



# **Reading** through **The Bible** in a year.

schedule &  
questions



## Some biblical reasons why we read, study, and mediate on God's word:

1. The Bible is God's living and active word to us....

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active.*

*2 Peter 1:21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

*2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God breathed....*

2. God's uses His word to reveal His gift of salvation:

*Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?.....17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

3. God uses His word to teach and equip us to live as He desires us to:

*2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

4. God's word is a great blessing to our lives:

*Psalms 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. 11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

Generally speaking, God's word (the Bible), reveals to us who God is, what He has done, and what His will is for our life.

**Jan. 1**

Gen 1-2

Matt 1

1. How does the Bible begin? What are the first four words?
2. God created the heavens and the earth and everything on it in six days. What was the last thing God created?
3. What was different about man from all of God's other creation?
4. What was the world like at this point?
5. What was the one command that God gave Adam and Eve?
6. Why did Matthew believe it was important to list the genealogy of Jesus?
7. How was Jesus conceived?
8. Why was Jesus born?

## Answers

1. In the beginning God...
2. Man (1:26-31; 2:4-9).
3. Man was made in the image or likeness of God (1:26), meaning man is the only creature made to characterize God in a number of ways.
4. According to God, "it was very good" (1:31), as there was no sin nor the corruption that comes from sin.
5. Not to "eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (2:17).
6. To link Jesus back to the promises God made to Abraham and David (1:1-17), that from their descendents would come One who would bless all the peoples of the earth.
7. By the Holy Spirit coming upon Mary (1:18-20).
8. To save man from his sins (1:21). That is why Jesus is called Savior. Do you understand that you cannot save yourself, that salvation only comes through faith in Christ?

*I (Jesus) am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)*

**Jan. 2**

Gen 3-4

Matt 2

1. What was the punishment for Adam & Eve's disobedience to God?
2. King Herod didn't like the news that another king had been born. He wanted to know where this king, the Christ, would be located (2:3-5). How did the chief priests and scribes know the answer to this?

## Answers

1. The punishment for Adam & Eve's sin included:
  - a. Serpent: crawl on the ground (3:14-15).
  - b. Eve: pain in child bearing and her husband ruling over her (3:16).
  - c. Adam: pain in labor (3:17).
  - d. Also, sin and all of its consequences then entered into the world.
2. The Old Testament foretold of Christ's birth in Micah 5:2.

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)*

**Jan. 3**

Gen 5-6

Matt 3

1. How are we similar to those spoken of in Gen. 6:5?
2. What does God decide to do at this point?
3. Who was the herald for Jesus' coming?
4. What was John the Baptist's warning to the religious leaders?

## Answers

1. We too are sinners just as they were and our deserving of God's wrath. While some may act better than others, no person can earn a right standing before God because of their goodness (Rom. 3:9-12).
2. God decides to destroy man, except for Noah and his family (6:6-8).
3. John the Baptist (3:1-12).
4. Not to presume that their ancestry to Abraham would save them (3:7-10).

*Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. 2 Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray. (Ps. 5:1-2)*

**Jan. 4**

Gen 7-8

Matt 4

1. What was the first thing Noah did when he came out of the ark?
2. When Satan tempted Jesus, how did Jesus respond to him?
3. What was the one qualification required of Jesus' earliest disciples? Is that qualification still required of Jesus' disciples today?

## Answers

1. He worshiped the Lord by sacrificing to Him (8:20).
2. With the word of God (4:1-11).
3. A willingness to follow Him (4:19). Absolutely.

*...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess 5:18)*

**Jan. 5**

Gen 9-12

1. Does the flood solve the problem of man rebelling against God?
2. Since we all came from Adam & Eve, why doesn't the entire world speak the same language?
3. God chooses a man named Abram. What does God promise him?

## Answers

1. No. Noah's drunkenness and Ham's rebellion (9:20-25) and the Tower of Babel (11:1-9) demonstrated ongoing sin.
2. Because God decided to confuse the language of man (11:1-9).
3. See 12:2-3 and 15:1-5.

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

**Jan. 6**

Gen 13-16

1. Who went with Abram & Sarai as they left Egypt? Did they remain together? Why not?
2. Was Abram a man without fault? What makes him right before God?
3. Did Abram's wife Sarai share this faith in God? Did she try to take matters into her own hands? How did that turn out? Do we ever try to take matters into our own hands?

## Answers

1. Lot. They parted company because the land could not support all of the herds when they were combined (13:1, 5-7).
2. No. What made him right is the same thing that makes us right: belief or faith in God (15:6).
3. No, at least not with regard to bearing a child (chapter 16). Yes, Sarai tried to take matters into her own hands as she had her servant girl, Hagar sleep with Abram and bear him a child. However, things didn't go as she planned.

*...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matt. 6:12)*

**Jan. 7**

Gen 17-18

Matt 5

1. Abram was about 75 years old when God first made promises to him. How old is he at the beginning of chapter 17? Have the promises been fulfilled yet in Abram's life? Abram now becomes Abraham, which means father of a multitude, 17:5.
2. How was God's promise to Abraham enlarged and clarified? What is the land of Canaan known as today?
3. What was the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham and his descendants?
4. What should be our attitude when we face persecution because of our faith in and commitment to Christ?
5. Jesus states in 5:20 that "a person's righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees" if they want to enter the kingdom of heaven. The scribes and Pharisees prided themselves in obeying the law. So how can a person be more righteous than they were?
6. How does Jesus tell His disciples to treat their enemies? Does this apply to us as well?

Answers

1. 99. No. Here God simply reiterates and expands on His earlier promises.
2. See 17:5, 8. Israel.
3. Circumcision (17:10).
4. We should "rejoice and be glad" (5:11-12).
5. Jesus' perfect righteousness is imparted to those who have faith in Him (Rom. 3:21-22). When we place our faith in Christ our sins are forgiven and we receive Jesus' righteousness.
6. He tells them to love their enemies (5:44). This applies to all who are Jesus' disciples.

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Phil. 4:6)*

**Jan. 8**

Gen 19-20

Matt 6

1. What happened to Lot's wife as she and the others fled Sodom and Gomorrah?
2. In considering the example of prayer that Jesus gave in verses 6:9-13, what should be elements of our own prayer life?
3. What does God require us to do if we want our sin forgiven by Him?
4. What is Jesus' warning to us about money?

Answers

1. She turned into a pillar of salt because she looked back (19:17, 26).
2. PRAY = praise for who God is and what He has done, repenting of our sins, asking for God's help and blessing for our self and for others, yielding to God's will in everything.
3. Forgive others (6:14-15).
4. That money should never be pursued at the expense of our commitment to God (6:19-24).

*May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" (Ps. 70:4)*

**Jan. 9**

Gen 21-22

Matt 7

1. So Isaac is born and the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham begins. How old were Abraham and Sarah when they had Isaac?
2. How does God test Abraham? What does Abraham's willingness to follow through on this test say about him?
3. In chapters 5-7 of Matthew, we see many commands given by Jesus as to how we are to live. This has been referred to by many as the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus sums up His instructions with what many call the golden rule. What is this?
4. Jesus then concludes His instructions with some very powerful and somewhat astonishing words about true and false disciples or followers. First, in 7:13 He talks about a wide gate. What is He referring to? Where does this way lead? How many people will go this way?
5. In verse 7:14 Jesus speaks of another gate, a narrow one. What is He referring to here? Where does it lead? How many will take this way?

