

THE BIG STORY

FROM CREATION TO CHRIST

WEEK 10

Hope in the Ruins: The Prophets, the Exil, and the Coming King

DAILY READING –March 23 - 27

Mon – Isaiah 7

Tue – Isaiah 9

Wed – Jeremiah 31:31–34

Thu – Ezekiel 36–37

Fri – Daniel 7

DEVOTIONAL

Hope in the Ruins: The Prophets, the Exile, and the Coming King

Memory Verse:

“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.” Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV)

Story Thread: When everything falls apart, God is still building His promise.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

TALK Have you rebuilt something that broke? Why is it harder to fix the inside of something than the outside?

READ Ezekiel 36:26 and John 11:25

PRAYER Jesus, thank You for being our hope when things fall apart. Give our family new hearts that trust You and help us live in Your life and strength. Amen.

There are seasons when everything that once felt stable begins to crumble. Israel experienced that reality in a way few nations ever have. Because of persistent idolatry and spiritual compromise, the kingdom fractured and eventually collapsed. Scripture does not soften the reason: “And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God...” (2 Kings 17:7–8). Jerusalem was burned, the temple destroyed, and the people carried into exile (2 Kings 25:8–10). What felt permanent was suddenly gone. The exile revealed something deeper than political weakness — it exposed the condition of the human heart.

Yet in the rubble, God spoke. The prophets were not merely announcing judgment; they were anchoring hope. Isaiah declared, “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). In a season marked by fear and instability, God’s promise was presence — God with us. Not distant. Not silent. Present. Isaiah went further: “For to us a child is born... and the government shall be upon his shoulder” (Isaiah 9:6). The coming King would not begin with military power but with humility. And then comes the surprising promise: “He was pierced for our transgressions... and with his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). The prophets revealed that the deepest problem was not Babylon but sin, and the coming King would not only reign — He would suffer to redeem.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel made the diagnosis even clearer. The exile proved that better systems and stronger walls could not change the human heart. So God promised something greater than restoration of land: “Behold, the days are coming... when I will make a new covenant” (Jeremiah 31:31). “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts” (Jeremiah 31:33). Ezekiel echoes the promise: “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you” (Ezekiel 36:26). The vision of dry bones in Ezekiel 37 makes the point unmistakable. Israel did not need reform — they needed resurrection. When God asks, “Son of man, can these

bones live?” (Ezekiel 37:3), the answer rests not in human effort but in divine breath. “I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live” (Ezekiel 37:5). The same God who breathed life into Adam would breathe life into a spiritually lifeless people.

Daniel adds one final layer of hope: “His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away” (Daniel 7:14). The prophets looked beyond exile toward a King whose kingdom would never collapse. In Jesus, these promises find their fulfillment. He is Immanuel, God with us (John 1:14). He is the suffering servant who heals through His wounds (Isaiah 53:5). He inaugurates the new covenant through His blood (Luke 22:20). And after His resurrection, “He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’” (John 20:22). What the prophets promised, Christ accomplished.

When everything falls apart, God is not finished. The ruins expose our need, but they also reveal His faithfulness. He does not merely rebuild structures — He renews hearts. He does not merely restore what was lost — He brings resurrection life. And the kingdom He establishes through Christ will never fall.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Week 10

1. **The prophets spoke during national collapse and exile.** What stands out to you about the way God speaks hope into chaos?
2. **Isaiah promises “Immanuel — God with us.”** Why do you think presence is such a powerful answer to fear?
3. **Isaiah 53 describes a suffering servant.** How does that reshape our expectations of what a true King looks like?
4. **Jeremiah and Ezekiel promise a “new heart.”** Why do you think outward reform is not enough without inner transformation?
5. **The vision of dry bones is powerful imagery.** What does it teach us about our need for God’s Spirit?
6. **Daniel speaks of an everlasting kingdom.** How does knowing Christ’s kingdom can’t collapse change the way we view unstable seasons?

