

## ***THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading for April 19:***

### *Joshua 19:1-20:9:*

Here we see the rest of the land allotted to Israel (19) and then the three cities of refuge named for the tribes west of the Jordan (20). The cities of refuge were places where a person could go and be protected from revenge if they unintentionally took the life of someone else. In this we see that Israel was to be a nation full of communities where divinely-directed justice was practiced.

### *Luke 19:28-48:*

Here we see Luke's central section, his travel narrative, come to a close as Jesus finally reaches Jerusalem. Three incidents are recorded here. First, Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey colt as Zechariah 9:9 predicted for Messiah. Though during the course of the week many turned against Him, nevertheless, many think that His miracles and other works point to Him being the Messiah at this point. What many missed was that Messiah and the suffering servant of Isaiah 52:13-53:12 are one and the same person. Jesus was coming into Jerusalem not only as king, but also as a sacrifice! Second, we gain a picture of His compassion as He weeps over Jerusalem—knowing the majority has rejected Him and they will be judged severely (including the imminent destruction of the city [A.D. 70]). Third, we also gain a picture of the righteous indignation of Jesus as He chases the money changers out of the temple court where making money had become more important than truly worshipping God and praying. Just like with the Father, so with the Son, He is both holy and loving, just and merciful. We see this coming together in all three of the incidents recorded in today's reading.

### *Psalms 88:1-18:*

This is an unusual lamentation about hard times in the Psalms since it does not eventually turn to a statement of faith and praise. Yet, it does set forth an implied faith that God will hear prayer. It also demonstrates a respectful, God-fearing openness and honesty which we should emulate as we come to God in prayer.

### *Proverbs 13:12-14:*

Verse twelve expresses a truism out of life: our hopes and desires for what we have yet to experience are powerful. Verse 13 should be a warning against anyone who takes the Bible lightly or approaches it with skepticism. Verse 14 once again reminds us to seek wise counsel from those who are wise, and also to be that kind of person for others.