Answers

1. 100 years and 90 years (21:5).
2. God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac (22:1-24). Abraham was willing to put God's will above everything, even that most dear to him, because he believed in God, he feared Him (22:12).
3. See 7:12.
4. Jesus is referring to the ways of the world, Satan, and of our own fleshly desires as we see listed in Eph. 2:1-3, ways that are different than God's ways. The wide road leads to destruction, to hell. Jesus says many will go this way.
5. Here Jesus is referring to Himself and His ways; to faith; to repenting and turning to Jesus. This narrow gate and road lead to life. Only a few will find this way. Jesus reiterates and expands this truth in 7:21-23.

*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (James 1:6)*

**Jan. 10**

Gen 23-24

Matt 8

1. God had promised Abraham that his descendents would become a great nation with a land of their own. How much land did Abraham have at the time of his wife Sarah's death?
2. How did Abraham go about finding a wife for his son Isaac?
3. In verses 8:5-13, Jesus commends a Roman soldier. What's significant about this?

## Answers

1. None (23:4).
2. See chapter 24.
3. The soldier was not an Israelite, not a blood relative of Abraham. Jesus commended him for his faith and made the point that it will be people like him in heaven and many of the descendents of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will not. This is critically important for us because we, like the centurion, are not Jews; we are not blood descendants of Abraham.

*But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deut. 4:29)*

**Jan. 11**

Gen 25-26

Matt 9

1. How old was Abraham when he died? Did he experience the fullness of God's promises to him? Were the promises that God made to Abraham also made to Isaac?
2. What were the names of Isaac's twin sons? How do these brothers get along?
3. Are Isaac and Jacob without fault? Yet does God bless them?
4. What does Jesus mean when He says, "For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (v. 9:13)?
5. Jesus healed people with diseases, He calms a storm, heals men who are possessed by demons, and He brings people back to life. Why did Jesus do all these miracles?

## Answers

1. 175 years (25:7). No. At this time his descendents were few and he owned only a field and cave in the land of Canaan. Yes (26:1-5, 24).
2. Esau and Jacob (25:25-26). Not well at all (chapter 25).
3. No. Yes (26:1-5, 24; 28:10-17).
4. The Pharisees believed that they were righteous by the way they lived their lives. God's word teaches us that no one is righteous (Rom. 3:10), that all are sinners who need a Savior. Jesus came to save sinners who place their faith in Him (Matt. 1:21).
5. Likely for a number of reasons. First, He had compassion for people and was able to help them. Second, it demonstrated the authority and power that He had over all of creation, something that would bring additional credibility to His message.

*The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)*

**Jan. 12**

Gen 27-30

1. How was it that Jacob received his father Isaac's blessing over his older brother Esau?
2. Did God make a covenant with Jacob as He had done with Abraham and Isaac? What did God promise Jacob?
3. How many women bore children to Jacob? Who were they? How many sons did Jacob have?

## Answers

1. Jacob and his mother deceived Isaac (27:1-40).
2. Yes. God promised Jacob that He would give him a land, his descendants would be as numerous as the dust of the earth, all peoples on earth would be blessed through Jacob's offspring, and that God was with Jacob (28:12-15).
3. Four women bore sons to Jacob: Leah, Bilhah, Zilpah, and Rachel (29:31-30:24). Jacob had twelve sons (29:31-30:24, 35:16-18) which eventually became the 12 tribes of Israel.

*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14)*

**Jan. 13**

Gen 31-34

1. In chapter 32 we see Jacob wrestling with a man. What's happening here?
2. What new name did God give Jacob?
3. How did the reunion of Jacob and Esau go?

## Answers

1. Jacob is wrestling with God. His successful struggle with God was a pledge that Jacob would be successful as well in his struggle with Esau.
2. God gave Jacob the new name Israel, which means "he struggles with God" (32:28).
3. At least on the surface, it went very well. Esau had forgiven Jacob (chapter 33).

*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matt. 5:44)*

**Jan. 14**

Gen 35-36

Matt 10

1. Did God make a covenant with Jacob/Israel as He had with Abraham and Isaac?
2. The names of Israel's children are listed in 35:23-26. From these men come the 12 tribes of Israel.
3. How many men did Jesus choose to be part of His inner group? What did Jesus tell them about their work? What application is there in this for us?
4. What is Jesus saying to us in verses 10:37-39?
5. What does God know about us? For those of us who love God, is there any challenge we could face that is beyond Him or His grace?

## Answers

1. Yes (35:9-15).
- 2.
3. Jesus chose 12 men (10:1-4). Jesus told them that their work would involve much suffering (10:16-25). As followers of Christ we too must be prepared to suffer (Matt. 5:11-12).
4. Jesus is stating here that our commitment to Him must be greater than any other in our lives. He must be first in our lives and we must take up our cross for Him, meaning we must sacrificially give of ourselves as He sacrificially gave of Himself. We must lose our old way of life and live for Christ. That is when we will truly find what we were created for.
5. Everything, even the number of hairs on our head (10:30). No.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)*

**Jan. 15**

Gen 37-38

Matt 11

1. How many sons did Israel have? Who was his favorite? How did Joseph's older brothers feel about this? Why? What did they do to him?
2. In chapter 38 we see the story of Tamar and how she is ill treated by her in-laws. Tamar and her son Perez are direct descendents of Jesus (Matt. 1:3).
3. Why do you think John the Baptist had doubts about whether Jesus was the Messiah or not (11:2)? Was that true of others in Jesus' day? How did Jesus respond to John's doubt?
4. What invitation does Jesus give to all in verses 11:28-30?

## Answers

1. Israel had 12 sons. His favorite was Joseph (37:3). Joseph's older brothers hated him (37:4) and they conspired to get rid of him (37:12-36). They didn't like him very well because he was their father's favorite and because Joseph shared with them dreams he had about them bowing down before him (37:1-11). They plotted to kill him and ended up selling him into slavery (37:18-36).
- 2.
3. We don't know for sure, but it is likely that in some way Jesus didn't match John's expectation of the Messiah/Christ. Yes. Most everyone, including the religious leaders and Jesus' own disciples also had different expectations for the Messiah. The proof of who He was is in the fruit of His life (11:4-5, 19).
4. He invites us to come to Him (trust, have faith in Him) and if we do we will find rest (peace) in Him. But we must take His yoke (follow His leading).

*Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. (Jer. 33:3)*



**Jan. 16**

Gen 39-40

Matt 12

1. How did things go for Joseph once he arrived in Egypt?
2. The people began to wonder if Jesus might not be "the Son of David" (12:23). Who does this represent?
3. Did the religious leaders acknowledge that Jesus was able to do miracles? By what power did they say Jesus was able to do these?
4. Who did Jesus say His mother and brothers were?

## Answers

1. Joseph had success (39:2-6), was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and placed in prison (39:7-20), success in prison (39:22), and then, as we will see, further success because the Lord was with him.
2. The people were beginning to wonder if Jesus might not be the Messiah (Hebrew word) or Christ (Greek word); they were beginning to wonder if Jesus wasn't there long awaited Savior.
3. Yes. Beelzebub, meaning the devil (12:24).
4. His disciples, those who do the will of the Father (12:46-50). And the will of the Father is that people have faith in His Son Jesus, follow Him and be saved (2 Peter 3:9).

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. (1 Peter 3:12)*

**Jan. 17**

Gen 41-42

Matt 13

1. When Pharaoh asked Joseph if he could interpret his dream, what was Joseph's response?
2. How many years was it from the time Joseph was sold into slavery until he was placed in authority in Egypt?
3. Jesus shares a parable about a farmer sowing seed in four different types of soil. What does this represent?
4. How was Jesus received in His own hometown?

