

# P52

**2018**  
**WEEKLY BIBLE READING PROGRAM**



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## Foreword

P52 stands for Process 52- *a focus for every week of the year on daily bible reading and study*. Just as we see God's processes continuously at work throughout the Bible, this is the process we use to get into the Word of God and allow it to get into us. Jesus said in John 8:31 – *"If you continue(abide) in my word, then are you my disciples indeed"*.

Look at this compilation as your guide for "abiding" in God's Word and becoming a disciple of Jesus. Instead of trying to hurriedly read a set number of different chapters from the Bible every day, we encourage you to read the same chapter for a week with the rest of the church. Some chapters are from the Old Testament and some are from the New Testament. In some chapters there are capital letters in the middle of a line, and that is where lines have been combined from the Scripture to utilize the space and make it easier to read. All the readings are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV). You will read the specified chapter every day for seven days. The attention is on the *quality* of your reading rather than the *quantity* or the number of chapters you can read in a year's time. Often the midweek bible study will reinforce your daily reading and study, and you will find that you understand more as you read the same chapter repeatedly. At the back of the book there is also an example and a template to help you apply the Word even more.

There is something powerful about staying in the Word of God on a consistent basis. It is not meant just to inform you, but to transform you. God never meant for Bible study to simply increase our knowledge. Reading, researching, remembering, and reflecting on the Bible is useless if we fail to put God's Word into practice. James says if we want our lives to be blessed by God we must become *"doers of the word"* (James 1:22-25).

Jesus says both knowing and applying the Word creates the foundation for our lives: *"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock"* (Matthew 7:24 NIV). There is no doubt God can do things instantly and suddenly, but the growth of your spiritual maturity is not an instant and sudden act of God. God has never taken a short cut in the spiritual expansion of His followers. It takes time, effort, sweat, and PROCESS to become a fully devoted Christ-follower – a disciple.

Remember the main intent of this guide is to help you to become more like Jesus by getting you involved in the process of meeting with Him and His Word daily.

As you commit yourself to spending time in God's Word and in His presence, you will begin to reflect on who He is and become a fully functioning disciple. Let the process continue! Join us as we discover the wonderful things God has for us throughout this year!

## JANUARY 1-6 – THE REWARDS OF FASTING

**“The man who never fasts is no more on the way to heaven than the man who never prays.” - John Wesley**

**Overview:** It is common for unhumble hearts, while they perform the external services of religion, to promise themselves acceptance with God, which He has promised only to the sincere. God will not be cheated by hypocritical fasts and ceremonies. Those who fast and pray, yet go on in sin, mock God and cheat themselves. Here we also find a promise of what transpires when we approach Him correctly. The reward is the solution we seek, the answer we are hoping to gain, the provision, the deliverance, and the comfort we desire to attain. There is not a single fast in the Bible that didn't have a specific goal it was trying to achieve. Is it okay to fast simply to draw close to God? Yes, but it's also healthy to fast with the expectation of receiving a specific answer.

*This does two things for us:*

It causes us to focus on the reward we seek not our hunger.

It allows us to see God's faithfulness when the answer comes.

**Memory verse:** 6- *Is this not the fast that I have chosen:*

*To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens,*

*To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?*

### Isaiah 58

“Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet;

Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways,

As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God.

They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God.

3 ‘Why have we fasted,’ *they say*, ‘and You have not seen?’

*Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’*

“In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers.

4 Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness.

You will not fast as *you do* this day, To make your voice heard on high.

5 Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul?

*Is it* to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes?

Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD?

6 “*Is this not the fast that I have chosen:* To loose the bonds of wickedness,

To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free,

And that you break every yoke?

7 *Is it* not to share your bread with the hungry,

And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;

When you see the naked, that you cover him,

And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the morning,  
 Your healing shall spring forth speedily,  
 And your righteousness shall go before you;  
 The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
 You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I *am*.'

"If you take away the yoke from your midst,  
 The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

10 *If* you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul,  
 Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall *be* as the noonday.

11 The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought,  
 And strengthen your bones;  
 You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

12 Those from among you Shall build the old waste places;  
 You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
 And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach,  
 The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

13 "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath,  
*From* doing your pleasure on My holy day,  
 And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy *day* of the LORD honorable,  
 And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways,  
 Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking *your own* words,

14 Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD;  
 And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth,  
 And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.  
 The mouth of the LORD has spoken."

**Confession:** I choose to deny my selfish interests by not feeding them. I refuse to feed my selfish *ambitions* to rise above others, my selfish *behavior* to get what I want when I want it, my selfish *attitudes* of caring only for my own interests, and my selfish *desires* to put my needs first above anyone else.

**THOUGHTS . . . INSIGHT . . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## JANUARY 7-13 – GOD HEARS AND SEES

**“No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life.  
As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.”**  
- *Joshua 1:5*

**Overview:** God always has the right man in the right place at the right time. We are now about to be introduced to him. God’s man is Moses, born a slave but raised a prince. His sense of timing needs to correspond to God’s timing, however; not until he is eighty will he be ready to do what God wants him to do....

In this chapter we see how it all began. He was miraculously saved from being killed, but even after he was grown the actions of Moses proved that he did not have the right mindset for what God was going to do. Here we see –

**What the princess saw (2:1–10)**

**What Moses saw (2:11–22)**

**What God saw (2:23–25)**

**Memory verse:** *10 - And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, “Because I drew him out of the water.”*

### Exodus 2

And a man of the house of Levi went and took as *wife* a daughter of Levi. <sup>2</sup> So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he *was* a beautiful *child*, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup> But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid *it* in the reeds by the river’s bank. <sup>4</sup> And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

<sup>5</sup> Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. <sup>6</sup> And when she opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.”

<sup>7</sup> Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?”

<sup>8</sup> And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Go.” So the maiden went and called the child’s mother. <sup>9</sup> Then Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give *you* your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, “Because I drew him out of the water.”

<sup>11</sup> Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. <sup>12</sup> So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. <sup>13</sup> And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, “Why are you striking your companion?”

<sup>14</sup> Then he said, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?”



## JANUARY 14-20 – I AM THAT I AM

**“Don’t lose hope, even Moses started out as a basket case!”**

**Overview:** The years of Moses's life are divided into three forties; the first forty he spent as a prince in Pharaoh's court, the second a shepherd in Midian, the third a king in Jeshurun. He had now finished his second forty when he received his commission to bring Israel out of Egypt. Moses was born to be Israel's deliverer, and yet not a word is said of it to him till he is eighty years of age. After God gets his attention, the questions begin. Moses' first objection has to do with his own identity, but his second refers to God's identity. God's response is one of the most central passages of theology. God reveals Himself through His eternal name as the I AM. The personal name of God, YHWH, is known as the Tetragrammaton. It is formed from the third-person singular of the verb “to be” (He is/was/will be). See Revelation 1:4, 8; 4:8: “Who is and was and is to come.” This occurs more than 6800 times in the Old Testament. Many times it is printed as LORD (all capitals) or occasionally as GOD. It is also printed in the KJV as Jehovah or JEHOVAH, which is a manufactured term produced by combining the four letters of the name with the vowels from the Hebrew word for master owner(lord). Other versions often use Yahweh in place of Jehovah. The chapter ends with instructions as to how they were to leave Egypt.

**Memory verse:** *14 - And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”*

### Exodus 3

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” <sup>4</sup>So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

<sup>5</sup>Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground.” <sup>6</sup>Moreover He said, “I *am* the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

<sup>7</sup>And the LORD said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. <sup>8</sup>So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”





## JANUARY 21-27 – WHAT A GREAT EXCUSE!

**“Sometimes an excuse is just a skin of a reason stretched over a lie.”**

**Overview:** Moses can think of several reasons why he should not obey God. First, he argues that the Egyptians will not accept his claim to be a spokesman for God. Second, he argues that he is no speaker (v. 10). Finally, Moses says: ‘send someone else’. Now that he has graduated from Desert University at the age of eighty, Moses is ready to return to Egypt and to challenge Pharaoh to release God’s people. Two important elements feed into the story on the way.

The first is God’s divine judgment against Pharaoh. The second thing that takes place is the action of Zipporah, Moses’ wife. The reason was that God threatened to kill Moses (4:24). The incident seems bizarre. One of the main elements of the covenant with Abraham was the requirement that all the male descendants of Abraham be circumcised. Perhaps, therefore, God was bringing home to Moses his need to be absolutely obedient to all aspects of God’s will.

**Memory verse:** *11,12 - So the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”*

### Exodus 4

Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’ ”

<sup>2</sup> So the LORD said to him, “What *is* that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.”

<sup>3</sup> And He said, “Cast it on the ground.” So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and take *it* by the tail” (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), <sup>5</sup> “that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

<sup>6</sup> Furthermore the LORD said to him, “Now put your hand in your bosom.” And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand *was* leprous, like snow. <sup>7</sup> And He said, “Put your hand in your bosom again.” So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his *other* flesh. <sup>8</sup> “Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. <sup>9</sup> And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour *it* on the dry *land*. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry *land*.”

<sup>10</sup> Then Moses said to the LORD, “O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I *am* slow of speech and slow of tongue.”

<sup>11</sup> So the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? *Have* not I, the LORD? <sup>12</sup> Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”

<sup>13</sup> But he said, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever *else* You may send.”

<sup>14</sup> So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: “Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet

you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. <sup>15</sup> Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. <sup>16</sup> So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. <sup>17</sup> And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.” <sup>18</sup> So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, “Please let me go and return to my brethren who *are* in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”

<sup>19</sup> Now the LORD said to Moses in Midian, “Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead.” <sup>20</sup> Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. <sup>22</sup> Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Israel is My son, My firstborn. <sup>23</sup> So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.” ’ ”

<sup>24</sup> And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the LORD met him and sought to kill him. <sup>25</sup> Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast *it* at Moses’ feet, and said, “Surely you *are* a husband of blood to me!” <sup>26</sup> So He let him go. Then she said, “*You are* a husband of blood!”—because of the circumcision.

<sup>27</sup> And the LORD said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him. <sup>28</sup> So Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him. <sup>29</sup> Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. <sup>30</sup> And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. <sup>31</sup> So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

**Confession:** *Lord, help me to see what is in my hand, and how it can be useful for your Kingdom today. I refuse to excuse myself from being available to You! If you can use anything, Lord, use me.*

**THOUGHTS . . . INSIGHT . . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 3 – I AM NOT ASHAMED

**“From the outset, the book of Romans makes clear that genuine faith will always produce, and cannot be separated from, obedience.” – David Bernard**

### Overview:

#### I. Introduction

A. *Greetings (1:1–7)*. The customary formula for letters in ancient times included (a) naming and identifying the author, (b) naming and identifying the recipient, and (c) a word of salutation.

B. *Establishing rapport (1:8–15)*. Paul made a practice of beginning his letters with a word of thanks to God, a specific prayer, and a personal message to the recipients.

C. *Theme (1:16–17)* Paul's eagerness to evangelize sprang also from his estimate of his message, the gospel. The overall theme of the entire letter is expressed here as the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe, and the righteous shall live by faith.

II. God's Righteousness Revealed in Condemnation (1:18–3:20) The first step in the revelation of the righteousness that God provides for people by faith is to set forth their need for it because they are under God's judgment. The human race stands condemned before God and is helpless and hopeless apart from God's grace.

A. *Condemnation against pagan humanity (1:18–32)* This section looks at the human race prior to the call of Abram and the establishment of a special people of God. This situation persisted in the pagan world of the Gentiles as distinct from the Jews.

#### 1. REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION (1:18–23)

Here three bases are stated for His judgment of the pagan world.

a. *For suppressing God's truth (1:18)*.

b. *For ignoring God's revelation (1:19–20)*

c. *For perverting God's glory (1:21–23)*

#### RESULTS OF CONDEMNATION (1:24–32)

a. *Abandoned to fornication (1:24–25)*.

b. *Abandoned to sexual perversion (1:26–27)*.

c. *Abandoned to depraved lifestyle (1:28–32)*.

**Memory verse:** 16 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

## Romans 1

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God <sup>2</sup> which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> and declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. <sup>5</sup> Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for

obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, <sup>6</sup> among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; <sup>7</sup> To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be saints*: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. <sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, <sup>10</sup> making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. <sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—<sup>12</sup> that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

<sup>13</sup> Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. <sup>15</sup> So, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "*The just shall live by faith.*"

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.



## FEBRUARY 4-10 – LET MY PEOPLE GO!

**“Thus saith the Lord’ is the only authority in God’s church”** -Charles Spurgeon

**Overview:** Here begins the dealing of God with Pharaoh in order to deliver His people. His servants Moses and Aaron came to the proud monarch who had all the power of Egypt at his disposal. They had no other authority and no other resource other than the Word of Jehovah. Even they had yet to prove the finality of that authority, and the fulness of that resource. It’s a common pattern. The servants of the Lord boldly declare His Word, and for their efforts everything becomes worse for everybody. It seems that their work was in vain, but God was just getting started. Then the questions start. But those who face men with the Word of God also have the right to return to God with their difficulties, doubts, and fears. Such action always brings the answer of His patience and power!

**Memory verse:** 22 – *So Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me?”*

### Exodus 5

Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.’ ”

<sup>2</sup> And Pharaoh said, “Who *is* the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.”

<sup>3</sup> So they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days’ journey into the desert and sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.”

<sup>4</sup> Then the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get *back* to your labor.” <sup>5</sup> And Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land *are* many now, and you make them rest from their labor!”

<sup>6</sup> So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying, <sup>7</sup> “You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. <sup>8</sup> And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it. For they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, ‘Let us go *and* sacrifice to our God.’ <sup>9</sup> Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words.”

<sup>10</sup> And the taskmasters of the people and their officers went out and spoke to the people, saying, “Thus says Pharaoh: ‘I will not give you straw. <sup>11</sup> Go, get yourselves straw where you can find it; yet none of your work will be reduced.’ ” <sup>12</sup> So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw. <sup>13</sup> And the taskmasters forced *them* to hurry, saying, “Fulfill your work, *your* daily quota, as when there was straw.” <sup>14</sup> Also the officers of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them, were beaten *and* were asked, “Why have you not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and today, as before?”

