

BIBLE READING HELPS FOR APRIL 2020

# *Anchored* IN THE WORD



# Reading the Word Together

Following the plan provided in the *Anchored in the Word* booklets will allow you to read through the entire Bible in 2020. Since you'll be reading along with others in our church, it will be easier to discuss what you are reading with other believers. Sharing your insights and questions will greatly encourage others to dive into God's life-giving Word.

Here's what you will find inside:

- A weekly section to keep track of your Bible reading, record insights, and review the weekly memory verse.
- Introductions to each Biblical book that will be read during the month.
- A brief overview of how to do more in-depth Bible study.
- A listing of church events for the month.
- Blank note pages to record key blessings & lessons

Nothing will impact your life like consistently reading and reflecting on God's Word. You will grow in your knowledge of God and His ways. You will find strength and insight for each day. There is abundant hope and help in God's Word for you!

"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night."

Psalm 1:1-2 (NKJV)

# Introduction to 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel

First Samuel records the establishment of Israel's monarchy, at about 1050 BC Samuel led Israel for many years in the combined roles of prophet, priest, and judge. After the people demanded a king like those of the other nations (ch. 8), God directed Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king. When Saul turned from God, David was anointed by Samuel to succeed him. After David killed the giant Goliath, he was brought to Saul's court, eventually becoming the leader of Saul's armies. Saul's subsequent violent jealousy forced David to flee. The book closes with Saul's death in battle and looks forward to David's reign.

Second Samuel recounts David's reign as king of Israel (about 1010-970 BC). While David had many successes, after his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah (ch. 11) both his kingdom and his own family fell into chaos. His son Absalom led a bloody rebellion against him. Nevertheless David, author of many of the Psalms, was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), a model of deep, heartfelt prayer and repentance. The Davidic Covenant of chapter 7 establishes the eternal rule of David's line, with its ultimate fulfillment in the coming of Jesus Christ.



The scan code on the left links to a video overview of First Samuel and the code on the right links to the video for Second Samuel

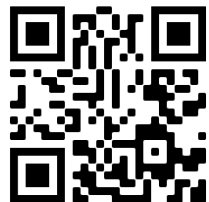


# Introduction to 1st & 2nd Kings

First Kings begins with the death of King David (about 970 BC) and the reign of his son, Solomon, who "excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom" (10:23). Solomon's unfaithfulness later in life set the stage for general apostasy among the people. The harsh policies of his son Rehoboam led to the revolt of the northern tribes and the division of Israel. The northern tribes would subsequently be called Israel and the southern tribes Judah.

Second Kings continues the saga of disobedience with the conclusion of Elijah's prophetic ministry in Israel and the beginning of the work of his successor, Elisha. Israel spiraled downward in faithlessness, ultimately being defeated and dispersed by the Assyrians in 722. Judah, the southern kingdom, had several kings who trusted God and attempted reforms. But after many years of God's warnings through Isaiah and other prophets, Judah's sins were punished by Babylonian conquest starting in 605 and ultimately in the fall of Jerusalem in 586. The people were exiled to Babylon for seventy years, as prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer. 29:10).

Use the scan code on the left to view a video that introduces the books of First and Second Kings together.



# Week Fourteen

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	4/5	Sunday	1 Samuel 14-15
	4/6	Monday	1 Samuel 16-17
	4/7	Tuesday	1 Samuel 18-20
	4/8	Wednesday	1 Samuel 21-24
	4/9	Thursday	1 Samuel 25-27
	4/10	Friday	1 Samuel 28-31
	4/11	Saturday	2 Samuel 1-3

## Memory Verse

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

## Discovery Questions

*What “crime” almost cost Jonathan his life?*

*What condition did David place on accepting the truce between Judah and Israel?*

*Who prophesied to Saul that he would die the next day?*

[illegible]

