

## WEEK 34 — THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

**Date:** 588-586 BC (with bits from 597, 591-589, 571, and 561 BC)

**The Story:** God gives the people of Judah and Jerusalem their final warnings—and then the end comes for the land of Judah. The Babylonian siege weakens Jerusalem until the city falls and King Zedekiah is captured and taken into exile. Jerusalem is largely depopulated and the Jewish exile comes into full force. God's people are left to weep and to wonder why this happened—and whether they might still have any hope.

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

### AUGUST 21 JEREMIAH 21 • JEREMIAH 34 • JEREMIAH 37-38

**Today's reading** begins with King Zedekiah pleading for God's help against King Nebuchadnezzar, who is invading Judah. But God has decreed that Judah will fall to the Babylonians; its people would do best to surrender (Jeremiah 21). Apparently, sometime after the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem begins, Judah frees all its slaves, pleasing God; but then the Babylonians leave for a time, and Judah reenslaves them, angering God (chapter 34)! Chapters 37-38 focus around persecution Jeremiah endures because he prophesies that Judah will fall to Babylon, and around King Zedekiah's uncertainty about what to do in this dire situation.

**Date:** probably 588-587 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Jeremiah 21 • Jeremiah 37-38

**Kids' Reading\*:** Jeremiah 21 • Jeremiah 37

### AUGUST 22 DANIEL 3 • EZEKIEL 29-30

**Today's reading** takes us back to Daniel's three friends in Babylon. Their faith in God is tested as Nebuchadnezzar pressures them to worship an image he has set up. Will they trust in God or assimilate into the religion of Babylon? Ezekiel, meanwhile, foretells that God will cause Egypt to fall to the power of Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon.

**Date:** possibly 588 BC (Daniel 3) • January 7, 587 BC (Ezekiel 29:1-16) • probably early 587 BC (Ezekiel 30:1-19)  
• April 29, 587 BC (Ezekiel 30:20-26) • April 26, 571 BC (Ezekiel 29:17-21)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Daniel 3 • Ezekiel 29

**Kids' Reading\*:** Jeremiah 38

### AUGUST 23 JEREMIAH 30-31

**Today's reading** speaks hope to Israel and Judah: though they will suffer in captivity as if injured with an incurable wound, God will heal them and bring them back to their land. Notice the joy that God foresees for them when he restores them. Also notice 31:15—here it refers to the coming anguish of the exile, but Matthew (2:18) will apply it also to the anguish felt when Herod has the little children of Bethlehem killed.

**Date:** probably 587 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Jeremiah 30:1 to 31:2 • Jeremiah 31:15-40

**Kids' Reading\*:** Daniel 3

### AUGUST 24 JEREMIAH 32-33

**Today's reading** employs a confusing command of God to Jeremiah to buy a field—confusing because the Babylonians are about to overrun the nation, so what use is a purchase of land? But God intends for the purchase to be a sign that he will bring his exiled people home again. At this fearful moment, when Jerusalem is about to fall to the Babylonians, God speaks hope to his doomed people.

**Date:** probably 587 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Jeremiah 32-33

**Kids' Reading\*:** Jeremiah 31:16-40

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ**

**AUGUST 25            EZEKIEL 31 • 2 KINGS 25 • 2 CHRONICLES 36:15-21**

**Today's reading** opens with another prophecy against Egypt. Then what God's prophets have been foretelling happens: Jerusalem falls to the Babylonian army. Even so, 2 Kings ends with hope: 25 years later, former king Jehoiachin still lives; a descendant of David may yet sit on Israel's throne one day, as God promised.

**Date:** 587-586 + 561 BC — June 21, 587 BC (Ezekiel 31) • January 15, 586 BC (2 Kings 25:1) • July 18, 586 BC (2 Kings 25:2-7, 2 Chronicles 36:15-17) • August 14, 586 BC (2 Kings 25:8-22, 2 Chronicles 36:18-21) • between August 14 and October/November 586 BC (2 Kings 25:23-24) • October/November 586 BC (2 Kings 25:25-26) • April 2, 561 BC (2 Kings 25:27-30)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Ezekiel 31 • 2 Kings 25 • 2 Chronicles 36:15-21

**Kids' Reading\*:** Jeremiah 33

**AUGUST 26            JEREMIAH 39 • JEREMIAH 52 • EZEKIEL 33**

**Today's reading** tells the story of Jerusalem's fall from Jeremiah's perspective (Jeremiah 39), repeats the story in a manner similar to 2 Kings 25 (Jeremiah 52), and relates how Ezekiel heard about the capture of Jerusalem (Ezekiel 33, following another call for Israel to repent).

**Date:** 597 + 591-585 + 561 BC — 597 BC (Jeremiah 52:1-3a) • 591-589 BC (Jeremiah 52:3b) • January 15, 588 BC (Jeremiah 39:1 & 52:4) • maybe early/mid 586 BC (Jeremiah 39:15-18, Ezekiel 33:1-20) • July 18, 586 BC (Jeremiah 39:2-7 & 52:5-11) • August 14, 586 BC (Jeremiah 39:8-10 & 52:12-27) • between August 14 and October/November 586 BC (Jeremiah 39:11-14) • January 8, 585 BC (Ezekiel 33:21-33) • 581 BC (Jeremiah 52:28-30) • March 30, 561 BC (Jeremiah 52:31-34)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Jeremiah 39 • Ezekiel 33

**Kids' Reading\*:** Jeremiah 52

**AUGUST 27            LAMENTATIONS 1-2**

**Today's reading** draws us in to grieve with the Jews who survived the war with Babylon—especially the faithful, who must now grapple with the question of how their good, all-powerful God could let such a thing happen to them. Lamentations was written by a faithful Jew (possibly Jeremiah) who experienced Jerusalem's fall first-hand. As he reflects on Jerusalem's destruction and all the terrible suffering of its people, why does he think it happened? How does he see God, after living through this awful experience?

**Date:** during or soon after 586 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Lamentations 1-2

**Kids' Reading\*:** Lamentations 1

**Parents' Guide**

PG preview for young children

**2K 25:**1-26 (T), 1-6 (V), 8-21 (V), 25(V)

**2C 36:**17-20 (V)

**Jer 21:**2 (V), 4-14 (T, V)

**Jer 30:**6-7 (T)

**Jer 31:**15 (T)

**Jer 32:**24 (T), 29 (V), 36 (T)

**Jer 33:**5 (V)

**Jer 34:**1-7 (V), 11 (T), 16 (T), 17-18 (T, V), 21-22 (V)

**Jer 37:**5 (V), 8-10 (V), 15-16 (V), 17-21 (T)

**Jer 38:**2-5 (T, V), 6-9 (V), 15-26 (T, V)

**Jer 52:**13-15 (V), 27 (V)

**Lam 2:**4 (V)

**Lam 3:**10-16 (V), 53 (V)

**Ezek 29:**-12 (T, V)

**Ezek chapter 30** (T, V)

**Ezek 31:**10-18 (T, V)

**Ezek 33:**1-8 (V)

**Dan 3:**19-23 (V)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

**2K 25:**7 (V)

**Jer 34:**19-20 (V)

**Jer 39:**1-8 (V)

**Jer 52:**4-11 (V)

**Lam chapter 1** (T)

**Lam 1:**8 (N), 20 (V)

**Ezek 33:**25-29 (S, V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

**Jer 32:**35 (V)

**Lam chapter 2** (T)

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