<sup>15</sup> Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, “Why are you dealing thus with your servants? <sup>16</sup> There is no straw given to your servants, and they say to us, ‘Make brick!’ And indeed your servants *are* beaten, but the fault *is* in your *own* people.”

<sup>17</sup> But he said, “You *are* idle! Idle! Therefore you say, ‘Let us go *and* sacrifice to the LORD.’  
<sup>18</sup> Therefore go now *and* work; for no straw shall be given you, yet you shall deliver the quota of bricks.” <sup>19</sup> And the officers of the children of Israel saw *that they were* in trouble after it was said, “You shall not reduce *any* bricks from your daily quota.”

<sup>20</sup> Then, as they came out from Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron who stood there to meet them. <sup>21</sup> And they said to them, “Let the LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

### ***Israel's Deliverance Assured***

<sup>22</sup> So Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why *is* it You have sent me? <sup>23</sup> For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all.”

**Confession:** *I claim Holy Ghost boldness to stand in the face of opposition and declare the promises and principles of the Word of God over my life and my family. Lord, give me strength to stand for righteousness even when my actions produce resistance. I choose to believe that God is going to deliver and restore all that has been taken from me, and that the enemy cannot keep me or His church down!*

**THOUGHTS. . . INSIGHT. . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday

## FEBRUARY 11-17 – FULL OF THE SPIRIT

**“Stephen, full of grace and power,  
was performing great wonders and signs among the people.” - Acts 6:8**

**Overview:** Stephen’s response to the Sanhedrin is the longest address recorded in the book of Acts and the first from a non-apostle. After establishing the history of Israel from the call of Abraham to his migration into this land, Stephen emphasized that God had spoken to Abraham and directed him when he was “in Mesopotamia” (v 2) or “the land of the Chaldeans” (v 4) – before he journeyed to Haran. Stephen’s point was that the work of God and move of the Spirit preceded and transcended the limitations of the Jerusalem Temple and its traditions. He continues with a chronology of God’s action leading

**Memory verse:** *17 - But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt...*

### Acts 7

Then the high priest said, “Are these things so?” <sup>2</sup> And he said, “Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, <sup>3</sup> and said to him, ‘*Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.*’ <sup>4</sup> Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell. <sup>5</sup> And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even *enough* to set his foot on. But even when *Abraham* had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him. <sup>6</sup> But God spoke in this way: that his descendants would dwell in a foreign land, and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress *them* four hundred years. <sup>7</sup> ‘*And the nation to whom they will be in bondage I will judge,*’ said God, ‘*and after that they shall come out and serve Me in this place.*’ <sup>8</sup> Then He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so *Abraham* begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac *begot* Jacob, and Jacob *begot* the twelve patriarchs.

<sup>9</sup> “And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him <sup>10</sup> and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house. <sup>11</sup> Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers found no sustenance. <sup>12</sup> But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first. <sup>13</sup> And the second *time* Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph’s family became known to the Pharaoh. <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph sent and called his father Jacob and all his relatives to *him*, seventy-five people. <sup>15</sup> So Jacob went down to Egypt; and he died, he and our fathers. <sup>16</sup> And they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor, *the father* of Shechem.

<sup>17</sup> “But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt <sup>18</sup> till another king arose who did not know Joseph. <sup>19</sup> This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live. <sup>20</sup> At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father’s house for three months.



<sup>21</sup> But when he was set out, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son. <sup>22</sup> And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.

<sup>23</sup> "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. <sup>24</sup> And seeing one of *them* suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. <sup>25</sup> For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. <sup>26</sup> And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and *tried to reconcile them*, saying, 'Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?' <sup>27</sup> But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, '*Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?*' <sup>28</sup> *Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?*' <sup>29</sup> Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.

<sup>30</sup> "And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. <sup>31</sup> When Moses saw *it*, he marveled at the sight; and as he drew near to observe, the voice of the Lord came to him, <sup>32</sup> saying, '*I am the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.*' And Moses trembled and dared not look. <sup>33</sup> 'Then the LORD said to him, "Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. <sup>34</sup> *I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.*" '

<sup>35</sup> "This Moses whom they rejected, saying, '*Who made you a ruler and a judge?*' is the one God sent *to be* a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush. <sup>36</sup> He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

<sup>37</sup> "This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, '*The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.*'

<sup>38</sup> "This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and *with* our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us, <sup>39</sup> whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt, <sup>40</sup> saying to Aaron, '*Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.*' <sup>41</sup> And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands. <sup>42</sup> Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets:

'Did you offer Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during *forty years in the wilderness*, O house of Israel?

<sup>43</sup> *You also took up the tabernacle of Moloch, And the star of your god Remphan, Images which you made to worship; And I will carry you away beyond Babylon.*'

<sup>44</sup> "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen, <sup>45</sup> which our fathers, having received it in turn, also brought with Joshua into the land possessed by the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers until the days of David, <sup>46</sup> who found favor before God and asked to find a dwelling for the God of Jacob. <sup>47</sup> But Solomon built Him a house. <sup>48</sup> "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: <sup>49</sup> '*Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool.*'



## FEBRUARY 18-24 – WHEN I SEE THE BLOOD

**“For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven.  
How great is the grace of God.” - Ephesians 1:7**

**Overview:** Chapter 12 is a high point in the Book of Exodus. Here we find the institution of the Feast of the Passover. It is a picture of that which Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 5:7, “... *For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.*” Christ is in this chapter. This chapter brings us to a new division in the Book of Exodus. The first division (chapters 1–11) deals with Moses, the deliverer. Chapter 12 highlights the deliverance of Israel by blood. That’s the Passover Feast, the death of the firstborn. The blood that Jesus shed on the cross paid the penalty for our sins. The power of the Holy Ghost makes it real and effectual in our sinful hearts. Zechariah 4:6 says, “... Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” Redemption is the work of Jesus on the cross for us and the work of the Spirit in us. When Israel entered Egypt, it was as a family. When they made their exit from Egypt, it was as a nation. God puts the emphasis on the family here because the family comprises the building blocks out of which the nation was made. All the time that Israel was in bondage, God made them the bricks of the family for the building of a nation out of the straws of individuals. The zero hour has come for Israel. The countdown begins in this chapter for the exodus of the children of Israel out of Egypt.

**Memory verse:** *13 - Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

### Exodus 12

Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, <sup>2</sup>“This month *shall be* your beginning of months; it *shall be* the first month of the year to you. <sup>3</sup> Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup> And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take *it* according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s need you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup> Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. <sup>7</sup> And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. <sup>8</sup> Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. <sup>10</sup> You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. <sup>11</sup> And thus you shall eat it: *with* a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It *is* the LORD’s Passover.

<sup>12</sup> ‘For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD. <sup>13</sup> Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. <sup>15</sup> Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. <sup>16</sup> On the first day *there shall be* a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but *that* which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you. <sup>17</sup> So you shall observe *the Feast of Unleavened Bread*, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. <sup>18</sup> In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. <sup>19</sup> For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether *he is* a stranger or a native of the land. <sup>20</sup> You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.' "

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover *lamb*. <sup>22</sup> And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that *is* in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. <sup>23</sup> For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike *you*. <sup>24</sup> And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. <sup>25</sup> It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. <sup>26</sup> And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' <sup>27</sup> that you shall say, 'It *is* the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' " So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. <sup>28</sup> Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

<sup>29</sup> And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who *was* in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. <sup>30</sup> So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for *there was* not a house where *there was* not one dead.

<sup>31</sup> Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. <sup>32</sup> Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also."

<sup>33</sup> And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We *shall* all *be* dead." <sup>34</sup> So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders. <sup>35</sup> Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing. <sup>36</sup> And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them *what they requested*. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

<sup>37</sup> Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. <sup>38</sup> A mixed multitude went up with them also, and



## FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 3 – MY PRAYERS DO MATTER!

**“Good timber does not grow with ease.  
The stronger the wind, the stronger the trees.” - Willard Marriott**

**Overview:** In James 5, the author gives warning to a group of people he calls rich and compares them with the non-Christians he refers to in James 2:6. Basically, these individuals were enjoying a prosperous and comfortable lifestyle with no regard to the things of God. He warns that their day of judgment is coming when their dishonest gain will not protect them, but rather attack them. By verse seven, James turns his attention to the believer (brethren). He encourages patience and promotes godly Christian conduct toward others. He closes the chapter by giving instructions to those who may become sick. The initiative lies with the sick person in sending for the elders (officers of the church) to come and pray. The effective, fervent prayer of the righteous (a believer) will make much power available in the face of sickness!

**Memory verse:** *16 – Confess your trespasses one to another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

### James 5

Come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you!* <sup>2</sup>Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. <sup>8</sup>You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! <sup>10</sup>My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. <sup>11</sup>Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

<sup>12</sup>But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and *your* “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment.

<sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on



## MARCH 4-10 – HOW DO YOU SEE IT?

**“Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the Lord.” – Numbers 14:37**

**Overview:** How quickly the purpose and promise of deliverance has been forgotten. One man from each tribe is chosen to spy out the land and determine the best approach for attack. Instead, with arms full of the bounty and blessing they discovered on their trip, their discouraging report supersedes the reality of what they have brought back with them. They allowed the image they had of themselves and their abilities to overrule the promises and provision of God. This was not supposed to be an “if” mission, but rather a “how”. It was already established that this was the Promised Land, but their lack of faith caused them to miss out.

**Memory verse:** 33 - *There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.*

### Numbers 13

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.”

<sup>3</sup>So Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who *were* heads of the children of Israel. <sup>4</sup>Now these *were* their names: from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur; <sup>5</sup>from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori; <sup>6</sup>from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh; <sup>7</sup>from the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph; <sup>8</sup>from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun; <sup>9</sup>from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu; <sup>10</sup>from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi; <sup>11</sup>from the tribe of Joseph, *that is*, from the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi; <sup>12</sup>from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli; <sup>13</sup>from the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael; <sup>14</sup>from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi; <sup>15</sup>from the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi.

<sup>16</sup>These *are* the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua.

<sup>17</sup>Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, “Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains, <sup>18</sup>and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it *are* strong or weak, few or many; <sup>19</sup>whether the land they dwell in *is* good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit *are* like camps or strongholds; <sup>20</sup>whether the land *is* rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land.” Now the time *was* the season of the first ripe grapes.

<sup>21</sup>So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near the entrance of Hamath. <sup>22</sup>And they went up through the South and came to Hebron; Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, *were* there. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) <sup>23</sup>Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. *They also brought* some of the pomegranates and figs. <sup>24</sup>The place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the men of Israel cut down there. <sup>25</sup>And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.





## MARCH 11-17 – GIVE ME MY MOUNTAIN!

**“We read some things in the Bible 365 times and they mean nothing to us, then suddenly we see what God means, because in some particular we have obeyed Him, and instantly His nature is opened up”. – Oswald Chambers**

**Overview:** In the Pentateuch, Moses had already laid out the process for apportionment. Joshua, Eleazar the priest, and a leader from each tribe gathered to cast lots. Nine and one-half tribes received their inheritance on the west side; two and one-half tribes had already received their inheritance on the east side. The process recognized the descendants of Joseph as two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. The Levites received cities scattered across the land with guaranteed pastureland for their flocks. The two faithful spies, Caleb and Joshua, serve as bookends for the allotment of the territories west of the Jordan. Caleb was first to request his land; and Joshua was last (Joshua 19:49-51). Caleb boldly selected an occupied territory, Hebron, citing that he still had the ability to drive out the inhabiting Anakites. (See Numbers 32:8-24.)

**Memory verse:** *12 - Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said.*

### Joshua 14

These *are the areas* which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel distributed as an inheritance to them. <sup>2</sup> Their inheritance *was* by lot, as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe. <sup>3</sup> For Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe on the other side of the Jordan; but to the Levites he had given no inheritance among them. <sup>4</sup> For the children of Joseph were two tribes: Manasseh and Ephraim. And they gave no part to the Levites in the land, except cities to dwell *in*, with their common-lands for their livestock and their property. <sup>5</sup> As the LORD had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did; and they divided the land.

### ***Caleb Inherits Hebron***

<sup>6</sup> Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: “You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. <sup>7</sup> I *was* forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as *it was* in my heart. <sup>8</sup> Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God. <sup>9</sup> So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’ <sup>10</sup> And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. <sup>11</sup> As yet I *am* as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me;



**APRIL 29 – MAY 5 – I AM THIRSTY**

**“It is a wealthy person, indeed,  
who calculates riches not in gold, but in friends.” - Jim Stovall**

**Overview:** Psalm 42 and 43 were probably originally one psalm. This is evident by the repeated refrain (42:6, 11; 43:5; also 42:3b, 10b; and 42:9; 43:2), by the structure of the psalm which is incomplete without Psalm 43, and because of the fact that Psalm 43 has no title. In Psalm 42, the writer expresses his desire to enter into worship to God, but he is apparently inhibited in some manner. There seems to be a struggle within himself and he engages his soul in a dialogue. The writer seems alone and alienated from God. The writer eventually exercises his memory of the works of God and is able to encourage himself to, “hope in God” and to praise Him knowing that future events are based on the character of God Himself.

**Memory verse:** 8 – *The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me – a prayer to the God of my life.*

**Psalm 42**

- 1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.
- 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me,  
“Where *is* your God?”
- 4 When I remember these *things*, I pour out my soul within me.  
For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God,  
With the voice of joy and praise, With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.
- 5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him *For* the help of His countenance.
- 6 O my God, my soul is cast down within me;  
Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan,  
And from the heights of Hermon, From the Hill Mizar.
- 7 Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls;  
All Your waves and billows have gone over me.
- 8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime,  
And in the night His song *shall be* with me— A prayer to the God of my life.
- 9 I will say to God my Rock, “Why have You forgotten me?  
Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”
- 10 As with a breaking of my bones, My enemies reproach me,  
While they say to me all day long, “Where *is* your God?”
- 11 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him,  
The help of my countenance and my God.