# Week Fifteen

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	4/12	Sunday	2 Samuel 4-7
	4/13	Monday	2 Samuel 8-11
	4/14	Tuesday	2 Samuel 12-13
	4/15	Wednesday	2 Samuel 14-15
	4/16	Thursday	2 Samuel 16-17
	4/17	Friday	2 Samuel 18-19
	4/18	Saturday	2 Samuel 20-22

## Memory Verse

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:3-4

## Discovery Questions

*How long did Absalom wait to get revenge on Amnon?*

*What did Michael, David’s wife, criticize him for?*

[illegible]



# Week Sixteen

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	4/19	Sunday	2 Samuel 23-24
	4/20	Monday	1 Kings 1
	4/21	Tuesday	1 Kings 2-3
	4/22	Wednesday	1 Kings 4-6
	4/23	Thursday	1 Kings 7
	4/24	Friday	1 Kings 8
	4/25	Saturday	1 Kings 9-10

## Memory Verse

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;”

Philippians 4:6

## Discovery Questions

*Which of David’s sons (not Absalom) tried to take the throne?*

*How many Proverbs and Songs did Solomon write?*

*What military branch did Solomon add to his armies?*

[illegible]

# Week Seventeen

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	4/26	Sunday	1 Kings 11-12
	4/27	Monday	1 Kings 13-14
	4/28	Tuesday	1 Kings 15-17
	4/29	Wednesday	1 Kings 18-19
	4/30	Thursday	1 Kings 20-21
	5/1	Friday	1 Kings 22- 2 Kings 1
	5/2	Saturday	2 Kings 2-4

## Memory Verse

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

Ephesians 4:29

## Discovery Questions

*What did Rehoboam replace the shields of Gold with?*

*How did God smite 27,000 Syrian soldiers all at once?*

[illegible]

# Appendix A - The Inductive Study Method

## Observation – What do I see?

Start by reading the passage once through to get the big picture. Then read it again slower: noticing punctuation, identifying grammar, and observing how thoughts connect. Let the scene develop in your mind.

Now, “zoom out” in stages to get the **context**

- Immediate context – What is going on?
- Surrounding context – What happened before and after?
- Larger context – What is this book all about?

Next, consider how the **literary style** might be contributing

- Historical narrative – Factual retellings of events
- Law – God’s commands to His covenant people
- Poetry – Scripture written in verse
- Wisdom – Principles from generations of godly people
- Prophecy – Revelation from God about the future
- Argument – Ideas built upon each other to make a whole

Finally, “**interview**” the passage with these questions:

- Who? – What is significant to know about each person?
- What? – What is happening? What is being said or done?
- Where? – Lookup every location you encounter!
- When? – When did this occur? In other Scripture?
- Why? – Look for reasons and explanations. Connect them!
- How? – Are methods described or instructions given?

## **Interpretation – What does it mean?**

When interpreting Scripture, always keep in mind that “meaning” is not our subjective thoughts read into the text, but God’s objective truth read out of the text. Using the analogy of a puzzle, try applying the “four C’s” of accurate interpretation:

- *Content* – Do I have all the pieces? Observation is critical
- *Context* – Where does this piece belong in the big picture?
- Literary context – what type of literature is this?
- Historical context – what events surround this text?
- Cultural context – what were the “norms” then?
- Geographic context – does location matter?
- Theological context – what did they know of God?
- *Comparison* – Where does this piece fit with the others?
- The greatest interpreter of Scripture is Scripture
- *Consultation* – Does this piece really fit here?
- Commentaries are great consultation resources

And never forget the golden rule of interpretation:

*“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense...or it will be nonsense.”*

