

BIBLE READING LIST FOR AUGUST 21-27

<p><u>August 21</u> Daniel 2-3</p>	<p>During the time of Judah's captivity, three of the four major prophets were active: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Jeremiah remained behind in the Holy Land, ministering to the poor who were left behind by the Babylonians. Early during the captivity, he went with them into Egypt where he died not much later.</p>
<p><u>August 22</u> II Kings 24 I Chronicles 3 Jeremiah 21-22</p>	<p>Ezekiel was in Babylon (Tel-Abib—Ezekiel 3:15—not to be confused with the modern Tel Aviv in Israel), where he "sat where they sat, and remained there." His function was to make sure that those who were born in captivity were aware of the national sins that led to their exile in the first place so they would not repeat it (and Israel never again descended into idolatry after their restoration). He also gave them comfort that this exile was not permanent and hope that they would be restored. In fact, he closes his book with a description of the Temple to be built in the Millennium.</p>
<p><u>August 23</u> Jeremiah 23-24, 37</p>	<p>Daniel was in Babylon too, but not among the people. He was placed by God in the palace of Nebuchadnezzar where he played a major role in guarding the cause of the Jewish people as long as they were under the Babylonians and even for a while after the Persians took over the empire. Most of Ezekiel's book takes place in the early years of Daniel's time in the palace, about which nothing is written after Nebuchadnezzar's dream turned him into an admirer of Israel's God (2:47), if not a believer. The rest of what we know about Daniel comes at the end of Ezekiel's prophecy.</p>
<p><u>August 24</u> Jeremiah 49:34-50:46</p>	<p>So even in punishing His people by removing them from the land of their fathers, He took care to provide for the spiritual needs of each segment and the political needs of those among the heathen who were over them. God never forsakes His people. As you read this week's reading, keep the historical context in mind and see how the prophecies of the different preachers interrelate and support each other.</p>
<p><u>August 25</u> Jeremiah 51; 27:12-22</p>	<p>Notice that Ezekiel's visions, which compare to those of John in the Revelation, took place in exile, as did John's. Sometimes God has to shake us out of the familiarity of our comfort zone to get our attention and reveal to us what He wants us to know. In such times, it is a mistake to fight Him.</p>
<p><u>August 26</u> Jeremiah 28-30</p>	
<p><u>August 27</u> Jeremiah 31 Ezekiel 1</p>	