

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (May 6) – Lamentations 4, 5

Chapter 4 describes the destruction of Jerusalem and God's punishment upon her. God's wrath is His righteous judgment against sin which must be consumed and destroyed (v. 11). Chapter 5 is a prayer to the Lord to remember His children who turn to Him in repentance. We recognize in our prayers that we do not deserve anything good from God, but that through Christ He gives His mercy and grace to all who humble themselves. Christ will never forsake nor leave you.

Tuesday (May 7) – Ezekiel 1, 2

Ezekiel was a prophet at the same time as Jeremiah. He was part of the first deportation of Jews before Jerusalem rebelled against Babylon and was later destroyed. Ezekiel was called to preach to the exiles living in Babylon. In this first chapter, Ezekiel is given a vision in which he sees the glory of God. The climax of his vision is seeing above the throne a likeness with a human appearance (vv. 25–28). Ezekiel is seeing the Son of God in all His glory, who would one day take on a real human likeness with a real human body which contains all His glory and brightness. After seeing the glory of God, Ezekiel is called to preach to the exiles in Babylon. Scripture teaches that no one should publicly preach or teach unless called by Christ. Ezekiel is told to preach what God gives him even if the exiles do not want to hear it. Pastors are not to preach what is popular or well-liked but what God has revealed in Scripture. All believers are called to witness to others about Christ and His Gospel and also not to change the message. God's Word is medicine to your soul and you need this message pure and unchanged.

Wednesday (May 8) – Ezekiel 3, 4

God warns Ezekiel that the exiles of Jerusalem will not listen to him and that he will have to be as stubborn in his preaching as they are. God also makes Ezekiel to be His watchman. Ezekiel is to warn them of their sin and call them to repentance. If he fails in warning them, then their blood is on his head. But if he warns them and they refuse to repent and turn from their sins, then their blood is on their own heads. This is true of pastors still. Faithful pastors will warn you of sin and call you to repent and turn from your sins out of love for your soul. If a pastor doesn't, then the blood of those who were lost are on his own head. In chapter 4 Ezekiel is called to make a model of Jerusalem and model siege works and lie on his side to symbolize the siege of Jerusalem and how Jerusalem will fall to the Babylonians. The point of doing all this was to teach the exiles that they are not going to be returning to Jerusalem. They are to give up their plans for the future and humble themselves before God. God will let their children return to Jerusalem, but not until 70 years after Jerusalem is destroyed. There are times in our lives when we must accept God's plan for us, trusting that He loves us and knows what is truly best for us.

Thursday (May 9) –Ezekiel 5, 6

Chapter 5 is the vision of the cutting of the hair. The symbolism behind is that this is what God will do to Jerusalem. While many of those in Jerusalem will die by fire and by sword, God will still preserve a remnant which is symbolized by Ezekiel binding a small number of hairs in the skirts of his robe. In Chapter 6 God promises that despite all His judgments on Jerusalem, there will be some who escape, carried off captive to the nations (vv. 8–10). There is always a faithful remnant of believers. In our own time, when it seems that Christianity is declining in America, we put our trust in Christ and remain faithful to His Word, knowing that there will always be a faithful remnant of believers in Christ.

Friday (May 10)- Ezekiel 7

Ezekiel proclaims the day of God's wrath and the end of the land of Jerusalem. The judgement and destruction of Jerusalem is also a picture of the final judgment of all the earth when Christ returns. When Our Lord comes back, He will judge all violence, wickedness and abominations. For unbelievers this is a terrifying day, because Christ will lay low their pride and arrogance. But for us who believe in Christ and whose sins are covered by His blood, this day is not terrifying. Instead, we look forward to when Christ shall remove all sin and evil from earth.

Saturday (May 11) – Ezekiel 8, 9

In chapter 8 Ezekiel is transported to Jerusalem and to the temple in a vision. God shows him how His own place of worship had been made unclean and profaned by various idolatrous images and idols. This is a warning to us not to profane God's house. Churches that accept the cultural norms and morals of the world and refuse to preach repentance and salvation in Christ have become places that are repugnant to God, just as the temple in Jerusalem became. In chapter 9 God executes His just punishment on those who have turned His house into an abomination, but at the same time He marks those who are still faithful and spares them. Through faith in Christ, you were marked safe in your baptism from His just punishments against your sins. Instead of receiving God's wrath, you will enter into eternal life.

Sunday (May 12) – Ezekiel 10, 11

The temple was the special dwelling place of God with His people, but in chapter 10 Ezekiel sees God leave the temple. The glory of God will never again return to that temple. Instead, the glory of the Lord will return in the incarnation of the Son of God. Jesus is the new temple and in His body is the fullness of the divine glory. Chapter 11 ends with a glorious promise from God to the exiles. They will return again to Israel and Jerusalem. But more than that, God in the New Testament era will give all believers in Christ a new heart. Christ and the Holy Spirit through the Gospel removes your heart of stone and gives you a new heart, a living heart. This picture of the new heart is about how in Christ you are made a new creation with a heart that can believe in God and His Son and follow in the ways of His Holy Word.