

WEEK 35 — AFTERMATH OF JERUSALEM'S FALL

Date: 586-585 BC

The Story: God, through the army of Babylon, has destroyed Judah and Jerusalem and even his sacred temple. This week's readings share the sad aftermath of Jerusalem's fall. We finish the grieving of Lamentations. Then we read about Jeremiah's efforts to guide the Jews remaining in Judah in God's instruction—but will they listen? We listen to six psalms that were likely written around this time and that call out to God for mercy and help after his judgment. Then we finish with prophecies from Ezekiel against various nations that opposed Judah, along with prophecies speaking hope to God's broken people.

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

AUGUST 28 LAMENTATIONS 3-5

Today's reading finishes this agonized lament over the fall of Jerusalem. Chapter 3 is the literary and theological center of the book. Notice how it moves from blaming God (3:1-18) to hope in his love (3:19-27) to a call for repentance (3:28-45) to a cry for God to pay back to Judah's enemies what they deserve.

Date: during or soon after 586 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Lamentations 3 • Lamentations 5

Kids' Reading*: Lamentations 3:19-33 • Jeremiah 40

AUGUST 29 JEREMIAH 40-43

Today's reading includes most of Jeremiah 40-44, which tells of Jeremiah's experiences in Judah and Egypt after Jerusalem fell. The key issue here in this chaotic time: Will the Jews remaining in the land finally trust God and obey him? Or will they continue to reject him and suffer further for it?

Date: 586 and possibly early 585 BC — between August 14 and October/November 586 BC (Jeremiah 40)

- October/November 586 BC (Jeremiah 41:1-15) • during or soon after October/November 586 BC (Jeremiah 41:16 to 43:7) • late 586 BC or soon thereafter (Jeremiah 43:8-13)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 40-43

Kids' Reading*: Jeremiah 41

AUGUST 30 JEREMIAH 44 • PSALM 74 • PSALM 79

Today's reading closes Jeremiah's ministry with a sad report of continuing idolatry among the Jewish refugees in Egypt. As so many times before, God will bring judgment on his people for this sin. Psalms 74 and 79 are prayers likely written after Jerusalem fell (alternatively, they could have been written prophetically about the nation's fall). Notice lines like 74:7, "They burned your sanctuary to the ground," and 79:1, "they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble," which suggest this context for these psalms. These psalms model how one might pray to God in a time of tragedy that comes as a result of one's own (or a community's own) sins.

Date: late 586 BC or soon thereafter (Jeremiah 44) • likely 586 BC or later (Psalms 74 & 79)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jeremiah 44 • Psalm 74 • Psalm 79

Kids' Reading*: Jeremiah 42-43

AUGUST 31 PSALM 80 • PSALM 89 • PSALM 102

Today's reading explores three more psalms that likely come from the Jewish exile. Psalm 89:1-37 could have been composed much earlier, but verse 38 to the end (which could have been added after the exile) fits the time of the exile well. Psalm 102 is a hopeful psalm, acknowledging the Jews' suffering (102:16-20) and looking forward to God's redemption of his people.

Date: likely 586 BC or later (Psalms 80, 89, 102)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Psalm 89 • Psalm 102

Kids' Reading*: Jeremiah 44

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER 1 PSALM 137 • EZEKIEL 25-27

Today's reading begins with an agonizing psalm of lament recounting the horror of the Jewish exile. *Parents of young children take note of the ending!* How could a godly person write verse 9? Remember that this is what the Babylonians did to the Jews; and this is an expression of utmost grief, not something a godly person should actually do. Ezekiel 25-27 prophesies God's judgment on Judah's neighbors that joined in or celebrated its destruction—especially Tyre, a coastal city that grew wealthy through international trade.

Date: 586-585 BC — likely 586 BC or later (Psalm 137) • probably 586 or 585 BC (Ezekiel 25) • probably February 3, 585 BC (Ezekiel 26) • probably 585 BC (Ezekiel 27)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Psalm 137 • Ezekiel 25-26 • Ezekiel 27:25-36

Kids' Reading*: Psalm 89:1-37

SEPTEMBER 2 EZEKIEL 28 • EZEKIEL 32

Today's reading continues yesterday's prophecy against Tyre, then moves to prophesy against its sister-city Sidon, a "malicious neighbor" to Israel (28:24). When it jumps to Ezekiel 32 and two more prophecies of the Babylonian invasion of Egypt, we find that Ezekiel (in Babylonia) and Jeremiah (formerly in Jerusalem, now in Egypt) foretell the same fate for Egypt: Babylon, spreading across the Near East, will invade Egypt and cause it great harm (recall Jeremiah 44:30). Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt in 582 and again in 568 BC.

Date: 585 BC — probably 585 BC (Ezekiel 28, but the date of verses 20-26 is uncertain) • March 3, 585 BC (Ezekiel 32:1-16) • maybe March 17, 585 BC (Ezekiel 32:17-32)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Ezekiel 28:1-19 • Ezekiel 32

Kids' Reading*: Psalm 102

SEPTEMBER 3 EZEKIEL 34-36

Today's reading proclaims, through prophecy, both judgment and hope: judgment of Israel's worthless leaders ("shepherds") and of Edom (Mount Seir), the nation immediately south of Judah; and hope for Israel because God himself will become their shepherd and will bring his exiled people home.

Date: probably about 585 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Ezekiel 34 • Ezekiel 36

Kids' Reading*: Ezekiel 34

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

Ps 74:1-4 (T), 5-8 (T, V), 10-11 (T), 13-14 (V), 18-23 (T)

Ps 79:1 (T), 4-7 (T), 10-12 (T, V)

Ps 80:4-6 (T), 12-13 (T), 16 (T)

Ps 89:10 (T), 22-23 (T), 32 (V), 38-51 (T), 43 (V)

Ps 102:2-11 (T), 20 (T), 23 (T)

Ps 137:1-8 (T), 7 (V)

Jer 40:2-4 (T, V), 14-15 (V)

Jer chapter 41 (V)

Jer 42:16-22 (T, V)

Jer 43:3 (V), 11-13 (T, V)

Jer 44:2-11 (T), 12-14 (T, V), 18 (V), 22-23 (T), 27-30 (T, V)

Lam 3:13 (V), 16 (V), 30 (V), 34 (V), 43 (V), 53 (V)

Ezek 25:2-7 (T, V), 8-12 (T), 13-17 (T, V)

Ezek chapter 26 (T, V)

Ezek 27:13 (V), 26-36 (T, V)

Ezek 28:6-10 (T, V), 10 (C), 15-19 (T), 23 (V), 24 (T)

Ezek 34:3-10 (T)

Ezek 35:1-5 (T), 6-9 (T, V), 10-15 (T)

Ezek 36:3-7 (T), 13-15 (T), 18 (V), 19-23 (T), 31-32 (T)

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

PG-13 preview for under age 13

Ps 79:2-3 (V)

Jer 41:9 (V)

Lam 4:3 (S)

Lam 5:12 (V)

Ezek 32:3-6 (T, V), 8-15 (T, V), 18-32 (C, T, V)

Ezek 36:17 (S)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

Ps 137:9 (V)

Lam chapter 3 (T)

Lam chapter 4 (T, V), 4:21 (N)

Lam chapter 5 (T), 5:11 (S)