

Chronological Bible Study

Week 30: Jerusalem: A Lost City

Ezekiel 3:22-7:27; 12:1-28; 21:18-32; 24:1-27; 29:1-26; 30:20-31:18

2 Kings 25:4-26

Jeremiah 52:7-27; 39:1-44

Lamentations: 1-5

2 Chronicles 36:17-21

Psalms 89

Opening Reflection: Lamentations 3:17-23

[Video Link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgsDEWL3LL4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgsDEWL3LL4>





Introductions

What, if anything, do you listen to when you are driving?

Questions?

Comments?

Summary of This Week's Readings

- Israel and Ammon Rebel
- Ezekial's Sign Acts
- Pharoah Hophra's Assault
- The Fall of Jerusalem
- The Book of Lamentations
- Gedaliah the Governor
- Psalm 89

Where We Are in History

- Currency invented: 640 BC
- Greeks introduce the olive tree to Rome: 600 BC
- Greco Punic Wars begin: 600 BC
- Persian prophet Zoroaster teaches: 600 BC
- Solon institutes democracy in Greece: 594 BC
- Ephesus sieged by Persia: 592 BC
- Greek poet Sappho popular: 590 BC
- **Fall of Jerusalem: 587 BC**
- Pythagoras born: 570 BC
- Confucius born: 551 BC
- Buddah Born: 563 BC
- Rome builds walls around the 7 hills; ruled by kings: 504 BC
- Olemic culture in mesoAmerica declines: 6th century BC



Exile

[Video Link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSua9_WhQFE&list=PLnETovik96eNY9G4UDziOxXQiWU6SGB3i&index)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSua9_WhQFE&list=PLnETovik96eNY9G4UDziOxXQiWU6SGB3i&index



The King of Babylon's Sword

The Map With Two Roads

Ezekiel 21:18–23

In a day before computer presentations, Ezekiel draws his own visual aid to help his audience understand his message



- Nebuchadnezzar stops at Damascus and uses divination to decide whether to attack the Ammonites or Jerusalem.
- God is in control of the “chance,” leading Nebuchadnezzar to Jerusalem.
- Both cities will be destroyed
- The fall of Jerusalem interrupts God’s promise relative to Davidic kingship.
- Babylon will also experience God’s wrath, but only after they destroy Jerusalem.
- Those in Jerusalem who thought they were safe because they escaped the earlier exile will be destroyed.
- Jerusalem will be destroyed
- Ezekiel’s wife dies, symbolic also of Jerusalem’s fall.

Sign Acts

- Nonverbal actions to communicate God's message through a prophet.
- Visual aids
- Two primary components:
 - Divine command to the prophet
 - Interpretation of the sign act



Ezekiel's Sign Acts

Saying It Sideways

Ezekiel 4:4-15

Ezekiel spends more than a year lying on his side in order to illustrate God's message to the people

Left Side

Bears the sins of Israel for 390 days—one day for each year of Israel's sins

Cooks his meals over cow manure and eats them in small increments, symbolizing the impending siege and exile

