

Day 236 – Jeremiah 37:3-39:10; 52:5-30; 2 Kings 25:2-21; 2 Chronicles 36:17-21 •

In Jeremiah 37, we read that the Egyptian Pharaoh Hophra sent an army to assist Jerusalem, under siege by the Babylonians. Pharaoh’s army retreated before actually engaging in battle, and left Jerusalem to fall to the Babylonians in 587 B.C.

In 37:13-21 Jeremiah is arrested and put into prison in Jerusalem. Eventually he gets to see King Zedekiah, whom asks if there is a word from the Lord. Jeremiah tells him that there is - he will be given into the hand of the king of Babylon. Jeremiah petitions for his release from prison. At the king’s command, they move Jeremiah to the court of the guard house where he is provided a loaf of bread daily until all the bread in the city was gone.

In chapter 38 Jeremiah is cast into a cistern by some officials who did not like the words he was speaking. Only a foreigner, an Ethiopian, cared enough for Jeremiah to risk rescuing him.

Then the city was broken into and the army of the Chaldeans burned the house of the LORD, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem.

All the articles of the house of God, all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought them all to Babylon.

What happened to King Zedekiah and his sons after they were captured by the Babylonian army?

(Jer. 39:6-7, Jer. 52:10-11, 2 Kings 25:7)

Day 237 – 2 Kings 25:22; Jeremiah 39:11-40:6; Lamentations 1-3 •

Ebed-melech the Ethiopian had proved his trust in the true God, therefore, the LORD rescued him from the fall of Jerusalem (Jer. 39:18).

When Jerusalem was captured and its inhabitants carried away to Babylon, Jeremiah was at first taken as far as Ramah among the other captives, but there he was dismissed to go back to Jerusalem, to Gedaliah, whom the king of Babylon had made governor of the city. ²

The term Lamentations is from a Greek verb meaning “to cry aloud”, accurately describing the contents of the book.

Jeremiah is the author of Lamentations, which consists of five melancholy poems of mourning over the utter destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Babylonians. ¹

Though he was distraught, Jeremiah had hope.

Fill in the Blanks (Lam. 3:19-24).

Surely my soul _____ and is _____ down within me.

The LORD's _____ indeed never cease, for His _____ never fail.

They are _____ every morning;

Great is Your _____.

“The LORD is my _____”, says my soul, “therefore I have _____ in Him”.

Name _____

Day 238 – Lamentations 4-5; Obadiah •

The theme of Obadiah is the judgment of Edomites, descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin.

We know nothing about Obadiah, the author, except that his name means “servant of the Lord”.

The book of Obadiah was written in either 841 or 586. B.C.

The question of date relates to which battle against Jerusalem the Edomites were associated with.

There were four significant invasions of Jerusalem in Old Testament times: (1) by Shishak, king of Egypt, during Rehoboam's reign, in 926 B.C.; (2) by the Philistines and Arabians during the reign of Jehoram, from 848-841 B.C.; (3) by King Jehoash of Israel during the reign of Amaziah, in 790 B.C.; (4) by Babylon during the years 605-586 B.C. ¹

What were Edom's crimes, detailed in Obadiah verses 11-14?

Day 239 – Jeremiah 40:7-44:30; 2 Kings 25:23-26 •

After the fall of Jerusalem, Gedaliah was appointed governor over the cities of Judah by the king of Babylon.

The king of the sons of Ammon sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to take Gedaliah's life. Ishmael and ten men who were with him arose and struck down Gedaliah.

Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces that were with him took all the men and went to fight Ishmael. But Ishmael escaped from Johanan with eight men and went to the sons of Ammon.

The people then inquired of Jeremiah if God would approve their plan to migrate to Egypt.

What was the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah in chapter 42?

Johanan and all the commanders of the forces took the entire remnant of Judah and they entered the land of Egypt.

Nebuchadnezzar did invade Egypt in 568-567 B.C.

