

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading For October 31:

Lamentations 4:1-5:22:

In Lamentations 4 the book returns to a description of the horrors faced in Jerusalem. The people have been dispersed (1-2), gone hungry (3-6), and this extends to all, including leaders (7-20), yet there is hope, for the LORD will also judge the enemies of Israel and will bring the exile and the punishment to an end (21-22).

Chapter 5 fittingly closes the book with a call to God to restore His people: an opening request (1), a recounting of their pains and difficulties (2-18), and finally, a cry for restoration (19-22). The fact that this last chapter breaks from the alphabetic acrostic form may signal that it is meant to have a special place of finality and to capture readers' attention. In light of the devastation, the grief, the lament all seen through the rest of the book, along with the ray of hope found in God's attributes and ongoing faithful work, the exiles can confidently come before Him in prayer for restoration, so pray!

These two chapters not only remind us of the devastation of sin, but also that we should grieve over sin in us or others. Also, one of the great ways we respond to the devastating evil in the world is by prayer. This is true since the only one who can redeem the world is our great and sovereign God who "reigns forever" and whose "throne endures to all generations" (19).

Hebrews 2:1-18:

In this second chapter of Hebrews, the author exhorts his readers not to drift away from the moorings of the gospel of Jesus Christ like an untied boat slips away from a dock (1). After all, this gospel message is far more glorious than the Law given to Moses through angels, for it was declared by the Lord Himself, attested by the Apostles, and confirmed through signs and miracles (2-4)!

What is this message? The author tells us in 5-18: Namely, God has subjected the world to come to His Son since He not only is God the Son, but also is the ideal man who embodies what man was created to be (5-8), He became man to die for men that they might be saved and become His brothers, part of God's family, and delivered from the devil (9-18).

We must not miss in this chapter that people who profess faith in Jesus Christ can end up being lost, that Jesus Christ fulfills the role of the perfectly obedient man who glorifies the Father, He had to become man to die in man's place, He made propitiation for sinners which means He was a sacrifice to turn away God's wrath from men and put them in a place where the Father is pleased with them, and He continues to help those who are being saved as they face temptation.

Psalms 103:1-22:

This psalm praises God for His amazing provision and work—especially from the perspective of Israel and her history. Read through this psalm and use all the descriptions of God's work and His attributes as motivations for praising Him.

Proverbs 26:23:

Whenever an analogy is used in proverbs, there is usually only one point of comparison and that is true here. The point is not that in some way glaze on an earthen pot is evil, but that in the same way glaze can be used to make someone think a common, inexpensive container is better than what it is, so it is with those who speak good and/or flattering words and yet have an evil heart. We think they are different and/or better than what they are.