Right Side

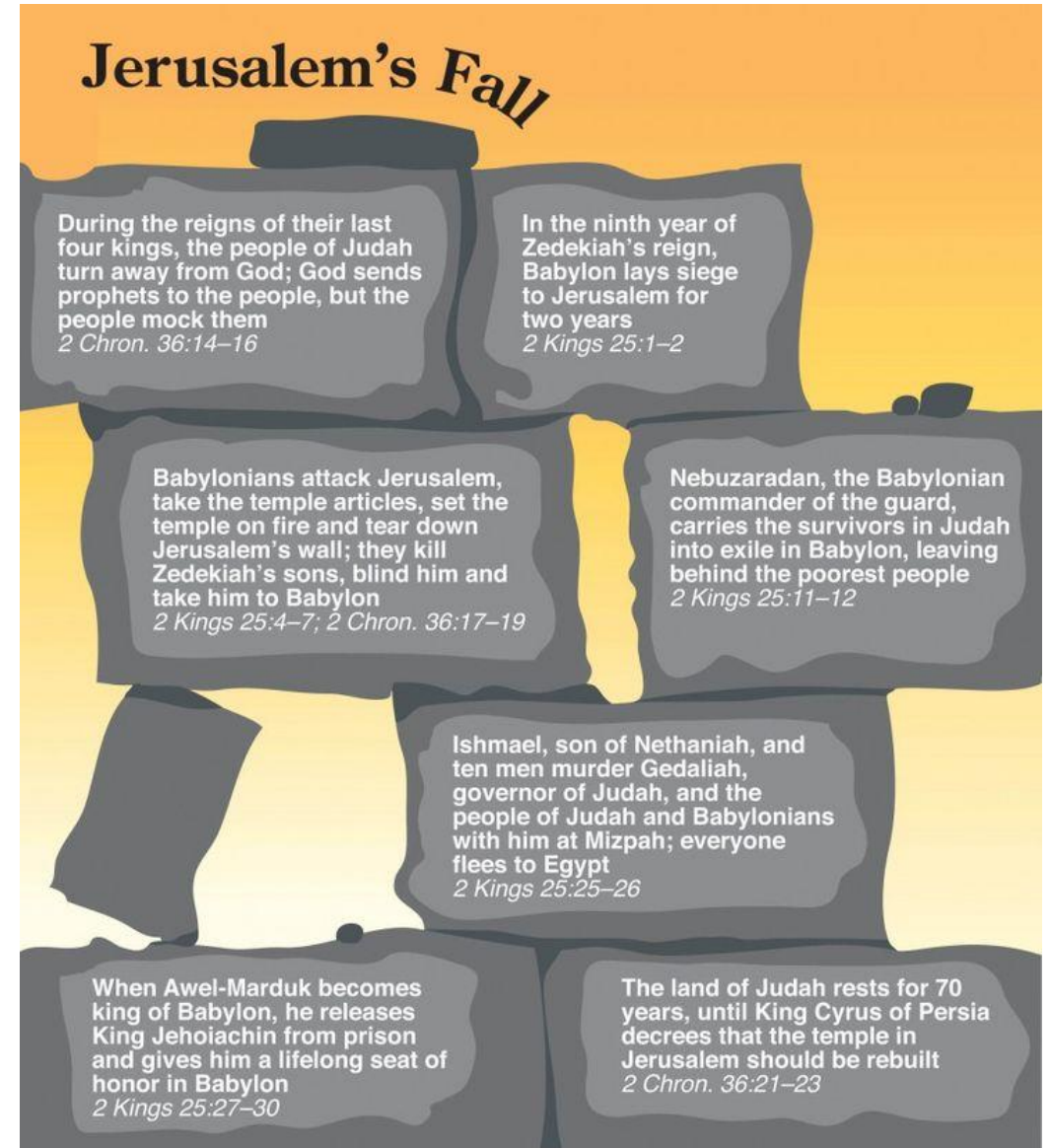
Bears the sins of Judah for 40 days—one day for each year of Judah's sins

Faces the siege of Jerusalem and prophesies against the people

- Build a model of Jerusalem and lay bound in ropes to bear the weight of the nation's sin (4:1-8)
- Shaving His head and striking some of the hair with his sword (5:1-2)
- Covering his face and digging through a wall (12:3-7)
- Trembling (12:18)
- Avoiding full mourning rituals for his dead wife (24:16-24)

Jerusalem Will Fall

- Jerusalem will fall because of its turning from God.
- There will be a remnant who will return to Jerusalem and restoration will come – but after Jerusalem is destroyed
- God is the agent of Israel's destruction





Prophecy Against Egypt

- Longest prophecy against the nations in the Book of Ezekiel
- 7 small prophecies from Pharaoh's fall to his burial
- God confronts Egypt's elevated pride.
- God is sovereign over all nations. Egypt will be humiliated.
- Egypt compared to Assyria – it was proud and fell. Egypt will also fall.

The Babylonian Conquest

[Video Link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYkcqpU85pE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYkcqpU85pE>





Discussion

Does it surprise you that God's patience has an end? If God's patience were limitless what would his justice look like?