## Answers

1. Joseph told Pharaoh that he could not interpret the dream, but God could (41:16). Joseph responded to Pharaoh very humbly as he pointed Pharaoh to God Almighty.
2. 13 years, for he was 17 when he was sold into slavery (37:2) and 30 when he was placed in charge of Egypt (41:46).
3. Four different responses to God's word (13:18-23). Only the fourth reflects genuine faith.
4. The people of Jesus' hometown were amazed at His teaching and His works, but they couldn't get past the idea of where He came from. They took offense with Him and had the attitude, "Who does he think he is?" (13:53-58).

*Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. (Ps. 55:22)*

**Jan. 18**

Gen 43-44

Matt 14

1. How is Joseph reunited with his family?
2. We see Jesus miraculously walking on water. Even more amazing, Peter walks on water as well. What kept Peter above the water and what caused him to sink? What application is there in this for us?

## Answers

1. See chapters 42-45.
2. Faith in Christ kept Peter up; doubt/fear as he took his eyes off of Jesus caused him to sink (14:28-33).

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)*

**Jan. 19**

Gen 45-48

1. How many years was it between the time Joseph was sold into slavery and his reunion with his family?
2. Was Joseph angry with his brothers for what they had done to him?
3. How many total descendents of Israel settled in Egypt?
4. What did Israel (Jacob) make his son Joseph promise him before he died?
5. The twelve tribes of Israel are named after the 12 sons of Israel (Jacob), with the exception of one, Joseph. What is the name of this tribe?

## Answers

1. 22. He was 17 when he was sold into slavery (37:2) and was 30 when he was placed in charge in Egypt (41:46). Nine more years pass before his family arrives, seven years of plenty and two years of famine (45:6).
2. No, Joseph does not appear to be angry. He believed it was God's will and for good that he was sent to Egypt (45:7-8). This is the primary purpose of the story of Joseph, to show that God overrules human deeds, good or bad, to achieve His saving purposes.
3. 70 descendents (46:27).
4. That when he died Joseph would see that he was buried with his forefathers (48:28).
5. Ephraim and Manasseh, named after Joseph's two sons (48:5, 20).

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he (Jesus) departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1:35)*

**Jan. 20**Gen 49-50  
Ex 1-2

1. In chapter 49 Israel (Jacob) prophesies about each of his sons. Are all these prophesies positive?
2. Approximately 350 years pass from the time Israel (Jacob) and his family moved to Egypt until the story picks up again in chapter one of Exodus. Over that time, what happened to the Israelites living in Egypt? What did the Egyptians do to try and reduce the number of Israelites? Did this work?
3. How did Moses end up being raised by the daughter of Pharaoh? Why did Moses flee to Midian? How old is Moses when he flees (Acts 7:23)?

## Answers

1. No, some are very negative.
2. The Israelites multiplied greatly and became a threat to the Egyptians (1:8-14). The Egyptians oppressed them (1:12) and commanded the midwives to kill the boys (1:16). These attempts failed and the Israelites became even more numerous and strong (1:20).
3. See 2:1-10. Because he had killed an Egyptian and some knew about it (2:11-15). Acts. 7:23 tells us that Moses was 40 years old when he fled Egypt.

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. 2 I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Ps. 9:1-2)*

**Jan. 21**

Ex 3-4

Matt 15

1. How did the angel of the Lord appear to Moses? What did God want Moses to do? How did Moses respond to God? Do we sometimes have this same type of attitude as God commands us to do things?
2. In verse 4:24 we see God wanting to put Moses to death. What is this about?

## Answers

1. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush (3:1-2). God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt (3:10). Moses response was not favorable as he said, "Who am I that I should go..." (3:11), "What shall I say to them?" (3:13), "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice..." (4:1), "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." (4:10), "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." (4:13).
2. Evidently Moses still lacked faith in God, to the extent he failed to have his son circumcised as required by God's covenant with Abraham and his descendents after him (Gen. 17:10-14).

*Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. (Ps. 29:1-2)*

**Jan. 22**

Ex 5-6

Matt 16

1. Did the Israelites want their freedom from the Egyptians? Were the Israelites willing to do things God's way to gain their freedom? Are we willing to come to God and live on His terms?
2. We see Jesus asking His disciples who people say He is. What were some of the answers? Who did Peter say Jesus was?
3. We see in 16:21-23 that Jesus rebukes Peter very sharply. Why does He do this?
4. The whole of the New Testament makes clear that man is saved by faith alone in Christ alone. According to Jesus' words in Matthew 16:24-25, what must this faith include?

## Answers

1. Yes, the Israelites wanted their freedom and had been praying to God for it. The Israelites were willing to do things God's way only with reluctance (5:15-21; 14:10-12).
2. The people thought Jesus might be John the Baptist, or Elijah, or Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Peter declared Jesus to be "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (16:14-16).
3. Jesus was here on a mission – to die to provide a way for us to live, to be saved. Peter's desires to keep Jesus safe were interfering with this mission. Peter was looking at things from a human perspective, not from God's perspective.
4. Repentance, a turning from our old way of life and turning to Christ in faithful obedience to Him. Jesus describes this as losing one life but truly gaining another.

*Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. (Ps. 68:19)*

**Jan. 23**

Ex 7-8

Matt 17

1. How old is Moses when he returns to Egypt to lead the people out?
2. What is the first plague the Egyptians experienced?
3. What happened when Jesus, Peter, James, and John went up on the mountain?
4. A second time Jesus shares with His disciples what will happen to Him when He arrives in Jerusalem. What does He tell them? Why is this necessary?

## Answers

1. 80 years (Ex. 7:7).
2. The first plague was the water of the Nile turning to blood (7:14-24).
3. Jesus was transfigured. It was a brief glimpse of King Jesus' true glory. See 17:1-13.
4. Jesus tells His disciples that He will be betrayed, killed, and on the third day rise again (17:23). It's the necessary part of God's plan to save man from his sins. We are sinners and cannot save ourselves. Instead, Jesus suffered and died in our place. Through faith (belief, trust, repentance, commitment, obedience) in Him we are saved.

*Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! (Ps. 96:9)*

**Jan. 24**

Ex 9-10

Matt 18

1. Why did God bring so many plagues upon the Egyptians?
2. If a believer sins against you what are you suppose to do according to Jesus' teaching?
3. How often does Jesus tell us to forgive someone who has sinned against us? What should be our motivation for forgiving others?

## Answers

1. Because they wouldn't let the Israelites go and also because it allowed God to do miraculous signs that were a witness to Himself (10:1-2).
2. Confront him or her in their sin. See 18:15-17.
3. 77. This represents an infinite number. We should always forgive someone who is truly repentant. Our forgiveness should be motivated by God's forgiveness of our many sins (18:21-35).

*The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! (Ps. 99:1)*

**Jan. 25**

Ex 11-12

Matt 19

1. How many years have passed since the Israelites enter Egypt until the time of Moses?
2. What was/is the Passover? What similarities are there between the Passover and Jesus' work on the cross?
3. How many Israelites were there when Israel (Jacob) and his family came to live in Egypt? How many were there when the Israelites left Egypt?
4. What does God think of divorce? Is divorce ever permissible for the Christian?
5. What was the rich young man looking for? Was he willing to do what Jesus asked to gain eternal life? Why? Are we willing to respond on Jesus' terms?

