

Jeremiah had tough job as prophet

Have you ever had a difficult job? Had a task at hand that you just didn't feel capable of doing? The prophet Jeremiah could relate to your situation.

He wrote at Jeremiah 1:4-6: "And the word of God began to occur to me, saying: 'Before I was forming you in the belly I knew you, and before you proceeded to come forth from the womb I sanctified you. Prophet to the nations I made you.'

"But I said: 'Alas, O Sovereign Lord! Here I actually do not know how to speak, for I am but a boy.'"

Serving as a prophet was a big assignment, but in Jeremiah's case, it was especially difficult because he had to deliver God's judgments to His unfaithful people.

Jeremiah 5:1-3, 7, 31 say, "Grooving about in the streets of Jerusalem and see, now, and know, and seek for yourselves in her public squares whether you can find a man, whether there exists anyone doing justice, anyone seeking faithfulness, and I shall forgive her. Even if they should say: 'As God is alive!' they would thereby be swearing to sheer falsehood.

"O God, are not those eyes of yours toward faithfulness? You have struck them, but they did not become ill. You exterminated them. They refused to take discipline. They made their faces harder than



sharon corcoran

- use it or lose it

a crag. They refused to turn back.

"How can I forgive you for this very thing? Your own sons have left me, and they keep swearing by what is no God. And I kept satisfying them, but they continued committing adultery, and to the house of a prostitute woman they go in troops.

"The prophets themselves actually prophesy in falsehood; and as for the priests, they go subduing according to their powers. And my own people have loved it that way; and what will you men do in the finale of it?"

They were supposed to be God's people; they were members of a nation dedicated to Him, but they served false gods, were unjust in their dealings with others and hurried to do evil things.

Furthermore, they were stubborn. God had pleaded with them to turn things around. He had disciplined them severely, and that didn't faze them either. The first 20 chapters of Jeremiah list sins prevalent in Judah and Jerusalem. In chapter 21,

the people asked Jeremiah to inquire of God how He would help them in battle against Babylon.

Jeremiah 21:4-6 says, "'This is what the God of Israel has said: 'Here I am turning in reverse the weapons of war that are in the hand of you people, with which you are fighting the king of Babylon, and the Chaldeans who are laying siege against you outside the wall, and I will gather them into the middle of this city. And I myself will fight against you with a stretched-out hand and with a strong arm and with anger and with rage and with great indignation. And I will strike the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast. With a great pestilence they will die.'"

Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon, a tremendous number of the city's inhabitants killed and the survivors taken captive to Babylon. Was this the end? No, for God also had Jeremiah record prophecies for a better future, another chance for His people.

Jeremiah 30:3 says, "For, 'look! there are days coming,' is the utterance of God, 'and I will gather the captive ones of my people, Israel and Judah,' God has said, 'and I will bring them back to the land that I

gave to their forefathers, and they will certainly repossess it.'"

But this restoration did not happen quickly; they were captives in Babylon for 70 years in the meantime. In the book of Lamentations, Jeremiah expressed sorrow over the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of the people and hope in God's mercy.

Lamentations 1:1 says, "O how she has come to sit solitary, the city that was abundant with people! How she has become like a widow, she that was populous among the nations! How she that was a princess among the jurisdictional districts has come to be for forced labor!"

Lamentations 3:22-24 says, "It is the acts of loving-kindness of God that we have not come to our finish, because his mercies will certainly not come to an end. They are new each morning. Your faithfulness is abundant. 'God is my share,' my soul has said, 'that is why I show a waiting attitude for him.'"

God does not ignore wrongdoing and allow it to continue forever; neither does he strike people down for no reason or refuse to give people second chances. Those who realize what was wrong with their wicked ways, change and ask for God's forgiveness will be blessed by him.

Woman turns 106



Hazel Webster celebrated her 106th birthday Thursday, Aug. 24, 2006, at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center. The staff gave her a bouquet of red roses, her favorite, and a cake decorated with red roses.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Consumers need to know debit, credit cards are not the same

Dear Attorney General Kline: I have been receiving information from my bank promoting a debit card, stating that the card is accepted nearly anywhere major credit cards are accepted. How does a credit card differ from a debit card?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

Even though debit cards closely resemble credit cards and are widely accepted at many locations that accept credit cards, you should understand how they operate differently.

When a debit card is used, the availability of funds is verified immediately and that amount is deducted from your checking or savings account. Credit cards, on the other hand, are "pay later" products which offer a line of credit and grace periods you can borrow against for purchases.

Simply put, debit cards provide the advantage of allowing you to spend only what money you have saved and deposited into your account.

Before you begin using your debit card, you should fully understand the conditions and terms governing your card. Some debit cards have fees for each transaction, some



phill kline

- attorney general

your account could be emptied. Do not carry your identification number in written form near your card — memorize it instead.

Here are a few tips on using your debit card:

- Know your current actual balance. The balance shown on the screen of an ATM may not accurately reflect your available balance because recent purchases may not yet have been posted to your account.

- Record your transactions and don't forget to also deduct any fees. Keep all receipts. This will make it easier to return a purchase later if necessary and help you reconcile your account.

- If your debit card is lost or stolen, contact the card issuer immediately. While credit cards carry a maximum \$50 charge in the event of any fraudulent activity, the issuers of debit cards may charge account holders up to \$500 for unauthorized purchases. Also, money that is fraudulently removed from a debit card account may never be recovered.

have monthly fees and some may have both.

The financial institution issuing the card is legally required to disclose the amount and the types of fees charged for using the card. Many times this disclosure of fees is located in the fine print of the application form, so be sure you read that fine print very carefully.

Debit cards are usually protected by a personal identification number. You should consider this number the key to your account because the debit card cannot be used without it.

If you are allowed to choose your own, it's a good idea to be creative when selecting one. Random numbers are considered the best instead of using birthdates or addresses.

It is vital that you closely guard your card and the personal identification number because if someone were to gain access to them both,

Photography contest planned

Area photographers are invited to submit black-and-white and color prints for the annual Flatlander Photography Contest.

The photographs will be displayed at the Carnegie Arts Center from Sunday, Sept. 10, through Saturday, Sept. 30. Photos must be sub-

mitted to the center by Friday, Sept. 8, ready to hang. Call the center, 120 W. 12th in Goodland, at 890-6442 for information.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday through Monday, 1 to 4 p.m. There is no admission fee.

An open house will be held during the Flatlander Fall Festival, Sept. 22-24, to celebrate the exhibit. Visitors during September will vote for their favorite photograph, and a People's Choice award will be given to winners in adult and youth categories.

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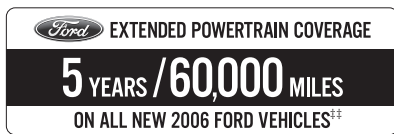
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