

DECEMBER 2022

*Anchored*  
IN THE WORD

# About this reading plan

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The plan that we are using this year has 5 days per week assigned for reading. It provides readings from different portions of Scripture each day. Every day includes a portion from the Old and New Testament with the Psalms sprinkled in.

If you read them all the portions each day, you'll read through the entire Bible in 2022! If that sounds exciting, go for it! If that looks like it will be hard to be consistent, then read the NT portions along with the selections from Psalms. Doing that will only require 1 chapter most days of the year.

Committing to be part of a Discipleship Group is one way to help yourself be consistent. Each week as part of our groups, we'll go over the readings from last week together. Since you'll be reading along with others in our church, it will be easier to discuss what you are reading with other believers.

In this guide you will find the readings for the current month. Also included is a summary plus a question to help you investigate further and/or apply the Word to your life.

Remember to pray before, during and in response to reading. Whether prompted by the questions provided or by the Spirit, think of your time in the Word as time with God Himself, and include prayer as part of your response. Consider doing so with a pen so you can bring what the Lord has been teaching you to your discipleship groups. Journal space is provided.

## Week 49 / Day 1

### ☐ **Esther 7-10**

Esther reveals her true identity to the king and exposes Haman's plot to eliminate her people. This leads to an ironic end as God preserves His people through the captivity.

*What feast did the Jews declare in remembrance of their rest from their enemies?*

### ☐ **Revelation 3**

Messages to the churches: Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea. John warns and/or encourages the churches to persevere so that they will maintain their faithful witness to the world and receive their future reward.

*What was the problem with the church at Sardis?*

## Week 49 / Day 2

### ☐ **Ezra 7-10**

A new decree authorizes Ezra to bring a second group of exiles back to Jerusalem. Ezra seeks to lead the people in obedience to the Law. Upon arriving, Ezra confronts their unfaithfulness and leads the people in repentance.

*What was the problem Ezra addressed? Why did it matter?*

### ☐ **Psalm 97**

Israel, and all people, should respond to God's reign with rejoicing, reverence, and hatred of evil.

*What happens in the presence of Yahweh?*

### ☐ **Revelation 4**

The chapter revolves around the throne of God: God is worthy to judge creation because He created and sustains all things. God on His throne is one of the dominating images of Revelation, occurring over forty times.

*What quality of God is praised by the four creatures around the throne?*

## Week 49 / Day 3

### ☐ **Nehemiah 1-3**

When Nehemiah hears that Jerusalem is in ruins, he is overcome with grief, and he prays that God will use him to bring about the city's revitalization. After securing Artaxerxes' permission (and provision), he goes to Jerusalem and begins to rebuild its walls. Jews from all walks of life join in the project.

*Who would supply the materials needed to rebuild the wall?*

### ☐ **Revelation 5**

The throne room vision also establishes Christ's right (because of his self-sacrifice) to pour out God's wrath on earth. Christ is worshipped for what He is about to reveal through bringing judgment to the earth and blessing to the redeemed.

*What was in the hand of God on His throne?*

## Week 49 / Day 4

### ☐ **Nehemiah 4-6**

The people encounter opposition from their neighbors and challenges from within their own community. In spite of this, Nehemiah and the people are resolute and complete the project with God's help.

*What does Nehemiah do as governor that was different from previous governors?*

### ☐ **Psalms 98**

All people should join creation in praising God, singing joyfully for his marvelous deeds. Yahweh's judgment of the wicked is the salvation of the righteous.

*Why should the sea roar?*

### ☐ **Revelation 6**

When the Lamb breaks the seven seals in heaven, horrific events of judgment unfold on earth—and the people left there recognize these events for what they are. The Great Tribulation has begun. There is nowhere to hide. The prayers of the martyrs will be answered.

*How are the people under judgment like Adam in the Garden?*

## Week 49 / Day 5

### ☐ **Nehemiah 7-9**

Nehemiah appoints leaders to oversee the city's security and takes a census of those who returned. The people gather to listen to Ezra read the law. They repent of their sins and make a covenant together.

