

# Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

## **Monday (April 29) – Jeremiah 49**

Chapter 49 is a chapter of God's judgment. There is no neutral stance against our God. One is either for Him or against Him. Although all human beings have sinfulness, these nations have sinned personally by opposing the Lord in their hostility toward God's people. Whatever is done to the least of our Lord's brethren is done directly to Him (Matthew 25:40).

In the end our God will destroy the greatest of His enemies, sin, death, and the devil himself. Yet, as God is merciful, He commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). Conscious then of our own sin and need for our Savior, let us turn from sin back to Him each day through faith. For God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).

## **Tuesday (April 30) – Jeremiah 50**

The people of Babylon face God's wrath. Although God has used Babylon as an instrument of judgment, she too will face punishment before Him for her own sinfulness. Babylon is a reference in the New Testament to a people opposed to the true God (Revelation 14:8). May the Lord have mercy upon this unbelieving world and draw all to repentance and faith.

The Lord's people are like lost sheep with shepherds that have led them astray (v.6). This brings spiritual danger. The lions of the nations pursue her (v. 17), but the Lord will bring her back to safe pasture once more (v. 19). Thanks be to God for His mercy toward us sinners received by His grace through faith. He alone is the Good Shepherd of His sheep; they know Him, and He knows His own (John 10:14).

## **Wednesday (May 1) – Jeremiah 51**

Even though God's people have been led into captivity, they have not been forsaken by their God, the Lord of Hosts (v.5). However, God's enemies are full of guilt before Him and so the Lord will bring to them His recompense. God will vindicate His people (v. 10). That is, there will be a day and hour when His enemies will be held accountable.

The people of the Lord are the tribe of His inheritance (v. 19). They are known to Him before the foundation of the earth (Ephesians 1:4). Yes, God is not indifferent to sinfulness. He is a just God. Therefore, sinners will be held accountable. However, our Lord Jesus Christ became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21). Indeed, at that final hour God will display the riches of His glory upon the people of His mercy whom He has prepared beforehand for glory (Romans 9:23)!

## **Thursday (May 2) – Jeremiah 52**

"He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord" (v.2). These words are spoken of the last king of the doomed kingdom of Judah. Zedekiah, like many others before him and like the people, chooses his own ways over the Lord's. As a result, the people are carried away by their enemies and the temple is desecrated. Yet God in His mercy provides a peaceful end to the life of Jehoiachin king of Judah (nephew of Zedekiah, who had been king before him). With this note of hope at the end of the book we are directed toward better days to come. God will send the true King, His Son. He will call all His own into His kingdom of grace to worship in

the true Temple, who is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself! In this true and saving peace of Christ we shall ever remain!

### **Friday (May 3) – Lamentations 1**

The book of Lamentations is also written by the prophet Jeremiah, who pours out his broken heart before the Lord on account of the people of Judah. Jeremiah's entire ministry had been one long, unheeded warning to God's people. And now, like a grieving parent, he mourns the destruction of the children of God.

“How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations” (v. 1). The prophet speaks for the sadness of their experience as this book begins. The lament of the prophet is joined with the weeping of the people for their unfaithfulness to God. God's people here realize their sin before Him.

Sin is destructive. This truth is made clear in the experience of the people now taken captive. They now confess that God is just, “The Lord is in the right, for I have rebelled against His word” (v. 18). Lament is often a part of our lives of faith as well. May the Lord in His mercy draw us to repentance and keep us in His grace. It is for our eternal good to remain near to our God. He alone is our refuge (Psalm 73:28).

### **Saturday (May 4) – Lamentations 2**

In this chapter the Lord's people suffer the consequences of their own sin. They have brought this destruction upon themselves. The people sit in silence. Covered over in dust and clothed with sackcloth, they express outwardly their inner remorse over sin (v. 10).

As Martin Luther once said, the life of the Christian should be a life of daily repentance. This is the pattern of our lives of faith, turning from our sins each day. Isaiah the prophet wrote, “In returning and in rest you shall be saved” (Isaiah 30:15). Let us then confess with our lips and with our lives what we hold to in our hearts. As people of God in Christ, let us daily return to the Lord our God—from sin back to our Savior again. He alone is gracious and merciful toward us and abounding in steadfast love (Psalm 145:8)!

### **Sunday (May 5) – Lamentations 3**

“I am lost!”, the people cry (v. 54). Perhaps you too have felt as they did. Lament is often a part of our lives of faith. Our sins make a separation between us and our God and cause Him to hide His face from us (Isaiah 59:2). In times of repentance, we seek our God that He might be “seen,” that is, that His saving and strengthening grace once more be received in our lives by faith. In our struggles let us recall Scriptures' promise that the testing and trying of our faith produces the ability to endure (James 1:3). We daily grow stronger in faith as we learn to always rely not on ourselves but upon our Lord (2 Corinthians 1:9).

This chapter contains precious promises, ones that spoke to God's people of old and still speak to us powerfully today, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness” (vv. 22–23).