**Psalm 43**

- 1 Vindicate me, O God, And plead my cause against an ungodly nation;  
Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!
- 2 For You *are* the God of my strength; Why do You cast me off?  
Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?
- 3 Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me;  
Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle.
- 4 Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy;  
And on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.
- 5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

**Confession:** *Even when I am down in spirit, I will worship the Lord. I will remember all the times He has been faithful and I will know that He will continue to be faithful. I am hungry to worship Him. I am thirsty to know Him. I know those who hunger and thirst for Him shall be filled.*

**THOUGHTS... INSIGHT... What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## MAY 27 – JUNE 2 – WHY ME?

**“Blessed be God’s voice for it is true, and falsehoods have to cease before it!”**

- *Thomas Carlyle*

**Overview:** James, the brother of Jesus, is believed to be the author of the New Testament book of James. He encourages his readers to demonstrate the validity of their experiences with Christ by doing what Christians are supposed to do - live godly. Chapter one of James deals with trials and temptation and how a believer is to respond. The writer assures us that God can and will do a work in us during these times that will make us stronger and mature in Him. If, however, we do not respond properly to temptation and trials, we can “give birth” to sin in our lives. The remainder of the chapter encourages self-examination so that we are not deceived into believing we are something that we aren’t. Finally, James strongly implies that believers live and “do” the Word, not just hear the Word with no change in our lives.

**Memory verse:** 2–3

*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,  
knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*

### James 1

<sup>1</sup>James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. <sup>14</sup> But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

<sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. <sup>18</sup> Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.



## JUNE 3-9 – THE NEED FOR AN INTERCESSOR

***“He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls”. – Proverbs 25:28***

**Overview:** This summer we are going to take an in-depth look at the book of Nehemiah. We will be using a book written by pastor Nevin Bass entitled *“Building God’s Wall – Reclaiming Your Spiritual High Ground”* as the outline of our study. Along the way we will discover great truths regarding principles and patterns that are very relevant to our lives today. The book of Nehemiah is not a builder’s guide; it is a rebuilders’ guide. If you have ever failed God and seen your world crumble as a result, you need to study Nehemiah. For those who have lived through the destruction of a failed marriage, there is hope here. For those who have lost the joy of your first love with Jesus and have suffered the loneliness and emptiness of life without His fellowship, there is help here. For all those who have somehow survived the horror and devastation of God’s judgment, read on. As we strive to minister to anyone who needs to rebuild, let us work to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem!

**Memory verse:** *4- So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*

### **Nehemiah 1**

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.

It came to pass in the month of Chislev, *in* the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan<sup>[a]</sup> the citadel, <sup>2</sup>that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>And they said to me, “The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province *are* there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem *is* also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.”

<sup>4</sup> So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *for many* days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

<sup>5</sup> And I said: “I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, *You* who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, <sup>6</sup> please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned. <sup>7</sup> We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup> Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘*If* you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, <sup>9</sup>but *if* you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, *yet* I will gather them from there,





## JUNE 10-16 – A BURDEN BECOMES A CALL

***“When God’s people intercede with a burden, God intervenes with an open door.”***

**Overview:** A culture of apathy is difficult to inspire. Those involved in the situation are seldom able to see their position clearly. They need someone to bring them a vision from God. This is the obligation of the intercessor to those caught in the cycle of failure.

**Memory verse:** *12- Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.*

### **Nehemiah 2**

And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, *when wine was before him*, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. <sup>2</sup> Therefore the king said to me, “Why *is* your face sad, since you *are* not sick? This *is* nothing but sorrow of heart.”

So I became dreadfully afraid, <sup>3</sup> and said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, *lies waste*, and its gates are burned with fire?” <sup>4</sup> Then the king said to me, “What do you request?”

So I prayed to the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.”

<sup>6</sup> Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), “How long will your journey be? And when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

<sup>7</sup> Furthermore I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors *of the region* beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, <sup>8</sup> and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which *pertains* to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy.” And the king granted *them* to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

<sup>9</sup> Then I went to the governors *in the region* beyond the River, and gave them the king’s letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me. <sup>10</sup> When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard *of it*, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.

<sup>11</sup> So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. <sup>12</sup> Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode. <sup>13</sup> And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. <sup>14</sup> Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but *there was* no room for the animal under me to pass. <sup>15</sup> So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. <sup>16</sup> And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.

<sup>17</sup> Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lies* waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." <sup>18</sup> And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me.

So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to *this good work*.

<sup>19</sup> But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard *of it*, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What *is* this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"

<sup>20</sup> So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."

**Confession:** *I seek to become an intercessor!  
Lord, lay some soul upon my heart, and love that soul through me,  
And may I ever do my part, to win that soul to Thee.*

**THOUGHTS. . . INSIGHT. . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## JUNE 17-23 –THE POWER OF UNITY

***“Unity multiplies the power of each by the factor of all members.”***

**Overview:** Unity is the strongest force we can collectively bring to the work of God. Unity is not the result of revival, but rather revival is the result of unity. If we strive to have and maintain unity, a move of God is sure to follow.

It is important that we recognize the fallacy of the “one mind” myth. This myth hinders unity because it causes people to think that unity is only possible if everyone thinks alike. Two people seldom see things from the same perspective. Therefore, it is foolish to believe that we will think the same thoughts. True unity means agreeing in purpose and in those things that are essential to God’s work.

**Memory verse:** *5- Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.*

### **Nehemiah 3**

Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They built as far as the Tower of the Hundred, *and* consecrated it, then as far as the Tower of Hananel.

<sup>2</sup> Next to *Eliashib* the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

<sup>3</sup> Also the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars. <sup>4</sup> And next to them Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, made repairs. Next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs. Next to them Zadok the son of Baana made repairs. <sup>5</sup> Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.

<sup>6</sup> Moreover Jehoiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors, with its bolts and bars. <sup>7</sup> And next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, repaired the residence of the governor *of the region* beyond the River. <sup>8</sup> Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Also next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they fortified Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. <sup>9</sup> And next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, leader of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs. <sup>10</sup> Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs in front of his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabniah made repairs.

<sup>11</sup> Malchijah the son of Harim and Hashub the son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section, as well as the Tower of the Ovens. <sup>12</sup> And next to him was Shallum the son of Hallohesh, leader of half the district of Jerusalem; he and his daughters made repairs.

<sup>13</sup> Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They built it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and *repaired* a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Refuse Gate.

<sup>14</sup> Malchijah the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Haccerem, repaired the Refuse Gate; he built it and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

<sup>15</sup> Shallun the son of Col-Hozeh, leader of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate; he built it, covered it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the King's Garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the City of David. <sup>16</sup> After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, leader of half the district of Beth Zur, made repairs as far as *the place* in front of the tombs of David, to the man-made pool, and as far as the House of the Mighty.

<sup>17</sup> After him the Levites, *under* Rehum the son of Bani, made repairs. Next to him Hashabiah, leader of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district. <sup>18</sup> After him their brethren, *under* Bavai the son of Henadad, leader of the *other* half of the district of Keilah, made repairs. <sup>19</sup> And next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, the leader of Mizpah, repaired another section in front of the Ascent to the Armory at the buttress. <sup>20</sup> After him Baruch the son of Zabbai carefully repaired the other section, from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. <sup>21</sup> After him Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz repaired another section, from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib.

<sup>22</sup> And after him the priests, the men of the plain, made repairs. <sup>23</sup> After him Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs by his house. <sup>24</sup> After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress, even as far as the corner. <sup>25</sup> Palal the son of Uzai *made repairs* opposite the buttress, and on the tower which projects from the king's upper house that *was* by the court of the prison. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh *made repairs*.

<sup>26</sup> Moreover the Nethinim who dwelt in Ophel *made repairs* as far as *the place* in front of the Water Gate toward the east, and on the projecting tower. <sup>27</sup> After them the Tekoites repaired another section, next to the great projecting tower, and as far as the wall of Ophel.

<sup>28</sup> Beyond the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each in front of his *own* house. <sup>29</sup> After them Zadok the son of Immer made repairs in front of his *own* house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, made repairs. <sup>30</sup> After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs in front of his dwelling. <sup>31</sup> After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the Nethinim and of



**JUNE 24-30 – FOILED AGAIN!**

**“The hindering of good work is that which bad men aim at and promise themselves; but good work is God's work, and it shall prosper.” – Matthew Henry**

**Overview:** In this account of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, two forms of attack against the Jews are recorded. The first is the verbal attack, and the second is the physical attack. *The Verbal Attack:* After hearing about Jerusalem's walls being rebuilt, Sanballat becomes furious and very indignant towards the Jews. He and his brethren use ridicule, belittling, name-calling and insults to discourage the Jewish people from the restoration. Nehemiah counters this harassment with prayers for deliverance. He acknowledges that the heathens are fighting against God. God blesses the Jews' progress on the walls, and the work is going extremely well. Discovering the advancement of the rebuilding agitates and infuriates the ungodly nations.

*The Physical Attack:* Failure of the verbal attack brings the enemies to conspire a surprise invasion. Their plan to kill the builders is uncovered by Jews living near Jerusalem. Ten times the workers are warned of the impending strike. Before taking defensive action, the Jews pray. Nehemiah prepares, arms and positions the Jewish people for war. He sets a 24-hour watch. The man of God encourages everyone to fear not and to "remember the Lord, great and awesome," and fight for their brethren, families and houses.

When the heathens hear that the Jews are aware of their scheme, they retreat--another failure. God had foiled the enemies' invasion and brought victory.

Construction resumes; but with the potential for future threats, the Jews strengthen their defenses. The 24-hour watch continues; all workers remain armed; a trumpeter stands alert to sound an alarm. If a strike occurs, the Jewish people know "God will fight for us!"

**Memory verse:** 14B - *“Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.”*

#### **Nehemiah 4**

But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—*stones* that are burned?”

<sup>3</sup> Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* beside him, and he said, “Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up *on it*, he will break down their stone wall.”

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! <sup>5</sup> Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked *You* to anger before the builders.

<sup>6</sup> So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its *height*, for the people had a mind to work.

<sup>7</sup> Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, <sup>8</sup> and all of them conspired together to come *and* attack Jerusalem and create confusion. <sup>9</sup> Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

<sup>10</sup> Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and *there is* so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."

<sup>11</sup> And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease."

<sup>12</sup> So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, *they will be* upon us."

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I positioned *men* behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. <sup>14</sup> And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "*Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.*"

<sup>15</sup> And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and *that* God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. <sup>16</sup> So it was, from that time on, *that* half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and *wore* armor; and the leaders *were* behind all the house of Judah. <sup>17</sup> Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. <sup>18</sup> Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet *was* beside me.

<sup>19</sup> Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work *is* great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. <sup>20</sup> Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."





## JULY 1-7 – TAKING ADVANTAGE OF BROTHERS

***“Part of the result of worship without boundaries is a culture where brethren take advantage of other brethren.”***

**Overview:** Often the greatest obstacle of a rebuilding effort is the people who would benefit most from the completed work. Most of the time this type of hindrance is unintentional but comes about because of ungodly attitudes.

**Memory verse:** *1- And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren.*

### **Nehemiah 5**

And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren. <sup>2</sup>For there were those who said, “We, our sons, and our daughters *are* many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat and live.”

<sup>3</sup>There were also *some* who said, “We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine.”

<sup>4</sup>There were also those who said, “We have borrowed money for the king’s tax *on* our lands and vineyards. <sup>5</sup>Yet now our flesh *is* as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and *some* of our daughters have been brought into slavery. *It is* not in our power *to redeem them*, for other men have our lands and vineyards.”

<sup>6</sup>And I became very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. <sup>7</sup>After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, “Each of you is exacting usury from his brother.” So I called a great assembly against them. <sup>8</sup>And I said to them, “According to our ability we have redeemed our Jewish brethren who were sold to the nations. Now indeed, will you even sell your brethren? Or should they be sold to us?”

Then they were silenced and found nothing *to say*. <sup>9</sup>Then I said, “What you are doing *is* not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies? <sup>10</sup>I also, *with* my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury! <sup>11</sup>Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them.”

<sup>12</sup>So they said, “We will restore *it*, and will require nothing from them; we will do as you say.”

Then I called the priests, and required an oath from them that they would do according to this promise. <sup>13</sup>Then I shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out each man from his house, and from his property, who does not perform this promise. Even thus may he be shaken out and emptied."

And all the assembly said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise.

<sup>14</sup>Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor's provisions. <sup>15</sup>But the former governors who *were* before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God. <sup>16</sup>Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall, and we did not buy any land. All my servants *were* gathered there for the work.

<sup>17</sup>And at my table *were* one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us. <sup>18</sup>Now *that* which was prepared daily *was* one ox *and* six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this I did not demand the governor's provisions, because the bondage was heavy on this people.

<sup>19</sup>Remember me, my God, for good, *according to* all that I have done for this people.

**Confession:** *Forgive me Lord for every time I have put myself first. I submit myself to You and ask that you highlight any area in which my actions have been or can be an unwitting tool in the hands of the enemy. Give me courage and a willingness to "make things right".*

**THOUGHTS. . . INSIGHT. . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## JULY 8-14 – AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE ENEMY

***“God’s enemy understands that by casting doubt on the man of God, the vision that he brings is also cast into a shadow.”***

**Overview:** In an attempt to steal the people’s vision, the enemy seeks to separate them from the man of God and to remove the vision. He knows that without vision any work of renewal soon flounders and fizzles. The enemy tries to coax Nehemiah away from the workers and turn the workers against Nehemiah. The work of rebuilding continues despite all of the distractions. At the end of the reconstruction project Nehemiah discovers that certain people inside the walls are allied with the enemy outside the walls. Why would someone inside the walls of protection pine for the good old days of desolation? Because their hearts are divided and not fully committed to serving the Lord. The uncommitted will forever be among the people of God, but their prominence must be kept reduced.

**Memory verse:** *2- that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono.” But they thought to do me harm.*

### **Nehemiah 6**

Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and *that* there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), <sup>2</sup>that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono.” But they thought to do me harm. <sup>3</sup> So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”

<sup>4</sup> But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.

<sup>5</sup> Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand. <sup>6</sup>In it *was* written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, *that* you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king. <sup>7</sup> And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, “*There is* a king in Judah!” Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together.