## Answers

1. 430 years (Ex. 12:40). See God's prophecy concerning this in Gen. 15:13-14.
2. See 12:1-30.
3. 70 (Gen. 46:27). When the Israelites left Egypt there were 600,000 men (12:37), perhaps 2 million or more people including women and children.
4. In most circumstances God does not permit divorce. Exceptions are found in 19:9 and 1 Cor. 7:15.
5. The young man wanted to know how to gain eternal life (19:16). He wasn't willing to respond on Jesus' terms, wasn't willing to give up everything to follow Him (19:17-22).

*For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Ps. 100:5)*

**Jan. 26**

Ex 13-16

1. What did God mean when He commanded Moses to "consecrate (set apart) to Him every firstborn male (13:1)?"
2. The Israelites were very afraid when the Egyptians began to pursue them. What did Moses say to the Israelites?
3. Who did the Israelites fear after they had gone through the Red Sea?
4. Only a few days after the Israelites escaped from Egypt they ran into a major problem; what was it? Within a few weeks they faced another major problem; what was this one? What did the Lord do for them?
5. How would you like to have had Moses' job of leading the Israelites? Did the Israelites grumble to Moses about things? Who did Moses tell them they were grumbling against?

## Answers

1. It was God who spared the lives of every firstborn male man and animal of the Israelites in Egypt during the Passover. As a reminder of this, the Israelites were to consecrate or set apart every first born male to the Lord. Certain animals (donkey) and man could be redeemed (bought back) by sacrificing a lamb instead (13:1-16). This also points to Jesus' work of redeeming us.
2. Moses tells the people not to be afraid, to stand firm and watch the Lord deliver them. Moses told the people, "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still" (Ex. 14:13-14).
3. The Lord (14:31).
4. No water (15:22-27). No food (16:1-3). He provided them with manna (16:4).
5. Yes. God (16:8).

*Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! (Ps. 106:1)*

**Jan. 27**

Ex 17-20

1. What did Moses' father-in-law suggest to him concerning his judging over all the Israelites?
2. What do the first four commands (20:1-11) that God had given to Moses focus on? How would you describe these? What are the commandments in verses 20:12-17 focused on?

## Answers

1. That Moses should not take this responsibility upon himself but should select God fearing men who could help him in the task (18:17-22).
2. Man's response to God (vertical). We must fear and worship God and Him alone. The remaining commandments focus on how we are to respond to others (horizontal relationships).

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! (Ps. 111:10)*

**Jan. 28**

Ex 21-22

Matt 20

1. What were some of the reasons that an Israelite was to be put to death? We know God is a loving God, so why would He provide instruction for certain people to be killed?
2. God not only gave Moses the Ten Commandments but also a set of laws for the people to follow (chapters 21-23). What do you think of God's form of government?
3. What's the point of Jesus' parable in 20:1-16?
4. How is it that we become "great" by God's standards?

## Answers

1. See 21:12-25. To maintain the order that He established, something necessary and beneficial for the welfare of the society as a whole.
2. It's based on honesty and trying to do the right thing. It also provides consequences for those that do wrong, both intentionally and unintentionally. These consequences would have been a strong motivator for doing right.
3. Entry into God's kingdom comes by His grace alone, we cannot earn it (Eph. 2:8-9). Also, God's grace is available to all who come to Him in faith, no matter when in their life.
4. By being a servant and a slave to others (20:26-27).

*I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. (Ps. 145:1)*

**Jan. 29**

Ex 23-24

Matt 21

1. What warning is given at the beginning of Ex. 23:2? Are you a "crowd follower" or an obedient follower of Christ?
2. Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?
3. What were the people shouting when Jesus rode into Jerusalem? What did this imply about Jesus?
4. Were you surprised Jesus became angry with those selling things in the temple (21:12-17)?

## Answers

1. The warning is "not to follow the crowd in doing wrong."
2. To fulfill O.T. prophecy of Isaiah 62:11 and Zechariah 9:9 (21:5).
3. "Hosanna," meaning "oh save" (21:9). This implied that Jesus was the Savior, the Messiah, the Christ.
4. These people were making a mockery of God's temple and were keeping people from worshipping Him. Being angry about the things that anger God is appropriate.

*There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. (1 Sam 2:2)*

**Jan. 30**

Ex 25-26

Matt 22

1. What are some words you would use to describe the tabernacle and all its fixtures that God had Moses build? Where is the tabernacle of God located today?
2. Did God care about the details of the sanctuary? Do you believe He cares deeply about the details of His new sanctuary: the church, which includes everyone who is saved through faith in Christ?
3. Jesus tells a parable or short story in verses 22:1-14. Who is the King? The son? What does the wedding banquet represent? Who are those who had been invited? Others invited? The man who was not wearing wedding clothes?
4. According to Jesus, what is the greatest commandment? What does the biblical word love mean?

## Answers

1. Precise, holy, rich, anointed, pure, mysterious (chapters 25-27). The tabernacle or temple today is the Church, not a building, but the people of God. Christ is the cornerstone, the apostles and prophets are the foundation, and believers are the stones built upon them (Eph. 2:19-22).
2. Absolutely.
3. The king is God the Father. Jesus is the Son. The wedding banquet represents the kingdom of God or heaven. Those who had been invited but were unwilling to come were the Jews. Others invited represent the Gentiles or non Jews. The man without wedding clothes represents those who do not have faith in Christ. When we place our faith in Jesus our sins are not only forgiven, but we receive the righteousness of Christ, we are clothed in His righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21).

4. To love God with all we have and to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Greek word used for love in this command is "agape," meaning to treasure and self-sacrificially serve God and others. It's not about romance or emotions but a love of action.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Ps. 139:23-24)*

**Jan. 31**

1. Who was the group of people that Jesus was clearly most angry with? Why?

Ex 27-28

Answers

Matt 23

1. The religious leaders (23:13-36). They were hypocrites. Rather than leading the people to God they were leading them away from God. They were only concerned about themselves and the honor they received because of the position they held.

*Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! (Ps. 4:1)*

**Feb. 1**

Ex 29-30

1. Exodus 29:44 speaks of the Tent of Meeting, the altar, and Aaron and his sons being "consecrated." What does this mean?
2. When will Jesus return? Will it be obvious when He does return?

Matt 24

Answers:

1. It means to be set apart to the Lord and to His service.
2. We don't know, only God the Father does (24:36). Jesus' return will be very obvious (24:26-31). We shouldn't dwell on the "when" but we should dwell on being prepared when Jesus' return does take place. This is Jesus' emphasis in the rest of chapter 24.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! (Ps. 103:1)*

**Feb. 2**

Ex 31-34

1. In chapter 31:12-18 Moses was given the instruction by God that anyone who works on the Sabbath must be put to death. Why did God take so seriously the observation of the Sabbath?
2. Moses is up on the mountain with God for 40 days. What happens while he's away? Why was God so angry with them?
3. In Exodus 32:9 God refers to the Israelites as "a stiff-necked people"? What do you believe He means by this?
4. Moses asked to see God's glory, to see all His goodness face-to-face. Did God allow this? How did God describe Himself as He passed by Moses?
5. Are children responsible for their parent's sin? Then why are children "punished" for the sin of their parents?

