

Week Thirty-Four

Days 232–238



Exile Narrative: Jeremiah 9–21 | Supplemental: Ezekiel 39–48; Daniel 1–2; Proverbs 15:1–28

LISTEN! GOD WILL TEACH HIS CHILDREN WELL



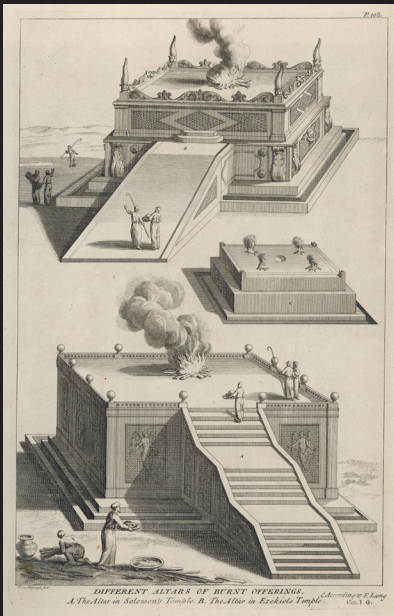
Jeremiah on the Ruins of Jerusalem
by Horace Vernet

Proverbs 15:9–12 touches on the virtue of docility, the ability to be taught. A person with a docile heart is open to whatever God wishes to teach him or her. Our readings in Jeremiah and Ezekiel repeatedly point out that this virtue is ignored and suppressed by the people of Israel. The people and rulers will not heed God's voice given through these prophets. That is why judgment comes upon the nation.

- Jeremiah speaks of something related to the people's lack of docility to God's will. The people have grown accustomed to falsehood and cannot be trusted. When someone shows he or she is not trustworthy, we need to be wary of that person. People who break their promises to the Lord will break their promises to others.
- In Jeremiah 11, the prophet preaches against Israel and Judah for violating the covenant.
- This condemnation leads to a plot against Jeremiah. People try to kill him.
- Jeremiah eventually is taken to Egypt, where he will die in exile.
- It may seem that Jeremiah dies a failure. He preaches for nearly fifty years and no one seems to listen. Like Jesus, he speaks the truth and is hated for it.
- Ezekiel's vision of God's glory returning to the rebuilt Temple contrasts with his earlier vision of the Lord's glory departing from it due to the people's idolatry.
- Ezekiel says those who enter the Temple through the north gate will exit through the south, and those who enter through the south gate will exit through the north. When one enters into the Lord's presence and worships him, he cannot leave the same way he came.
- It should be the same for us. We should leave Mass transformed.
- At the conclusion of Ezekiel is an image of water running from underneath the right side of the Temple to the east. This living water will bring life to the sea. This is a prophecy of how the Lord will both bring his people back from Babylon and life to the world in Jesus.

Dive Deeper

In prayer today, consider the way you view the Mass. Are you engaged and participating, or are you just going through the motions? Ask the Lord for the grace to be transformed by being in his presence and worshiping him at Mass.



TEMPLE ALTAR

This image shows an artist's rendition of the altar in the Temple of Solomon (bottom) and the altar as described by the prophet in Ezekiel 43 (top).

Bible Answers

What is the meaning of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2?

Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar that he saw in a dream a statue of different materials (Daniel 2:31–35). Daniel's interpretation describes four successive world powers, followed by a fifth kingdom that will topple them all. The gold head is Babylon; the silver breast and arms are Persia; the bronze belly and thighs are Greece; the iron legs are Rome. It seems the feet of iron and clay are not a kingdom but rather the political fragmentation in the last days.

Daniel 2:44 concludes that God will establish an everlasting kingdom. This fifth kingdom is described as a stone "cut out by no human hand" that broke the statue to dust and "... filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2:34–35). This refers to the Church of Jesus.



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