



# ANCHORED

*in the Word*

December 2023

# About Anchored in the Word

*Anchored in the Word* is a resource to help you read the Bible more consistently and fruitfully. Following this guide will lead you to read thoughtfully through the entire New Testament over the year. You can do this by reading five days per week. If you want to read the whole Bible, appropriate passages from Old Testament are listed.

The guide is organized by week. Each week includes:

- A key verse taken from the week's reading. This is for you to meditate on and try to memorize.
- A brief introduction to the content of the week's reading.
- A space for notes for the week – you might use it for prayer requests, key lessons from the week, key ideas from Sunday's sermon, etc.

Then you will find a page for each day with the passage to read along with three questions. The passages are divided into roughly equal sections. Sometimes you will only read part of a chapter, or you might read parts of two chapters. Our goal was to make each reading about the same length, but make sure we ended at the end of a story or key idea.

Don't let the questions overwhelm you, they are just tools to help you. There are two main goals for the questions: (1) to stimulate our thinking, and (2) to help us discuss what we read together.

Remember to pray before, during and in response to reading. May God bless you as you read His Word!

All quotations are the from the Legacy Standard Bible (LSB) which you can read online at [read.lsbible.org](http://read.lsbible.org) or in many Bible apps.

# Week 49 (December 4-10)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

John's gospel concludes with the crucifixion, resurrection, and post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Pilate offers to release Jesus, but the crowd chooses Barabbas, leading to Jesus' crucifixion and burial. Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb, and Jesus later appears to her and the disciples, including a doubting Thomas. John states his Gospel's purpose is to inspire faith in Jesus. In a post-resurrection appearance, Jesus performs a miraculous catch of fish and restores Peter, asking him to feed His sheep.

John's first letter explores key themes like fellowship with God, the nature of sin, and the marks of true believers. John starts by introducing Jesus as the Word of Life and emphasizes the importance of walking in the light for fellowship with God. He discusses Jesus as our Advocate, warns against worldliness, and speaks about love as a defining characteristic of true believers. John is unmistakable - sin is incompatible with being a child of God.

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## **Week 49 / Day 1**

□ John 18:39–19:37

Why did the Jews insist that Jesus had to die?

When and why might we allow the pressures of the moment to compromise our beliefs or standards?

Why do you think Pilate had the notice placed on the cross?

*OT Readings for the day: Esther 7-10*

## **Week 49 / Day 2**

□ John 19:38–20:31

Why was Joseph a secret disciple? Why might he have made his secret known at this time?

How did Peter and John respond to their early morning discoveries?

How do you think Mary felt when she realized she was talking to Jesus?

*OT Readings for the day: Ezra 7-10; Psalm 97*

## **Week 49 / Day 3**

□ John 21

What happened when the disciples did what Jesus had told them to do?

Through what ordinary events in life have you encountered Jesus?

How can you focus your attention solely on your service to God this week? What might cause us to be more concerned about someone else's work for Christ than our own?

*OT Readings for the day: Nehemiah 1-3*

## **Week 49 / Day 4**

□ 1 John 1:1–2:17

How is the term "fellowship" used in today's reading?

How were some believers apparently deceiving themselves?

What does the way in which we treat other believers reveal about us?

*OT Readings for the day: Nehemiah 4-6; Psalm 98*

## **Week 49 / Day 5**

□ 1 John 2:18–3:23

What does John reveal about the antichrist?

How is a person who lives in Christ unusual?

For what fellow Christian whom you have difficulty loving will you do something kind this week?

*OT Readings for the day: Nehemiah 7-9; Psalm 140*



# Week 50 (December 11-17)

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

*"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him." (1 John 4:9)*

In the remainder of 1 John, John discusses the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as evidence of abiding in God. He elaborates on discerning spirits, the power of faith, and the assurance of eternal life. John concludes by warning against idolatry and affirming the knowledge of the true God through Jesus Christ. Second John warns against false teachers and emphasizes the importance of walking in truth and love. Third John focuses on hospitality within the church, praising Gaius for his faithfulness and criticizing Diotrephes for his lack of hospitality and authoritarian behavior. Both letters highlight the balance of truth and love in Christian living.

Revelation introduces John's vision of the risen Christ, who commissions him to write to seven churches in Asia Minor. Chapters 2 and 3 contain letters to these churches, offering commendations, rebukes, and exhortations. Chapter 4 describes John's vision of God's heavenly throne, surrounded by celestial worship.

## NOTES

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## **Week 50 / Day 1**

□ 1 John 3:24–5:21

How is the Spirit of God recognized?

How can believers know that they live in God and God lives in them?

What unique quality do God's commands have? Why is this true?

*OT Readings for the day: Nehemiah 10-13*

## **Week 50 / Day 2**

□ 2 John

What gave the elder great joy?

In what way does truth live in us?

What does it mean not to welcome a person who does not share in the teaching of Christ?

*OT Reading for the day: Malachi; Psalm 2*

## **Week 50 / Day 3**

□ 3 John

What information was circulating among the people in Gaius's church?

What was the problem with Diotrephes?

Why is 3 John so short?

*OT Reading for the day: Job 1-3; Psalm 29*

## **Week 50 / Day 4**

□ Revelation 1–2

What is promised to those who take the time to study this revelation?

Of the more than twenty titles for Christ in chapter 1, which one means the most to you? Why?

