

## Scripture Reading

### Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NIV)

<sup>31</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. <sup>33</sup> “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

### 1) The Glory Departs

#### **Ezekiel 10:3-4 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court. <sup>4</sup> Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the LORD.

#### **Ezekiel 10:18-19 (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> Then the glory of the LORD departed from over the threshold of the temple and stopped above the cherubim. <sup>19</sup> While I watched, the cherubim spread their wings and rose from the ground, and as they went, the wheels went with them. They stopped at the entrance to the east gate of the LORD's house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.

#### **Ezekiel 11:23 (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> The glory of the LORD went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it.

### 2) Why exile impacts us

#### Jeremiah 31:10–14 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> “Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: ‘He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’ <sup>11</sup> For the Lord will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. <sup>12</sup> They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. <sup>13</sup> Then young women will dance and be

glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty,” declares the Lord.

Psalm 90:1–2 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

3) Is there a way back home?

Jeremiah 31:11 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

Ephesians 1:7–10 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

4) What does that mean for us?

Jeremiah 31:31–33 (NIV)

<sup>31</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. <sup>33</sup> “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.