

May 7, 2023

Week 33 - Jeremiah

Sup lads, This newsletter is going to be a little shorter, the last few weeks have drained me and I am taking today to rest mostly and try to recover before Ezekiel week. It was another full week which just takes more out of me then I wish it did. But days are coming by quickly and I will be home before I know it, it's in the 40s now which is scary. My roommate is getting married in 16 days; SBS life is a full blur. All the weeks seem to blend together but it is also the biggest blessing I have had so far.

Into the book! **Jeremiah** is written up to the destruction of Jerusalem, from the 13th year of Josiah which is 627-626 B.C. - 586 B.C. the fall of Jerusalem which he left to Egypt and likely died around 570 B.C. He has been nicknamed the weeping prophet for how emotional he is. He contrasts emotion a lot, one going from praising God to cursing the day he was born. His nickname was terror because all his prophecies were against Jerusalem and nobody wanted to listen to him because nobody wants to hear bad news! He had a very tough ministry where nobody would listen to him but he was faithful to God throughout all of it even throughout persecution, which spoke to me. Being holy and living after God is hard and stuff seems to be thrown at you but looking at him constantly is all he asks.

This week's final app I want to write down any plans I made for the future and then burn them because Proverbs 16 says,

To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue. All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD. Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Recently I have felt myself leaning on my own plans and understanding rather than God's and I want to get out of this mindset and turn back to letting God tell me where and what to do in the future!

I challenge you to do something similar in your life, something that you plan that you want to give to God to control!

Until then Grace and Peace be with you

May 14, 2023

Week 34 - Ezekiel

Sup lads, this week was different for sure, I was feeling a little off all week but decided to do something different with the method to see if I feel better, so throughout **Ezekiel** I did a comic strip, just some classic stick figures and bad drawing, the picture this week is from Ezekiel 10 when the glory of the Lord has departed from the Temple. The main issue that Ezekiel is countering is the hearts, the people of Jerusalem are worshiping God with their mouths but not with their hearts, the hearts are said to be far away.

I had a lot of fun with this book, it was written to exiles and Ezekiel saw the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. It is a sweet story that shows how faithful Ezekiel was, he didn't mourn when his wife died because God told him not to, he lay on his side for 430 days eating food cooked on cow dung. Ezekiel had a very hard life and yet remained faithful the whole time. This challenges me when I feel I complain when the littlest things disrupt my life.

Outside of SBS I had a beautiful phone call that refreshed me so much! I was feeling like I needed an answer about SBS and why God called me here. I was told a little about obedience to God, it is extremely important, but is God's will to have his servants suffer and give up everything just for obedience? I think God does prompt things in our lives but it is our choice in what happens. Would God do something so that he can be blamed? I don't think so, and this just refreshed my mind over SBS and gave me joy and freedom to do what I want to do in this school, not what the staff or teachers or school leaders do but what I want and it made me feel quite happy and satisfied this week.

I hope that you all find joy and freedom as we come into summer! I can't wait to be back and tell you all about the year. Reply back to this email if you would like to meet with me for coffee once I am back!

Happy Mothers Day!

Until then Grace and Peace be with you

May 21, 2023

Week 35 - Daniel

Sup lads, This week was definitely more restful, we did **Daniel** from Monday to Wednesday and then we got a surprise retreat at a Macadamia Nut Farm. It was a beautiful property with amazing stars, wallabies and a cute mountain town where everybody had a unique hat. We got some amazing rest. It was quiet and people laughing again was such a nice thing to hear! Me and a few friends got to drive ourselves and it was almost therapeutic sitting behind a wheel again and driving in the "mountains" (foothills), we stopped at a town called Kenilworth which had a famous donut shop that sells coffee in a donut, and a Western/Mexican store which was very weird to see. It is getting to be winter here which is really like summer-fall for me, days are around 24 degrees and nights get down to 8-10 degrees, which makes nights more bearable and less sweaty. Today marks 1 month left of SBS and I can't wait to be back home, but I am also starting to get sad about leaving. But I will start talking about Daniel just a little before I call it a night.