*What did the people renew doing as a remembrance of how God took care of their forefathers in the wilderness?*

### ☐ **Psalms 140**

David offers a prayer when oppressed by the wicked.

*What does David ask Yahweh to do?*

### ☐ **Revelation 7**

What happens to the faithful during the Tribulation? 144,000 individuals from Israel are “sealed.” The seal identifies them as God’s servants and protects them from the judgments that follow. Then an innumerable multitude of Gentiles is seen in heaven who were saved during the Tribulation.

*How do you know the 144,000 are not "Jehovah's Witnesses"?*





## Week 50 / Day 1

### ☐ **Nehemiah 10-13**

The covenant is signed binding the people to carefully obey God's commands. God sends people to resettle in the city of Jerusalem to fulfill various responsibilities. The Levites and citizens dedicate the wall of Jerusalem by celebrating God's faithfulness. As he makes his difficult final reforms, Nehemiah asks the Lord to remember him with favor.

*How were the people chosen who would dwell in the city of Jerusalem?*

### ☐ **Revelation 8**

The seventh seal is silence. It is the quiet before the storm (Zephaniah 1:7). This final seal contains and serves to introduce the trumpet judgments. These judgments are the answers to the saints' prayers.

*What does this passage teach us about our prayers?*

## Week 50 / Day 2

### ☐ **Malachi 1-4**

The book takes the form of six disputes between Yahweh and His people—almost court room style as the people first drag God into court to accuse him of breach of contract (1:2, “How have you loved us?”). But God turns the tables on them and soon they’re facing down a withering stream of accusations from Almighty God.

*What will Elijah do when he comes?*

### ☐ **Psalm 2**

In spite of opposition, Yahweh will establish His Son as Lord over all and He invites sinners to come and embrace him now before his wrath is unleashed.

*How should we serve the LORD?*

### ☐ **Revelation 9**

The world will not come to God for forgiveness, so God comes to them with judgment. As the trumpet judgments intensify, people refuse to repent. Though they seek death, they will not find it until the God sends it. This chapter highlights God's dominion over the demonic hordes.

*What sins were the people refusing to abandon?*

## Week 50 / Day 3

### ☐ Job 1-3

The stage is set for the story of Job with scenes in earth and heaven. Job was a righteous man greatly blessed by God. Satan was allowed to test whether Job fears God only for the benefits. Job, in emotion-rich poetry, expresses his pain and desire to have never been born.

*What opportunity does suffering give us according to this reading?*

### ☐ Psalm 29

The psalm calls for worship to Yahweh for the devastating judgment that He brings on their enemies and the subsequent peace He gives to Israel.

*Where is the LORD enthroned?*

### ☐ Revelation 10

Man's rebellion will not stop Christ's plan to reign over the earth. The little book is different than the one in chapter 5 and its contents are unknown to us. Christ will delay judgment no longer, and John is commissioned to prophesy of this reality.

*When will the mystery of God be finished?*

## Week 50 / Day 4

### ☐ **Job 4-7**

Chapters 4-26 contain three cycles of speeches by Job and his friends. Eliphaz begins the first cycle by reminding Job of God's justice. He encourages Job to find comfort in God's discipline since it leads to repentance and relief. Job does not find this helpful and demands to be told specifically what he has done to deserve this punishment.

*What does Job consider the only resolution for his problems?*

### ☐ **Psalm 99**

The psalmist says that all people, especially Israel, should worship the King because He is holy.

*Who was God to Israel under Moses?*

### ☐ **Revelation 11**

The holy city is given over to the Gentiles for 42 months; two witnesses prophesy and perform signs until the beast kills them. After three days, they resurrect and ascend to heaven. The seventh trumpet contains the bowl judgments, and it, along with them, terminates at the Second Coming.

