

Week 40

<p>October 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 21</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 22</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 23</p>	<p>? Even a great prophet like Jeremiah grew discouraged because the people rejected his message. He even blamed God for his situation (Jer 20:7-8). Have you ever felt that God put you in an impossible situation? If so, you are not alone. Jeremiah suffered the same frustration. Jeremiah learned – and we must learn – that God is with us in those difficult times.</p> <p>* Read the praise in Jeremiah 20:13 and then the complaint of Jeremiah 20:14. Both statements are sincere. Jeremiah knows that God deserves praise, but he is hurting and wishes for death. In such a time, our only hope is to turn to God.</p> <p>* One of the sins of Judah’s leaders was their injustice. Jehoiakim built a palace for himself while the people were suffering during Babylon’s siege. He forced the people to work without pay. God warned that the mark of a good king is justice and righteousness, not elaborate palaces (Jer 22:13-15).</p> <p>? In a time of prosperity, Judah went further from God (Jer 22:21). Does prosperity draw you closer to God or do you become more stubborn in your sin?</p> <p>? Because of their sin, God’s presence was a threat to Judah (Jer 23:23). Is God’s presence a comfort to you or a threat? Why?</p>
<p>October 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 24</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 26</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 27</p>	<p>* As you read Jeremiah 24, be aware of the irony of the prophet’s message. We expect the “good figs” to be the people staying in Jerusalem and the “bad figs” to be those carried into captivity. Instead, God says that the “bad figs” will be the ones remaining in Jerusalem. Because of Israel’s sin, He will no longer protect the city.</p> <p>? Even in judgment, God called His people to repentance. Read Jeremiah 24:7 and hear God’s passion for His people. In times of trouble, do you return to God with your whole heart?</p> <p>? As Judah prepared for exile, God reminded her that He has sent warnings for decades. Can you point to times in your life where God warned you against the wrong path? Did you listen to His warning?</p>
<p>October 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 28</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 29</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 31</p>	<p>? While Jeremiah prophesied doom, Hananiah prophesied peace and prosperity. Do you prefer a painful truth or a pleasing lie? Do you want your pastor to preach truth, even when it is painful?</p> <p>? Many people read Jeremiah 29:11 without reading 29:10 and 12-14. The promise of 29:11 is this – <i>because</i> God has plans for Israel’s good, He will send seventy years of judgment in Babylon. During those years, Israel will call on God and He will hear her. God’s plan is good, but God’s plan is painful. Are you willing to accept God’s plan if it involves pain?</p> <p>* Jeremiah 30-33 give the promise of restoration. When Israel repents, God will bring her back to the land of promise.</p> <p>? Highlight the promises in Jeremiah 31. Meditate on God’s mercy in times of judgment.</p> <p>? The “new covenant” in Jeremiah 31:31 is written on the hearts of God’s people instead of tablets of stone. God’s purpose is that we will obey him because we have transformed hearts of love, rather than obeying him out of obligation. Is God’s law written on your heart? Do you obey Him out of love rather than obligation?</p>

<p>October 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 32 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 33 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 34 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 35 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God told Jeremiah to buy a field as a form of prophecy. This purchase said, “This land will again be valuable when God returns the people to Jerusalem. The land will not always lay empty.” ? Read the promise of Jeremiah 32:17. What are you facing today that seems too difficult? Give it to God. ? Notice the praise of Jeremiah 33:9-11 in the middle of a book of lament. The place of “waste” and desolation will someday be restored. In times of trouble, can you trust God’s steadfast love? * The story of the Rechabites in Jeremiah 35 is a story of contrast. The Rechabites were a nomadic tribe. Jeremiah contrasted the faithful obedience of this tribe with the disobedience of Israel, God’s chosen people.
<p>October 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 36 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 37 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 39 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 40 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * By this point in Jeremiah, you may wonder, “How could Judah be so determined in her sin?” Jeremiah has repeatedly warned of God’s judgment, but Judah’s leaders persist in rebellion. King Jehoiakim even burned the scroll containing Jeremiah’s prophecy. * Jeremiah 37-43 tells the story of Judah’s last days. After decades of warnings, God’s judgment fell on Jerusalem. Notice the terrible words of Jeremiah 39:16, “I will fulfill my words <i>for harm and not for good.</i>” Because of Judah’s rebellion, God turned His wrath against His own chosen people.
<p>October 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 41 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 42 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 43 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 44 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 45 <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 46 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * After seeing God’s judgment on Jerusalem the people asked Jeremiah to pray for a word from God. They wanted to flee Jerusalem and go to Egypt. Jeremiah brought them God’s message, “Do not flee to Egypt.” They refused to listen to God and took Jeremiah as a hostage when they went to Egypt. ? Highlight the warnings in Jeremiah 44. Because the nation was guilty of idolatry, God determined to “set my face against you for harm” (Jer 44:11). Have you been guilty, like Judah, of ignoring God’s warnings against your sin? ? Baruch, Jeremiah’s secretary, suffered despite his faithful service to God’s prophet. Do you ever feel that you suffer despite serving God faithfully? God reminded Baruch that He (God) had lost much more than Baruch. God had built and planted Israel – and now it was all destroyed. God hurts for the sins of His people far more than we hurt.
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 41