Daniel is a book that covers all of the exile, from the time he was taken, roughly 606 B.C. until the first return 70 years later, 536 B.C. This book is so accurate in its prophecy that scholars think it to be written around 150 B.C. but I believe it to be written around 530 B.C. Because that means God is outside of time and divine, which he is because he is God. If it was written around 150 B.C. God is in a massive box and I just don't believe that that is God's nature. We all know the famous fiery furnace story. So I will go into his dreams Chapters 7-12 a little bit. Chapter 8 is about 4 beasts with one to be greater than all the others but the Ancient of days and son of man comes and sets up an eternal life. Chapter 9 is a similar story with a battle of a Ram and a Goat, the Ram is a powerful force with 2 horns, (Persia and Media) and a goat comes with a great horn and kills the ram (Alexander the Great) and then the horn splits into 4 and the nations is divided, than one horn rises above them all but is destroyed by the son of man again. Chapter 11-12 is a similar story which has a north and south king, who are constantly fighting back and forth. Eventually the north king will win, but Michael will come and defeat the kings. All show Jesus in some way, I don't know if it is pointing towards post exile, Jesus's first coming, or his 2nd coming, but either way Jesus is going to overcome and win the world. This is a great motivation for mankind and the world! I hope all of you continue trusting that Jesus will come back and we will be made perfect, but we don't know when or where that will be just continue to have faith in God!

Until then Grace and Peace be with you

May 28, 2023

Week 36 - Chronicles and Ezra

Sup lads, this week was easier, I think we might have done all the hard bits of SBS, but even that being said can be a long shot, because this school is insanely hard. I got a nice 2 day weekend which feels very weird, once you work 6 days a week for a while, the 1 day weekends feel too short and the 2 day weekends feel oddly long. This weekend I got the chance to go to the Steve Irwin Australia Zoo. It is a pretty zoo; well put together and well run. They had parrots who were trained to fly point to point, retrieve and return bills from the crowd and to land on peoples arms if they stuck them out! They had saltwater crocodile shows which was awesome, they are crazy animals and so powerful. All in all it was a great experience getting to see all the Australian animals. I took a lot of photos, 2 of my favorites are up on display. When I get home, I want to find a way to print them and frame them if anybody would be interested in buying them!

The 2 books we studied this week, **Chronicles and Ezra**. Chronicles may seem like a recap event, and it is but it is a recap of the good events. Notice how David's sins with Bathsheba aren't in the book, or the whole chase with Saul, this book has similar main ideas as Samuels and Kings so I won't go into to much more detail, but I do encourage you guys to read it and compare stories that are in other books, and ones that are specific to Chronicles, like David preparing for the temple and Manasseh's repentance.

Ezra is the rebuilding of the Temple and the Altar. It is a 2 part story with Nehemiah which we are going to study next. Ezra is cool because it has the dating from 537 B.C. all the way until roughly 450 B.C. The first 6 chapters deal with him being away from Jerusalem. The temple and the altar are already built by the time Ezra comes into the picture at chapter 7, he sees the lawlessness and gives the people the law, instructing them on Godly living, and then it deals with intermarriage. If Ezra hadn't have caught this then the people of Judah likely were headed back to Exile, which is very odd because the first thing they do when they get back is build an altar to God, so they know that God needs glory and the land is His, but at the same time they were intermarried and that was one of the main things that led them to exile. It is an interesting book, and Nehemiah restates some of it, so I will give you more inside on what is happening when next Sunday rolls around. Only 3 more newsletters!

Until then Grace and Peace be with you

June 4, 2023

Week 37 - Nehemiah and Haggai

Sup lads, I got 2 more newsletters until I am home. It feels incredibly surreal and I don't know how to process what going home will feel like. I am excited to be back and can't wait to be in Canada anymore, but my biggest concern is about friendships and relationships. I find myself asking what will happen when I get home and I know in my heart I will never know that answer until I truly get home. Right now I have to live in the moment and enjoy what I have because I will never have this again.

