

About the Bible Readings for June 28, 2020:

I checked out the ELCA website; ([ELCA Revised Common Lectionary, Evangelical Lutheran Worship \(2006\)](#)) and found the Liturgical calendar that had the bible readings for the day. They have four of them. They are an Old Testament reading from Jeremiah 28:, a portion of Psalms 89:, a Gospel reading from Matthew 10:, and a New Testament reading from Romans 6:; So I decided to see what I could make of it.

I see the common denominator of this grouping of bible readings as;... prophecy.

A third of the scriptures are prophecy, we probably shouldn't ignore them. The bible is the world's only Holy Book that indulges in prophecy, because the others cannot afford to be provably wrong. The prophecies coming true are the validation of the truth of God's Word.

But... That doesn't mean there won't be people trying to mess with it. Jesus told us in Mat 24:4 "See that no one leads you astray. And Paul said in Act 20:29>:30 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

So; Jesus said in John 5:39" You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me" and Paul said in Acts 17:11, "The Bereans were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so": and so must we.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9

[An example of a false prophet, and the verification of true prophecy]

Jer 28:5 The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in front of the priests and all the people who were standing in the LORD's Temple. [OK; We need some context]

[Jeremiah we know; 650-570bc A "minor" prophet with his own books in the bible; [Lamentations] known as the weeping prophet, he prophesied, and lamented, the coming destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem by the Babylonians; he was at the about the same time as Isiah and Ezekiel.]

Who is Hananiah? I found him in the book of Ezekiel:]

Eze 11:1>:2 The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the east gate of the house of the LORD, which faces east. And behold, at the entrance of the gateway there were twenty-five men. And I saw among them Jaazaniah [an alternative transliteration of Hananiah] the son of Azzur, [the same identifier we will see in Jeremiah]

Eze 11:2 And he [God] said to me, [Ezekiel] "Son of man, these are the men who devise iniquity and who give wicked counsel in this city;

[Hananiah was pointed out as a false prophet by God Himself.]

[That's the back-story on Hananiah, now to the reading; but, starting in verse 28:1 so we know who is talking to who, and the time frame.]

Jer 28:1>:4 In that same year, at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, [590bc] Hananiah (the son of Azzur,) [same as we saw in Ezekiel]

the prophet from Gibeon, spoke to me [Jeremiah] in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying, [This is Hananiah giving his prophecy as follows]

Jer 28:2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon.

Jer 28:3 Within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD's house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon.

[That was the first siege of Jerusalem, when they looted the Temple and took Daniel, Ezekiel and other captives back to Babylon. The siege was interrupted by an attack from Egypt]

Jer 28:4 And I will bring again to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, with all the captives of Judah, that went into Babylon, saith the LORD: for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.

[Now we come to the reading for the day]

Jer 28:5>:9 The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in front of the priests and all the people who were standing in the LORD's Temple.

Jer 28:6 The prophet Jeremiah said, "May the LORD truly do this thing! May the LORD fulfill the words that you prophesied to bring back the vessels of the LORD's Temple and all the exiles from Babylon to this place. [Jeremiah wishes that this would happen,]

Jer 28:7 But please listen to this what I'm speaking in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people.

Jer 28:8 The prophets who came before us from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and plague against many lands and great kingdoms.

Jer 28:9 When a prophet prophesies peace, and what the prophet speaks comes about, he will be known as the prophet whom the LORD has truly sent."

[that is certainly true. **But...**Let us read what Jeremiah had prophesied]

Jer 25:11>:13 [Thus says the Lord of Hosts] This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

[There is a big difference in 70 years and 2 years]

Jer 25:12 Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste.

Jer 25:13 I will bring upon that land all the words that I have uttered against it, everything written in this book, which Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations.

[Now, we know Babylon fell to Cyrus and the Medo-Persian Empire, then to the Greeks, under Alexander the Great, then the Parthians, then the Ottomans, after WWII it became Iraq, and today Iran and Turkey are trying to take it over. They have had a contentious history and according to end times prophecy it is going to get worse.]

[This is the defining statement by Jeremiah]

Jer 28:15>:17 And Jeremiah the prophet said to the prophet Hananiah, "Listen, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie.

Jer 28:16 Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have uttered rebellion against the LORD.'"

Jer 28:17 In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hananiah died.

[Oh...That's why we have never heard of Hananiah, within 2 months he was gone]

[Wow! God is plumb serious about prophecy]

[Isaiah also prophesied about the Babylonian captivity]

Isa 44:24>:28 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, [remember this bit about the heavens, it'll come back up]

Isa 44:25 who frustrates the signs of liars and makes fools of diviners, [false prophets] who turns wise men back and makes their knowledge foolish,

Isa 44:26 who confirms the word of his servant and fulfills the counsel of his messengers, [true prophets] who says of Jerusalem, 'She shall be inhabited,' and of the cities of Judah, 'They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins';

Isa 44:27 who says to the deep, 'Be dry; I will dry up your rivers';

[This seems strange to be in here, but, it turns out this is prophecy relating to how Cyrus took Babylon: He diverted the river and marched his army in under the watergate on the river bed]

Isa 44:28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'" [He goes on in chapter 45 about Cyrus; this is 150 years before Cyrus was born]

[Then we read about the truth of Jeremiah's prophecy]

Dan 1:21 And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus

Dan 9:2. ..., I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

[Daniel realized the Judeans were at the end of their captivity]

2Ch 36:22>:23 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: [confirmed also in Ezra 6:3>:12]

2Ch 36:23 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, [the Medo-Persian Empire] and he has charged me to build

him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.”