Answers:

1. Because it was a sign of the covenant between Him and the Israelites, just as circumcision was.
2. Israelites made a golden calf to worship (chapter 32). They were breaking the first two commandments that they had just received from God (Ex. 20:3-6).
3. "Stiff-necked" is a reference to a horse or ox who will not respond to the reigns of its master. Rather than submitting to the Lord, the Israelites were being stiff-necked and going their own way.
4. No. Moses would have died if that happened because of Moses' sin and God's holiness. But God did show Moses a glimpse of Himself (33:18-34:5). See v. 34:6-8.
5. No. Each person is held responsible for their own sin. Children are "punished" by association. Our children suffer the consequences of our sin. For instance if we struggle with the sin of alcoholism, our children will suffer along with us. Parents can also pass along sins that are not as obvious like greed, pride, and selfishness.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. (John 3:16)*

**Feb. 3**

Ex 35-38

1. Why were Bezalel and Oholiab placed in charge of the construction of the tabernacle?
2. Were there enough workers and materials to complete the tabernacle?

Answers:

1. They were filled with the Spirit of God, they had skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts, and they had the ability to teach others (35:30-35).
2. More than enough (36:3-7).

*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)*

**Feb. 4**

Ex 39-40

Matt 25

1. How did Moses respond to the Israelites as he inspected their work in completing the tabernacle and all of its furnishings?
2. What did God do when the tabernacle was finished?
3. How did the Israelites know when to move and when to stay while they were in the desert?
4. In the parable of the master giving talents (money) to his servants to invest, two of the servants heard their master respond, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" What did these servants do to earn this praise? What does this represent?

Answers:

1. Moses saw that the Israelites had done the work just as the Lord had instructed and so Moses blessed them (39:43).
2. The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle (40:34).
3. Whenever the cloud, which reflected God's glory, lifted the Israelites would set out. If it did not lift they stayed where they were (40:36-38).
3. Two of the servants doubled what had been given to them to invest (25:19-20). This represents those who have faith in Christ and are using their gifts, talents, time, and treasures wisely to advance God's kingdom.

*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. (Matt. 9:38)*

**Feb. 5**

Lev 1-2

Matt 26

1. In Lev. Chapter 1 Moses is given instructions from God concerning burnt offerings made to the Lord. Moses is told to instruct the people to bring a male without defect to the Tent of Meeting. The person who brought the offering is then instructed to "lay his hand on the head" of the animal and it says, "it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him" (v. 4). What does this mean? Why don't we still have to sacrifice animals to atone for our sins?
2. The grain offering that we see described in chapter 2 was made along with the animal sacrifice and was generally made for the same purpose.
3. At the last supper Jesus told His apostles that all of them would fall away from Him that night; that they would flee from Him. What was Peter's response? What happened with Peter?
4. Did Jesus want to go to the cross?

Answers:

1. Sin calls forth God's wrath. The animal acted as a substitute for the punishment the person should have received from God for their sin. The animal died in place of the sinner, appeasing God's wrath. This is what "atonement" means. We don't have to offer animal sacrifices because Jesus paid it all. If we have faith in Jesus His sacrifice atones for all of our sins, past, present, and future (Hebrews 10:1-10). Our response to Jesus' sacrifice is to offer ourselves as a "living sacrifices..." (Rom. 12:1-2).
- 2.
3. Peter said to Jesus, "I never will!....Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." (26:33-35). Peter ended up denying Christ several times (26:69-75).
4. No. He prayed that the Father would take that task from Him, but He also prayed that the Father's will be done (26:36-46).

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground. (Ps. 143:10)*



**Feb. 6**

1. Are we guilty before God for committing unintentional sin?
2. Who was responsible for Jesus' death?
3. Why did Jesus say, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46)

Lev 3-4

Matt 27

Answers:

1. Yes (Lev. 4:13, 27).
2. The religious leaders initiated it, the crowd urged it on, Pilate allowed it, the soldiers carried out the task, but ultimately God the Father was responsible for Jesus' death so that you and I could be saved. It was because of our sin that the Father needed to sacrifice the Son. God loves us that much.
3. In saying these words Jesus quotes from Ps. 22:1. As Jesus hung on the cross He took upon Himself all the sin of the world and because of this was for a time cutoff from fellowship with His Father. Instead of fellowship, Jesus was experiencing His Father's wrath for these sins.

*Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. (Ps. 119:37)*

**Feb. 7**

1. We can be guilty of sinning against God for doing things we shouldn't. Can we also be guilty of sinning against God for failing to do things that we should do?
2. Offerings were generally made to God for the purpose of having sins forgiven and a person's relationship with God restored. Jesus' death on the cross eliminated the need for these offerings. There were five key offerings made by the Jews:
  - a. The burnt offering – demonstrated a person's devotion to God and was made for the forgiveness of sins in general.
  - b. The grain offering – It generally accompanied other sacrifices and was a way to honor and respect God and to acknowledge that everything we have belongs to Him and to thank God for it.
  - c. The fellowship offering – this offering was made to express gratitude to God and symbolized peace and fellowship with Him.
  - d. The sin offering – this was made to seek forgiveness of unintentional sins and to restore the person's fellowship with God.
  - e. The guilt offering – this was made to seek forgiveness for sins against God and others. The offer was made to God and others who were wronged were compensated in other ways.
3. What were the final marching orders Jesus gave to His apostles? Were those marching orders only for the apostles, or do all followers of Christ have a responsibility to make disciples?

Lev 5-6

Matt 28

Answers:

1. Yes. (See 5:1)
- 2.
3. "Therefore go and make disciples...." (28:19-20). All followers of Christ have a responsibility to share the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. This is one of the primary purposes of the church (2 Cor. 5:18-20).

*When I am afraid, I will trust in you. 4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? (Ps. 56:3-4)*

**Feb. 8**

Lev 7-8

Mark 1

1. What did John the Baptist have to say about the One who would come after him, the One who he was pointing to?
2. We see in Mark 1:16-20 Jesus' calling upon Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him. How did these men respond?

Answers:

1. The One who would come after him was more powerful and John wasn't worthy to even untie His sandals. John baptized with water but the One coming after him would baptize with the Holy Spirit (1:7-8).
2. It says they responded "at once" and "without delay." The first disciples turned immediately to Jesus' call to follow Him. They would eventually give their all in service to Him. Is Jesus calling you? Are you responding immediately to Him?

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21)*

**Feb. 9**

Lev 9-12

1. Why were Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu consumed by fire and killed?
2. In chapter 11 of Leviticus we have God's words to Moses concerning the types of foods that the Israelites could and could not eat. Again, God was calling Israel to be holy or set apart for Him. The Israelites would be different from every other people of the earth, including in the foods they ate and did not eat. You may have heard the term kosher. This is a Hebrew word meaning "right." Kosher then refers to the "right" foods for Israelites or Jews to eat.

Answers:

1. God was demanding that His people be holy, be set apart specifically for Him. That means they were to live specifically in the ways that God had called them to live. Nadab and Abihu had failed in this. We don't have enough information to know for certain, but we do know that the two used an unauthorized fire. They may have brought coals of fire to the altar from another source. Whatever they did, it was a flagrant act of disobedience against God (10:1-2).
- 2.

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Ps. 119:14)*

**Feb. 10**

Lev 13-16

1. In chapters 11-15 God gives the Israelites all these regulations about what to eat/not eat, what happens if they come in contact with something dead, how skinned diseased people should be dealt with, dealing with mildew, and with bodily discharges. Why does God give these? How much more concerned do you think God is about our sin?
2. Once a year, exactly six months after Pentecost (a festival of thanksgiving for the harvest), the Israelites were to celebrate the Day of Atonement. What was this?

