

## WEEK 36 — MESSAGES OF HOPE FOR THE JEWISH EXILES

**Date:** probably roughly 585-560 BC • The genealogies of 1 Chronicles 3-7 span nearly the entire existence of Israel up to this time, from the time of Abraham's great-grandsons (ca. 1900 BC) to the century after the Babylonian exile (400s BC).

**The Story:** God has disciplined his people for their sin, but he has not abandoned them. Through Ezekiel he speaks words of hope, telling them of a bright future in which Israel, Jerusalem, and God's temple will be restored and God and his blessing will dwell forever with his people. Meanwhile, Obadiah proclaims God's judgment against Edom for its delight in the fall of Jerusalem and Judah, and through Daniel God reminds Nebuchadnezzar that God alone is king over all. In this reading we also peruse genealogies from the tribes of Israel and the royal family of David.

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

### SEPTEMBER 4                      EZEKIEL 37-39

**Today's reading** speaks hope to God's exiled people. Like dry bones raised to life, God will raise his people and breathe new life into them. Israel and Judah will be reunited. God will defend his people when enemy nations attack, demonstrating that Judah did not go into exile because God was incapable of saving them, but because of their sin (39:23). The identity of Gog and the location of Magog are very uncertain; they might simply represent the international enemies of God's people.

**Date:** perhaps during or after 585 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Ezekiel 37-39

**Kids' Reading\*:** Ezekiel 37

### SEPTEMBER 5                      OBADIAH • 1 CHRONICLES 3-4

**Today's reading** begins with the tiny book of Obadiah, who speaks God's judgment upon Edom because of that people's gloating over the fall of Jerusalem and Judah. Then the reading moves to 1 Chronicles, where we begin a series of genealogies of the tribes of Israel. First we review the descendants of King David through and beyond the time of the exile. Then we explore the lineages of David's ancestor Judah and his brother Simeon. Chronicles was written in the 400s BC, when many Jews had returned to their homeland. For them, preserving Israel's genealogies was a way to maintain their national and ethnic history.

**Date:** probably between 586 and 553 BC (Obadiah) • The genealogies of 1 Chronicles 3 cover periods from about 1010 BC (the time of King David) into the 400s BC (several generations after the exile). The genealogies of 1 Chronicles 4 stretch from the lifetime of Judah and Simeon (ca. 1900 BC; 4:1, 4:24) to at least the time of Judah's King Hezekiah (ca. 700 BC; 4:41).

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Obadiah • 1 Chronicles 3:1 to 4:10

**Kids' Reading\*:** 1 Chronicles 3

### SEPTEMBER 6                      1 CHRONICLES 5-6

**Today's reading** covers more Israelite genealogies, those of the families of Jacob's sons Reuben, Gad, and Levi and of his grandson Manasseh. The genealogy of Levi gets the most space because of the Levites' religious duties, especially at the temple; the preservation of these duties was of great importance to the Jews who had recently rebuilt the temple and now sought to preserve both their national identity and their devotion to God.

**Date:** The genealogies of 1 Chronicles 5-6 cover the extensive period from the time of Jacob's sons Reuben and Levi (ca. 1900 BC; 5:1, 6:6) to the exile enforced by King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC (5:22, 6:15).

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** 1 Chronicles 6

**Kids' Reading\*:** Ezekiel 42:1 to 43:5

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER 7                      1 CHRONICLES 7 • EZEKIEL 40

**Today's reading** wraps up the genealogies of the tribes of Israel, then opens the grand vision with which the book of Ezekiel ends. For Jews living in exile, with Jerusalem and God's temple destroyed, the beginning of this vision inspires hope as God shows Ezekiel a renewed, future temple, well-built and beautiful.

**Date:** The genealogies of 1 Chronicles 7 cover the period from Jacob's sons Issachar (7:1), Benjamin (7:6), Naphtali (7:13), and Asher (7:30), and grandsons Manasseh and Ephraim (7:14, 7:20)—ca. 1900 BC—to at least the reign of David (1010-970 BC; 7:2) and possibly beyond. • April 28, 573 BC (Ezekiel 40)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Ezekiel 40

**Kids' Reading\*:** Ezekiel 47

SEPTEMBER 8                      EZEKIEL 41-44

**Today's reading** continues Ezekiel's tour of the temple he sees in this extended vision from God. Most importantly, God's glory—which had departed from the Jerusalem temple, now destroyed by Babylon, in the vision of Ezekiel 10-11—now returns to this new, idealized temple, signifying that God will return to his people. With this promise, the services of the temple and of its priests resume in the vision, giving Israel hope that one day the actual temple and its services might be restored. God has not abandoned his people.

**Date:** April 28, 573 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Ezekiel 43-44

**Kids' Reading\*:** Ezekiel 48

SEPTEMBER 9                      EZEKIEL 45-47

**Today's reading** brings Ezekiel from the renewed, idealized temple in this vision to a renewed, idealized land of Israel. Its borders, allotments, and even sacrifices are established. Most importantly, God's blessing is established there, represented by the miraculous river that runs from the temple to the Dead Sea, where it turns the salt water fresh and makes everything live.

**Date:** April 28, 573 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Ezekiel 45:1-12 • Ezekiel 46-47

**Kids' Reading\*:** Daniel 4:1-18

SEPTEMBER 10                      EZEKIEL 48 • DANIEL 4

**Today's reading** completes Ezekiel's vision of a renewed, idealized temple and Israel. Final descriptions of the land's divisions are given, the gates of the new Jerusalem there are described, and the vision closes with the new name of the city: "The Lord Is There". God will be with his people again. Meanwhile Daniel, still in Babylon, interprets another dream for King Nebuchadnezzar, one that warns of, and is fulfilled by, Nebuchadnezzar's demise into insanity until he recognizes the ultimate sovereignty of God.

**Date:** April 28, 573 BC (Ezekiel 48) • probably sometime in the 570s or 560s BC (Daniel 4)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Ezekiel 48:30-35 • Daniel 4

**Kids' Reading\*:** Daniel 4:19-37

**Parents' Guide**

PG preview for young children

1Chr 4:41-43 (V)

1Chr 5:1 (S), 10 (V), 19-22 (V), 25 (S, V), 26 (V)

Ezek 38:11-23 (T, V)

Ezek 39:6 (V), 10 (T), 23 (V)

Ezek 43:7-9 (S, T)

Ezek 44:7-9 (C), 22 (S), 25 (T)

Obad 1

(V), 5-16 (T, V), 18

(V)

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

PG-13 preview for under age 13

Ezek 38:4 (V)

Ezek 39:4-5 (V), 11-20 (T)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

none