**The Book of Jeremiah**

CHAPTER FOUR: If…

In Chapter 4, Jeremiah wades through a myriad of oppressive emotions, ranging from confusion to frustration. He begins with declaring God’s warnings of destruction, but then engages God in a litany of questions about Judah’s preset condition. He decries what he sees as God’s apparent deceit of the people, and then expresses his utter frustration about such a dismal future. Again, we see feminine metaphors that end the chapter regarding Judah’s fate.

Outline

1. If Only You Would Take Heed 1-4
2. Destruction is Coming 5-9
3. Questioning God—God’s Response 10-17
4. Jeremiah’s Despair 18-26
5. God’s Warning Continues 27-31

Questions for Study

1. Although feminine metaphors are at the closing of the chapter, new metaphors are used earlier, including seeds and thorns (v.3). What is this reminiscent of in the new Testament, and what do the terms mean here?
2. Jeremiah becomes so distraught that he practically accuses God of deceit. Is this blasphemy?
3. Where else do we see the metaphor about women in labor as an explanation about the people’s fate?

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_