[This why Israel compares Pres. Trump to Cyrus]

[So...Hananiah was proven wrong and Jeremiah and the Word of God was proven right, and secular history bears this out. Based upon testimony and history; We can believe the whole bible. This is important when we get to the Gospel message.]

Psalms Reading: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Psa 89:1 I will sing forever about the gracious love of the LORD; from generation to generation I will declare your faithfulness with my mouth.

[I think faithfulness means; I will declare that God’s prophecies do and will come true]

Isa 46:9:10 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,

Isa 46:10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

[But we are warned by the Apostle John;]

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

[Back to Psalms 89:]

Psa 89:2 I will declare that your gracious love was established forever; in the heavens itself, you have established your faithfulness. [again related to prophecy]

[We need to remember that the zodiac is believed to be prophecy by the ancient Jews]

Psa 19:1>:4 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Psa 19:2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

Psa 19:3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

Psa 19:4 Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, [a container for illumination/instruction]

[The constellations were/are illustrations of the story God is telling us]

Isa 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

Rom 1:19>:23 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Rom 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [Talking about the religion of science here]

Rom 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Psa 8:1>:9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Psa 8:2 Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

Psa 8:3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

Psa 8:4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Psa 8:5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Psa 8:6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,

Psa 8:7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

Psa 8:8 the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

Psa 8:9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

[back to our reading for the day, talking about how God is faithful to His prophecies]

Psa 89:3>:4 I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have made a promise to David, my servant.

Psa 89:4 "I will establish your dynasty forever, and I will lift up one who will build your throne from generation to generation." [this is cited from 2 Sam 7:10>:13: a prophecy of the Messiah]

[We see the beginning of the fulfillment of this Davidic Covenant in:]

Luk 1:30>:32 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luk 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Luk 1:32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

Luk 1:33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." [The "Throne of David" did not exist then, nor even now; it's still prophecy]

[The total fulfillment will come in:]

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto

them: and / saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. [Fulfilment of the kingdom of heaven]

[And back to the Psalms;]

Psa 89:15>:18 How happy are the people who can worship joyfully! LORD, they walk in the light of your presence.

Psa 89:16 In your name they rejoice all day long; they exult in your justice.

Psa 89:17 For you are their strength's grandeur; by your favor you exalted our power.

Psa 89:18 Indeed, our shield belongs to the LORD, and our king to the Holy One of Israel.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:40-42

Mat 10:40 [Jesus said:] "The one who receives [Dechomai_{grk}=embraces] you receives me, and the one who receives me receives the one who sent me.

[Belief in Christ, is believing the prophecies of him, which is believing in God, that results in our eternal life, as citizens of the Kingdom of God.]

Luk 10:16 "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

[And in the gospel of John]

Joh 12:44>:50 And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.

Joh 12:45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.

Joh 12:46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

Joh 12:47 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

Joh 12:48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

Joh 12:49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.

Joh 12:50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

[Back to the reading in Matthew:]

Mat 10:41.:42 The one who receives [Dechomai_{grk}=embraces] a prophet, as a prophet, will receive [Iambano_{grk}= procure] a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person, as a righteous person, will receive a righteous person's reward.

Mat 10:42 I tell you with certainty, whoever gives, even, a cup of cold water to one of these little ones, [Mikros_{grk}=small in number/few] [just] because he [the little one] is a disciple, [whoever gives a cup of water] will never lose his reward." [Crowns]

[We are called to respect and embrace the prophets, righteous (holy) ones, and even just disciples, (all of the church) because they/we represent Jesus, and through Jesus; God himself]

[Therefore: Because everything in heaven and earth bears out the truth of God's Word, and we know His promises are kept, and we as Christians are rejoicing together in our salvation and sanctification through the grace of Christ Jesus, looking for the fulfilment of prophecy...]

New Testament Reading: Romans 6:12-23

[Therefore; because of everything we have read about so far;...(we said all that, to say this;)]

Rom 6:12>:23 Therefore, do not let sin rule your mortal bodies so that you obey their desires.

Rom 6:13 Stop offering the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness. Instead, offer yourselves to God as people who have been brought from death to life and the parts of your body as instruments of righteousness, to God.

Rom 6:14 For sin will not have mastery over you, because you are not under Law but under grace.

Rom 6:15 What, then, does this mean? Should we go on sinning because we are not under Law but under grace?[...] Of course not!

Rom 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Rom 6:17 But thank God that, though you were once slaves of sin, you became obedient from your hearts to that form of teaching with which you were entrusted!

Rom 6:18 And since you have been freed from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness.

Rom 6:19 (I am speaking in simple terms because of the frailty of your human nature.) Just as you once offered the parts of your body as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater disobedience, so now, in the same way, you must offer the parts of your body as slaves to righteousness that leads to sanctification. [which is being set apart from the world]

Rom 6:20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were "free" as far as righteousness was concerned.

Rom 6:21 What benefit did you get from doing those things you are now ashamed of? For those things resulted in death. [Separation from a relationship with our Father]

Rom 6:22 But now that you have been freed from sin [which is our Justification] and have become God's [voluntary, willing] slaves,[...] the benefit you reap is sanctification, and the result is **eternal life**.

[Think about that! That's a huge promise, built on the foundation of prophecy.]

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life, in union with the Messiah, Jesus, our Lord. [3 Words]

[The Word of God]

[Praise HIS Holy Name]

[Amen]