Zedekiah Flees



- Flees Jerusalem to escape starvation
- Captured on plains of Jericho
- Captured and forced to watch his sons executed
- Blinded and taken to Babylon
- 1 month later Jerusalem burned
- Jeremiah's and Ezekiel's prophecies are fulfilled

Lamentations

[Video Link](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=p8GDFPdaQZQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8GDFPdaQZQ)



Overview of Lamentations

- Five poems lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem.
- Jeremiah traditionally considered the author; today many consider it was written by several unknown authors.
- There were several stages of deportation in this period.
- Lamentations were not uncommon in Mesopotamian literature.
- Key theological themes:
 - God is sovereign
 - Sin shatters the relationship of God and the people
 - Cherished institutions are not exempt from God's judgment
 - Suffering is real
 - Hope is found in God alone

Big Ideas in LAMENTATIONS

God can use humans to execute his judgment

The proper response to sin is to repent and request forgiveness

Because of God's great love, his people are never without hope

Humans can see and experience God even through pain



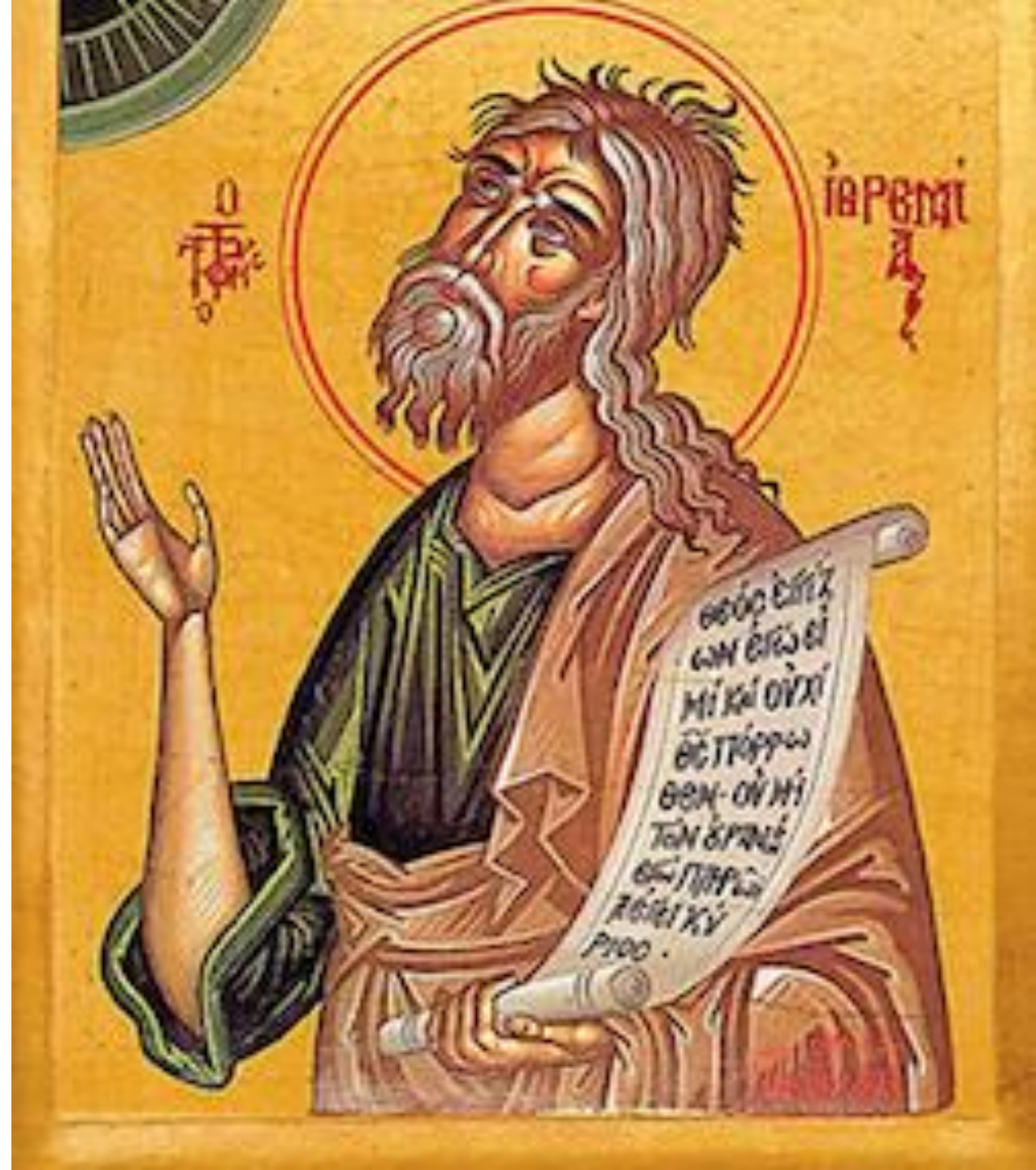


Attributes of God in Lamentations

- God has steadfast love for his people.
- God is unfailingly compassionate and merciful.

