

BIBLE READING LIST FOR AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 3

<p><u>August 28</u> Ezekiel 2-5</p>	<p>All of this week's reading comes from the first half of Ezekiel, which is all written chronologically during the first two years of his captivity in Babylon, before the final deportation and destruction of Jerusalem. His message is that they are being chastised for their evil and it would last a while. However, this was not the end of the nation; God was faithful when they weren't, and they would again have the land He had promised them.</p>
<p><u>August 29</u> Ezekiel 6-9</p>	<p>Notice that Ezekiel's ministry begins with an encounter with God. No one is prepared to face men for God until he has spent some time with God. This order is consistent in New Testament passages like John 10:9: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and <u>shall go in and out</u>, and find pasture." (We go out <i>after</i> we have gone in.) It is also the order when Jesus called His disciples in Mark 3:14: "And he ordained twelve, that they should <u>be with him</u>, and that he might <u>send them forth</u> to preach."</p>
<p><u>August 30</u> Ezekiel 10-12</p>	<p>He was being sent to rebellious people (2:3), and for that he would need to be filled with the Spirit (verse 2). This was repeated in 3:24. We certainly need no less as we face today's rebels. Although the indwelling of the Spirit is continuous from the day of our salvation, the filling of the Spirit needs to be repeated in our Christian service.</p>
<p><u>August 31</u> Ezekiel 13-15</p>	<p>Chapter 16 presents an important spiritual principle for Israel in that day and for the church in our day. In verse 48, God says they had done worse than Sodom. It's difficult to imagine deeds that were worse than the abominations of Sodom, but they were heathen without the knowledge gained from the Scriptures. When those blessed with light turn to darkness, God considers it even worse. Notice also that the sin we most often associate with Sodom, homosexuality, was not what God pointed out as their sin. It was the symptom. The sin was "pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness" along with refusal to "strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." God blessed them materially and made them able to help those in need, but their pride led them to use the abundance for themselves so they would not have to work as much. They rebelled at God's "sweat of thy face" requirement (Genesis 3:19), and rebellion in other areas followed. The parallel to America hardly needs to be mentioned.</p>
<p><u>September 1</u> Ezekiel 16-17</p>	
<p><u>September 2</u> Ezekiel 18-19</p>	
<p><u>September 3</u> Ezekiel 20-21</p>	