*What is the second woe?*

## Week 50 / Day 5

### ☐ Job 8-11

Bildad agrees with Eliphaz's assessment and urges Job to seek God earnestly. Job responds that God is powerful and can do what He wants so arguing with Him is pointless. He again wonders why he was born and longs for peace. Zophar rebukes Job for thinking he is innocent. He says Job actually deserves more punishment for his sins.

*What does Job ask of God?*

### ☐ Revelation 12

John saw signs (symbols) of a great cosmic war. Israel is the woman, Jesus is the child, and the dragon is Satan. Satan is cast out of heaven forever and turns his rage towards earth. Israel is sheltered from Satan's attacks during the second half of the Tribulation.

*Should we fear Satan? Why or why not?*



## Week 51 / Day 1

### ☐ Job 12-14

Job concludes the first cycle of speeches by stating he knows the same things his friends do. All creation knows that God is in control of everything that happens. Job wants to defend himself before God but feels like God is persecuting him. Job confesses his insignificance and longs for relief.

*How did Job feel toward his friends?*

### ☐ Psalm 100

Those who belong to God are invited to worship Him with gladness because He alone is God and is good.

*Why are we to be thankful to God?*

### ☐ Revelation 13

Attention now turns to Satan's agent - the Antichrist. The world falls for this apparently invincible leader, but believers resist his blasphemous ways. Another beast appears that supports the first and convinces the world to follow him. He serves as a false prophet working miracles and enforces submission to the Antichrist by controlling commerce.

*What is said about the ones who refuse to worship the beast?*

## Week 51 / Day 2

### ☐ **Job 15-17**

Eliphaz accuses Job of abandoning prayer. He reminds Job that ancient tradition insists that his suffering was caused by severe sin in his life. Job responds that his friends are poor comforters. He longs for a witness in heaven to mediate for him with God.  
*What does Job think God feels about him?*

### ☐ **Revelation 14**

John sees the 144,000 (from ch. 7) together with Jesus at His coming to reign. God's followers triumph in spite of Satan's attacks. Prior to the final wrath poured out in the bowl judgments, angels announce to the people of earth that judgment will certainly come. This is portrayed graphically as a grape harvest.  
*Who is coming on the cloud?*



## Week 51 / Day 3

### ☐ Job 18-20

Bildad does not want to hear Job's answers. He describes my misery of the wicked. Job looks ahead to a future resurrection when he will be vindicated before God. Zophar condemns the wealthy, presuming they are greedy and oppress the poor and suggesting this is Job's problem.

*What does Job want from his friends?*

### ☐ Psalm 141

This is a prayer for deliverance and guidance where David seeks to be free from evil people and evil ways.

*What does he want the righteous to do?*

### ☐ Revelation 15

John reaches back into the Old Testament to teach us about God's judgment and grace. The seven angels have bowls of wrath, plagues to pour on a wicked world. When God delivered Israel from Egypt, they sang (Exodus 15); John saw the saints singing in heaven. God will deliver His people.

*Who is standing with harps of God?*

## Week 51 / Day 4

### ☐ Job 21-23

Job points out that the wicked often go unpunished by God and concludes the answers of his friends are false. Eliphaz tries to identify the specific sins Job has committed and urges him to repent. Job maintains his innocence.

*How did Job treasure God's words?*

### ☐ Psalm 101

David determines to live and reign righteously as Israel's king and surround himself with godly people.

*Who will David have his eyes on?*

### ☐ Revelation 16

The seven bowls are the final manifestation of the wrath of God poured out on the earth. The nations assemble for the battle of Armageddon after again refusing to repent. Here God rapidly and decisively obliterates the rule of evil on the earth.

*What happens after the fourth plague?*

## Week 51 / Day 5

### ☐ Job 24-27

Job argues that he has done nothing to deserve his present circumstances. Bildad's brief speech questions if it is possible to live righteous before God. Job expresses his frustration with his friends' arguments.