<p>October 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 47</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 48</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 49</p>	<p>* Jeremiah 46-51 shows God’s sovereignty over all nations. Israel suffered for her sin, but God promised that He would also judge other nations who rejected Him.</p> <p>* A surprising aspect of these prophecies is God’s promise of restoration even to people like Moab (Jer 48:47). God declared that even Moab would someday turn to Him – and He will restore them in mercy.</p>
<p>October 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 51</p>	<p>* Just as Judah and Israel were defeated because of their sin, Babylon will also suffer God’s vengeance. No one can escape God’s justice. Even though it appeared that God had forgotten His people, Jeremiah promised, “Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the Lord of hosts” (Jer 51:5). God will someday remember and restore His people. His promises are eternal.</p> <p>? As you reach the end of Jeremiah, take some time to think back across this long book and review what you have learned about God from this book. Think about His justice and judgment on those who rebel against Him. Think about His mercy on those who repent. Think about His promise of restoration to those who call on Him. Do you have a better picture of God’s character after reading Jeremiah?</p>
<p>October 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 52</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 89</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 1</p>	<p>* Jeremiah 52 concludes the story of Jerusalem’s fall and the destruction of the Temple. What a tragic end to the story of Jerusalem. All this happened because God’s people rebelled and turned to other gods.</p> <p>* Psalm 89 remembers God’s covenant and steadfast love for His people. In a time of judgment, it is good to remember God’s everlasting faithfulness and steadfast love. Read Psalm 89:46-49 and remember that God will not hide Himself forever. He will not forget His people.</p> <p>* According to tradition, Jeremiah was the author of Lamentations. It is a collection of five poems about the fall of Jerusalem. These poems teach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Jerusalem fell because of the people’s sin • That God is a faithful God of never-ending mercy • That confession and repentance is the way back to God.
<p>October 11</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lam 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lam 4</p>	<p>* Although the author of Lamentations mourns the destruction of Jerusalem, he recognizes that God’s judgment was just. God repeatedly warned His people of coming judgment; “The Lord has done what he purposed; he has carried out his word, which he commanded long ago” (2:17).</p> <p>? Lamentations 3:22-26 is a beautiful reminder of God’s mercy in times of judgment. Have you experienced God’s promise, “The Lord is good to those who wait for him” (Lam 3:25).</p> <p>? If you are suffering pain as the result of your sin, claim the promise of Lam 3:31-33. Though he causes grief, he will have compassion. His purpose is not to afflict us, but to bring us to repentance.</p>

