

Anchored
IN THE WORD

JUNE 2021

Read the Word Daily for your Soul

I'm excited to read through the Bible again this year. Why? Because it keeps my focus on Jesus. When I don't receive the word of God day by day, my faith weakens, my love fades, and my witness diminishes. I've found that there is nothing like a regular, substantial intake of the word to nourish my spiritual life. That normally means reading through the entire Bible at least one time per year.

Some struggle with this since it requires a long-term persistence. When you fall behind, you are tempted to just give up. This is why I love the plan that we are using this year. You'll only have assigned readings for 25 days out of each month. This will allow 5-6 days each month to catch up, get ahead, or read elsewhere. This year's plan also balances out reading from different portions of Scripture. It provides two readings for each day. The first reading alternates between Old and New Testament books. The second reading takes you through a chapter of the wisdom literature and Isaiah.

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.

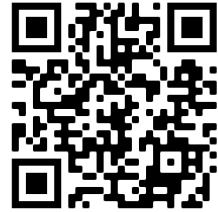
Blessings on your reading!

Pastor Jack

Psalm 1:2

Introduction to Proverbs

Practical wisdom for living is the central concern of the book of Proverbs. Proverbs often contrasts the benefits of seeking wisdom and the pitfalls of living a fool's life. While the wicked stumble in darkness the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn. Proverbs is a collection of Israelite wisdom literature, including an introductory section (ch 1-9) that gives readers a framework for understanding the rest of the book.



Introduction to Psalms

The book of Psalms is filled with the songs and prayers offered to God by the nation of Israel. Their expressions of praise, faith, sorrow, and frustration cover the range of human emotions. Some of the Psalms dwell on the treasure of wisdom and God's Word. Others reveal the troubled invite others to join in song. This diversity is unified by one element: they are centered upon the one and only living God. This Creator God is King of all the earth and a refuge to all who trust in him. Many of the Psalms are attributed to King David.



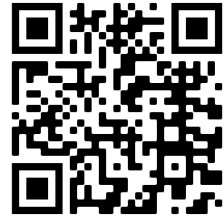
Introduction to Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes contains reflections of an old man, the "Preacher," as he considered the question of meaning in life. He looked back and saw the futility ("vanity") of chasing after even the good things this life can offer, including wisdom, work, pleasure, and wealth. Even if such things are satisfying for a time, death is certain to end this satisfaction; yet the person who lives in the fear of the Lord can enjoy God's good gifts.



Introduction to Amos

Amos, possibly the first of the writing prophets, was a shepherd and farmer called to prophesy during the reigns of Uzziah (792-740 BC) in the southern kingdom and Jeroboam II (793-753) in the north. During this time both kingdoms enjoyed political stability, which in turn brought prosperity but also idolatry, extravagance, and corruption. Amos denounced the people of Israel for their apostasy and social injustice and warned them that disaster would fall upon them for breaking the covenant. Nevertheless, said Amos, God would remember his covenant with Israel and would restore a faithful remnant



Introduction to 1st 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.

Introduction to 2 Kings

Second Kings continues the saga of disobedience begun in 1 Kings, opening about 850 b.c. 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). God remained faithful to his covenant despite his people's faithlessness. The author of 2 Kings is unknown.

Introduction to Philemon

Philemon is about reconciliation and relationships between Christians. Onesimus (which means "useful") was a slave of a believer named Philemon in Colossae.

Apparently Onesimus had stolen from Philemon and fled. At some time while Paul was under arrest, Onesimus met him and became a Christian. Paul apparently wrote this letter at the same time as Colossians and gave it to Onesimus to carry back to Philemon (see Col. 4:9). Paul appealed to Philemon to accept Onesimus back into his household, but as a brother in the Lord rather than a slave. In Paul's estimation, Onesimus was far more "useful" (v. 11) now that he was a Christian. Paul even promised to pay whatever debt Onesimus might owe Philemon.



Introduction to Jonah

Jonah lived during the time of Jeroboam II (about 793-753 BC), and Jesus referred to Jonah as a historical person (Matt. 12:39-41). Unlike other prophetic books, Jonah

focuses on the prophet himself rather than on his message.

