

Week Thirty-Three

Days 225–231



Exile Narrative: Jeremiah 2–8 | Supplemental: Ezekiel 28–38; Proverbs 14:9–35

GOD’S GOODNESS CAN FOLLOW CONSEQUENCES



The Prophet Jeremiah (1511)
by Michelangelo

This week’s readings reveal the consequences of the people’s sins and rebellion as well as God’s assurances that redemption can follow punishment. Ezekiel 37 presents the vision of the valley of the dry bones. The Lord tells Ezekiel to speak his words over the dry bones, which then become alive and stand. The Lord is telling his exiled people he will one day give them his Spirit and they will return to their own land. He is foreshadowing the Resurrection and our calling to be with God thereafter.

- Like Ezekiel, Jeremiah is also a priest. Jeremiah spends most of his life and prophetic ministry in Judah.
- Jeremiah preaches for roughly fifty years, speaking harsh words out of great love.
- “As a thief is shamed when caught, so the house of Israel shall be shamed” (Jeremiah 2:26). Thieves feel shame only when caught. Likewise, we are often only ashamed when we are caught sinning.
- Jeremiah also accuses the people of teaching others to sin through scandal—that is, leading others to sin by sinful examples. He reminds us that our sins bring suffering to those around us.
- Ezekiel 33 is a pivot point of the Scripture—when the destruction of Jerusalem occurs.
- Jeremiah 6, Ezekiel 34, and Proverbs 14 all focus on leadership. Proverbs 14 says the role of a king is to be the man who has been entrusted with the people of God. In Ezekiel 34, God rebukes the shepherds of Israel who have cared for themselves, not the sheep.
- In Ezekiel 37, the Lord promises a future king in the line of David, the Messiah, who will be the sole shepherd of one people and one kingdom. In his Gospel, Matthew shows how Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise.
- Today, “follow your heart” is often advised. But our hearts can lead us astray. Trust God.

