

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law. – Psalm 119:18

Through the Bible in a year reading guide – Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church

November – Week 45

Completed

5 - Jeremiah	49-50	☐
6 - Jeremiah	51-52	☐
7 - Lamentations	1-2	☐
8 - Lamentations	3-5	☐
9 - 1 Timothy	1-6	☐
10 - 2 Timothy	1-4	☐
11 - Ezekiel	1-4	☐

We read God's Word:

To know Him better

To love Him more

To walk in His ways

To be conformed to the image of His Son

This week's reading: Jeremiah ends with the judgments against the nations, and a recount of the fall of Jerusalem.

The Ark of the Covenant is not mentioned in the list of things taken to Babylon (52:17-20). **Jeremiah** 52:31-34 is exactly the same as 2 Kings 25:27-30 - showing that the writings of the prophets were among the documents used in the records of the kings. **Lamentations** is believed to be written by Jeremiah as he grieves the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. (The Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, from the 2nd century BC, [the Septuagint or LXX] also ascribes this book to Jeremiah.) Jeremiah's laments are entirely free from an "I told you so" attitude. His heart is broken by the devastation brought on by the people's disobedience. However, He takes consolation from God's Word and His attributes - a great example to all who are grieving! Trust God. He loves you. He is intimately acquainted with all your ways. He is all powerful. He is faithful. It is always right to trust Him. He will lead. All we have to do is trust and follow Him. **They** had too much hope in their king (4:20). Their hope would have been better placed by taking Psalm 91 to heart. **The** two "Pastoral Letters" to Timothy provide encouragement and instruction to this young pastor in the church in Ephesus. **In** 1 Timothy, Paul instructs regarding public worship, qualifications of church leadership, confrontation of false teaching and myths in the church, the need for godliness, as well as relations to various groups in the church: widows, elders, slaves. **2 Timothy** is chronologically the last of the three Pastoral Letters; Paul was in prison and his death was rapidly approaching. **We** must entrust the things of God to faithful men who will teach others (2:2). **Paul** asked Timothy to bring Mark because "he is useful to me for service" (4:11). Mark had deserted Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:13), and Paul didn't want to take him with them again (Acts 15:36-41). Mark was forgiven! **Scripture** is "God Breathed" (3:16-17). **Ezekiel** is a "visual aid" prophet, unable to speak except when delivering God's message, he often acted out the message from God. (He was able to speak again after Jerusalem was destroyed.) Jeremiah listed three times that people from Jerusalem were taken captive to Babylon (52:28-30). Daniel, Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishaël (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego) were taken to Babylon in the first group (dated from Jehoiakim in Dan. 1:1). Ezekiel was in the second group (dated from Jehoiachin in 1:2), so he was already exiled to Babylon when he was called to be a prophet, to speak to his fellow captives before Jerusalem was destroyed.

Insights from the Original Biblical Languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic):

The first four chapters of Lamentations are acrostics. Chapters 1, 2, and 4 have one verse for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapter 3 has three verses per letter. Chapter 1 has the letters in the usual letter sequence, but in chapters 2, 3, and 4 the order of the 16th and 17th letters (ו, ז) are flipped (verses 46-48 and 49-51 in chapter 3). **In** Week 41 we saw that men loved (agape) darkness. In 2 Tim. 4:10, Demas (also mentioned in Col. 4:14 and Phile. 24) loved (agape) the present world ("age"). A Hebrew idiom in Ezek. 2:3 - "to the bone of this day", means, "to this very day".

How has God revealed Himself in this week's reading? What has He shown me this week?

He is the keeper of the fatherless and widows (Jer. 49:11). There is no one like Him (49:19). He is the One bringing back Israel, and has not forsaken Israel (50:4-5, 19-20; 51:5). God pardons sins (Jer. 50:20). He is the One who made the earth by His power, established the world by His wisdom, and stretched out the heavens by His understanding (51:15). He is the God of recompense - He will fully repay; He is the King, Yahweh of Hosts (51:56-57). His steadfast love never ceases, His mercies never end and are new every morning, His faithfulness is great (Lam. 3:22-23). He does not afflict from His heart (3:33). God does not owe it to anyone to pardon, so we should not presume upon grace (3:42). His curse is hardness of heart (3:65). He is the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God (1 Tim. 1:17). There is one God, one Mediator between God and men - Christ Jesus (2:5). He knows who are His (2 Tim. 2:19).