Faithfulness Rewarded

- Zedekiah and his court fell to Babylon because of their faithlessness.
- Nebuchadnezzar kept Jeremiah safe, entrusting his care to Gedaliah instead of sending him into exile.
- God also faithful to Gentiles who believed in Him.
- God saves those who trust in Him.



Gedaliah



- Appointed as Jewish governor of Judah after the conquest.
- Encouraged remaining people to return to normal life.
- Assassinated by Ammonites, who sought discord in Judah to save Ammon

Psalm 89

[Video Link](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=pNOfP4XZlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNOfP4XZlg)



Psalm 89 For Us

- Encourages us to praise God for His faithfulness
- We are to make known the faithfulness of God to all generations





Discussion

Are there modern-day situations where you fell let down by God?
How can we apply the lessons from Psalm 89 to these situations?



Readings For 5/7-5/13/2024: A Valley of Dry Bones

- Ezekiel 19:1-14; 22:23-31; 25:1-28:26; 32:1-48:35
- Psalm 137
- Obediah 1-21
- Jeremiah 52:28-30

Closing Hymn

[Video Link](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=US2SBfNCYWU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=US2SBfNCYWU)



Jerusalem: A Lost City

APR 30-MAY 6 2024

EZE 3-7, 12, 21, 24, 29-31; 2 KI 25; JER 39-44, 52, LA 1-5; 2 CH 36; PS 89

Week 30

Prophecy comes true and Jerusalem falls when the city is invaded by the Babylonian Army. Despite the disaster, there is hope for a ruined city and for the devastated nation. Because of God's character and His might, there are new mercies with every sunrise, justice in all of his judgments and full grace and love available to all those who seek his forgiveness. Only God can restore what has been shattered. This lesson can be ours as well: When we face tremendous loss, when life overwhelms us, there is One we can trust to restore. Jeremiah's God is our God: a God of grace and strength and glory, as well as a God of judgment.

Weekly Reading Plan (p. 808-836)

Day 1: EZE 21:18-32; 24:1-27
Day 2: EZE 3:22-7:27; 29:1-16; 30:20-31:18
Day 3: 2 KI 25:4-7; JER 52:7-11; JER 39:1-7;
2 KI 25:8-21; JER 52:12-27; 39:8-10
Day 4: LA 1:1-5:22
Day 5: 2 KI 25:22-26
Day 6: JER 39:11-44:30
Day 7: 2 CH 36:17-21; EZE 12:1-28; PS 89

Outline

Israel and Ammon Rebel [Day 1]
Ezekiel's Sign Acts [Day 2]
Pharaoh Hophra's Assault [Day 2]
Prophetic Account: The Fall of Jerusalem [Day 3]
Lamentations: Weeping for a Lost City [Day 4]
Gedaliah the Governor [Day 5 and 6]
Priestly Account: The Fall of Jerusalem [Day 7]
The End of the Siege [Day 7]

Key Characters

Zedekiah	Ezekiel
Nebuchadnezzar	Hophra
Gedaliah	Jeremiah
Nebuzaradan	Ishmael
Ebed-Melek	Johanan
Jezebaniah	

Key Locations

Babylon	Jerusalem
Egypt	Judah
Mizpah	Ramah
Tahpanhes	Persia

Key Terms

Sovereign Lord
Judgment
Remnant
Lord Almighty
Fulfilled
Lament

Key Verses

"Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people." [EZE 12:2]

"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: None of my words will be delayed any longer; whatever I say will be fulfilled, declares the Sovereign Lord." [EZE 12:28]

How she sits alone, the city once crowded with people! She who was great among the nations has become like a widow. The princess among the provinces has been put to forced labor [LAM 1:1]

Because of the LORD's faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness! [LAM 3:22-23]

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. [PS 89:1]

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence. [PS 89:15]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Eze21: "Son of man, prophesy against Israel. A sword is sharpened! Mark the way for the king of Babylon. A ruin, ruin, ruin I will make it."