Of the promises given to overcomers in chapter 2, which one could motivate you the most? Why?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 4-7; Psalm 99*

## **Week 50 / Day 5**

Revelation 3–4

Which do you think is worse—wrongfully having a bad reputation, or wrongfully having a good reputation? Why?

How might you persuade a friend that Christ is the ultimate power in the universe?

What impressions does this passage give you of God the Father?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 8-11*

# Week 51 (December 18-24)

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

*And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain and purchased for God with Your blood people from every tribe and tongue and people and nation." (Revelation 5:9)*

John outlines a series of events that will unfold in a future seven-year Tribulation period. Chapter 5 introduces Jesus as the Lamb, the only one worthy to open a seven-sealed scroll that contains God's judgments. The opening of the first four seals in Chapters 6 and 7 releases the Four Horsemen, bringing conquest, war, famine, and death upon the Earth. The fifth and sixth seals depict the martyrdom of believers and cosmic disturbances. Chapter 7 also describes the sealing of 144,000 ethnic Jews, who are protected during the Tribulation. Chapters 8 and 9 detail the seventh seal's opening, which triggers seven trumpet judgments causing ecological and human disasters. Chapters 10 and 11 offer an interlude featuring a mighty angel and two witnesses who will prophesy in Jerusalem, be killed, and then resurrected. Chapter 12 portrays a woman (often understood as Israel) giving birth to a male child (Christ), who is opposed by a dragon (Satan). Chapter 13 introduces the Antichrist and the False Prophet who will enforce a global, anti-God agenda. Chapter 14 presents the Lamb standing on Mount Zion with the 144,000, followed by angelic announcements of impending judgment and the fall of Babylon. This section sets the stage for the final judgments and the Millennial reign of Christ.

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## Week 51 / Day 1

Revelation 5–6

What was John's reaction when the scroll could not be opened? Why?

For what was the Lamb praised and worshipped?

What question did the martyrs ask God?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 12-14; Psalm 100*



## **Week 51 / Day 2**

□ Revelation 7–8

How will God protect His people during the coming judgment?

How did the elder explain the identity of those wearing the white robes?

What does this passage teach us about prayer?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 15-17*

## Week 51 / Day 3

□ Revelation 9–10

Why do you think the survivors in the last days will still refuse to turn to God—especially after seeing the horrible judgment all around them?

What does this passage tell us about God?

In what situations has God's Word ever tasted sweet at first hearing but then sour as you "digested" it?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 18-20; Psalm 141*

## **Week 51 / Day 4**

□ Revelation 11:1–12:12

What encouragement for Christians today does the story of the two witnesses offer?

For what do we have to be thankful to God?

According to the voice from heaven, how was Satan defeated?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 21-23; Psalm 101*

## **Week 51 / Day 5**

□ Revelation 12:13–14:13

In what ways is Satan limited? Why?

How did the beast use his authority?

How did the second beast deceive everyone all over the world?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 24-27*

# Week 52 (December 25-31)

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them," (Revelation 21:3)*

This week's reading describes the climactic events leading to Christ's Second Coming and the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom. Starting with Rev. 14:14, the harvest of the Earth is depicted, symbolizing the final judgments. Chapters 15 and 16 detail the seven bowl judgments, which are severe and global calamities culminating in the Battle of Armageddon. Chapter 17 and 18 describe the fall of Babylon, a symbol of world systems opposed to God. Chapter 19 heralds the Second Coming of Christ, who defeats the Antichrist and the False Prophet, casting them into the lake of fire. This sets the stage for the Millennial reign of Christ, a literal 1,000-year period, as described in Chapter 20. Satan is bound during this time but is released briefly at the end to deceive the nations one last time before his eternal punishment. The Great White Throne Judgment follows, where unbelievers are judged. Finally, Chapters 21 and 22 depict the New Heaven and New Earth, where God dwells with His people in eternal bliss. The New Jerusalem is described in literal terms, complete with measurements, indicating a physical reality. The book closes with a call for Christ's imminent return, encouraging expectations of a future, literal fulfillment of these prophetic events.

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## **Week 52 / Day 1**

□ Revelation 14:14–16:21

What unusual instrument did the one “like a son of man” have in his possession?

What attributes of God are praised in the song of Moses?

What did the angel in charge of the waters say about the judgments being poured out? What does this teach about God's judgments?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 28-30*

## **Week 52 / Day 2**

□ Revelation 17:1–18:8

What amazed John? How did the angel explain to John?

What was the significance of the waters that John saw the woman sitting on?

What can you use to remind yourself each day this week of God's rule and superiority over all evil in the world?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 31-33; Psalm 102*

## **Week 52 / Day 3**

□ Revelation 18:9–19:21

Why did God judge Babylon?

In what ways can we become ensnared by wealth? What can we do to avoid being slaves to money?

Why do you think “hallelujah” is repeated again and again in heaven?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 34-36*



## **Week 52 / Day 4**

□ Revelation 20:1–21:21

What will Satan do right after his release from his prison?

On what basis will people be judged at the end of time?

What kind of thirst does God promise to fill in heaven?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 37-39; Psalm 103*

## **Week 52 / Day 5**

□ Revelation 21:22–22:21

Why do you think God revealed so many details about the measurements and appearance of the New Jerusalem?

In what ways does the new Jerusalem restore what God created in the Garden of Eden?

What final descriptions does Christ give of Himself?

*OT Readings for the day: Job 40-42; Psalm 150*