<sup>8</sup> Then I sent to him, saying, “No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart.” <sup>9</sup>For they all *were trying* to make us afraid, saying, “Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done.” Now therefore, O *God*, strengthen my hands.

<sup>10</sup> Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who *was* a secret informer; and he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within



## JULY 15-21 – PREPARING FOR REVIVAL

***“If things we allow inside do not bow down and acknowledge the lordship of Jesus, why are we letting them in?”***

**Overview:** Establishing boundaries is the first phase of spiritual renewal. Communion with the Lord takes place inside the boundaries He helps us establish. But the walls must be guarded and practices put in place that will prevent the enemy outside from finding a way inside. While rebuilding is taking place, he will work frantically to stop it. After the walls are completed, the enemy will try to penetrate the walls. The focal point will become the gates of entrance into the inner man, as a wall is only as strong as its gates.

**Memory verse:** *2- that I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.*

### **Nehemiah 7**

Then it was, when the wall was built and I had hung the doors, when the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, <sup>2</sup>that I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he *was* a faithful man and feared God more than many. <sup>3</sup>And I said to them, “Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand *guard*, let them shut and bar the doors; and appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, one at his watch station and another in front of his own house.” <sup>4</sup>Now the city *was* large and spacious, but the people in it *were* few, and the houses *were* not rebuilt. <sup>5</sup>Then my God put it into my heart to gather the nobles, the rulers, and the people, that they might be registered by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of those who had come up in the first *return*, and found written in it: <sup>6</sup>These *are* the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city.

<sup>7</sup>Those who came with Zerubbabel *were* Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah.

The number of the men of the people of Israel: <sup>8</sup>the sons of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two; <sup>9</sup>the sons of Shephatiah, three hundred and seventy-two; <sup>10</sup>the sons of Arah, six hundred and fifty-two; <sup>11</sup>the sons of Pahath-Moab, of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and eighteen; <sup>12</sup>the sons of Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four; <sup>13</sup>the sons of Zattu, eight hundred and forty-five; <sup>14</sup>the sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty; <sup>15</sup>the sons of Binnui, six hundred and forty-eight; <sup>16</sup>the sons of Bebai, six hundred and twenty-eight; <sup>17</sup>the sons of Azgad, two thousand three hundred and twenty-two; <sup>18</sup>the sons of Adonikam, six hundred and sixty-seven; <sup>19</sup>the

sons of Bigvai, two thousand and sixty-seven; <sup>20</sup> the sons of Adin, six hundred and fifty-five; <sup>21</sup> the sons of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight; <sup>22</sup> the sons of Hashum, three hundred and twenty-eight; <sup>23</sup> the sons of Bezai, three hundred and twenty-four; <sup>24</sup> the sons of Hariph, one hundred and twelve; <sup>25</sup> the sons of Gibeon, ninety-five; <sup>26</sup> the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, one hundred and eighty-eight; <sup>27</sup> the men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight; <sup>28</sup> the men of Beth Azmaveth, forty-two; <sup>29</sup> the men of Kirjath Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty-three; <sup>30</sup> the men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred and twenty-one; <sup>31</sup> the men of Michmas, one hundred and twenty-two;

<sup>32</sup> the men of Bethel and Ai, one hundred and twenty-three; <sup>33</sup> the men of the other Nebo, fifty-two; <sup>34</sup> the sons of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four; <sup>35</sup> the sons of Harim, three hundred and twenty; <sup>36</sup> the sons of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five; <sup>37</sup> the sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-one; <sup>38</sup> the sons of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty. <sup>39</sup> The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred and seventy-three; <sup>40</sup> the sons of Immer, one thousand and fifty-two; <sup>41</sup> the sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred and forty-seven; <sup>42</sup> the sons of Harim, one thousand and seventeen. <sup>43</sup> The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, *and* of the sons of Hodevah, seventy-four. <sup>44</sup> The singers: the sons of Asaph, one hundred and forty-eight. <sup>45</sup> The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, one hundred and thirty-eight. <sup>46</sup> The Nethinim: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth, <sup>47</sup> the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon, <sup>48</sup> the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Salmai, <sup>49</sup> the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, <sup>50</sup> the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, <sup>51</sup> the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, <sup>52</sup> the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephishesim, <sup>53</sup> the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur, <sup>54</sup> the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha, <sup>55</sup> the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Tamah, <sup>56</sup> the sons of Neziah, and the sons of Hatipha. <sup>57</sup> The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida, <sup>58</sup> the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel, <sup>59</sup> the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth of Zebaim, and the sons of Amon.

<sup>60</sup> All the Nethinim, and the sons of Solomon's servants, *were* three hundred and ninety-two.

<sup>61</sup> And these *were* the ones who came up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer, but they could not identify their father's house nor their lineage, whether they *were* of Israel: <sup>62</sup> the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, six hundred and forty-two; <sup>63</sup> and of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Koz, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name.





## JULY 22-28 – WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE THE WALLS

***“When there are no lines of demarcation and protection from the world, worship is more a ritual than a reality.”***

**Overview:** What took place in Nehemiah chapter eight is what happens every time people seeking spiritual renewal respond to the call to establish and strengthen boundaries in their lives. Worship takes on a whole new dimension, and the former desolation is replaced with a relationship with God that is vital and vibrant.

**Memory verse:** *6- And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.*

### **Nehemiah 8**

Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. <sup>2</sup> So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> Then he read from it in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law.

<sup>4</sup> So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he *was standing* above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God.

Then all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people *stood* in their place. <sup>8</sup> So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

<sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who *was* the governor, Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day *is* holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep.” For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.

<sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this day is holy* to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

<sup>11</sup> So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day *is holy*; do not be grieved." <sup>12</sup> And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

<sup>13</sup> Now on the second day the heads of the fathers' *houses* of all the people, with the priests and Levites, were gathered to Ezra the scribe, in order to understand the words of the Law. <sup>14</sup> And they found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month, <sup>15</sup> and that they should announce and proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the mountain, and bring olive branches, branches of oil trees, myrtle branches, palm branches, and branches of leafy trees, to make booths, as *it is written*."

<sup>16</sup> Then the people went out and brought *them* and made themselves booths, each one on the roof of his house, or in their courtyards or the courts of the house of God, and in the open square of the Water Gate and in the open square of the Gate of Ephraim. <sup>17</sup> So the whole assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and sat under the booths; for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day the children of Israel had not done so. And there was very great gladness. <sup>18</sup> Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day *there was* a sacred assembly, according to the prescribed manner.

**Confession:** *I open my heart completely to the ministry of God's Word. I want to strengthen the cycle of repentance and restoration in my life as it relates to spiritual renewal. I am not a weekend warrior!*

**THOUGHTS . . . INSIGHT . . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## JULY 29-AUGUST 4 – RENEWAL OF THE ANCIENT COVENANT

***“There is a danger in the failure to admit failure.”***

**Overview:** One of the most critical phases of spiritual renewal occurs immediately after people receive a revelation of God’s will for their lives. A critical crossroads exists at the point where a personal understanding of God’s desire for one’s life comes. What we do with this knowledge will determine if spiritual renewal will continue and if our life will change to conform to God’s desires.

**Memory verse:** 6 - *You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.*

### **Nehemiah 9**

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. <sup>2</sup>Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. <sup>3</sup>And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God *for one-fourth* of the day; and *for another* fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God. <sup>4</sup>Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood on the stairs of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to the LORD their God. <sup>5</sup>And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said: “Stand up *and* bless the LORD your God Forever and ever! “Blessed be Your glorious name, Which is exalted above all blessing and praise! <sup>6</sup>You alone *are* the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

<sup>7</sup>“You *are* the LORD God, Who chose Abram, And brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, And gave him the name Abraham; <sup>8</sup>You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give the land of the Canaanites, The Hittites, the Amorites, The Perizzites, the Jebusites, And the Girgashites— To give *it* to his descendants. You have performed Your words, For You *are* righteous.

<sup>9</sup>“You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, And heard their cry by the Red Sea. <sup>10</sup>You showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, Against all his servants, And against all the people of his land. For You knew that they acted proudly against them. So You made a name for Yourself, as *it is* this day. <sup>11</sup>And You divided the sea before them, So that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; And their persecutors You threw into the deep, As a stone into the mighty waters. <sup>12</sup>Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road

Which they should travel. <sup>13</sup>“You came down also on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven, And gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments. <sup>14</sup>You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, And commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, By the hand of Moses Your servant. <sup>15</sup>You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, And brought them water out of the rock for their thirst, And told them to go in to possess the land Which You had sworn to give them. <sup>16</sup>“But they and our fathers acted proudly, Hardened their necks, And did not heed Your commandments. <sup>17</sup>They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You *are* God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them. <sup>18</sup>“Even when they made a molded calf for themselves, And said, ‘This *is* your god That brought you up out of Egypt,’ And worked great provocations, <sup>19</sup>Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, To lead them on the road; Nor the pillar of fire by night, To show them light, And the way they should go. <sup>20</sup>You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst. <sup>21</sup>Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell. <sup>22</sup>“Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations, And divided them into districts. So they took possession of the land of Sihon, The land of the king of Heshbon, And the land of Og king of Bashan. <sup>23</sup>You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, And brought them into the land Which You had told their fathers To go in and possess. <sup>24</sup>So the people went in And possessed the land; You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, The Canaanites, And gave them into their hands, With their kings And the people of the land, That they might do with them as they wished. <sup>25</sup>And they took strong cities and a rich land, And possessed houses full of all goods, Cisterns *already* dug, vineyards, olive groves, And fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and grew fat, And delighted themselves in Your great goodness. <sup>26</sup>“Nevertheless they were disobedient And rebelled against You, Cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations. <sup>27</sup>Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven; And according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies. <sup>28</sup>“But after they had rest, They again did evil before You. Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, So that they had dominion over them; Yet when

they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; And many times You delivered them according to Your mercies, <sup>29</sup>And testified against them, That You might bring them back to Your law. Yet they acted proudly, And did not heed Your commandments, But sinned against Your judgments, ‘Which if a man does, he shall live by them.’ And they shrugged their shoulders, Stiffened their necks, And would not hear. <sup>30</sup>Yet for many years You had patience with them, And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. <sup>31</sup>Nevertheless in Your great mercy You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You *are* God, gracious and merciful.

<sup>32</sup>“Now therefore, our God, The great, the mighty, and awesome God, Who keeps covenant and mercy: Do not let all the trouble seem small before You That has come upon us, Our kings and our princes, Our priests and our prophets, Our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria until this day. <sup>33</sup>However You *are* just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly. <sup>34</sup>Neither our kings nor our princes, Our priests nor our fathers, Have kept Your law, Nor heeded Your commandments and Your testimonies, With which You testified against them. <sup>35</sup>For they have not served You in their kingdom, Or in the many good *things* that You gave them, Or in the large and rich land which You set before them; Nor did they turn from their wicked works. <sup>36</sup>“Here we *are*, servants today! And the land that You gave to our fathers, To eat its fruit and its bounty, Here we *are*, servants in it! <sup>37</sup>And it yields much increase to the kings You have set over us, Because of our sins; Also they have dominion over our bodies and our cattle At their pleasure; And we *are* in great distress. <sup>38</sup>“And because of all this, We make a sure *covenant* and write *it*; Our leaders, our Levites, *and* our priests seal *it*.”

**Confession:** *I insist on moving past an understanding of what God wants in my life. I will press on to learn how God will help me accomplish this very thing. I know that God doesn't expect anything from me that He is not willing to equip me to fulfill. I am committed to Him!*

**THOUGHTS . . . INSIGHT . . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## AUGUST 5-11 – THE FELLOWSHIP OF RENEWAL

***“Commitment is the fuel that feeds the flame of revival.”***

**Overview:** Being sold out today requires commitment to God. In Nehemiah’s day, that involved: a pledge not to enjoin mixed marriages, a pledge to honor the Lord’s Sabbath, a pledge to support the work of God carried on in the temple arrangement, faithfulness in giving, and a pledge to honor the anointed ministry.

**Memory verse:** *29 - these joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God’s Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes:*

### **Nehemiah 10**

Now those who placed *their* seal on *the document were*: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah, <sup>2</sup>Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, <sup>3</sup>Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, <sup>4</sup>Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, <sup>5</sup>Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, <sup>6</sup>Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, <sup>7</sup>Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, <sup>8</sup>Maaziah, Bilgai, *and* Shemaiah. These *were* the priests. <sup>9</sup>The Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, *and* Kadmiel. <sup>10</sup>Their brethren: Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, <sup>11</sup>Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah, <sup>12</sup>Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, <sup>13</sup>Hodijah, Bani, *and* Beninu. <sup>14</sup>The leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath-Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, <sup>15</sup>Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, <sup>16</sup>Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, <sup>17</sup>Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, <sup>18</sup>Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai, <sup>19</sup>Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, <sup>20</sup>Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, <sup>21</sup>Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, <sup>22</sup>Pelathiah, Hanan, Anaiah, <sup>23</sup>Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, <sup>24</sup>Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, <sup>25</sup>Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, <sup>26</sup>Ahijah, Hanan, Anan, <sup>27</sup>Malluch, Harim, *and* Baanah.

<sup>28</sup>Now the rest of the people—the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone who had knowledge and understanding— <sup>29</sup>these joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God’s Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes: <sup>30</sup>We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons; <sup>31</sup>*if* the peoples of the land brought wares or any grain to sell on the Sabbath day, we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath, or on a holy day; and we would forego the seventh year’s *produce* and the exacting of every debt.

<sup>32</sup>Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to exact from ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: <sup>33</sup>for the showbread, for the regular grain

offering, for the regular burnt offering of the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the set feasts; for the holy things, for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God. <sup>34</sup> We cast lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for bringing the wood offering into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at the appointed times year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God as *it is* written in the Law.

<sup>35</sup> And *we made ordinances* to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house of the LORD; <sup>36</sup> to bring the firstborn of our sons and our cattle, as *it is* written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks, to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God; <sup>37</sup> to bring the firstfruits of our dough, our offerings, the fruit from all kinds of trees, *the* new wine and oil, to the priests, to the storerooms of the house of our God; and to bring the tithes of our land to the Levites, for the Levites should receive the tithes in all our farming communities.

