, was often part of a sacrifice demanded by God
| Psalms 4:7 [God has] put gladness in my heart, More than when grain and new wine abound. | Gladness from God is more satisfying than an abundance of food and wine
| Psalms 104:15 And wine which makes man’s heart glad, so that God may make his face glisten with oil, and food which sustains man’s heart. | “Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy”

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise. | It is the misuse of alcoholic beverages, which is a problem for an individual and society
| Proverbs 21:17 He who loves pleasure will become a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not become rich. | … and the over-indulgence of a good thing also leads to financial woes
| Proverbs 23:20 Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat; | God puts gluttony and drunkenness in the same basket – It takes discipline to live right
| Proverbs 31:4 Kings should not drink wine, Rulers should avoid strong drink | Simple rule to live by – if you are a leader, avoid alcohol
| Proverbs 31:6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to him whose life is bitter. | Medicinal value of alcohol
| John 2:1-10 … they said to him, “Every man serves the good wine first, … but you have kept the good wine till now” | When Jesus turned water into wine, He didn’t make the cheap stuff
| Mark 15:23 They tried to give Jesus wine mixed with myrrh; but He did not take it. | Jesus did not want his senses dulled from experiencing God’s full wrath on our sins
| Romans 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. | If our eating and drinking causes others to avoid Christ, then we should be willing to curtail it

NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 40-45. The last of the Judean kings to sit on a throne, King Zedekiah, is exiled to Babylon, and Jeremiah is taken to Egypt – Will the misery ever end?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS
- When someone ‘throws you under the bus’ or tosses you into a well, be content & glorify God ……Philippians 4:11; 1Peter 4:14-16
- There are benefits to living a disciplined life like the Rechabites (see side-table on intoxicating drinks)

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