Jeremiah 44 contains the last message of Jeremiah (to the Jews in Egypt). It was the same as he had preached throughout his ministry: God must punish their sins of idolatry. ¹

Even after the men learned that their wives were burning sacrifices to other gods, they did nothing to stop these idolatrous practices. The women continued to offer sacrifices to the queen of Heaven and they poured out drink offerings to her.

So the LORD was no longer able to endure it (Jer. 44:22).

“Behold, I have sworn by My great name,” says the LORD, “never shall My name be invoked again by the mouth of any man of Judah in the land of Egypt”. ... “All the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt will meet their end by the sword and by famine until they are completely gone”. Jer. 44:26-27

Only a few in number would return to Palestine from Egypt (44:28).

Day 240 – Ezekiel 33:21-36:38 •

In Ezekiel 33:23-29, those who evaded their Babylonian conquerors were saying that since Abraham, a single individual, was given the land then they (his descendants) certainly have a right to it. Ezekiel answered by cataloging six sins of which they were guilty. ¹

List the six sins of which they were guilty.

Ezekiel 33-39 contains prophecies of Israel's restoration.

Chapter 34 begins with an indictment of Israel's false shepherds and ends with praise to the true Shepherd.

for thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out." v. 34:11

Chapter 35 is about the destruction of Edom.

"Because you have had everlasting enmity and have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of the punishment of the end, therefore as I live," declares the Lord GOD, "I will give you over to bloodshed, and bloodshed will pursue you;" vv. 35:5-6

Chapter 36 reveals the new covenant with Israel.

"Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and abominations." v. 36:31

Day 241 – Ezekiel 37-39 •

Chapter 37 contains the vision of Dry Bones, one of six visions in Ezekiel. The nation of Israel will experience both political and spiritual revival (resuscitation) and its two divisions will be reunited. The dry bones indicate an army slain in battle. ¹

Ezekiel chapters 38-39 describe a future attack on Israel and God's deliverance of His people. The invading armies come out of the remote parts of the north (38:15) to invade Palestine but are destroyed by supernatural intervention (39:3). Seven months will be required to bury their corpses (39:11-15), and their weapons will supply fuel for Israel for seven years (39:9-10). The time of the battle is unclear. Israel will be living in security, whether real or imagined (38:11-12), which might indicate that the battle takes place before the middle of the Tribulation, while Israel feels secure under a treaty with Antichrist. But the consummation of the battle involves birds and beasts eating the flesh of warriors, a scene similar to the description of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation (39:17-20; Rev. 19:17-18).

Ezekiel 38:2, 5-6 defines the location of the enemies that rise up against Israel. The land of Magog was identified by Josephus as the land of the Scythians, the region N and NE of the Black Sea and E of the Caspian Sea (now occupied by three members of the Commonwealth of Independent States: Russia, the Ukraine, and Kazakhstan). Rosh is the area of modern Iran. Meshech and Tubal are the area of modern Turkey. Other allies will include Persia (modern Iran), Ethiopia (northern Sudan), Put (Libya), Gomer (probably the eastern part of Turkey and the Ukraine), and Beth-togarmah (the part of Turkey near the Syrian border). ¹

At the conclusion of the conflict, the nations will understand the judging hand of God, and Israel will know that the Lord (Yahweh) is their God. ¹

Fill in the Blanks (39:21-23).

“And I shall set My _____ among the nations; and all the nations will see My _____ which I have executed and My _____ which I have laid on them. And the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day _____. The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity because they acted _____ against Me, and I hid My _____ from them; so I _____ them into the hand of their adversaries, and all of them fell by the sword.”

Day 242 - Ezekiel 32:1-33:20; Daniel 3 •

Ezekiel 32 is a lamentation over Egypt.

In chapter 33, Ezekiel is reminded that God appointed him a watchman. The task of a watchman was to warn the city against impending danger. Ezekiel had warned his people of the coming destruction of Jerusalem.

In Daniel 3, Nebuchadnezzar commanded certain warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire.