<sup>38</sup> And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms of the storehouse.

<sup>39</sup> For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary *are*, *where* the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers *are*; and we will not neglect the house of our God.

**Confession:** *I refuse to pick and choose which aspect of God's will I act upon. I will be totally committed and sold out. Speak Lord, for my consecration is made on your terms, not mine. I am sorry for my sin, for what I have done and failed to do!*

**THOUGHTS . . . INSIGHT . . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## AUGUST 12-18 – DWELLING IN JERUSALEM

***“Has man’s spiritual “advancement” come to the place where we may choose for ourselves when and how God will relate to us?”***

**Overview:** Dwelling in the city of God is related to living in the center of God’s will. There are three ways one comes to dwell in the center of God’s will: by calling, by chance, and by choice. Regardless of how one comes to this blessed place, it takes work to remain.

**Memory verse:** 2 - *And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.*

### **Nehemiah 11**

Now the leaders of the people dwelt at Jerusalem; the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine-tenths *were to dwell* in *other* cities. <sup>2</sup> And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> These *are* the heads of the province who dwelt in Jerusalem. (But in the cities of Judah everyone dwelt in his own possession in their cities—Israelites, priests, Levites, Nethinim, and descendants of Solomon’s servants.) <sup>4</sup> Also in Jerusalem dwelt *some* of the children of Judah and of the children of Benjamin.

The children of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, of the children of Perez; <sup>5</sup> and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-Hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shiloni. <sup>6</sup> All the sons of Perez who dwelt at Jerusalem *were* four hundred and sixty-eight valiant men.

<sup>7</sup> And these are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of lthiel, the son of Jeshaiiah; <sup>8</sup> and after him Gabbai *and* Sallai, nine hundred and twenty-eight. <sup>9</sup> Joel the son of Zichri *was* their overseer, and Judah the son of Senuah *was* second over the city.

<sup>10</sup> Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, and Jachin; <sup>11</sup> Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, *was* the leader of the house of God. <sup>12</sup> Their brethren who did the work of the house *were* eight hundred and twenty-two; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah, <sup>13</sup> and his brethren, heads of the fathers’ *houses*, *were* two hundred and forty-two; and Amashai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer, <sup>14</sup> and their brethren, mighty men of valor, *were* one hundred and twenty-eight. Their overseer *was* Zabdiel the son of *one of* the great men. <sup>15</sup> Also of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni; <sup>16</sup> Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the heads of the



Levites, *had* the oversight of the business outside of the house of God; <sup>17</sup> Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, the leader *who* began the thanksgiving with prayer; Bakbukiah, the second among his brethren; and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun. <sup>18</sup> All the Levites in the holy city *were* two hundred eighty-four. <sup>19</sup> Moreover the gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren who kept the gates, *were* one hundred and seventy-two. <sup>20</sup> And the rest of Israel, of the priests *and* Levites, *were* in all the cities of Judah, everyone in his inheritance. <sup>21</sup> But the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel. And Ziha and Gishpa *were* over the Nethinim.

<sup>22</sup> Also the overseer of the Levites at Jerusalem *was* Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha, of the sons of Asaph, the singers in charge of the service of the house of God. <sup>23</sup> For *it was* the king's command concerning them that a certain portion should be for the singers, a quota day by day. <sup>24</sup> Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, *was* the king's deputy in all matters concerning the people.

<sup>25</sup> And as for the villages with their fields, *some* of the children of Judah dwelt in Kirjath Arba and its villages, Dibon and its villages, Jekabzeel and its villages; <sup>26</sup> in Jeshua, Moladah, Beth Pelet, <sup>27</sup> Hazar Shual, and Beersheba and its villages; <sup>28</sup> in Ziklag and Meconah and its villages; <sup>29</sup> in En Rimmon, Zorah, Jarmuth, <sup>30</sup> Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages; in Lachish and its fields; in Azekah and its villages. They dwelt from Beersheba to the Valley of Hinnom.

<sup>31</sup> Also the children of Benjamin from Geba *dwelt* in Michmash, Aija, and Bethel, and their villages; <sup>32</sup> in Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah; <sup>33</sup> in Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim; <sup>34</sup> in Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat; <sup>35</sup> in Lod, Ono, *and* the Valley of Craftsmen. <sup>36</sup> Some of the Judean divisions of Levites *were* in Benjamin.

**Confession:** *I will fight to remain in the middle of God's will!*

**THOUGHTS... INSIGHT... What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## AUGUST 19-25 – GIVING THE WORK TO GOD

***“Dedication is a public acknowledgment of God’s purpose in restoration.”***

**Overview:** The joyous celebration that results from an individual’s dedication of a finished work to God is only the firstfruit of many other benefits that result. The celebration that took place when the people here dedicated their finished work to God resulted in their neighbor’s curiosity and their enemies’ despair.

**Memory verse:** *27- Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps.*

### **Nehemiah 12**

Now these *are* the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, <sup>2</sup> Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, <sup>3</sup> Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, <sup>4</sup> Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, <sup>5</sup> Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, <sup>6</sup> Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, <sup>7</sup> Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, *and* Jedaiah.

These *were* the heads of the priests and their brethren in the days of Jeshua. <sup>8</sup> Moreover the Levites *were* Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, *and* Mattaniah *who led* the thanksgiving *psalms*, he and his brethren. <sup>9</sup> Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brethren, *stood* across from them in *their* duties. <sup>10</sup> Jeshua begot Joiakim, Joiakim begot Eliashib, Eliashib begot Joiada, <sup>11</sup> Joiada begot Jonathan, and Jonathan begot Jaddua.

<sup>12</sup> Now in the days of Joiakim, the priests, the heads of the fathers’ *houses were*: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; <sup>13</sup> of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; <sup>14</sup> of Melichu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph; <sup>15</sup> of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; <sup>16</sup> of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; <sup>17</sup> of Abijah, Zichri; *the son of* Minjamin; of Moadiah Piltai; <sup>18</sup> of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; <sup>19</sup> of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; <sup>20</sup> of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; <sup>21</sup> of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; *and* of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

<sup>22</sup> During the reign of Darius the Persian, a record *was also kept* of the Levites and priests *who had been* heads of their fathers’ *houses* in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua. <sup>23</sup> The sons of Levi, the heads of the fathers’ *houses* until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib, *were* written in the book of the chronicles.

<sup>24</sup> And the heads of the Levites *were* Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers across from them, to praise *and* give thanks, group alternating with group, according to the command of David the man of God. <sup>25</sup> Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub *were* gatekeepers keeping the watch at the storerooms of

the gates. <sup>26</sup> These *lived* in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.

<sup>27</sup> Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, *with* cymbals and stringed instruments and harps. <sup>28</sup> And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites, <sup>29</sup> from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem. <sup>30</sup> Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

<sup>31</sup> So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and appointed two large thanksgiving choirs. *One* went to the right hand on the wall toward the Refuse Gate. <sup>32</sup> After them went Hoshai and half of the leaders of Judah, <sup>33</sup> and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, <sup>34</sup> Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah, <sup>35</sup> and some of the priests' sons with trumpets—Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph, <sup>36</sup> and his brethren, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, *and* Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. Ezra the scribe *went* before them. <sup>37</sup> By the Fountain Gate, in front of them, they went up the stairs of the City of David, on the stairway of the wall, beyond the house of David, as far as the Water Gate eastward.

<sup>38</sup> The other thanksgiving choir went the opposite *way*, and I *was* behind them with half of the people on the wall, going past the Tower of the Ovens as far as the Broad Wall, <sup>39</sup> and above the Gate of Ephraim, above the Old Gate, above the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate; and they stopped by the Gate of the Prison.

<sup>40</sup> So the two thanksgiving choirs stood in the house of God, likewise I and the half of the rulers with me; <sup>41</sup> and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Minjamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, *and* Hananiah, with trumpets; <sup>42</sup> also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. The singers sang loudly with Jezrahiah the director.

<sup>43</sup> Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.

<sup>44</sup> And at the same time some were appointed over the rooms of the storehouse for the offerings, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions specified by the Law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests

and Levites who ministered. <sup>45</sup> Both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of their God and the charge of the purification, according to the command of David *and* Solomon his son. <sup>46</sup> For in the days of David and Asaph of old *there were* chiefs of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. <sup>47</sup> In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. They also consecrated *holy things* for the Levites, and the Levites consecrated *them* for the children of Aaron.

**Confession:** *I desire for worship to continue at a high level in my life. I know that everything that I trust God with is perfectly safe in His hands! I acknowledge Almighty God as the overseer of my treasure chambers, and I am trusting Him with a return that exceeds my investment.*

**THOUGHTS. . . INSIGHT. . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 1 – A DIVIDED HEART IN GOD’S HOUSE

***“A divided heart must achieve singleness in order to serve God fully.”***

**Overview:** One of the main principles of the book of Nehemiah is that a spiritual life requires separation. Separation is always twofold- separation from the world of sin and separation unto the Lord. This type of separation requires a singleness of heart. A heart that is divided between God and the things of the world is a heart that is in constant turmoil. It is also a heart that cannot know the peace of God.

**Memory verse:** *2- because they had not met the children of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them. However, our God turned the curse into a blessing.*

### **Nehemiah 13**

On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people, and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever come into the assembly of God,<sup>2</sup> because they had not met the children of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them. However, our God turned the curse into a blessing.<sup>3</sup> So it was, when they had heard the Law, that they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel.

<sup>4</sup> Now before this, Eliashib the priest, having authority over the storerooms of the house of our God, was allied with Tobiah.<sup>5</sup> And he had prepared for him a large room, where previously they had stored the grain offerings, the frankincense, the articles, the tithes of grain, the new wine and oil, which were commanded *to be given* to the Levites and singers and gatekeepers, and the offerings for the priests.<sup>6</sup> But during all this I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Then after certain days I obtained leave from the king,<sup>7</sup> and I came to Jerusalem and discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, in preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God.<sup>8</sup> And it grieved me bitterly; therefore I threw all the household goods of Tobiah out of the room.<sup>9</sup> Then I commanded them to cleanse the rooms; and I brought back into them the articles of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.

<sup>10</sup> I also realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given *them*; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field.<sup>11</sup> So I contended with the rulers, and said, “Why is the house of God forsaken?” And I gathered them together and set them in their place.<sup>12</sup> Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the storehouse.<sup>13</sup> And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouse Shelemiah the priest and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah; and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were considered faithful, and their task was to distribute to their brethren.

<sup>14</sup> Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for its services!

<sup>15</sup> In those days I saw *people* in Judah treading wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys with wine, grapes, figs, and all *kinds of* burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned *them* about the day on which they were selling provisions. <sup>16</sup> Men of Tyre dwelt there also, who brought in fish and all kinds of goods, and sold *them* on the Sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

<sup>17</sup> Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What evil thing *is* this that you do, by which you profane the Sabbath day? <sup>18</sup> Did not your fathers do thus, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you bring added wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

<sup>19</sup> So it was, at the gates of Jerusalem, as it began to be dark before the Sabbath, that I commanded the gates to be shut, and charged that they must not be opened till after the Sabbath. Then I posted *some of* my servants at the gates, *so that* no burdens would be brought in on the Sabbath day. <sup>20</sup> Now the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice.

<sup>21</sup> Then I warned them, and said to them, "Why do you spend the night around the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you!" From that time on they came no *more* on the Sabbath. <sup>22</sup> And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should go and guard the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day.

Remember me, O my God, *concerning* this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy!

<sup>23</sup> In those days I also saw Jews *who* had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, *and* Moab. <sup>24</sup> And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.

<sup>25</sup> So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, *saying*, "You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves. <sup>26</sup> Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin. <sup>27</sup> Should we then hear of your doing all this great evil, transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women?"



## SEPTEMBER 2-8 – LIVING THROUGH THE DRY TIMES

**“God used a wilderness experience to make Elijah a great man of prayer.”**

- John Hanson

**Overview:** Elijah had been and was being prepared by the Lord to demonstrate to all Israel that Yahweh, not Baal, is still the only true God. Even Elijah’s name, which means “Yahweh is my God,” conveyed that fact! Having made his dramatic announcement, Elijah was told by the Lord to leave Samaria, return eastward, and hide in a ravine. Elijah obeyed the LORD, who miraculously provided for him as He had promised. Elijah learned that God would provide for him, and in the rest of the chapter he learns that God would use him to do the miraculous for others as well.

**Memory verse:** 15 – *So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.*

### 1 Kings 17

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

<sup>2</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> And it will be *that* you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

<sup>5</sup> So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook. <sup>7</sup> And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>9</sup> “Arise, go to Zarephath, which *belongs* to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” <sup>10</sup> So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup> And as she was going to get *it*, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”

<sup>12</sup> So she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I *am* gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”

<sup>13</sup> And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go *and* do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring *it* to me; and afterward make *some* for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup> For thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.’ ”

<sup>15</sup> So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for *many* days. <sup>16</sup> The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

<sup>17</sup> Now it happened after these things *that* the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. <sup>18</sup> So she said to Elijah, “What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?”





## SEPTEMBER 9-15 – GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

***“Gratitude can turn ordinary days into thanksgivings,  
turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”***  
- William Arthur Ward

**Overview:** This psalm is a call to praise addressed to the redeemed of the Lord. The psalmist motivated them to praise Him by portraying how He delivered His people out of the wilderness, broke the bonds of prisoners, restored the sick, showed His power to mariners in the sea, and providentially governs nature and human affairs.