When God sent Jonah to Nineveh he rebelled, was swallowed by a fish, repented, and fulfilled his mission after all. When Nineveh repented, the reason for Jonah's rebellion became clear: he had feared that God would forgive the Ninevites; and when God did forgive them, Jonah resented it (4:1-3).



Introduction to Luke

Luke, a physician and colleague of Paul, documents Christ's life from before his birth through his ministry, death, and resurrection.



Jesus carried out his ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit, announcing the good news of salvation. He showed numerous times his compassion for the poor and the outcast. He fulfilled prophecy and carried out his purpose: to seek and save the lost. Luke gives the fullest account of Christ's birth, and only Luke records the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. Luke also wrote the following book of Acts.

Week Twenty-Three

Read

| ✓ | Date | Day | Text |
|---|------|-----------|--------------------------|
| | 6/6 | Sunday | 1 Kings 10-12 Psalm 80 |
| | 6/7 | Monday | 1 Kings 13-15 Psalm 81 |
| | 6/8 | Tuesday | 1 Kings 16-19 Psalm 82 |
| | 6/9 | Wednesday | 1 Kings 20-22 Psalm 83 |
| | 6/10 | Thursday | Jonah Psalm 84 |
| | 6/11 | Friday | Philemon Psalm 85 |
| | 6/12 | Saturday | <i>Reflection</i> |

Reflect

Solomon's reign marks both the high point of Israel as a nation and the beginning of the decline. As you read, note the causes of the decline. Are we prone to go astray in similar ways?

Remember

Each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

1 Corinthians 3:13

Week Twenty-Four

Read

| ✓ | Date | Day | Text |
|---|------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| | 6/13 | Sunday | 2 Kings 1-4 Psalm 86 |
| | 6/14 | Monday | 2 Kings 5-7 Psalm 87 |
| | 6/15 | Tuesday | 2 Kings 8-11 Psalm 88 |
| | 6/16 | Wednesday | 2 Kings 12-14 Psalm 89:1-18 |
| | 6/17 | Thursday | 2 Kings 15-18 Psalm 89:19-52 |
| | 6/18 | Friday | 2 Kings 19-21 Psalm 90 |
| | 6/19 | Saturday | <i>Reflection</i> |

Reflect

What do you think is the purpose of the miracle-working ministry of Elisha?

Remember

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21

Thoughts, Prayers & Praises

Week Twenty-Five

Read

| ✓ | Date | Day | Text |
|---|------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| | 6/20 | Sunday | 2 Kings 22-25 Psalm 91 |
| | 6/21 | Monday | Luke 1-3 Psalm 92 |
| | 6/22 | Tuesday | Luke 4-6 Psalm 93 |
| | 6/23 | Wednesday | Luke 7-9 Psalm 94 |
| | 6/24 | Thursday | Luke 10-12 Ecclesiastes 1 |
| | 6/25 | Friday | Luke 13-15 Ecclesiastes 2 |
| | 6/26 | Saturday | <i>Reflection</i> |

Reflect

*Luke mentions prayer at least a dozen times in these chapters.
What can you learn about prayer from these passages?*

Remember

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 John 5:4

Week Twenty-Six

Read

| ✓ | Date | Day | Text |
|---|------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| | 6/27 | Sunday | Luke 16-18 Ecclesiastes 3 |
| | 6/28 | Monday | Luke 19-21 Ecclesiastes 4 |
| | 6/29 | Tuesday | Luke 22-24 Ecclesiastes 5 |
| | 6/30 | Wednesday | Amos 1-3 Ecclesiastes 6 |
| | 7/1 | Thursday | Amos 4-6 Ecclesiastes 7 |
| | 7/2 | Friday | Amos 7-9 Ecclesiastes 8 |
| | 7/3 | Saturday | <i>Reflection</i> |

Reflect

What are some of the reasons given for God's judgment in the book of Amos?

Remember

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful.

Psalm 33:1

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.

Notes

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Weekly Gatherings

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday Worship Service | Sundays @ 10:30 AM |
| Sunday Evening Service | Sundays @ 5:00 PM |

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