That being said it was a slower week, **Nehemiah** with the wall being built and Haggai and deals with the temple being rebuilt, both post exilic books which means after the Israelites went into captivity in 586 B.C. With only these 2 books I had a 3 day weekend, it was amazing! I feel the most normal I have felt in months. This school beats you down so much and sometimes all that is needed is to step back and enjoy your life.

There seems to be lots of engagements and marriages recently, we attended another wedding, this time two DTS staff got married, tonight I will be enjoying an engagement party with 2 other SBS students who live in Perth, Australia. So constantly dressing up with YWAM clothes, basically casual formal or smart formal is the best I can offer while living in YWAM, no Formal Formal.

Now Nehemiah is about the rebuilding of the wall and then pushing towards holiness, with the law, old events like the feast of booths and passover and then consecrating priests, Levites and leaders. All of this leads to a dedication of the wall and then Nehemiah going kinda crazy on any sin that he sees in Jerusalem. Nehemiah is a great character, obedient and hardy, he pushes to have Jerusalem the best it can be while holding the Law and God close to his heart. The last thing we can all model from Nehemiah was his prayers, whenever Nehemiah felt opposed he prayed first and then went to deal with the issue from God's heart.

Haggai is another great minor prophet, he deals with the stoppage of the temple being built from 536-520 B.C. Ezra talks about the temple in his book, but Haggai gives us the reason why the Temple was rebuilt and what happened to get the building going again. This book is one that shows Zerubbabel will be stamped as a signet. If you look at the Luke and Matthew genealogies you will see Zerubbabel on both Joseph's line and Mary's line. Zerubbabel, a priest, was the one to carry the Davidic line back to Jerusalem from exile which explains his signet. He is stamped in history as one of the men who carried the line of Jesus.

Next up is Malachi and Zechariah, then we got Esther and finally Matthew. Time is going by fast and I will be home soon, I love you all and can't wait to see you!

Until then Grace and Peace be with you

June 11, 2023

Week 38 - Malachi, Zechariah and Esther

Sup lads, life is crazy! 10 days until I graduate, 12 days until I am back on Canadian soil. Life is crazy for that but I am excited to come back! I only have a short push and 1 more book left, the Gospel of Matthew. I don't exactly know what to think when I hand that book in but I will have accomplished something big and exciting!

Malachi is the last prophet of the Old Testament, his authorship is debated because Malachi means the messenger, so he could have been a nobody that God used and he adopted the name Malachi, but he also could have been an actual Malachi who was unfortunate with his name. It is a cool, somewhat apocalyptic literature, and it was fun to study. The first bit attacks the priests and Levites for misleading the city and not being holy, the rest depicts what the messenger could look like. It could be JTB or Elijah are the most commonly thought, but in Matthew 11:11-15 it talks about JTB being Elijah to come, so the messenger is likely JTB preparing the way for Jesus.

Zechariah was a hopeful book for me, all of it was pointing towards Jerusalem being a light for the nations, and a light that draws people in and so they are saved, lines like Jerusalem was aloft and the plains were around it, It's as if Jerusalem's mission is to be a light for the world and God will use that city and it will be placed slightly above the World in the world.

It is sad to see now that Jerusalem has the wailing wall and Jews still worship the little wall instead of God, the veil over the place is crazy and I am so grateful for Jesus coming back and allowing me, a Gentile, to be allowed into the kingdom of Heaven!

Now, **Esther!** What a phenomenal book, one that focuses on a woman, and doesn't mention God. There are a few places where God is evident like Queen Vashti rejecting King Xerxes and Esther gaining favor to become queen, or the king waking up to read the book of records and finding Mordecai's name the night before Haman wanted to kill him. It is a crazy key story, if Esther hadn't saved the Jews, Jerusalem would have been destroyed and the people in Persia and Jesus' line would have ended. Luckily we have a divine God who had planned this from the beginning!

