

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (April 8) – Jeremiah 14, 15

The drought has come upon the land because of the sins of the people. Despite Jeremiah's preaching and warning, they continue to worship false gods. They listen to the lying words of false prophets who say that all is well. They do not deserve mercy, but Jeremiah continually calls upon God to be merciful for His name's sake. God tells Jeremiah, "Do not pray for the welfare of this people" (14:11). Later, God says, "I am weary of relenting" (15:6). Those are strong words of law. But notice how Jeremiah continues to mediate for the people. He intercedes for them like Abraham did for Sodom (Genesis 18:22–33). But God cannot relent forever. For Him to be just, He must act against sin. Thanks be to God, our Lord Jesus Christ mediates for us. He bore the full wrath of God for sin. All who are in Christ are spared. Justice is done and God is glorified.

Tuesday (April 9) – Jeremiah 16, 17

God continues to describe the judgment that will come upon the people because of their sin, but there are also glimpses of how God will keep His promises. God will act on behalf of his people in an even greater way than when he brought their forefathers out of the land of Egypt. The restoration of Israel has taken place in Christ's institution of His Church. The fishers who God promises to send out are the apostles, who Jesus calls fishers of men. God has repaid double for their iniquity and ours. Christ bore the weight of that double payment when he hung on the cross. In chapter 17 God pronounces judgment on Judah for their sin: specifically, idolatry. The king of Judah sits on David's throne, and that became the people's false comfort and excuse for complacency. God makes clear that His plan of salvation will be accomplished with or without them. If they continue in idolatry, Jerusalem will burn and they will lose the throne.

Wednesday (April 10) – Jeremiah 18, 19

First, God describes Israel as clay and Himself as the potter. He is shaping disaster for them (18:11). If they will only turn back to him, He will relent of all the destruction He has planned for them. Here we see that all of the horrible tragedy that God plans for His people is His alien work. It is meant to draw His people to him in repentance so that He can do His proper work: forgiving and renewing them. But the people will not have it. See how they plummet into more sin after again hardening their hearts (18:12, 18). Next, God has Jeremiah smash a flask to show how Judah will be broken. God says their dead bodies will not be buried but instead will be food for the wild animals (19:7). This is a horrible reversal of creation. Man is supposed to have dominion over the animals. Because of their persistent hardness of heart, they will be dehumanized. They are conformed to the image of their lifeless gods. In this chapter we see the deadly result of persisting in unrepentance. Lord, by Your Holy Spirit, grant us a good conscience, a hatred of our sin, and a right fear of You, that we may be sorry for our sins, desire to do better, and receive full forgiveness for our sins, through Christ our Lord.

Thursday (April 11) – Jeremiah 20, 21

Even though Jeremiah is persecuted for his message, he knows the Lord has given him this task and the Lord will preserve him. He even sings God's praises (20:13). Then he abruptly moves back to lament. In faith, he complains to God and even admits that he wishes he was never born. The prophetic task is excruciating. From Jeremiah's wrestling with God, we see what it looks like for a Christian to endure suffering. God has commanded us to pray and promises to hear us. To complain to God is an exercise of faith. In chapter 21 God makes it clear through Jeremiah that he will not spare the city of Jerusalem. God is delivering them over into the violent hand of King Nebuchadnezzar. God does provide a way of escape: they must renounce their idolatry. Their trust in human strength cannot save them. To be spared, they must leave the city and surrender to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Friday (April 12) – Jeremiah 22

Jeremiah speaks to the King of Judah. Repent, do justice, or perish. Even at this point, God is prepared to relent if Judah will repent, but they have hardened their hearts to the point of no return. The king thinks that his reign is assured because he sits on David's throne, but that is a delusion. He was like a signet ring on God's finger, but he will be cast off and hurled down to those who seek his life.

Saturday (April 13) – Jeremiah 23, 24

The throne of Judah will be lost, but God's promises to his servants Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and King David will not be forgotten. There will be a faithful remnant that God will preserve. The evil shepherds, the false prophets, who fed the people with lies of false peace and security will be "attended to" (23:2) But then new shepherds, good prophets, who are sent by God and speak the Word He has given to them, will be placed over the remnant. God will establish a new King. This King, the one called, "The Lord is Our Righteousness," is our King and Savior Jesus Christ. He will rule and shepherd His people with justice and righteousness forever. After King Nebuchadnezzar takes exiles from Jerusalem, Jeremiah sees a vision. The good figs are the faithful remnant who were carried off to exile in Babylon. The bad figs are those who refused to hear God's word and repent. They will soon die in Jerusalem.

Sunday (April 14) – Jeremiah 25

The people of Judah are given over to judgment after their persistent refusal to repent and turn back to God. The cup of wrath is the punishment for sin. This is the cup our King and Savior Jesus refers to when he prays in the garden of Gethsemane. The cup of wrath must be drunk. If God didn't pour it out, He would not be just. He cannot tolerate sin. Jesus drinks the cup of God's wrath to the bottom so that His own will never taste it. That wrath of God pierced him, causing him to bleed, and killed Him. That blood fills a new cup, the cup of blessing. This is the cup which He instructs you to receive saying: "Drink of it, all of you, this cup is the new testament in My blood, which was shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."