**Memory verse:** 23,24 - *Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters, They see the works of the LORD, And His wonders in the deep.*

### Psalm 107

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever.  
2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,  
3 And gathered out of the lands, From the east and from the west,  
From the north and from the south.  
4 They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; They found no city to dwell in.  
5 Hungry and thirsty, Their soul fainted in them. <sup>6</sup>Then they cried out to the LORD in their  
trouble, *And* He delivered them out of their distresses.  
7 And He led them forth by the right way, That they might go to a city for a dwelling place.  
8 Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His goodness,  
And *for* His wonderful works to the children of men!  
9 For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.  
10 Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, Bound in affliction and irons—  
11 Because they rebelled against the words of God,  
And despised the counsel of the Most High,  
12 Therefore He brought down their heart with labor;  
They fell down, and *there was* none to help.  
13 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,  
*And* He saved them out of their distresses.  
14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,  
And broke their chains in pieces.  
15 Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His goodness,  
And *for* His wonderful works to the children of men!  
16 For He has broken the gates of bronze, And cut the bars of iron in two.  
17 Fools, because of their transgression, And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.  
18 Their soul abhorred all manner of food, And they drew near to the gates of death.  
19 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,  
*And* He saved them out of their distresses.  
20 He sent His word and healed them, And delivered *them* from their destructions.  
21 Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His goodness,  
And *for* His wonderful works to the children of men!

22 Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing.  
 23 *Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters,*  
 24 *They see the works of the LORD, And His wonders in the deep.*  
 25 For He commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea.  
 26 They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths;  
 Their soul melts because of trouble.  
 27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits' end.  
 28 Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble,  
 And He brings them out of their distresses.  
 29 He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.  
 30 Then they are glad because they are quiet; So He guides them to their desired haven.  
 31 Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His goodness,  
 And *for* His wonderful works to the children of men!  
 32 Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people,  
 And praise Him in the company of the elders.

33 He turns rivers into a wilderness, And the watersprings into dry ground;  
 34 A fruitful land into barrenness, For the wickedness of those who dwell in it.  
 35 He turns a wilderness into pools of water, And dry land into watersprings.  
 36 There He makes the hungry dwell, That they may establish a city for a dwelling place,  
 37 And sow fields and plant vineyards, That they may yield a fruitful harvest.  
 38 He also blesses them, and they multiply greatly;  
 And He does not let their cattle decrease.

39 When they are diminished and brought low Through oppression, affliction and sorrow,  
 40 He pours contempt on princes,  
 And causes them to wander in the wilderness *where there is* no way;  
 41 Yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction, And makes *their* families like a flock.  
 42 The righteous see *it* and rejoice, And all iniquity stops its mouth.

43 Whoever *is* wise will observe these *things*,  
 And they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.

**Confession:** *For all that God has done, and for all that He has done for me, I say thanks!*

**THOUGHTS. . . INSIGHT. . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## SEPTEMBER 16-22 –THE LORD HE IS GOD

**“Idolatry is seeking security and meaning  
in someone or something other than God.”**

- A.R. Bernard

**Overview:** This chapter would be in a list of the greatest chapters in the Bible. Here we find Obadiah, Ahab, and the prophets of Baal. Elijah engages the enemy on his turf and challenges the people to turn to God. God answers Elijah's prayer by fire and consumes what has been offered as a water soaked sacrifice; rain falls in Israel. James 5:17-18 gives further insight to the prayer that results from faith and the pattern for our praying. It is God's will for the rain to come and the drought to end; it's time to pray again!

**Memory verse:** 21 - *And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.*

### 1 Kings 18

And it came to pass *after* many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.”

<sup>2</sup> So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and *there was* a severe famine in Samaria.

<sup>3</sup> And Ahab had called Obadiah, who *was* in charge of *his* house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly. <sup>4</sup>For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.) <sup>5</sup> And Ahab had said to Obadiah, “Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock.” <sup>6</sup> So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

<sup>7</sup> Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, “*Is that you, my lord Elijah?*”

<sup>8</sup> And he answered him, “*It is I. Go, tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’*”

<sup>9</sup> So he said, “How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me? <sup>10</sup> As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, ‘*He is not here,*’ he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you. <sup>11</sup> And now you say, ‘Go, tell your master, “Elijah *is here*”’! <sup>12</sup> And it shall come to pass, *as soon as* I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the LORD will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth. <sup>13</sup> Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid one hundred men of the LORD's prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water? <sup>14</sup> And now you say, ‘Go, tell your master, “Elijah *is here.*”’ He will kill me!” <sup>15</sup> Then Elijah said, “As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today.”

<sup>16</sup> So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. <sup>17</sup> Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, “*Is that you, O troubler of Israel?*”

<sup>18</sup> And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house *have*, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. <sup>19</sup> Now

therefore, send *and* gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

<sup>20</sup> So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> *And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."* But the people answered him not a word. <sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men. <sup>23</sup> Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on the wood, but put no fire *under it*; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay *it* on the wood, but put no fire *under it*. <sup>24</sup> Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God."

So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

<sup>25</sup> Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare *it* first, for you *are* many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire *under it*."

<sup>26</sup> So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared *it*, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But *there was* no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

<sup>27</sup> And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he *is* a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, *or* perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened." <sup>28</sup> So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. <sup>29</sup> And when midday was past, they prophesied until the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice. But *there was* no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

<sup>30</sup> Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was* broken down. <sup>31</sup> And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." <sup>32</sup> Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. <sup>33</sup> And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid *it* on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood." <sup>34</sup> Then he said, "Do *it* a second time," and they did *it* a second time; and he said, "Do *it* a third time," and they did *it* a third time. <sup>35</sup> So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

<sup>36</sup> And it came to pass, at *the time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You *are* God in Israel and I *am* Your servant, and *that* I have done all these things at Your word. <sup>37</sup> Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the LORD God, and *that* You have turned their hearts back *to You* again."

<sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that *was* in the trench. <sup>39</sup> Now when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He *is* God! The LORD, He *is* God!"

<sup>40</sup> And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.



## SEPTEMBER 23-29 – GIVE ME SOME FRUIT

**“All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.”**

*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**Overview:** In Galatians 5, Paul continues to deal with the incorrect teaching of the Judaizers among the believers of Galatia. The Judaizers were a group of religious leaders in the church who were teaching that the Law must be kept in addition to having a faith relationship with Jesus Christ. Paul, therefore, attends to the teaching of liberty found in Christ. He warns, however, not to use that new-found liberty as an occasion to sin. He goes on to instruct believers to walk in the Spirit and to flee from the works of the flesh.

**Memory verse: 13** – *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love, serve one another.*

### Galatians 5

#### ***Christian Liberty***

Stand <sup>1</sup>fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. <sup>2</sup>Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. <sup>3</sup>And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup>You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt* to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. <sup>5</sup>For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. <sup>6</sup>For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

#### ***Love Fulfills the Law***

<sup>7</sup>You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup>This persuasion does not *come* from Him who calls you. <sup>9</sup>A little leaven leavens the whole lump. <sup>10</sup>I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.

<sup>11</sup>And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. <sup>12</sup>I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

<sup>13</sup>For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup>For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” <sup>15</sup>But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

#### ***Walking in the Spirit***

<sup>16</sup>I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.





## SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 6 – INTERCEDING FOR GOD’S WILL

***“True intercession involves bringing the person, or the circumstance that seems to be crashing in on you, before God, until you are changed by His attitude toward that person or circumstance. People describe intercession by saying, “It is putting yourself in someone else’s place.” That is not true! Intercession is putting yourself in God’s place; it is having His mind and His perspective.”***

*- Oswald Chambers*

**Overview:** It was now the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede. This was 539 B.C., sixty six years after Daniel had been exiled. The overthrow of the Babylonian Kingdom by the Medo-Persians was indeed a momentous event. It had been revealed to Belshazzar through Daniel’s interpretation of the writing on the wall (5:25–28, 30). The Babylonian overthrow prepared the way for liberation of the Jews who had been in exile since Nebuchadnezzar’s first invasion of Jerusalem in 605 B.C. Besides predicting the overthrow of the people Jeremiah had also predicted that Israel’s sojourn in Babylon was to last 70 years (Jeremiah. 25:11–12). Evidently moved by Darius’ victory Daniel searched the Scriptures to understand the events of which he was a vital part. He understood Darius’ victory meant that the end of the 70-year captivity was near. Thus these significant events became even more momentous for Daniel.

**Memory verse:** *3- Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.*

### Daniel 9

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans <sup>2</sup>in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years *specified* by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. <sup>4</sup> And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, <sup>5</sup> we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. <sup>6</sup> Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. <sup>7</sup> O Lord, righteousness *belongs* to You, but to us shame of face, as *it is* this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.

<sup>8</sup>“O Lord, to us *belongs* shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. <sup>9</sup>To the Lord our God *belong* mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. <sup>10</sup>We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. <sup>11</sup>Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. <sup>12</sup>And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup>“As *it is* written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God *is* righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. <sup>15</sup>And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as *it is* this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly!

<sup>16</sup>“O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people *are* a reproach to all *those* around us. <sup>17</sup>Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord’s sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. <sup>18</sup>O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. <sup>19</sup>O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

<sup>20</sup>Now while I *was* speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, <sup>21</sup>yes, while I *was* speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. <sup>22</sup>And he informed *me*, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. <sup>23</sup>At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell *you*, for you *are* greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:



## OCTOBER 7-13—WHAT DID YOU SAY?

***“No one has more authority over your life than you do.  
No one has greater authority to pray for you than yourself.” – Dutch Sheets***

**Overview:** The encounter that Elijah has here represents a revolution in historical conceptions of God. Ancient cultures had always assumed the presence of a god (and even Almighty God) would be manifested in displays of power: like fire, wind, thunder, and earthquakes. Never before had it been detected in something so subtle as a “still, small voice.” This new view of God gave clarity to the events taking place in the life of Elijah. The contrast between God’s voice and the high decibel level of evil all around did not minimize what God was doing and how clear He was about what Elijah was to do. We also see here the beginning of Elisha’s response to the call of God.

**Memory verse:** *18 - Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.*

### 1 Kings 19

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup>Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” <sup>3</sup>And when he saw *that*, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which *belongs* to Judah, and left his servant there. <sup>4</sup>But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, “It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I *am* no better than my fathers!”

<sup>5</sup>Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise *and* eat.” <sup>6</sup>Then he looked, and there by his head *was* a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. <sup>7</sup>And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise *and* eat, because the journey *is* too great for you.” <sup>8</sup>So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

<sup>9</sup>And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>10</sup>So he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

<sup>11</sup>Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the

rocks in pieces before the LORD, *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

<sup>13</sup>So it was, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice *came* to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>14</sup>And he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him: “Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>It shall be *that* whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. <sup>18</sup>Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

<sup>19</sup>So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* plowing *with* twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. <sup>20</sup>And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow you.”

And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” <sup>21</sup>So *Elisha* turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen’s equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

**Confession:** *I will listen until I know I have heard from God. I know that He is speaking, and I refuse to settle for anything less than His voice!*

**THOUGHTS . . . INSIGHT . . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday

## OCTOBER 14-20 – DAVID, GOLIATH, & A FEW STONES

***“The Christian is not obedient unless he is doing all in his power to send the Gospel to the heathen world.” - A.B. Simpson***

**Overview:** We can all recall various Old Testament stories we heard as children. We are familiar with Noah and the ark, Moses and the Red Sea, Jonah and the whale, and Daniel in the lions' den. But the story found in I Samuel 17 may be the most intriguing and suspenseful of all the stories in the Old Testament – the standoff between David and Goliath. Goliath was a champion of the Philistines who opposed the nation of Israel. Israel's entire army feared Goliath because of his size and the fact that he was a man of war. Israel refused to go against Goliath even though he taunted them and defiled the army of God. David, being only a lad, drew from the courage and confidence he had in God and challenged Goliath. David's heart did not fail because he knew his God would deliver him. This story gives us great assurance that we too can stand victorious against the enemy and know that our God will deliver us!

**Memory verse: 45** – *Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled.”*

### 1 Samuel 17

Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered at Sochoh, which *belongs* to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim. <sup>2</sup> And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. <sup>3</sup> The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

<sup>4</sup> And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height *was* six cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup> *He had* a bronze helmet on his head, and he *was* armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat *was* five thousand shekels of bronze. <sup>6</sup> *And he had* bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. <sup>7</sup> Now the staff of his spear *was* like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead *weighed* six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him. <sup>8</sup> Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, “Why have you come out to line up for battle? *Am* I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our

servants and serve us.” <sup>10</sup>And the Philistine said, “I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.” <sup>11</sup>When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

<sup>12</sup>Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced *in years*, in the days of Saul. <sup>13</sup>The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. <sup>14</sup>David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul. <sup>15</sup>But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father’s sheep at Bethlehem.

<sup>16</sup>And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

<sup>17</sup>Then Jesse said to his son David, “Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried *grain* and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp. <sup>18</sup>And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of *their* thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them.” <sup>19</sup>Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

<sup>20</sup>So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took *the things* and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle. <sup>21</sup>For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army. <sup>22</sup>And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers. <sup>23</sup>Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard *them*. <sup>24</sup>And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid. <sup>25</sup>So the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be *that* the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father’s house exemption *from taxes* in Israel.”

<sup>26</sup>Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who *is* this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” <sup>27</sup>And the people answered him in this manner, saying, “So shall it be done for the man who kills him.”

<sup>28</sup>Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab’s anger was aroused against David, and he said, “Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.”

<sup>29</sup> And David said, "What have I done now? *Is there* not a cause?" <sup>30</sup> Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones *did*.

<sup>31</sup> Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported *them* to Saul; and he sent for him. <sup>32</sup> Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

<sup>33</sup> And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you *are* a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

<sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." <sup>37</sup> Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

<sup>38</sup> So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. <sup>39</sup> David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested *them*." So David took them off.

<sup>40</sup> Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. <sup>41</sup> So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield *went* before him. <sup>42</sup> And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he despised him; for he was *only* a youth, ruddy and good-looking. <sup>43</sup> So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

<sup>45</sup> Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know



that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup> Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle *is* the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

<sup>48</sup> So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. <sup>49</sup> Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung *it* and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. <sup>50</sup> So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But *there* was no sword in the hand of David. <sup>51</sup> Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it.

