

# Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

## **Monday (May 13) – Ezekiel 12, 13**

In chapter 12 God tells Ezekiel to act out the role of an exile. Ezekiel shows how the Babylonian puppet king, Zedekiah, will be led into exile with the rest of the stubborn, unrepentant people who remained in Jerusalem. The Gospel promise in this chapter is that there will be a faithful remnant (12:16). Through these judgements and punishments, God shows the seriousness of Israel's idolatry and invites them to repent, turn back to him, and be His people once more. In chapter 13 Ezekiel is commanded to condemn the false prophets. Even with the prophecies of Babylonian conquest and exile being fulfilled all around them, the people of Israel will listen to any false prophet who assures them with lies that all is well. These false prophets don't care for the people. They are exploiting them for handfuls of barley and pieces of bread. False prophets pop up and spread lies in every age. In our day and age, we can find a false prophet for just about anything we might possibly want to hear. Pray for your pastor, whose duty it is to encourage you by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it (Titus 1:9).

## **Tuesday (May 14) – Ezekiel 14, 15**

Chapter 14 begins with the elders of Israel coming to Ezekiel to inquire of God. God knows their hearts. They claim to call upon God, but in their hearts they worship false gods. God cannot be tricked or mocked. They have rejected him, so He sets His face against them. God says that it is He who deceives the false prophets and He who destroys them (14:9). Remember Pharaoh, who after repeatedly hardening his heart and rejecting God's Word through the prophet Moses, was hardened by God and then destroyed. See that the way out of all of this death and destruction is in repentance and faith. What is God's will for them and for you? To restore you. That you be His people and He be Your God (14:11). In Chapter 15 Jerusalem is described as a useless vine, good for nothing except to be food for the fire. Consider the words of Jesus, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

## **Wednesday (May 15) – Ezekiel 16**

God describes His relationship with His people in terms of a marriage. He will punish the unfaithfulness of His people by giving them over to the false gods they have sought. All the blessing and honor He had given to her will be stripped away by the pagan nations she has chased after. Note how in verses 59–63, God promises to make atonement for His bride and to cover all her sins of adultery. Remember Ephesians 5:25–27: Christ is the Bridegroom; His church is His bride. Even after her brazen unfaithfulness and blatant ingratitude, He gives up His life for her, He cleanses her with water and the word, and He raises her up to live before Him in righteousness and purity forever.

## **Thursday (May 16) – Ezekiel 17**

Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonians broke off the top twigs of the vine of Israel when he removed David's legitimate heir, Jehoiachin, and appointed the puppet king, Zedekiah. God promises to do something similar, though much greater. He will plant His own twig, the promised messianic King, the legitimate heir of king David, our Lord Jesus, on a high and lofty mountain. This is God's plan of salvation which He accomplished for you through the incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension of our messianic King.

## **Friday (May 17) – Ezekiel 18, 19**

Chapter 18 explains an important theological theme. Every person is individually accountable to God. One's standing before God is dependent upon faith. Our sinful tendency is to want to blame God, or our parents, or our children for unfairness. While the whole nation, righteous and unrighteous alike, are suffering on account of the corporate sin of the nation; those who live by faith are righteous before God and will live forever. God makes His will abundantly clear: "For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live" (18:32). In chapter 19 Ezekiel laments the sin of Judah's kings. The corporate sins of the nation harm everyone, righteous and unrighteous alike. We take up similar prayers of lamentation on our lips when we contemplate the evils rampant in our land (i.e. the sacrifice of infants to the false gods of mammon, achievement, and reputation with legalized abortion). While you lament the corporate sins of our land, remember that on account of Christ, you are righteous. With Ezekiel, we can lament while still standing tall as ones marked as ones redeemed by Christ the crucified.

## **Saturday (May 18) – Ezekiel 20**

In chapter 20 the elders of Israel come to Ezekiel a third time to inquire of the Lord. Despite Ezekiel's fiery preaching of the law, his calls to repentance, and his reminders about God's gracious promises, the elders do not listen. God could be silent, but instead he pronounces them guilty once more, threatens His wrath, and promises restoration for those who turn to Him. In this God demonstrates His great patience toward all sinners.

## **Sunday (May 19) – Ezekiel 21, 22**

God stands as a prosecuting attorney against Israel. He lists their grievances against the law given to them through Moses. Most abhorrent is the sin mentioned in verse 12: They have forgotten the Lord. They put their trust in false idols instead of the one true God. As you read these chapters of punishment and judgment, see the seriousness of sin. See how all sin flows ultimately from the sin of unbelief. God created human beings to trust in Him to provide everything. Because we are born in sin, we are incapable of living toward God and trusting as we were created to do. This is why God chose before the foundation of the world to act in creation, to send the Son to die for your sins and to send the Holy Spirit to call you by the Gospel, enlighten you with His gifts, sanctify and keep you in the one true faith.