<p>October 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Joel 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Joel 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Joel 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 90 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reflect on the prayer of Lamentations 5:21-22. Because of God’s promises, the writer of Lamentations <i>knows</i> that He has not “utterly rejected” His people. So, he can pray, “Renew our days as of old.” If you are experiencing God’s judgment, pray this prayer. God is a God of everlasting mercy who delights in restoring His people. * The prophet Joel used a natural disaster in chapter 1 (a destructive infestation of locusts) as a prophetic warning against God’s future judgment in chapter 2. Israel looked to the “Day of the Lord” as a time when she would be delivered from her enemies. Joel warned that if Israel did not repent, the Day of the Lord would be a day of judgment. Just as the locusts destroyed the nation’s crops, God would allow Israel’s enemies to destroy the nation itself. ? Like many other prophets, Joel ended his warnings of judgment with a call to repentance. If Israel repented, God promised forgiveness. For those who have experienced judgment, Joel 2:25-27 is a wonderful promise, “I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten.” Since you came to Christ, what are some ways in which God has restored your life? Be as specific as possible in naming areas in which He has brought restoration to areas that sin had damaged. * Psalm 90 is the only psalm credited to Moses. It reminds us that God is an everlasting and faithful God. This psalm calls us to “number our days” and live carefully and wisely because life is short.
<p>October 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Habakkuk 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Habakkuk 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Habakkuk 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 91 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 92 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 93 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 94 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Most of the prophetic books record a message from the prophet to a human audience. Habakkuk records a conversation between the prophet and God. It is a dialogue in the following structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Habakkuk asks, “Why does God allow wicked Judah to prosper?” (1:2-4) <li style="padding-left: 40px;">God responds, “I will send the Chaldeans to judge Judah.” (1:5-11) -Habakkuk asks, “How can God use a wicked nation to judge Judah?” (1:12-2:1) <li style="padding-left: 40px;">God responds, “I will judge the Chaldeans for their sin.” (2:2-20) -Habakkuk concludes with a hymn of praise for God’s mighty works. (3:1-19) ? When Habakkuk heard what God had done in the past, he prayed that God would bring the same revival again (3:2). Do you pray for revival in your church, in your family, and in your own heart? What changes do you think would happen if God brought revival to your church? ? Before reading Psalm 91, think of a significant challenge you face in your life. After you read Psalm 91, ask, “Can I trust the God of Psalm 91 with the problem I face?” * As you read Psalm 94, remember what you read in Habakkuk. God is a “God of vengeance” who must judge sin. But His judgment is for the purpose of disciplining His children out of love. He wants to restore us and teach us His law (Ps 94:12).
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 42

<p>October 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 95 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Like Jeremiah, Ezekiel is a difficult book of judgment. Like Jeremiah, Ezekiel prophesied during the years just before Jerusalem’s fall. However, Ezekiel was in the city of Nippur with other exiles. He had been carried there in 597 during Babylon’s attack on Jerusalem. * Much of Ezekiel consists of strange visions and dramas. Do not get frustrated by the complicated images. Eighteen times, Ezekiel says that a creature “is like…” and compares it to something else. He was using the best language he could find to describe visions that were indescribable. Try to imagine the glory of the creatures described even if you do not understand every detail. ? Like Jeremiah, Ezekiel was sent to deliver a difficult message. Like Jeremiah, he did not want to deliver the message. But like Jeremiah, he found that the bitter message became sweet in his mouth (3:3). Do you find obedience to God brings sweetness even when His commands are difficult? ? Psalm 95 gives two options. We can “kneel before the Lord, our Maker” in obedience and worship or we can “harden our hearts” like Israel in the wilderness. Can you remember a time when you refused to obey God? Can you remember a time when you knelt in obedience to Him? Compare the results of each decision.
<p>October 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 96 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 97 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In Ezekiel 8-10, God gave Ezekiel a vision of idol worship in the Temple in Jerusalem. Ezekiel was thirty years old and a member of the priestly line. If he had not been carried into exile, Ezekiel would have been serving in the Temple. However, Israel has backslidden so far as to worship false idols in the Temple. In judgment, God’s glory left the Temple. This is the same judgment described in Jeremiah 7. Because of Israel’s sin, God was no longer willing to dwell in the Temple. The house of God was now an empty building. ? After you read about the false idols of Ezekiel’s day, read the description of Jehovah in Psalm 96-97. Are you amazed to think that people would leave the God of Psalm 96 to worship the idols of Ezekiel 8? What false gods do people worship today instead of the true God?
<p>October 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 98 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? As you read the first part of Ezekiel, it may be harder to see God’s love than in books like Hosea. But even in the harsh judgments of Ezekiel, God’s love shines through. Read Ezek 11:19-20. Do you see a God who loves Judah in spite of her sin. He wants to remove her heart of stone and give her a heart of flesh, a heart that obeys God because of love rather than fear. Have you experienced that transformation? Do you obey God from a heart of love? That is God’s goal for every person. ? While reading the judgments of Ezekiel, it is good to read the praises of the Psalms. As you read Psalm 98, take time to praise God “for He has done marvelous things.” What is one “marvelous thing” God has done in your life?

