

## BIBLE READING LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 4-10

<p><u>September 4</u> Ezekiel 22-23</p>	<p>This week's reading includes the closing chapters of II Chronicles and II Kings. Both record the last deportation of Jerusalem into Babylon, but they end with different comments. Second Kings was written soon after the deportation occurred, and it records the release of Jehoiachin from Babylonian prison, not to return to Israel, but to eat at the king's table. Second Chronicles was written after the return from captivity, and it records the charge of Cyrus, the Persian king, to build a new Temple at Jerusalem—a much happier event for the entire nation.</p>
<p><u>September 5</u> Ezekiel 24-25 Jeremiah 32</p>	<p>We also read a couple of Psalms by Asaph—74 and 79. As you read them, think of the situation of the nation just having been carried off with the capital city destroyed, and see the personal meaning behind the words.</p>
<p><u>September 6</u> Jeremiah 33-34</p>	<p>In Ezekiel 22, he is reminding the captives in Babylon of the sins that brought them there. Then he gives a parable in verses 17-22 about about dross and silver. The fire of judgment was not to destroy them (as in wood, hay and stubble—I Corinthians 3:11-15), but to purify them. Among the dross of Israel was some silver—those who had been redeemed [silver stands for redemption in Bible symbolism]. You separate silver and dross with fire. When God judges the ungodly, the righteous among them suffer some too, but this only purifies God's people, and they are rewarded in eternity.</p>
<p><u>September 7</u> Jeremiah 38 Psalms 74, 79 Ezekiel 29:1-16</p>	<p>Then in verses 23-29, God specifically separates the groups in the society and names their sins. There were the prophets and priests (religion—verses 25-26), the princes (government—verse 27), and the people (family—verse 29). The are the three institutions founded by God for human society, and all three had become corrupted. There was no segment to rescue any of the others.</p>
<p><u>September 8</u> II Kings 25 II Chronicles 36 Jeremiah 39</p>	<p>When preaching is heeded, it purifies; when it is ignored, only judgment can purify. As we see the perversion of the same three institutions in our own day, we can listen for the trumpet that will signal the beginning of the last days' judgment.</p>
<p><u>September 9</u> Jeremiah 40-42</p>	
<p><u>September 10</u> Jeremiah 43-44; 52:1-29</p>	