And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. <sup>52</sup> Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron. <sup>53</sup> Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents. <sup>54</sup> And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

<sup>55</sup> When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son *is* this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." <sup>56</sup> So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man *is*." <sup>57</sup> Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. <sup>58</sup> And Saul said to him, "Whose son *are* you, young man?" So David answered, "*I am* the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

**Confession:** *My heart will not fail (v. 32) when I stand before the enemy. The Lord has delivered me at other times and He will deliver me now. I will not fear, no matter the size, strength, or stature of my enemy. I will not allow the enemy to defile me or my God. I am sure of God's presence and His promise regarding every giant I face.*

**THOUGHTS . . . INSIGHT . . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## OCTOBER 21-27 - WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

***“I believe in Christ like I believe in the sun.  
Not because I can see it, but by it I can see everything else.” – C.S. Lewis***

**Overview:** Here we find Jesus teaching his inner circle of disciples.

The chapter can be outlined as follows:

1. Jesus teaching about witnessing without fear. (1-12)
2. Jesus teaching about greed. (13-21)
3. Jesus teaching about anxiety. (22-34)
4. Jesus teaching about readiness. (35-48)
5. Jesus teaching about being misunderstood. (49-53)
6. Jesus teaching about signs. (54-56)
7. Jesus illustrating about the law court. (57-59)

**Memory verse:** *34 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

### **Luke 12**

In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first *of all*, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup>For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. <sup>3</sup>Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

<sup>4</sup>“And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. <sup>5</sup>But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

<sup>6</sup>“Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. <sup>7</sup>But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>8</sup>“Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. <sup>9</sup>But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

<sup>10</sup>“And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.

<sup>11</sup> “Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. <sup>12</sup> For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

<sup>13</sup> Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

<sup>14</sup> But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

<sup>16</sup> Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. <sup>17</sup> And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.” <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

<sup>21</sup> “So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

<sup>22</sup> Then He said to His disciples, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup> Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? <sup>25</sup> And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? <sup>26</sup> If you then are not able to do *the* least, why are you anxious for the rest? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe* you, O *you* of little faith?

<sup>29</sup> “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. <sup>30</sup> For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. <sup>31</sup> But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

<sup>32</sup> “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

<sup>35</sup> “Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; <sup>36</sup> and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. <sup>37</sup> Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them.<sup>38</sup> And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. <sup>39</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup> Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

<sup>41</sup> Then Peter said to Him, “Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people*?”

<sup>42</sup> And the Lord said, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of food in due season? <sup>43</sup> Blessed *is* that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. <sup>44</sup> Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. <sup>45</sup> But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, <sup>46</sup> the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers. <sup>47</sup> And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare *himself* to do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. <sup>48</sup> But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

<sup>49</sup> “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! <sup>51</sup> Do *you* suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. <sup>52</sup> For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. <sup>53</sup> Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup> Then He also said to the multitudes, “Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, ‘A shower is coming’; and so it is.<sup>55</sup> And when *you* see the south wind blow, you say, ‘There will be hot weather’; and there is. <sup>56</sup> Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how *is it* you do not discern this time?”



## OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 3 – WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?

*“When you can’t put your prayer into words, God hears your heart.” - Unknown*

**Overview:** After Saul’s rebellion and rejection by the LORD, Samuel was commissioned to seek out the one who would succeed Saul on the throne of Israel. This one had already been identified as “a man after [God’s] own heart” (13:14) and “one of [Saul’s] neighbors” who was “better than” he (15:28). David had been chosen from eternity past to be ruler of Israel. The rejection of Saul did not force the LORD to a new course of action. Rather, God’s action followed His omniscient plan in such a way as to use Saul’s disobedience as the human occasion for implementing His higher plan. God had permitted the people to have the king of their choice. Now that that king and their mistake in choosing him had been clearly manifested, God proved the superiority of His own wisdom in raising up a king who would come in fulfillment of His perfect will.

After an undetermined length of time in which Samuel lamented the rejection of Saul, the Lord commanded the prophet to go to Bethlehem to select a son of Jesse ... to be king (16:1–3). Jesse was the grandson of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4:18–21), and so was in the line of promise. As the wives of Jacob gave birth to a royal house (Gen. 35:11; 49:10), so Ruth would produce the Davidic dynasty (Ruth 4:11). God did not tell Samuel to be deceptive, but rather to combine the anointing with the business of sacrificing (1 Sam 16:2). The elders in Bethlehem may have wondered if Samuel had come for judgment (v. 4).

After the seven older sons of Jesse were disqualified one by one (vv. 5–10), David was singled out by the LORD and anointed by Samuel (vv. 11–13). The anointing, as in the experience of Saul, was accompanied by the coming of the Spirit of God mightily on the young lad (v. 13). This was the supernatural authentication of God’s will. Later David was anointed king over Judah (2 Sam. 2:4) and then over Israel (2 Sam. 5:3).

**Memory verse:** 7 - *But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

### 1 Samuel 16

Now the Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.”

<sup>2</sup> And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears *it*, he will kill me.”

But the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’”

<sup>3</sup> Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you.”

<sup>4</sup> So Samuel did what the Lord said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

<sup>5</sup> And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed *is* before Him!"

<sup>7</sup> *But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

<sup>8</sup> So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." <sup>11</sup> And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." <sup>12</sup> So he sent and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this *is* the one!" <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

<sup>14</sup> But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him. <sup>15</sup> And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. <sup>16</sup> Let our master now command your servants, *who are* before you, to seek out a man *who is* a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."

<sup>17</sup> So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring *him* to me."

<sup>18</sup> Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, *who is* skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord *is* with him."

<sup>19</sup> Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, *who is* with the sheep." <sup>20</sup> And Jesse took a donkey *loaded with* bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent *them* by his son David to Saul. <sup>21</sup> So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.





## NOVEMBER 4-10 –THE LORD IS MY ROCK AND MY FORTRESS

***“Sometimes God lets you hit rock bottom so that you will discover that He is the rock at the bottom.”***

*- Unknown*

**Overview:** This composition, set between the account of David’s Philistine wars (21:15–22) and his list of heroes (23:8–39), is a poem celebrating the providence of God in delivering him from all his enemies. It is found again in almost identical wording in Psalm 18, a piece that is generally classified from a literary standpoint as a royal hymn of thanksgiving.

God’s deliverance of David was followed by His blessings. David was saying that the benefits of God are often obtained in this life by faithful perseverance in godliness. He kept God’s ways (v. 22), law (v. 23), and decrees (v. 23), and refrained from iniquity (v. 24; cf. vv. 21, 25). God therefore rewarded him (v. 25) and showed mercy to him as He does to all who are upright (faithful ... blameless ... pure ... humble; vv. 26–28). The wicked, on the other hand, because of their pride cannot expect His favor (v. 28b). With God, who gives light as a lamp (v. 29), a righteous person is invincible. He can break through barricades (not a troop) or scale the highest walls (v. 30).

In the final section of the psalm David turned once more to the attributes of the LORD, but he connected them now to specific ways in which God had worked and would work on his behalf.

**Memory verse:** 31 - *As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.*

### 2 Samuel 22

Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. <sup>2</sup>And he said:

- “The LORD *is* my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;  
<sup>3</sup> The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation,  
My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence.  
<sup>4</sup> I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised;  
So shall I be saved from my enemies.
- <sup>5</sup> “When the waves of death surrounded me, The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.  
<sup>6</sup> The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.  
<sup>7</sup> In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God;  
He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry *entered* His ears.
- <sup>8</sup> “Then the earth shook and trembled;  
The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.  
<sup>9</sup> Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth;  
Coals were kindled by it.  
<sup>10</sup> He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet.

11 He rode upon a cherub, and flew; And He was seen upon the wings of the wind.  
12 He made darkness canopies around Him, Dark waters *and* thick clouds of the skies.  
13 From the brightness before Him Coals of fire were kindled.

14 “The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice.  
15 He sent out arrows and scattered them; Lightning bolts, and He vanquished them.  
16 Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered,  
At the rebuke of the LORD, At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

17 “He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters.  
18 He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me;  
For they were too strong for me.  
19 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support.  
20 He also brought me out into a broad place;  
He delivered me because He delighted in me.

21 “The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness;  
According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.  
22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not wickedly departed from my God.  
23 For all His judgments *were* before me;  
And *as for* His statutes, I did not depart from them.  
24 I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity.  
25 Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness,  
According to my cleanness in His eyes.

26 “With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful;  
With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;  
27 With the pure You will show Yourself pure;  
And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.  
28 You will save the humble people;  
But Your eyes *are* on the haughty, *that* You may bring *them* down.

29 “For You *are* my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.  
30 For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall.  
31 *As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven;  
He is a shield to all who trust in Him.*

32 “For who *is* God, except the LORD? And who *is* a rock, except our God?  
33 God *is* my strength *and* power, And He makes my way perfect.  
34 He makes my feet like the *feet* of deer, And sets me on my high places.  
35 He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

36 “You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;  
Your gentleness has made me great.  
37 You enlarged my path under me; So my feet did not slip.

38 “I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them;  
Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed.  
39 And I have destroyed them and wounded them, So that they could not rise;  
They have fallen under my feet.

40 For You have armed me with strength for the battle;  
 You have subdued under me those who rose against me.

41 You have also given me the necks of my enemies,  
 So that I destroyed those who hated me.

42 They looked, but *there was* none to save;  
*Even* to the LORD, but He did not answer them.

43 Then I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth;  
 I trod them like dirt in the streets, *And* I spread them out.

44 “You have also delivered me from the strivings of my people;  
 You have kept me as the head of the nations.  
 A people I have not known shall serve me.

45 The foreigners submit to me; As soon as they hear, they obey me.  
 46 The foreigners fade away, *And* come frightened from their hideouts.

47 “The LORD lives! Blessed *be* my Rock!  
 Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation!

48 *It is* God who avenges me, *And* subdues the peoples under me;  
 49 He delivers me from my enemies.  
 You also lift me up above those who rise against me;  
 You have delivered me from the violent man.

50 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles,  
*And* sing praises to Your name.

51 “*He* is the tower of salvation to His king, *And* shows mercy to His anointed,  
 To David and his descendants forevermore.”

**Confession:** *My God is My Rock and my Fortress. Jesus is my Deliverer and Shield. He is the Horn of my Salvation. I praise Almighty God as my Stronghold, my Refuge, and Savior!*

**THOUGHTS... INSIGHT... What is the Lord saying to me?**

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## NOVEMBER 11-17 – YOU ARE IN A BATTLE!

***“Free cheese is always available in mouse traps.” - Unknown***

**Overview:** What a contrast between the attitude and action of Uriah the soldier and that of king David. Using the example of the fall of David in this chapter, here are four steps to conquer temptation:

1. Admit that you are tempted.
2. Acknowledge that you are in a spiritual battle.
3. Avoid the people or places that tempt you.
4. Focus on God, not the temptation.

**Memory verse:** *11 - And Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.”*

### 2 Samuel 11

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king’s house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman *was* very beautiful to behold. <sup>3</sup> So David sent and inquired about the woman. And *someone* said, “Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” <sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. <sup>5</sup> And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, “I *am* with child.”

<sup>6</sup> Then David sent to Joab, *saying*, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David. <sup>7</sup> When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. <sup>8</sup> And David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah departed from the king’s house, and a gift *of food* from the king followed him. <sup>9</sup> But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. <sup>10</sup> So when they told David, saying, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?”

<sup>11</sup> And Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my

house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.”

<sup>12</sup> Then David said to Uriah, “Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. <sup>13</sup> Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

<sup>14</sup> In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. <sup>15</sup> And he wrote in the letter, saying, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.” <sup>16</sup> So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there *were* valiant men. <sup>17</sup> Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And *some* of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

<sup>18</sup> Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, <sup>19</sup> and charged the messenger, saying, “When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, <sup>20</sup> if it happens that the king’s wrath rises, and he says to you: ‘Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?’ <sup>21</sup> Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?’— then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’”

<sup>22</sup> So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him. <sup>23</sup> And the messenger said to David, “Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. <sup>24</sup> The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and *some* of the king’s servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.”

<sup>25</sup> Then David said to the messenger, “Thus you shall say to Joab: ‘Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.’ So encourage him.”

<sup>26</sup> When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. <sup>27</sup> And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.



## NOVEMBER 18-24 – HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER

***“The frequent repetition of this sentence shews how greatly the Lord delights in mercy, and deems Himself honoured by the exercise of it.” – Thomas Scott***

**Overview:** This psalm is similar to Psalm 135, except that it has a refrain which stresses the theme. The theme is “praise the Lord who performed great wonders,” and the refrain is “because of His enduring loyal love.” The structure of Psalm 136 suggests that it was used antiphonally in worship, with one part of the congregation making a statement or phrase and the other part responding with the refrain (cf. Ezra 3:11; 2 Chron. 7:3, 6).

The Lord’s loyal love (*hesed*), mentioned in each of the 26 refrains, is His covenant faithfulness to His Chosen People whom He loves. The celebration of God’s love in this liturgical psalm gave Israel a favorite song for festivals.

**Memory verse:** 1- *Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!  
For His mercy endures forever.*

### Psalm 136

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.

<sup>2</sup> Oh, give thanks to the God of gods For His mercy *endures* forever.

<sup>3</sup> Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy *endures* forever:

<sup>4</sup> To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>5</sup> To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>6</sup> To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>7</sup> To Him who made great lights, For His mercy *endures* forever—

<sup>8</sup> The sun to rule by day, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>9</sup> The moon and stars to rule by night For His mercy *endures* forever.

<sup>10</sup> To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>11</sup> And brought out Israel from among them, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>12</sup> With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>13</sup> To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>14</sup> And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>15</sup> But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>16</sup> To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>17</sup> To Him who struck down great kings, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>18</sup> And slew famous kings, For His mercy *endures* forever—

<sup>19</sup> Sihon king of the Amorites, For His mercy *endures* forever;

<sup>20</sup> And Og king of Bashan, For His mercy *endures* forever—





## NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 1 – HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

**“The whole secret of abundant living can be summed up in this sentence:  
“Not your responsibility but your response to God’s ability”**

– Carl F.H. Henry

**Overview:** God wants His grace to be completed in your weakness. You never really experience the grace unless you see the need for it—and even that realization comes by grace. The power of Jesus' grace is not fully seen until weakness is fully acknowledged. The moment you're overwhelmed with your absolute helplessness is the moment you are ready to hear Jesus say, *I'm all the grace you need.*

**Memory verse:** 9 - *And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”*

### 2 Corinthians 12

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. <sup>3</sup>And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— <sup>4</sup>how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. <sup>5</sup>Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. <sup>6</sup>For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me *to be* or hears from me.