Eze24: "Put meat into the pot. Woe to the bloody city!" My wife died. The LORD said: "I will profane my sanctuary. Ezekiel will be a sign."

Eze3: He said to me: "Israel will not listen." I came to the exiles. The LORD said: "I have made you a watchman. I will open your mouth."

Eze4: "Son of man, take clay and draw Jerusalem. Then lie on your side. You shall bear the punishment of Israel. Cook your bread over dung."

Eze5: "Son of man, shave your head. Jerusalem has rebelled. A third shall die of famine, a third by the sword and a third I will scatter."

Eze6: "Son of man, prophesy against the mountains of Jerusalem. The slain shall lie among their idols. They will know that I am the LORD."

Eze7: "The end has come! I will punish you for all your abominations. Silver and gold cannot deliver. The people of the land will tremble."

Eze29: "I am against you, Pharaoh, the great dragon. Egypt will never again rule the nations. Nebuchadnezzar will carry off its wealth."

Eze30: "A sword will come upon Egypt. Those who support her will fall. Nebuchadnezzar will destroy the land. I will break Pharaoh's arms."

Eze31: "Assyria was a cedar. It towered above the trees. Its heart was proud. Foreigners have cut it down. This is Pharaoh and his hordes."

2Ki25: Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan burned the temple and took the people into exile. Evil-merodach released Jehoiachin.

Jer52: Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan burned the temple and took the people into exile. Evil-merodach released Jehoiachin.

Jer39: The Babylonians besieged Jerusalem and captured Zedekiah. They took the people into exile. Nebuchadnezzar said: Do not harm Jeremiah.

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Jer52: Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan burned the temple and took the people into exile. Evil-merodach released Jehoiachin.

La1: How lonely sits the city! Judah has gone into exile. O LORD, I am despised. Is any sorrow like mine? There is no one to comfort me.

La2: The LORD has not pitied Jacob. He has abandoned his sanctuary. My eyes fail with tears. Young and old lie slaughtered in the streets.

La3: He has driven me into darkness. But the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases. Let us return to the LORD! You will repay my enemies.

La4: The holy stones lie scattered. The children beg for food. The LORD has poured out his fierce anger. O Zion, your punishment will end.

La5: Look, O LORD, and see our disgrace! We have become orphans. Slaves rule over us. But you, O LORD, reign forever. Restore us as of old!

Jer39: The Babylonians besieged Jerusalem and captured Zedekiah. They took the people into exile. Nebuchadnezzar said: Do not harm Jeremiah.

Jer40: Nebuzaradan said to Jeremiah: Go back to Gedaliah, who has been appointed over Judah. The captains warned Gedaliah about Ishmael.

Jer41: Ishmael killed Gedaliah and eighty men. Johanan went to fight Ishmael but he escaped. Johanan led the survivors on the way to Egypt.

Jer42: The people asked Jeremiah to pray. The LORD says: If you stay in the land, I will grant you mercy. If you go to Egypt, you will die.

Jer43: Johanan and all the people did not obey the LORD. They went to Egypt. The LORD said: Nebuchadnezzar will ravage the land of Egypt.

Jer44: The LORD says: Why do you provoke me with other gods? The people said: We will not listen. The LORD says: I am going to punish you.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Chr36: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah ruled. Then Nebuchadnezzar burned the temple and took Judah captive for seventy years.

Ezk12: "Son of man, they are a rebellious house. Bring out your baggage like an exile. I will disperse them. My word will not be delayed."

Ps89: I will sing of the mercies of the LORD. You said, "I will establish the throne of David forever." O Lord, where is your love of old?

Teachings About God

- God’s concern for his name is a central theme in the book of Ezekiel. More than 60 times God declares his intention for people to “know that I am the LORD.”
- God’s holiness resulted in his destroying Jerusalem for her many sins.
- In Lamentations, God’s justice in punishing his people is in the foreground, but the background note is one of his mercy.
- God is shown to be righteous and just in Psalm 89. He is a God of covenant faithfulness.