Answers:

1. It's more than just a matter of health. God wanted a people set apart for Him. He wanted His people to be holy, different, unique from other people (11:43-45). Also, He is a holy, holy, holy God. Anything unclean could not be in His presence. Ritual cleanliness also symbolized moral cleanliness.
2. A practice that provided opportunity to "wipe the slate clean" by cleansing both the sanctuary, the priests, and the people of all the defilements that had not been noticed or dealt with by the normal practices. It provided a means of ongoing cleansing of God's people so that He could continue to dwell among them (chapter 16).

*Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer. (Ps. 4:1)*

**Feb. 11**

Lev 17-18

Mark 2

1. Why were the Israelites commanded not to eat the blood of any animal?
2. In addition to being set apart as holy to God, the Israelites were given another reason for obeying God's commands at the beginning of chapter 18. What is it?
3. In chapter 2 we see four men lowering a paralyzed man down through a roof to Jesus. What do you think the paralyzed man, as well as his friends were hoping for? What did Jesus do for the paralyzed man initially? How much better was this than physical healing?

Answers:

1. The blood represented the life of the animal and it was the blood that brought atonement (cover over or pass over) for sins to the one offering the sacrifice (Lev. 17:11). Life is God's gift and His alone and atonement is made available to us through Jesus' shed blood. This gift is received when we place our faith in Christ.
2. Where the Israelites were [Egypt] and where they are heading [Canaan], the people there practiced idolatries and perversions which were in great opposition to God's ways. God's people must remain clean; holy unto Him. If they did not remain holy they would share in the fate of those around them (18:24-30).
3. For physical healing. Jesus forgave the paralyzed man of his sins (2:5), something that only God can do.

*You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you. (Ps. 86:5)*

**Feb. 12**

Lev 19-20

Mark 3

1. In chapters 18-21 we see laws given for the people to follow. Punishment for failing to follow a number of these laws was death. Why such a severe penalty?
2. How would we describe the 12 apostles Jesus chose (3:13-19)?
3. As Jesus began His ministry what did His own family think of Him? What did the religious leaders think of Him? If we faithfully follow Christ what will others think of us?

Answers:

1. The penalty reflected the seriousness of God's covenant with His people and the call He placed upon their lives.....be holy as I am holy. Their failure to follow His call would result in them being unclean and separated from Him. Physical death penalties helped to prevent spiritual death (separation from God).
2. Very ordinary: fisherman, tax collector, etc. Not the kind of men that the world would chose for a great work.
3. Jesus' own family thought He was "out of His mind" (3:21). The religious leaders thought Jesus was demon possessed (3:22).

*Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matt. 6:12)*

**Feb. 13**

Lev 21-22

Mark 4

1. In Jesus' parable of the four soils, what happened to the seed that fell on good soil? What application is there for us in this?
2. As Jesus and His disciples crossed the lake, a great storm came upon them. What was Jesus doing during that time? What did Jesus do? What is significant about this?

Answers:

1. It came up, grew, and produced a crop (4:8). That if we hear the word, accept it, and live it out in our lives, we too will be fruitful for the Lord (4:20).
2. Jesus was sleeping during the storm (4:58). Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and commanded the waves to be still (4:39). This reflected another area in which Jesus had authority – disease, death, demons, and now nature. Jesus is Lord of all.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. (Ps. 51:1)*

**Feb. 14**

Lev 23-24

Mark 5

1. Blasphemy means to speak against God. What was to happen to the person who blasphemed the name of God with a curse? What does this say about how we should treat God's name?
2. What is interesting about Jesus' encounter with evil spirits (5:6-12)?
3. Concerning the laws we have recently read in Leviticus, what was significant about the women who touched Jesus (5:24-34)?

Answers:

1. He was to be stoned to death (24:10-23).
2. They know who He is and they fear His authority over them (5:6-7).
3. She was bleeding and therefore unclean and should not have been in contact with others or anything holy. Whatever she touched became ceremonially unclean (Lev. 15:25-27). Jesus willingly "defiled" Himself for her sake so that she might become "clean."

*O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago. (Isa. 25:1)*

**Feb. 15**

Lev 25-26

Mark 6

1. How will God reward the obedience of the Israelites? What punishment will He bring upon them if they are disobedient? What is God's purpose for punishing the Israelites?
2. Did Jesus have brothers and sisters? What were His brother's names?
3. Why did Herod kill John the Baptist?

Answers:

1. See 26:1-13. See 26:14-46. God's purpose for punishing the Israelites is to restore them (26:40-45).
2. Yes, He had half brothers and sisters through His mother Mary. The names of Jesus' brothers were James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon (6:3).
3. Herod was deceived into killing John the Baptist by his wife and daughter (6:14-29).

*There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. (1 Sam. 2:2)*

**Feb. 16**Lev 27  
Num 1-3

1. The first 10 chapters of Numbers shows us the preparation that needed to take place before the Israelites were ready to enter the promised land. All this preparation was for one purpose: that God might be with them as they go forth. The first thing mentioned was a census being taken. How many men, 20 years old or more, were available to serve in Israel's army? What does this number say about God's faithfulness?
2. What assignment had the Lord given the entire tribe of the Levites? How many Levites males one month or older were there?

Answer:

1. 603,550 (1:48). This means that the total number of men, women, children, and the elderly, along with the entire tribe of Levi would have likely been 2-3 million people. God had made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to make them a great nation....
2. To assist Aaron in performing the duties associated with the tabernacle (3:5-13). 22,000 (3:39).

*I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. (Ps. 145:1-3)*

**Feb. 17**

Num 4-7

1. What was the age range for Levite men who would serve in assisting Aaron in the sanctuary? How many men served in support of the sanctuary?
2. What was a person required to do who took a Nazirite (special, extraordinary) vow. Why did a person make this vow? What was its purpose?

Answers:

1. Levite men were required to be between the ages of 30-50 years old to serve in the sanctuary (4:3, 23, 30). 8,580.
2. A person making a Nazirite vow was to drink no wine or wine products, no cutting of hair, no going near a dead body. This was a time of special separation to the Lord, (6:1-2). Paul likely took this vow during his life (Acts 18:18; 21:20-26).

*Praise the LORD. Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. 2 Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore. 3 From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised. (Ps. 113:1-3)*

**Feb. 18**

Num 8-9

Mark 7

1. Why were the Levites set apart from the rest of the Israelites?
2. In Mark 7:6 Jesus refers to the Pharisees as "hypocrites." What does this mean?
3. In Leviticus we learned there were many things that would make a person unclean: wrong food, the dead, skin disease, mildew, etc. What did Jesus have to say about what makes a person unclean?

Answers:

1. They were set apart in place of every first born male among the Israelites. The first borns belonged to the Lord. The Levites were set apart to serve the Lord and Aaron in the tabernacle (8:5-26).
2. A hypocrite is someone who pretends to be something other than what they are. Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites because they clung to man-made laws and traditions while failing to follow God's commands.
3. Jesus proclaimed that it wasn't what went into a man but rather what came out of him that made him unclean (7:15-23).

*Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. (Ps. 68:19)*

**Feb. 19**

Num 10-11

Mark 8

1. How long did it take for Israelites to be properly prepared to set out on their journey to the Promised Land?
2. What happened shortly after the Israelites began their journey? What was God's response?
3. In Mark 8:34-35 Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it." What did Jesus mean by this?
4. What benefit is there, even now, for the person who "takes up their cross" and follows Jesus?