<sup>7</sup>And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. <sup>8</sup>Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup>And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

<sup>11</sup>I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing. <sup>12</sup>Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds. <sup>13</sup>For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong! <sup>14</sup>Now *for* the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to



## DECEMBER 2-8 – BETTER THAN THE ANGELS

***“Christ, who gave the law and required obedience to it, was willing to abide by the conditions that He had laid down for others, and upon man’s failure, to take his place and suffer the penalty that He Himself had ordained. With these facts in mind we can never charge God with injustice. He does not require of anyone that which He is not willing to do Himself. This qualifies Him for being the final judge of mankind, the Arbiter of man’s destiny.” - M.L. Andreasen, The Book of Hebrews***

**Overview:** Starting with greetings and salutations typical of letters at that time, the epistle to the Hebrews begins like a sermon, with the author immediately declaring the superiority of Jesus. It paints a wonderful picture of how He is superior to the angels because of His redemptive work on the cross. By understanding who Jesus is and what He said, we can know the fullness of God's nature and character.

**Memory verse:** 3- *Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

### Hebrews 1

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; <sup>3</sup> who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did He ever say:

“You are My Son,  
Today I have begotten You”?

And again:

“I will be to Him a Father,  
And He shall be to Me a Son”?

<sup>6</sup> But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

“Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

<sup>7</sup> And of the angels He says:



## DECEMBER 9-15 – CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL

***“God became a real man, had a real birth, and had a real, physical body. This is an essential point of the Christian faith.” – Henry Hon***

**Overview:** Isaiah prophesied about a Child to be born who in some way would relate to the nation’s deliverance. The birth of the Baby, to be named Immanuel, has great significance for the line of David.

- The historical situation (7:1–2)
- The assurance that Judah would not be destroyed (7:3–9)
- Ahaz’s rejection of a sign (7:10–12)
- The Lord’s response (7:13–25)

**Memory verse:** 14 - *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

### Isaiah 7

Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, *that* Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to *make war* against it, but could not prevail against it. <sup>2</sup>And it was told to the house of David, saying, “Syria’s forces are deployed in Ephraim.” So his heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind.

<sup>3</sup>Then the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son, at the end of the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller’s Field, <sup>4</sup>and say to him: ‘Take heed, and be quiet; do not fear or be fainthearted for these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria, and the son of Remaliah. <sup>5</sup>Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you, saying, <sup>6</sup>“Let us go up against Judah and trouble it, and let us make a gap in its wall for ourselves, and set a king over them, the son of Tabeal”— <sup>7</sup>thus says the Lord GOD:

“It shall not stand, Nor shall it come to pass.

<sup>8</sup>For the head of Syria *is* Damascus, And the head of Damascus *is* Rezin.

Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken, *So that it will not be* a people.

<sup>9</sup>The head of Ephraim *is* Samaria, And the head of Samaria *is* Remaliah’s son.

If you will not believe, Surely you shall not be established.””

<sup>10</sup>Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.”

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!”

13 Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.* 15 Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. 17 The LORD will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father's house—days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah."

18 And it shall come to pass in that day *That* the LORD will whistle for the fly  
That *is* in the farthest part of the rivers of Egypt,  
And for the bee that *is* in the land of Assyria. 19 They will come, and all of them will rest  
In the desolate valleys and in the clefts of the rocks, And on all thorns and in all pastures.  
20 In the same day the Lord will shave with a hired razor,  
With those from beyond the River, with the king of Assyria,  
The head and the hair of the legs, And will also remove the beard.  
21 It shall be in that day *That* a man will keep alive a young cow and two sheep;  
22 So it shall be, from the abundance of milk they give, That he will eat curds;  
For curds and honey everyone will eat who is left in the land.  
23 It shall happen in that day, *That* wherever there could be a thousand vines  
*Worth* a thousand *shekels* of silver, It will be for briers and thorns.  
24 With arrows and bows *men* will come there,  
Because all the land will become briers and thorns.  
25 And to any hill which could be dug with the hoe,  
You will not go there for fear of briers and thorns;  
But it will become a range for oxen And a place for sheep to roam.

**Confession:** *I promise that it will be different the next time You come to earth, Lord! Your entrance to my world continues to be as unbelievable as the first time, but I welcome You and daily work to make room for You in my life.*

**THOUGHTS . . . INSIGHT . . . What is the Lord saying to me?**

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( ) Sunday ( ) Monday ( ) Tuesday ( ) Wednesday ( ) Thursday ( ) Friday ( ) Saturday

## DECEMBER 16-22 – THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**“Of all the systems of morality, ancient and modern, which have come under my observation, none appear so pure to me as that of Jesus.” -Thomas Jefferson**

**Overview:** The opening chapter of the book of John contains some important foundational truths that must be understood and realized by every believer. This chapter links Jesus as the Word made flesh. The writer introduces John the Baptist as the forerunner of Jesus, the one who declared, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord” and the one who baptized many who were waiting on the Messiah to come. John records John’s words that Jesus would forgive sin and would baptize with the Holy Spirit. The chapter concludes with Jesus calling His first disciples from among those who also followed John the Baptist.

**Memory verse:** 12 – *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*

### John 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

<sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

<sup>9</sup> That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ”

<sup>16</sup> And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

<sup>19</sup> Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

<sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

<sup>21</sup> And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

<sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

<sup>24</sup> Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup> John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. <sup>27</sup> It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." <sup>28</sup> These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

<sup>32</sup> And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. <sup>33</sup> I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

<sup>35</sup> Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"

They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

<sup>43</sup> The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

<sup>46</sup> And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

<sup>50</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup> And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."





## December 23-29– GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

**“Many stand in the place of Simeon - waiting on the fulfillment of a promise. Hear what the Spirit is saying - and know that the answer to your prayer is almost in sight. And may we all become like Anna, the prophetess - recognizing Him for who He is- and proclaiming Him to all who seek Him!” – T.F. Tenney**

**Overview:** Because Caesar had decreed that all citizens of his empire should go to their birthplaces to register for taxation, Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem. While they were there, Jesus was born, fulfilling a prophecy about his birthplace (Micah 5:2). An angel announced Christ’s birth to some shepherds. They speedily came to Bethlehem and, having found him, worshiped God and “told everyone” the supernatural message they had heard concerning him.

According to the law (see Leviticus 12:2–8), Mary offered the sacrifice for purification after childbirth. Apparently, the parents of the true “Lamb of God” couldn’t afford a lamb for the sacrifice, and therefore offered two turtledoves. As a firstborn son, Jesus was dedicated to the Lord (see Exodus 13:2, 12, 15).

A prophet named Simeon (25–35) and a prophetess named Anna (36–38) testified to the identity of the infant Christ. Both were elderly, and Anna was a widow. God had told Simeon, who was waiting for “the Messiah to come and rescue Israel,” that he would see the Messiah before he died. Anna told “everyone who had been waiting for the promised King” that their Redeemer had come.

Briefly summarizing Christ’s early boyhood (39–40), Luke related a remarkable incident from his 12th year. On one trip to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary lost track of where Jesus was. After much searching they were surprised to find him sitting among the teachers in the Temple. His ability to discuss the law with these men pointed to the special nature of this young man. His statement that he was to be doing his heavenly Father’s business pointed to his understanding that he was the Son of God. The young Jesus grew in mental, physical, spiritual, and social maturity. Meanwhile, Mary quietly observed and thought about this son who was obedient to her even while preparing for his special mission in life.

**Memory verse:** *10 - Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.”*

### Luke 2

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

<sup>4</sup>Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup>Then the angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.  
<sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

<sup>15</sup> So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

<sup>21</sup> And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

<sup>22</sup> Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “*Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD*”), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “*A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*”

<sup>25</sup> And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, <sup>28</sup> he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

<sup>29</sup> “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation

<sup>31</sup> Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against <sup>35</sup> (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup> Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; <sup>37</sup> and this woman *was* a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.



## December 30-January 5 – HE IS THE WAY!

**“Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself,  
but because it contradicts them.” *Unknown***

**Overview:** The entire chapter of John 14 is comprised of the words of Jesus and what powerful words they are! Not only is He authoritative in His speech, but He is comforting, gentle, persuasive, reassuring, and commanding all at the same time. Every believer should read this passage over and over again because its content brings such peace! Not only does He speak of His preparation and provision for us, but He also gives us the Promise of the Holy Spirit. This chapter assures us that Jesus has made every provision necessary for the believer to live a life constantly accompanied by the Holy Spirit of God.

**Memory verse: 26** – *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

### John 14

<sup>1</sup> “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. <sup>7</sup> “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. <sup>11</sup> Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. <sup>13</sup> And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.

<sup>15</sup> “If you love Me, keep My commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

<sup>19</sup> “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. <sup>20</sup> At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”



## EXAMPLE CHAPTER SUMMARY FORM

### CHAPTER

Read 5 times  (check when done)

Luke 15

**1. CAPTION (TITLE)** Lost and Found

**2. CONTENTS** This chapter contains three parables.

1. Verses 3 – 7: The lost sheep
2. Verses 8 – 10: The lost coin
3. Verses 11 – 32: The lost son

**3. CHIEF PEOPLE**

The shepherd with the lost sheep  
The woman with the lost coin  
The father with the lost son

**4. CHOICE VERSE**

Luke 15:7 — “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

**5. CRUCIAL WORD(S)**

Lost (v. 4, 8 – 9, 24, 32)  
Found (5 – 6, 9, 24, 32)

**6. CHALLENGES (Difficulties I need to study)**

What does verse 7 mean — “ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent”?

## CHAPTER SUMMARY FORM

### 7. CROSS-REFERENCES Luke 15:4 –

Matthew 18:11 – 14

Isaiah 53:6

John 10:10 – 14

Psalm 119:176

1 Peter 2:25

### 8. CHRIST SEEN

1st parable — Jesus the Good Shepherd searching for lost sheep.

2nd parable — the Holy Spirit our rightful Owner finding and restoring.

3rd parable — God the Father waiting to welcome us home.

### 9. CENTRAL LESSON(S)

#### Insights

The son went away saying, “Give me” (v. 12). He returned saying, “Make me”  
God cares for sinners and eagerly waits for them to return home.

#### Characteristics of the immature brother

Anger — v. 28

Childishness — v. 28

Jealousy — vv. 29 – 30

Wrong perspective — vv. 29 – 30

Grumbling — vv. 29 – 30

### 10. CONCLUSION (Personal application)

In each of the three parables a concrete effort was made to recover what was lost. Many of my friends are lost without Christ. I need to develop specific witnessing plans for sharing the Gospel. I will start by sharing my faith with \_\_\_\_\_ this weekend.

I need to express more joy when I hear of people who have begun moving closer to God.



## CHAPTER SUMMARY FORM

Read 5 times  (check when done)

**CHAPTER**

**1. CAPTION (TITLE)**

**2. CONTENTS**

**3. CHIEF PEOPLE**

**4. CHOICE VERSE**

**5. CRUCIAL WORD(S)**

**6. CHALLENGES (Difficulties I need to study)**

## CHAPTER SUMMARY FORM

### 7. CROSS-REFERENCES

### 8. CHRIST SEEN

### 9. CENTRAL LESSON(S)

### 10. CONCLUSION (Personal application )

## **PRAYER STARTER**

*"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place and there prayed" (Mark 1:35)*

**Begin with Praise:** *"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." (Psalm 100:4)*

*"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel (your people)" (Psalm 22:3)*

**Pray for yourself:** Ask God to give you faith, patience, forgiveness, good health, His providence and guidance, daily strength, spiritual blessing and encouragement, renewing of a right spirit, and a refilling of the Holy Ghost.

**Pray for your family:** Ask Him for the same thing to be done in their lives that you asked for yourself.

**Pray for our church:** Again, ask Him for the same things to be done in the lives of your brothers and sisters that you asked for yourself and family. Pray for your pastor, the leadership team, the faithfulness of our people, for revival and a vast harvest of souls starting with the guests that God is sending to our church.

**Pray for the unsaved:** Starting with your own family, co-workers, friends, schoolmates, neighbors, city, state, nation, and world – pray for people's hearts to be softened and their minds to be open to God's will for their lives.

**Pray for the corporate church:** Petition heaven for God's blessing on His church, its leaders and its work in the world, including the United Pentecostal Church.

**Pray for world revival:** Pray for miraculous revival in every land, including this land and every foreign land. Ask for God's help with our Global and North American Missionaries. Pray for the churches under their care. Ask the Lord for the same blessing on His churches around the world that we want in our church.

**Pray for the miraculous to happen in our services:** Ask God to grant repentance to sinners, backsliders, and the lukewarm. Ask for many baptisms in Jesus name and for

many infillings of the Holy Ghost. Ask for powerful church services, inspirational worship services, and life changing preaching. Ask Him to set this church apart from every non-Apostolic church with His favor and miraculous touch. Ask Him for the fulfillment of Isaiah 60 - where multitudes of people: religious and otherwise, flow into the light of His truth.

**Pray for our church ministries:** Ladies Ministry, Men's Ministry, Music Ministry, Children's Ministry, Nursery, Youth, Promotions, Ushers and Greeters. Pray for the family relationships in the church - husbands and wives, parents and children. Pray for all the relationships in the church – that His anointing would flow through the unity of His people.

**Pray for our nation:** Pray for our President and his family. Ask the Lord to give him godly wisdom and direction. Pray for his advisors, cabinet, and others who influence his daily decisions - for godly wisdom and right thinking. Pray for other government leaders - Congress, the Supreme Court, our state and local leaders - again for godly wisdom and right thinking. Ask God to turn our nation back towards righteousness!

*"My deepest desire, Lord, is that I might know you in the power of the resurrection and the fellowship of your suffering, being made conformable unto your death." Philippians 3: 10*

*"Lord, I make myself available to you. I present my body as a living sacrifice to you."  
Romans 12:1*

*"This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it."  
Psalm 118:24*