<p>October 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 100 	<p>? Have you ever known someone who thought they could escape God’s judgment for their sin? Some in Judah believed they could sin without penalty. God warned, “I will set my face against them” (Ezek 15:7). Never believe Satan’s lie that God will ignore sin. Sin <i>always</i> brings judgment.</p> <p>? Have you ever known someone who thought that God would never forgive their sin? Some in Judah believed that God had forgotten them. God promised, “I will remember my covenant with you” and I will “atone for you for all that you have done” (Ezek 16:60,63). Never believe Satan’s lie that your sin has taken you beyond God’s forgiveness. God <i>always</i> hears the prayer of a sinner who repents.</p> <p>? Psalm 99 shows the same balance of judgment and forgiveness. The psalmist says God was “a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings” (Ps 99:8). Think of a time when God judged your sin. Think of a time when God forgave your sin. Take time to thank God that “His steadfast love endures forever” (Ps 100:5).</p>
<p>October 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 101 	<p>* During the exile, some people began to say, “We are suffering because of our parent’s sin. ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’” (Ezek 18:1). God responded that each generation is judged for its own sin. “The soul who sins shall die” (18:4). We will each stand before God and be held accountable for our sin.</p> <p>* However, just as each person is judged for his or her own sin, each person can be forgiven – regardless of what others do. God promised, “If a wicked person turns away from all his sins..., he shall surely live” (Ezek 18:21). God’s mercy is immense.</p> <p>? As you read Ezekiel 20, highlight each time the words “my name” or “my name’s sake” appears. Notice how God acts to protect the glory of His name. God judges sin “for the sake of my name” and He forgives repentant sinners “for the sake of my name.” Are you living in a way that brings honor to God’s name?</p>
<p>October 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 22 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 102 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 103 	<p>? Ezekiel 22 is a catalog of the sins that brought God’s judgment on Judah. List the sins in this chapter and then ask, “Which of these sins are committed by my generation? Think of the corruption in business and politics, think of the vile lifestyles celebrated in Hollywood, and realize that the God who judged Judah is angry with any people who commit these sins. Pray that God will bring our generation to repentance.</p> <p>? Rejoice that we can pray the prayers of Psalm 102 and 103 knowing that God is a God who is merciful and wants to show mercy to all who repent. Psalm 103 is one of the greatest psalms of praise. “He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever” (103:9). Take time this weekend to praise God for His mercy and compassion. Remember how He has shown mercy to you. Thank Him for His goodness and mercy.</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 43