Teachings About Humanity

- Ezekiel illustrates one whom God used in a time of crisis and whose intimate family life became a symbol of God’s dealing with his people (EZ 24:15-18).
- Ezekiel contains prophecies against Israel (EZ 1-24) and 0. prophecies against the nations (EZ 25-32).
- Jeremiah’s suffering and Jerusalem’s fall are described in Jeremiah (JER 36-45).
- Because humans are moral agents responsible to God, their sins will be punished.
- Because God made humans in his image, they are capable of emotion.
- The temple destruction is described in 2 Chronicles.

Teachings About Salvation

- Ezekiel begins with a message of judgment and ends with hope.
- Despite the grief he expressed, the author of Lamentations did not waiver in his faith in God. He had steadfast trust in the presence of national catastrophe and personal disaster.

Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- The expression Son of Man used throughout Ezekiel is the expression Jesus uses most often to refer to himself.
- Lamentations 1:12 has often been used of Christ as he suffered on the cross.
- Jesus is the final Davidic heir (PS 89).

Literary Genres/Techniques

- Ezekiel includes prophecies, visions and symbolic actions. It is written mainly in Hebrew prose but has some poetry (EZ 7, 21, 24, and 26-32). Ezekiel also used parables.
- Jeremiah includes foretelling prophecies in Hebrew prose.
- The majority of Jeremiah is poetry, with some narrative prose and biographical narrative.
- Jeremiah used repetition and cryptograms.
- Lamentations is a lament written in Hebrew poetry with acrostic features. The entire book is Hebrew poetry.
- Psalm 89 is a royal psalm to honor Israel’s earthly kings.

Author/Date of Writing/Audience

- Ezekiel prophesied during the first part of the Babylonian captivity (c593-571BC) to the exiles.
- 2 Kings describes the 800 year history of Israel from the entry into Canaan until the exile.
- Jeremiah prophesied to Judah for 40 years c 626-c586. The book was likely compiled c585 BC. Jeremiah was written for the people of Judah during Jeremiah’s lifetime.
- Lamentations was perhaps written by Jeremiah soon after 586 BC to the Jewish witnesses of Jerusalem’s fall.
- 2 Chronicles was written by Ezra c450 BC to the Jews after they returned from exile.
- Ethan the Ezrahite, a wise man of King Solomon’s time, wrote Psalm 89.

What did I learn about God?

- Does it surprise you that God's patience has an end? Why or why not? If God's patience were limitless, what would his justice look like?
- Does God judge nations and bring disaster on them today? Why or why not?
- Judah fell because "she did not consider her future." If God, in His righteousness, brought Judah low, what warning is there for us? Are we, as a nation or as an individual, guilty of the same error? How so? How can we consider the future more effectively?
- Based on Judah's experience, how seriously does God take the issue of sin? What does Jesus' death on the cross add to this picture? How should we treat sin in our own lives?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Does the violent history of Israel's First Commonwealth confuse you? Disturb you? Instruct you?
- Why does Babylon deport the ruling class and leave the poor people to tend the land?
- In Lamentations, the poet indicts the false prophets who did not expose the sins of Judah. Who are the false prophets we tend to "give ear" to today? Politicians? News commentators? Entertainers? Our peer groups? Psychologists? Health/wealth evangelists? Others?
- LA 3:41 says "Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven and say: we have sinned and rebelled and you have not forgiven." In what ways do we lift up our hands, but not our hearts, when we are in trouble? What does true repentance look like? What do truly repentant people do?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Can you live one day at a time? Does the past drag you down or the future worry you? If expectations and obligations set your agenda, what do you have to give up to truly experience the present moment?
- In your decision making this past week, at what point did you seek God's counsel? The input of others? Did you truly want advice, or simply a blessing on your plans? Have you ever obeyed God's word to you at a time when all your gut instincts said no? What happened as a result of your obedience?
- What scripture is especially helpful to you in difficult times? What hymns are especially meaningful to you? Why? Do you know them by heart?
- When you experience setbacks what is your first reaction? Become overwhelmed by feelings? Focus on the problem? Affirm God's control? What is the psalmists approach in PS 89?