

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

06-04-2023 // WEEK 22 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **Jeremiah 49 - Ezekiel 17**. Here are a few highlights:

- **Jeremiah Chapters 49 - 51:** Last week we saw in **Jeremiah 46 - 48** that Jeremiah moves from God's judgment on his own people to the surrounding nations. They too have rebelled against God's order and commands and will face his imminent judgment. Nations including Egypt, Philistia and Moab. Many other nations as well (**ch. 49**) and Babylon (**ch's 50-51**).

One reminder here is that one day Jesus will gather all the nations before him and judge each one, separating believers in each nation from the sheep and the goats (see **Matthew 25:31-45**). It's a good reminder that God oversees, orders, and eventually holds all nations accountable regarding how they have lived before him.

- **Chapter 52:** The fall of Jerusalem is given in intimate detail. King Zedekiah will be blinded. The temple will be destroyed. The people will be exiled. **Yet there will be a continuation of the Davidic blessing and kingship amidst this judgment.** There is a future and hope even in the exile that is about to occur. There is always hope, no matter how bad things may seem.
- **Ezekiel Chapters 1 - 3:** God often speaks to Ezekiel in visions. He does so from the outset in this book. He sees the throne of God approaching him. It is described in vivid detail. Cherubim and angels described in specificity. Then **the Lord commissions Ezekiel to be his prophet** and speak his word. There is to be no compromise. Then the Lord withdraws and concludes the vision. And this first vision is finally given a reprise, a review of what had been given and said.
- **Chapters 4 - 5:** God is against Jerusalem. Judgment will be enacted. God explains to Ezekiel why the holy city will experience his judgment.
- **Chapters 6 - 7:** God is against the land. Though promised to Abraham and his descendants, and

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given to these people to be richly enjoyed, God is now bringing his judgment against the land, its mountains, streams, and blessings. It has become unholy, a “holy land” given to his people. **They must be removed for a season for the land to heal** (70 years is what God had said to Moses if they should defile the land).

- **Chapters 8 - 11:** Judah’s abominations are described. God also tells of how they will be transported out of the land. Slaughter will come to Jerusalem. It will be done by fire, yet God will show his glory amidst his punishment. There will be a punishment of the civil authorities, those who were in authority. The leaders always have a stricter wrath from God (see **James 3:1**). Yet, amidst the punishment, **God promises to his people a new heart and spirit**. Then the glory of the Lord departs the land.
- **Chapter 12:** The exile is predicted, described, and confirmed. They will be in Babylon. It will happen. God has spoken.
- **Chapters 13 - 14:** Ezekiel confronts the false prophets and their false prophecies. They kept telling the people that there would be peace. God would never allow his land, temple, and holy city to be overthrown by a godless nation like the Babylonians.
- **Chapter 15:** There will be consequences for their disobedience. God will judge Jerusalem. He even says that if such righteous men like Job, Daniel, or Noah lived in the city, he’d still judge Jerusalem for its godlessness (remember Sodom and Gomorrah and how Abraham talked God into not judging the cities if he could find even a few righteous men!). Jerusalem had become a charred piece of wood. A useless vine unable to produce fruit. Therefore, it must be cast aside and destroyed.
- **Chapter 16:** God describes his eternal, covenantal relationship with Jerusalem, HIS holy city. That he founded and loves. This covenant will last forever and be an important part of Jesus’s second coming. He will establish his eternal rule from the rebuilt temple. This chapter reminds us of this reality.

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- **Chapter 17:** Two **parables are used to describe God's judgment.** One is of two eagles. The first represents Babylon who will be used by God to judge Judah. The second one is a lesser one representing Egypt where Judah will run for help instead of God. The other parable is of the vine, stripped bare, pruned by God, yet with **the promise of new fruit one day.** The promise of God's restoration one day to the land.

All, God does take sin seriously. Judgment faces us all. Praise be to him also for Jesus who, when we confess our sins, takes the punishment for our sins upon himself to give us grace. And eternal life. And great hope.

Read these chapters in light of a holy God. But also in the shadow of the cross. Praise be to our Lord who gives us the cross!

David