<p>October 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 104 	<p>? Ezekiel 23 tells the story of two sisters. Oholah represents the Northern Kingdom that was conquered by Assyria. When Oholibah, representing Judah, saw the results of Oholah’s idolatry, she should have repented. Instead, she persisted in her own idolatry. As a result, God allowed Babylon to conquer Judah. Can you think of a time in your life when you saw the painful results of sin in the life of other people, but refused to abandon the same sin in your own life?</p> <p>* Take time to read Genesis 1 before reading Psalm 104. Then look for the parallels. Each act of creation is described in Psalm 104. Although the order is not the same (this is a poem rather than the historical account of Genesis 1), each day of creation appears in Psalm 104.</p>
<p>October 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 26 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 27 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 105 	<p>? Even though Ezekiel preached only to the people of Judah, chapters 25-32 contain prophecies against other nations who will never hear Ezekiel: Ammon, Moab, Seir, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon and Egypt. What do you think these messages said to the people of Judah? How did this communicate God’s universal sovereignty?</p> <p>? The primary message of Ezekiel 1-24 is judgment. The primary message of Ezekiel 25-48 is the future restoration of Israel. How do chapters 25-32 fit the theme of restoration?</p> <p>* Psalm 104 praised God for His works in creation. Psalm 105 praises God for His sovereignty in history. Both creation and history are theaters that reveal God’s majesty and power.</p>
<p>October 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 28 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 29 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 106 	<p>* Many commentators see Ezekiel 28:12-19 as a picture comparing the pride of Tyre to the pride of Satan. Just as Satan rebelled against God out of pride, Tyre was a proud empire that would be destroyed.</p> <p>? Ezekiel describes the terrible results of Tyre’s pride, but pride is often considered to be a “small” sin. We don’t recognize the awful impact of the pride that corrupts our motives even when we are doing good, that destroys relationships, and that causes us to refuse to humble ourselves in repentance. Describe the impact of pride in your life. How does pride lead to other, more visible, sins?</p> <p>* Psalm 106 continues the theme of God’s greatness revealed in history. But in this psalm, you will hear a much different tone. In Psalm 105, God rescued His people from Egypt. Sadly, Psalm 106 shows that God’s people responded to His favor by repeatedly rebelling and turning to other gods. Just as Tyre’s pride caused her to reject God, Israel’s pride led her into sin.</p>
<p>October 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 31 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 32 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 107 	<p>? Again, the sin of pride is a major theme of Ezekiel 31. Why is pride so abhorrent to God? How is pride a form of rebellion against a sovereign God?</p> <p>? As you read Psalm 107, highlight the phrase “he delivered them from their distress.” This phrase appears four times. The first group are those who are lost and wandering. When they cried to the Lord, “he delivered them....” Then, those who had rebelled cried to the Lord and “he delivered them....” Then fools who were in trouble because of their own sinful ways cried to the Lord and “he delivered them....” Finally, sailors caught in a storm (workers doing their work) cried to the Lord and “he delivered them....” Do you see yourself in any of these four groups? Take time to thank a merciful God who delivers us when we cry out to Him.</p>

<p>October 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 33 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 34 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 35 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 108 	<p>? Ezekiel 33 and 34 is a serious warning to anyone who holds leadership responsibility. If you are a leader (in a church, in a ministry organization, or in your family), listen carefully to these chapters. Recognize your awesome responsibility to warn faithfully those under your spiritual care. As a church member or a person under the spiritual authority of another person, recognize the responsibility they have and commit to heed their warnings. Remember that God speaks to us through the people He places in authority over us. How can you show faithfulness as a spiritual leader and respect as a spiritual follower?</p> <p>* If you are in a place where you do not have the privilege of following a faithful spiritual “shepherd,” be encouraged by Ezekiel 34:25-31. God promised to be the shepherd of those who have been abandoned by their leaders.</p> <p>* Just as Ezekiel prophesied God’s judgment on Moab, Edom and Philistia, David’s psalm rejoices that God cares for Israel (108:8) and is sovereign over the other nations (108:9).</p>
<p>October 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 36 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 37 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 109 	<p>* Ezekiel 36-37 paint beautiful pictures of Israel’s restoration. When God restores His people, He promises to give them a “new heart and a new spirit” that will give them both the desire and the power to obey God’s law. Then, Ezekiel saw a vision of a valley of dead bones being brought to life by the Spirit of God. In spite of the terrible judgments caused by Judah’s sin, God would restore His people and bring them to new life. In the New Testament, we learn that this same promise is given to everyone who turns to God in faith. Although we are all dead in our sins, we can be made alive through the power of the Spirit.</p> <p>? Have you experienced the “new heart and new spirit” of Ezekiel 36 that gives you an inward desire to obey God? Is God’s Spirit giving you daily power to obey God’s law and live a life of victory? Have you experienced the miracle of new life from Ezekiel 37? Has God breathed His life into you and made you spiritually alive?</p> <p>* Psalm 109 is one of seven “psalms of imprecation” that call for God’s judgment on the psalmist’s enemies. As you read this, remember a few important principles for understanding these psalms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The enemy of David is also an enemy of God. -Justice requires that sin be judged. -David does not take judgment into his own hands. Instead, he trusts God to bring justice on those who have wronged him. He turns any “rights” to vengeance over to God.
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 44

