

Readings for the Week		* Ezekiel	** James	Collect
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 30 Ezekiel 28:1-19 James 2:1-13	<p>This prophet was exiled to Babylon and his work was among the exiles there. He may have been a priest and a key theme of the book is God's holiness. The book is full of strange symbolism, visions and accounts of how the prophet often presented his message through drama. Roughly, the first thirty-three chapters convey a similar message to that of Jeremiah and at a similar period: Jerusalem will be captured by Babylon and the Temple will be destroyed. Once this had taken place Ezekiel's message was one of comfort (chapters 33-39): God will bring back his people to their own country one day. Meanwhile, in Babylon they will learn that God can be worshipped even though there is no Temple or they cannot offer sacrifice. Chapters 40-48 are a detailed vision of the future which centres on the Temple.</p>	<p>James may have been Jesus' brother who was also the first leader of the church in Jerusalem. It could be the first of the New Testament letters to be written, and is very practical. The main themes are: if we say we are Christians we must also live like Christians; discrimination of any kind is wrong, as is oppression of the poor and the weak; Christians should be self-controlled, especially in what they say.</p>	<p>Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen</p>
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 36 Ezekiel 33:1-20 James 2:14-end			
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 34 Ezekiel 33:21-end James 3			
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 37 Ezekiel 34:1-16 James 4:1-12			
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 31 Ezekiel 34:17-end James 4:13-5:6			
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 42 Ezekiel 36:16-36 James 5:7-end			