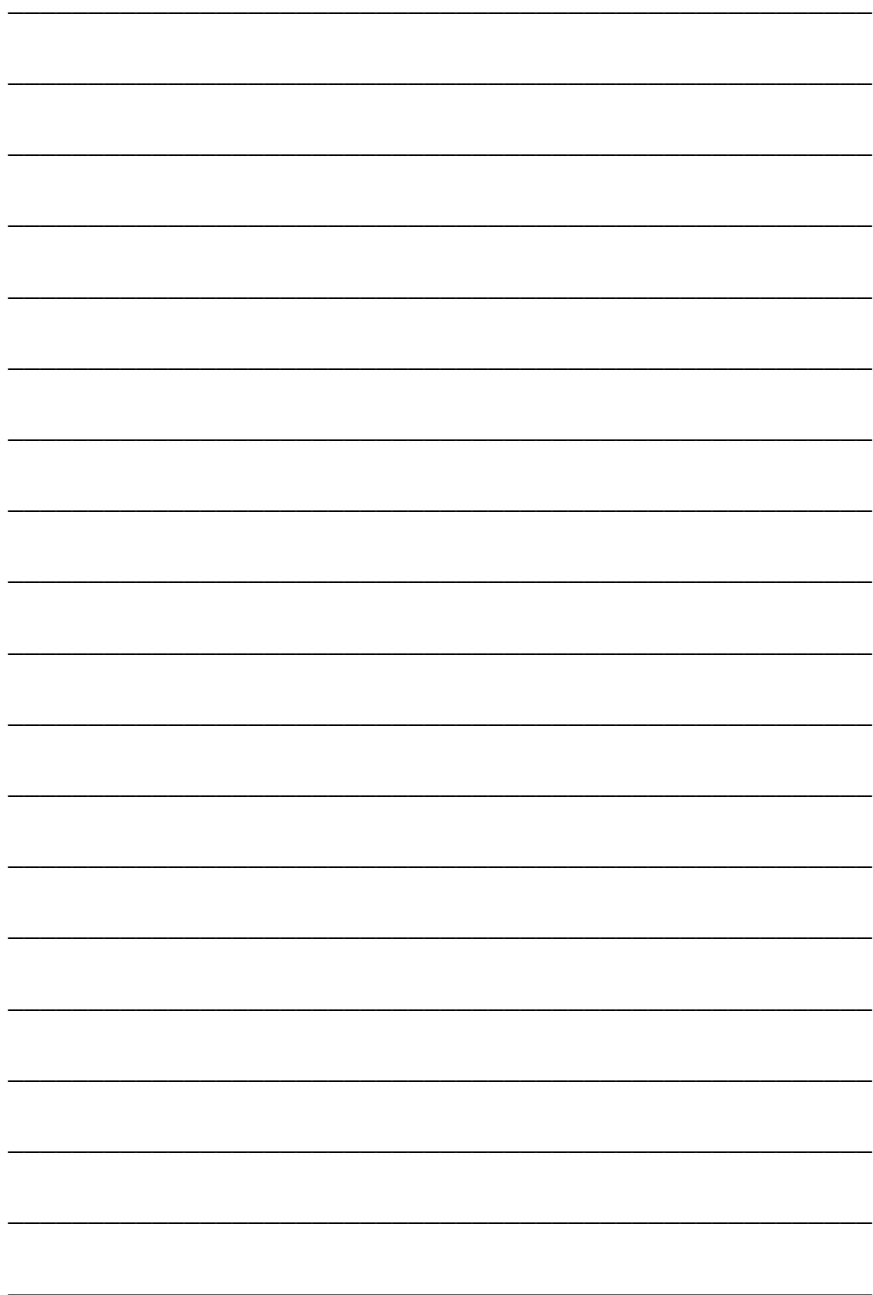
## **Application – How does it affect me?**

To find out how the principles you’ve discovered might apply to you, it helps to restate them as a question to yourself like this:

*“How does that fact that [...principle from the Bible...] affect me?”*

Then ask yourself what action you should take based on what you now know. Seek God’s will in prayer for this. Permit the Holy Spirit to answer these questions for you and open your eyes to God’s perspective.

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## Events in April

*No meetings are currently Scheduled for April due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Check our church's website for updates.*

## Contact

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