*According to Job, how does God react to the deeds of the wicked?*

### ☐ Revelation 17

This interlude focuses on one aspect of the bowl judgments, the destruction of the harlot Babylon, who rides the beast. The details of the harlot do not fit any specific city in history, but they do define an idolatrous world system. An alliance of nations submits to the beast (Antichrist) and is defeated in war against the Lamb.

*What do the waters (which the woman sits on) represent?*



## Week 52 / Day 1

### ☐ **Job 28-30**

Job continues with a poem praising the virtues of wisdom. He continues addressing his friends, reminiscing about his life before tragedy came and denying he deserves rejection.

*How does man find wisdom?*

### ☐ **Revelation 18**

This further interlude continues describing the fall of Babylon. Now the focus is on the announcement of its fall and the aftermath. Those who trusted in her are devastated, but those slain by her rejoice. Babylon has fallen and will not return.

*How would Babylon be repaid?*

## Week 52 / Day 2

### ☐ Job 31-33

As he concluded his final defense, Job named specific sins and denied that he had committed them. His three friends have nothing to say, but a fourth friend is now introduced. Elihu has been quiet so far, but his anger has been growing towards Job and the other friends. He says God uses suffering to lead men to pray in repentance.

*What did Elihu think about the words of Job's friends?*

### ☐ Psalm 102

The psalmist depends upon God to intervene and deliver him in the midst of dark, difficult days.

*What hope does he have for his nation?*

### ☐ Revelation 19

Two celebrations occur just prior to Christ's Return - one for the destruction of Babylon and one for the marriage supper of the Lamb. Heaven opens for a Rider on a white horse. Christ comes with His armies to conquer all His enemies, including the beast and his false prophet.

*What happens to the beast and the false prophet?*

## Week 52 / Day 3

### ☐ Job 34-36

Elihu continues by rebuking Job for questioning God's justice. He claims to speak for God. He maintains that God is just in His treatment of men; turning towards God is the key response all should make.

*For what should Job wait?*

### ☐ Revelation 20

What humanity lost in the beginning, Christ has now regained. The only enemies yet to be put down are the devil and death itself. Christ reigns with the saints for one thousand years. After this time, Satan will be released from his imprisonment to deceive the nations, only to be defeated yet again and thrown into the lake of fire to be tormented forever. The human rebels against God will stand condemned before the great white throne.

*How many times does this chapter reference 1,000 years?*

## Week 52 / Day 4

### ☐ Job 37-39

Elihu's claim to speak for God is confirmed by Yahweh's own voice. The LORD finally speaks and answers Job's objections. Job is rebuked for speaking in ignorance. Yahweh bombards him with a series of questions he cannot answer.

*How does admitting our ignorance and limitations help us endure suffering?*

### ☐ Psalm 103

Everyone everywhere should praise the Lord for his manifold gifts, deeds, and loving character.

*How great is His lovingkindness (mercy)?*

### ☐ Revelation 21

The story of the Bible is coming to a close. All sin is eradicated; the Second Adam (Christ) has regained the paradise the First Adam lost. God's presence is everywhere in this new creation, centered in the new Jerusalem, which possesses a beauty of precision, symmetry, permanence, and glory.

*Where does the new Jerusalem come from?*



## Week 52 / Day 5

### ☐ **Job 40-42**

Job acknowledges his ignorance, and Yahweh reminds him of his weakness by describing two mighty beasts - Behemoth and Leviathan. Job has no answer except to repent. Yahweh vindicates Job and rebukes the three friends. He restores the fortunes of Job.

*What is the most enduring lesson you will take away from the story of Job?*

### ☐ **Psalm 150**

Everyone everywhere should praise the LORD wholeheartedly for His unsurpassed greatness.

*How are we to praise the Lord?*

### ☐ **Revelation 22**

The eternal state is a perfect state. John encourages his readers to respond to the message of the book in worship and obedience, because Christ will soon return to reward those who obey and judge those who refuse to obey.

*When will Jesus reward the righteous?*