What happened in the fiery furnace?

“But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”
 Daniel 3:18

An outline of Daniel chapter 3, courtesy of Pastor Steve (11-23-2008):

- 1) Choices: Please God or please people (1-7).
- 2) Enemies: If you have the right enemies, it's a good sign (8-15).
- 3) Friends: Without the right friends, you'll probably fail (16-18).
- 4) Anger: When you don't put people in the place of God, expect their fury (19-23).
- 5) Death: Because God is able to save those who trust him, dying is not so bad (24-30).

Day 243 - Ezekiel 40-42 •

If understood plainly, Ezekiel chapters 40 - 48 are prophecies concerning Israel when she is reestablished in her land during Christ's millennial kingdom.

Ezekiel foresees the rebuilding of the Temple, the establishment of a right relationship between the LORD and Israel, and the reorganization of her national life. Detailed instructions are recorded for the building of this future Temple and for the service attached to it. ¹

In the NASB translation, the same Hebrew word **qâneh** is translated “rod” in Ezekiel 40:5-8 and “reed” in Ezekiel 42:16-20.

Strong's concordance: **qâneh** *kaw-neh'*; a *reed*; by resemblance a *rod* (espec. for measuring) ..

Using the information below, compute how many acres of land this future Temple will occupy (Ezekiel 42:15-20).

- 1 cubit = 1.5 feet (CRC Handbook of Chemistry & Physics)
- 1 hand = 4 inches (CRC Handbook of Chemistry & Physics)
- 1 rod = 6 cubits, each (cubit) of which was a cubit and a handbreadth (Ezekiel 40:5)
- 1 acre = 43,560 square feet
- 1 reed = _____ feet

Day 244 – Ezekiel 43-45 •

In the vision of chapter 43, Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord return to the Temple. The Lord announces that the Temple must be holy, and thus free from harlotry, and separated from the graves and palaces of kings, which were on the same hill as Solomon's Temple. ¹

Ezekiel 44 details requirements for the Levitical priests who minister in the Temple. Foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, are not permitted to enter the Lord GOD's sanctuary, even to do menial work.

The Levitical priests are to wear garments that would not cause them to sweat. These particular garments are to remain in the holy chambers and not be worn in the outer court. The priests are forbidden to mourn except for the closest of relatives. Ministering priests may not drink wine. One of the principal duties of priests is to teach the people.

“Moreover, they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.” Ezekiel 44:23

Ezekiel 45 mentions the prince of Israel. Because of the dues paid him by the people, the prince provided the sacrifices for public worship (Ezekiel 45:13-17). These sacrifices, like those under the Mosaic Law, will not remove sin but will be vivid reminders of the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ and will be an integral part of worship in the millennial kingdom. ¹

What Temple gate will be shut so that no one can use it, per Ezekiel 44:1-3, and why?

Day 245 – Ezekiel 46-48 •

Ezekiel 45:18-46:24 is about offerings. If the great festivals of Passover and Booths are to be observed during the Millennium, there is no reason why sacrifices would not also be offered. ¹

“But when the people of the land come before the LORD at the appointed feasts, he who enters by way of the north gate to worship shall go out by way of the south gate. And he who enters by way of the south gate shall go out by way of the north gate. No one shall return by way of the gate by which he entered but shall go straight out.” Ezekiel 46:9

In chapter 47, Ezekiel saw a river emerging from the Temple flowing eastward, beginning as a trickle and becoming a deep river.

Ezekiel 48 describes the division of the land surrounding the Temple. Seven tribes will be given portions of the land north of the temple area. Five tribes will be given land south of the sacred area.

Revelation 7:4-8 study note is interesting.

According to Ezekiel 47, what will happen to the Dead Sea?

References

¹ *Ryrie Study Bible*, Moody Press, 1995.

² *Questions and Answers on the Sacred Scriptures*, Universal Book and Bible House © 1946, The John C. Winston Company.