Answers:

1. More than a year (10:11). The whole purpose of the preparation is that Israel could be purified, God could be present and He could lead them to the Promised Land.
2. Shortly after departing the Israelites began to complain (11:1), "Now the people complained about their hardship in the hearing of the Lord, and when He heard them His anger was aroused." The first specific complaint had to do with only having manna to eat. They complained and indicated that life was better back in Egypt (11:4-9.) God then gave them so much that the Israelites became sick of it. He also brought a plague upon them (11:18-35).
3. If we truly want to follow Jesus and be saved, then we need die to self, we need to live sacrificially like Jesus lived.....Mark 10:43-45; 12:30-31; John 15:20; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 2:20. Taking up the cross was a sign of accepting a shameful slave's death in the eyes of the world. This is the only path to true spiritual life.
4. The fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-24), a life with great purpose, fellowship with other believers, and much more.

*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (James 4:3)*

**Feb. 20**

Num 12-13

Mark 9

1. Moses faced great challenges as the leader of the Israelites, but maybe none more so than when those close to him opposed him. Why did Aaron and Miriam oppose Moses? How did God see their opposition to Moses? What did God do to Miriam?
2. In chapter 13 we see that Moses sent out 12 men, one representing each tribe, to explore the Promised Land. What was their report on returning?
3. How did Jesus respond to the man who asked Him to heal his demon-possessed boy (Mark 9:14-29)? How did the man respond to Jesus' words? What application is there for us in this?

Answers:

1. Because he had married a Cushite wife (12:1). God so this opposition as opposing Himself (12:6-8). God gave Miriam leprosy (12:9-16).
2. The twelve reported that the Promised Land was flowing with milk and honey; that it was very rich. Ten of the twelve reported that it was too "difficult for them to enter into," Joshua and Caleb disagreed, and the people complained in fear (13:26-14).
3. Jesus said to the man, "Everything is possible for him who believes." The man immediately responded, "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief."

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Heb. 4:16)*

**Feb. 21**

Num 14-15

Mark 10

1. Joshua and Caleb's plea to the people was essentially don't fear their circumstances, but trust the Lord. How does this apply to our own lives (14:5-9)?
2. How did God punish the Israelites for their unfaithfulness and complaining regarding the Promised Land?
3. Did Jesus know full well what was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem? He shared this truth with His disciples. Did they understand what was going to happen?
4. In Mark 10:15 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." What did He mean by this?

Answers:

1. We too should not fear our circumstances but continue to look to the Lord and trust Him.
2. The nation of Israel will wander in the desert for 40 years and every person 20 years old or more will die there (14:26-35) except Joshua and Caleb.
3. Yes (10:32-34). No, the disciples did not understand why Jesus would be crucified. Only after Jesus rose and returned to them did they fully understand His death and resurrection.
4. We must receive the kingdom of God with the simplicity and trust of a child.

*...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:14)*

**Feb. 22**

Num 16-17

Mark 11

1. As we might imagine, after God determined that no one 20 years old or more would enter into the Promised Land, leaders (Levite) among the Israelites challenged Moses and Aaron's authority. What did God do to them?
2. What did God do to affirm that it was Aaron and the Levites that He gave the right to approach Him and serve Him in the tabernacle?
3. In Mark 11:12-14 we see Jesus cursing a fig tree that's without fruit. What's up with this?

Answers:

1. He destroyed them (16).
2. He had Moses take a staff with the name of the leader of each of the 12 tribes. The staffs were placed in the tabernacle and the one that sprouted would be the man God chose. Aaron's staff sprouted, budded, blossomed and produced almonds (17).
3. This text is sandwiched between Jesus' entering the temple and seeing what was going on there and His overturning of the money tables. He was angry with what was taking place at the temple, the place God was to be worshiped. Many of the Jews, particularly the religious leaders, were like the fig tree; they looked good on the outside but there was no fruit in their lives.

*Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. (Jer. 33:3)*

**Feb. 23**

Num 18-21

1. As the Levites were set apart to serve in the tabernacle, how did they provide for the material needs of their families?
2. We see in chapter 20 that again the Israelites are facing a problem and the people are grumbling. What's the problem this time? What did Moses and Aaron do in response to this grumbling? What can we learn from this?
3. We see in verse 20:8 that God gives specific instructions to Moses in order to provide water for the people. Does Moses follow these instructions? Why did Moses respond this way? What was Moses punishment for his disobedience to God?

Answers:

1. All the tithes (tithe means a tenth) given to the Lord by the other 11 tribes of the Israelites were given to the Levites (18:21).
2. No water (20:2). Moses and Aaron humbled themselves before God to seek His leading (20:6).
3. Moses only followed God's instructions partially. He tells the people, "Must we bring water out of the rock!" Moses also strikes the rock twice (20:9-11). Moses rebelled against God's command (20:24) may have possibly been out of frustration. Miriam had just died and he was likely in mourning over this when once again the people grumbled to him. God punishes Moses by not allowing him to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land nor would he himself enter it (20:12).

*...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)*

**Feb. 24**

Num 22-25

1. Balaam is a sinful man, as we see in the story of him and his donkey and as 2 Peter 2:13-16 confirms, but he was nevertheless a prophet that God used. Balaam speaks four different oracles or sayings. What is the fundamental message in all of these?
2. Why did God commend Phinehas, Aaron's grandson? What does this tell us about God and sin?

Answers:

1. That God was faithful and would fulfill His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that He would prosper Israel (23-24).
2. Because he attacked sinful rebellion within the Israelite community (25:6-12). God hates sin and when His people sin it is dishonoring to Him.

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)*

**Feb. 25**

Num 26-27

Mark 12

1. After 40 years in the desert, how many men, 20 years old or more were available to serve in Israel's army? How does this compare to the number when they left Egypt?
2. Who is assigned by God to take Moses' place as overseer of Israel?
3. In chapter 12 of Mark we see the religious leaders trying to trap Jesus and have Him arrested. What happened in their first two attempts? Having seen Jesus handle these tricky questions in an amazing way, a teacher of the law came and asked Jesus a very fundamental question, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" What was Jesus' response?

Answers:

1. 601,730 (26:51). 603,550 (Num. 1).
2. Joshua (27:18).
3. The religious leaders initially failed badly in their attempts to trap Jesus (12:13-27). To love God with all we have to and to love those around us as ourselves (12:30-31).

*But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matt. 5:44)*

**Feb. 26**

1. When will Jesus return? What did Jesus emphasize most concerning His second coming?

Num 28-29    Answers:

Mark 13

1. Jesus said, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (13:32). For His disciples to "be ready" (13:32-37).

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Eph. 6:18)*

**Feb. 27**

Num 30-31

1. We see in chapter 31 that Moses was instructed by God to "take vengeance on the Midianites." This vengeance include the killing of every man, every woman who had slept with a man, and every boy. Why did God call the Israelites to do this?

Answers:

1. In Numbers 25 we see the Midianites leading the Israelites away from God and causing them to bow down to other gods, thereby breaking the first commandment. The Israelite's failures were leading them away from God and being His holy people, set apart to be a sign to the world of His glory. Some things are more important than life itself.

*And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matt. 6:5-6)*

**Feb. 28**

Mark 14

1. Once Jesus was arrested, what did the disciples do?
2. In chapter 14 of Mark we see Jesus' arrest and then He's questioned by the Sanhedrin (70) and then the high priest. From what we've learned in the O.T so far, who is the high priest? What was the high priest's question to Jesus in 14:61? How did Jesus respond? How did the high priest and the rest of the Sanhedrin respond to Jesus?

