

WEEK 31 — PROPHECIES AROUND THE FIRST BABYLONIAN EXILE

Date: between 609 and 598 BC • probably between 626 and 605 BC (Habakkuk) • maybe soon after 586 BC (Jeremiah 46:13-28)

The Story: God gradually intensifies the judgment he has begun to bring on Judah because of its wickedness. Jeremiah tries to warn the people, but who will listen? Jeremiah prophesies that other nations (Egypt, Moab, Edom, etc.) will fall, too, when God sends the rising Babylonian Empire to discipline ungodly nations. In 605 BC, Babylon (led by new King Nebuchadnezzar) captures Jerusalem, and Daniel and some other Jews are exiled to Babylon (see 2 Kings 24:1). There they excel, and Daniel becomes both a wise man of Babylon and a prophet of God who, in both roles, represents God's faithfulness to his people.

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

JULY 31 JEREMIAH 10-12

Today's reading contains various teachings, prophecies, and prayers of Jeremiah in a time when Judah is weak against powerful neighbors and guilty before God. Notice how Jeremiah echoes Isaiah's warnings against idolatry (for example, compare Jeremiah 10:2-16 with Isaiah 44:6-22). Also notice the plot against Jeremiah, mentioned in this reading (Jeremiah 11:18 to 12:6); how does God call Jeremiah to respond to it? Jeremiah is being betrayed, but so is God. How does God feel about his people's betrayal?

Date: maybe between 609 and 605 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 10:1-16 • Jeremiah 11-12

Kids' Reading*: Jeremiah 13:1-11 • Jeremiah 25:1-14

AUGUST 1 JEREMIAH 13 • JEREMIAH 46-47

Today's reading begins with a threefold prophecy concerning a belt, wineskins, and God's people being taken captive. These messages foretell God's judgment on Judah. Jeremiah 46-47 prophesies Philistia's fall to Egypt (Jeremiah 47) and Egypt's twofold defeat by the army of Babylon, first following a major battle at Carchemish in 609 BC (46:1-12), then upon the Babylonian invasion of Egypt (in 582 and 568 BC).

Date: maybe between 609 and 605 BC • probably soon after 586 BC (Jeremiah 46:13-28)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 13 • Jeremiah 46

Kids' Reading*: Habakkuk 3

AUGUST 2 JEREMIAH 48:1 to 49:33

Today's reading is excerpted from Jeremiah 46-51, a collection of Jeremiah's prophecies against foreign nations. Today's messages foretell an invasion of Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus (capital of Aram), and Kedar and Hazor (in northern Arabia). Babylon conquered these lands between 599 and 553 BC.

Date: probably shortly before or during 605 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 48:1 to 49:6

Kids' Reading*: Jeremiah 36:1-19

AUGUST 3 JEREMIAH 25 • HABAKKUK

Today's reading opens with one of Jeremiah's most important prophecies, foretelling that the Jewish exile in Babylon will last 70 years. Watch for a memory of this prophecy in Daniel 9 later. Jeremiah also predicts judgment to come upon nations throughout the Near East. Habakkuk, around the same time, cries out to God about the violence and injustice in Judah, and when God promises to deal with it through the Babylonians, whom (Hezekiah notes) are even worse! But God will punish the Babylonians, too.

Date: 605 BC (Jeremiah 25) • probably between 626 and 605 BC (Habakkuk)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 25:1-14 • Habakkuk 1-2

Kids' Reading*: Jeremiah 36:20-32 • Jeremiah 45

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

AUGUST 4 JEREMIAH 36 • JEREMIAH 45 • DANIEL 1

Today's reading focuses around the year 605 BC, when Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon took control of Jerusalem and Judah for the first time. The Babylonians (Daniel tells us) exiled some Jews and stole treasures from God's temple. In Judah, King Jehoiakim rejects Jeremiah's messages from God. Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe, has to go into hiding with Jeremiah, and God promises protection for him. Meanwhile, Daniel is taken to Babylon, where he and three friends are trained for service in the Babylonian royal court.

Date: 605 BC (Jeremiah 36:1-8, Jeremiah 45, Daniel 1:1-2) • about 605-604 BC (Daniel 1:3-17) • November-December 604 BC (Jeremiah 36:9-32) • about 602 BC (Daniel 1:18-21)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 36 • Jeremiah 45 • Daniel 1

Kids' Reading:* Daniel 1:1 to 2:13

AUGUST 5 DANIEL 2 • JEREMIAH 14

Today's reading starts with Daniel interpreting a dream in 604 BC, while he was still in training. The dream foretells the rise and fall of four successive kingdoms that will control the Jewish homeland—the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman kingdoms—and after them, a kingdom from God "that will never be destroyed" (Daniel 2:44). Christians believe this is the eternal kingdom established by Jesus. Back in Jerusalem, Jeremiah continues to prophesy trouble for Judah, this time because of a drought that is part of God's overall punishment of his unfaithful people.

Date: about 604 BC (Daniel 2) • maybe between 605 and 598 BC (Jeremiah 14)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Daniel 2 • Jeremiah 14:11-22

Kids' Reading:* Daniel 2:14-49

AUGUST 6 JEREMIAH 15-17

Today's reading reveals God's deep anger toward his unfaithful people, and the difficulty Jeremiah faces as a prophet to them. God refuses to hear prayers for his people (15:1, following 14:11-12); his decision to bring judgment on them is now final, or nearly so. Jeremiah, meanwhile, lament his birth, given how fiercely his people oppose him (15:10), and is told he must not marry and have children because of the anguish to come upon Judah (16:1-4). Yet Jeremiah continues to look to God for help (17:14-18).

Date: maybe between 605 and 598 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 16-17

Kids' Reading:* Jeremiah 17:5-27

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

Jer 10:17-22 (T)

Jer 11:11-17 (T), 19-23 (V)

Jer 12:3-4 (T), 6-14 (T), 12 (V), 17 (T)

Jer 13:13-14 (T), 16-25 (T)

Jer 14:1-6 (T), 11-15 (T, V), 17-18 (T, V)

Jer 15:1-7 (T, V), 13-14 (T, V), 18 (T), 20 (V)

Jer 16:8-13 (T), 16-18 (T)

Jer 17:1-4 (T), 18 (V), 27 (T)

Jer 25:9-14 (T, V), 17-26 (T), 28-32 (T, V), 34-38 (T, V)

Jer 46:2-12 (V), 14-28 (V)

Jer chapter 47 (T, V)

Jer 48:1-25 (T, V), 26-36 (T), 37-47 (T, V)

Jer 49:1-5 (T, V), 8-33 (T, V)

Dan 2:5 (V), 12-13 (V), 18 (V), 24 (V)

Hab 1:2-11 (T, V), 17 (V)

Hab 2:1-14 (T, V), 15-16 (N, T), 17 (T, V)

Hab 3:5-7 (T), 9-12 (V), 15-17 (T)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

Jer 13:22 (S, V), 26-27 (S)

Jer 14:16 (T, V)

Jer 15:8-9 (T, V)

Jer 16:1-7

Jer 25:27 (T), 33 (T, V)

Jer 48:4 (T, V), 26 (T)

Hab 3:14 (V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

none

C = Circumcision
N = Nudity
S = Sexuality
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes
V = Violence