<p>October 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 39 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 110 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 111 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 112 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? In Ezekiel 39, highlight the words “know that I am the Lord” or “my holy name.” Do you see again how cares for His glory? * Psalm 110 is one of the most frequently cited psalms in the New Testament. Jesus showed that it points to him as the Messiah. It begins, “The LORD (Jehovah) says to my Lord (the King, and later, the Messiah)....” ? Psalm 111-112 is a wonderful pair. In Psalm 111, God is described as righteous, gracious, and merciful (111:3-4). In Psalm 112, the person “who fears the Lord” is described as gracious, merciful, and righteous (112:4). When we fear God, we become like Him. Do you fear God? Are you gaining the character of God? Are you day by day looking more like the God you worship?
<p>October 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 40 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 41 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 42 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 113 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ezekiel 40-48 records Ezekiel’s final vision. In Ezekiel 8-11, the prophet saw the corruption of the temple and watched God’s glory depart. In Ezekiel 40-48, he sees a new temple filled with the glory of God. As you read, be aware of four major ways to interpret this vision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A vision of a literal future temple in Israel during the Millennium - A symbolic vision of God’s presence among His people in the churches - A symbolic vision of God’s presence among His people in eternity - A vision that includes both literal and symbolic elements Regardless of your interpretation, a primary message is God’s plan to restore a holy people and to dwell among them. * As you read Ezekiel 40-48, you might benefit from the drawing of Ezekiel’s vision at: https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/chart_26_temple_plan/
<p>October 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 43 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 44 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 45 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 46 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 114 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * One of the highlights of Ezekiel is the return of God’s glory in Ezek 43:1-5. God’s presence among His people is the central focus of the rest of the book. ? After God returns and the temple is rebuilt, Ezekiel shows that God’s demands for a holy people have not changed (43:6-12). God is preparing a people for His holy temple. As you read this section, ask, “Am I living as a holy person should live?”
<p>November 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 47 <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 48 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 115 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 116 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 117 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In the vision of the river flowing from the door of the temple, Ezekiel sees that God will someday restore not just Israel but all the world to His plan. Revelation 22:1-2 will show the fulfillment of this vision. ? As you finish Ezekiel, write one sentence summarizing what you have seen in Ezekiel... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -About God’s justice -About God’s concern for His glory -About God’s plan for the future of His people * As you read Psalm 115, enjoy the wonderful contrast between the weakness of idols (115:4-8) and the power of Jehovah (115:9-13). Take time to rejoice that we serve a God of power and majesty. He is our “help” and our “shield.” ? Psalm 116 is a hymn of praise for deliverance in trouble. After you read, take time to thank God for a time when He delivered you in trouble.

<p>November 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 118</p>	<p>* A major theme of Daniel is “Faithfulness.” Daniel 1-6 is a historical record and shows that Daniel and his friends were faithful to God even when they were captives in Babylon. Daniel 7-12 is prophetic and shows that God will be faithful to His people even when they face oppression and suffering.</p> <p>? In Daniel 1, Daniel shows his faithfulness to God by refusing to compromise his diet in a way that might make him forget his identity as a Jew. Although we are no longer under Old Testament food laws, how do you remember your identity as God’s child? Through worship with other believers? Through Bible study and small groups? How do you maintain your identity as a Christian in your workplace?</p>
<p>November 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 6</p>	<p>* In Daniel 3, Daniel’s friends learned that faithfulness to God requires obedience – even at the risk of death.</p> <p>? Read Daniel 3:16-18. Daniel’s friends have faith that God will deliver them from the furnace. “But if not,” they will still be faithful to God. Will you obey God even if He does <i>not</i> deliver you from persecution?</p> <p>* Daniel 4-5 show God’s judgment on man’s pride. Nebuchadnezzar is brought to disgrace because of his pride. Belshazzar is defeated by Darius because of his pride.</p> <p>? Why does Daniel open his window and face Jerusalem to pray? This is not commanded in the Bible. Is it to ensure that in a foreign land he never forgets that he is a citizen of God’s city, Jerusalem? Is it to empower him to be faithful even when he is far from his homeland?</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