Besides books I have finished my final paper which means I can focus on Matthew with my whole heart!

My brother graduated while I was here. He is becoming a man and he has found God along the way. I am proud of who is becoming and am excited to come back and continue being your brother!

Side note it is my dad's 50th birthday so Happy Birthday, Dad! I love you and you have raised me up to be a gentleman who loves the Lord and loves to challenge authority. You carry a discipline and perseverance that is inspiring and you lay down everything to serve. You are humble and kind and have the ability to talk to anybody! I hope that you enjoy your birthday and do something fun! I will see you in 12 days!

Until then Grace and Peace be with you

June 18, 2023

Week 39 - Matthew

Sup lads, Happy Father's Day to all the dads reading this!

Now the last newsletter, it's kinda crazy. **Matthew** is an amazing book and I loved it, the amount of Prophecy Matthew uses is insane. The audience is Jewish people which is quite sad honestly, the Jewish veil they have is so sad, the fact they worship a wall because that's all that is left of the original city is so sad. Jesus is our God, Jesus is the son of God, and the son of David, which means he was the last king of the line, and that means that Joseph was also a King.

I just wanna touch on a few things, Matthew's writing is so amazing. He will set up his chapters to show that Jesus is above man, whether it be Peter exalting Christ and then Peter being called Satan, or the feeding of the 5000 and 4000 and then being challenged by the Pharisees. The whole book points to Jesus as God, and as the King, even when he comes to Jerusalem he is the humble King, on the cross he is the King, when mocked he is the King. Jesus is undeniably our King.

Besides Matthew we have a lot of lasts, we had one last DTS grad, we will have a last dinner on Tuesday, our grad on Wednesday, goodbyes on Thursday and then I leave on Friday. We had a last communion last night, we will have our last base worship today and I will have to say goodbye to a lot of my friends. But knowing God and seeing his plan I understand so much more. I see that we are meant to live out Matthew 28, the Great Commision and make disciples of all nations. The importance of knowing God and knowing his word is so much bigger and better than pursuing the world. I am praying that I do not become stale or complacent with the Bible but try to learn more and more about what God wants to show me.

Email me if you wanna meet with me for coffee once I get back. I would love to talk with you Guys about the ups and downs of SBS and travel.

Until then Grace and Peace be with you

June 26, 2023

Week 40 - Home

Sup lads, I thought I'd give an update at home before I go off to camp next week.

The goodbyes were extremely hard when I left. I didn't think I would miss it but it is hard adjusting back to life in Canada. So far I haven't seemed to sit down for longer than 3 hours, because life keeps throwing curveballs my way. I am meeting for coffee almost everyday this week and would love to continue meeting up with you.

I will be volunteering at camp for two weeks, and then I will hopefully be relaxing a little bit before finding a job. If you would like to support me with camp that would be greatly appreciated, whether that be prayers, meeting for coffee and giving encouragement or donations, I would love to reach out to you guys. My plans after camp are open until the last weekend of July, the weekend of the Vermillion Fair where I will spend time with my family at the small town fair, then I hopefully will do a small backpacking trip in Montana with an SBS student from the Montana base. I went to Kona, Hawaii for my DTS with her so I am super excited to see her and learn what has happened in her life since then!

I would love to meet you when I am free! I had to get a new phone number when I got here, it is +1 587-284-3060 reach out to me or call me and I would be happy to tell you guys about my life and the school!

I plan on doing a whole Bible horizontal and link as much as I can throughout the Bible and then be able to study whatever I want whenever I want. This will likely take me 4-6 months to complete because I will be going at my own pace but I would love to keep updating you guys on stuff I find.

Until then please pray for clarity on what to do next and endurance to do that with a clear mind and a mind that follows God.

Until then Grace and Peace be with you