Answers:

1. When Jesus was arrested the disciples fled (14:50).
2. The high priest was a Levi, a descendent of Aaron, who oversaw the temple and who was the only person who could enter into the Holy of Holies. He was the person most responsible for seeing that the nation of Israel worshiped the Lord. The high priest asked Jesus if He was the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One? To this Jesus responded, "I am" (14:62). The religious leaders considered Jesus' words blasphemy and they determined to kill Him (14:63-65).

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)*



- Mar 1**
- Num 32-33
- Mark 15
1. What did God instruct Moses to tell the Israelites just before they entered into the Promised Land?
  2. What are some of the sufferings Jesus experienced according to Mark 15:15-37?
  3. Why was Jesus willing to experience all of this suffering?
  4. In 15:18 Mark writes that the 'the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.' What's significant about this?

Answers:

1. See 33:50-56.
2. Jesus was flogged (v. 15), mocked (v. 16-18), struck on the head with a staff and spit upon (v. 19), Jesus walked through Jerusalem as a condemned criminal (v. 21-22), He was stripped and nailed to a cross to be crucified (v. 23), He was insulted by the people (v. 29-30), Jesus was also insulted by the religious leaders and by those crucified with Him (v. 31-32), and finally Jesus died (v. 37).
3. To save us from eternal damnation because of our sins against God (Rom. 6:23). This salvation comes through faith in Christ alone (Rom. 1:16-17).
4. The heavy, woven curtain was torn not from the bottom up, as would have been normal, but from the top down. The tearing of the curtain also signified that access to God was now available not to just the high priest, but to all who placed their faith in Christ.

*For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. (Ps. 51:1-2)*

- Mar 2**
- Num 34-36
- Deut 1
1. Why did the Lord have Moses establish "cities of refuge"?
  2. Do you know what the word "Deuteronomy" means?

Answers:

1. These refuge cities were established to provide a place for someone to go if they had accidentally killed another (35:9-13).
2. "Deuteronomy" is a Hebrew word that means "these are the words." It is the word that begins this book. The book of Deuteronomy is a reminder of the things God has done for His people and is an encouragement for them to live their lives faithfully to the Lord.

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Rom. 12:12)*

- Mar 3**
- Deut 2-5
1. In Deut. 3:23-25 we see Moses pleading with the Lord, asking God if he could go over and see the land God had promised. Was Moses given permission to go?
  2. What command did God give in 4:2 concerning His law?
  3. According to 4:33-34, what are some ways in which the nation of Israel was blessed by God like no other nation?

Answers:

1. No. He could only see the land from afar (3:26-27).
2. God commanded His people not to add to or subtract from His laws, but to keep them just as He had instructed them.
3. No other nation had heard the audible voice of God speaking out of fire and lived. No other nation was taken out of another nation like Israel was taken out of Egypt. God did this for Israel to show them that the Lord is God; besides Him there is no other (4:35).

*Pray without ceasing... (1 Thess. 5:17)*

- Mar 4**
- Deut 6-7
- Mark 16
1. How did Moses instruct the Israelites concerning God's commands? How would future generations learn of God's commands?
  2. In chapter 7 we see Moses instructing the people to destroy those whom they will defeat in the Promised Land. What reason is given for this harsh punishment?
  3. As the women were going to Jesus' tomb to anoint His body, what were they concerned about? Why didn't they need to be concerned about this?

Answers:

1. The current generation was to embrace God's commands and make them part of their own lives (6:1-3). Future generations would learn of God's commands as they saw them lived out by the generation before them and as they were taught them by their parents, grandparents, and by the people in general (6:4-9).
2. "For they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.....For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession" (7:4, 6). We must remember as well that it is through the nation of Israel that "all the nations will be blessed."
3. Who would roll the stone away from the tombs entrance (16:3)? The stone had already been rolled away and Jesus had risen (16:4-6).

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess. 5:18)*

**Mar 5**

Deut 8-9

Luke 1

1. In Deut. 8 we see another reason (in addition to punishment) why God made the Israelites wonder in the desert for 40 years. What was it? Why does God allow or bring challenges into our lives? Is hardship then sometimes a great blessing in our lives?
2. In Deut. 8:10-20 the Israelites are given a warning. What is it? Is there greater danger in our lives to become proud and to forget God when things are going really well and we have an abundance? Are we tempted to think that somehow by our own abilities or strength that we have what we have and we begin to forget God?
3. Was it because of Israel's righteousness that God was giving them the Promised Land?
4. Who is Zechariah? Zechariah's wife's name is Elizabeth. Who is she related to?
5. When the angel Gabriel appeared before Mary and told her what would happen to her how did Mary respond?

Answers:

1. God also made Israel wonder in the desert to humble them, to show them that God is God and they are not; to help them understand that it is God and His ways that truly brings life; to help their faith grow. God allows or brings challenges into our lives to discipline us like a loving Father; to humble us and to help us see more clearly and to respond more faithfully....for our good and for His glory.
2. The warning is not to forget the Lord, nor forget to follow His ways. It would likely be easier for the Israelites to trust in the Lord and follow His ways while they are in the desert where things come hard and where death is always near. But when there is plenty, human nature finds it more difficult to give God the glory. Consider the example of what often happens to people who suddenly gain an abundance through lotteries, etc. God wants to bless us and sometimes when He does we tend to forget Him. Abundance can lead to an attitude of self-sufficiency.
3. No. He makes very clear that it's not because of their righteousness. In fact, they are viewed as a "stiff-necked" people (9:6).
4. Zechariah is a Levite priest and the father of John the Baptist (1:1-25; 1:57-80). Elizabeth is related to Mary, the mother of Jesus (1:36).
5. Mary was afraid and confused but replied that she was a servant of the Lord and was willing to do whatever He asked (Luke 1:26-38).

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

**Mar 6**

Deut 10-11

Luke 2

1. In Deut. 10 Moses summarizes for the Israelites what God is commanding of them. What is it? Is God commanding any less of us today?
2. A census was being taken in the land which required Joseph & Mary to return to Bethlehem, the town of their ancestors. Why was it important for Jesus to be born there?
3. Who were the first ones to learn of Jesus' birth?
4. When Joseph & Mary brought Jesus to the temple to present Him to the Lord, who was there waiting on them? What did he have to say about Jesus?
5. In 2:41 we see that Jesus and His family went from Nazareth to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover. What happened when Jesus' family left to return home?

Answers:

1. "To fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good" (10:12-13).
2. To fulfill the prophesy of Mic. 5:2.
3. Shepherds (2:8-12).
4. Simeon (2:25). See 2:29-32.
5. They couldn't find Jesus. He had stayed behind and was in the temple engaging with the teachers of the law (2:41-52).

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (Matt. 7:7)*

**Mar 7**

Deut 12-13

Luke 3

1. According to chapter 13 of Deut., what is to happen to those who lead others away from worshiping God: prophets, peoples, or even whole towns?
2. Some people thought that maybe John the Baptist was the Messiah, the Christ. What did John have to say about this?

Answers:

1. They are to be destroyed. Idolatry not only affects worship of God, but it also undermined the very purpose for God choosing Israel, ultimately to bless the world through Jesus Christ our Savior. Paul's words in Gal. 1:8 carry a similar warning of promoting lies against God, "*But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!*"
2. See 3:16.

*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (James 1:6)*

**Mar 8**

Deut 14-15

Luke 4

1. How often were the Israelites to cancel all debts among themselves? What is the principle behind this practice?
2. We see in Luke 4:1-13 that Jesus is led into the desert where Satan tempts Him for 40 days. What is Satan trying to do to Jesus? Does he attempt to do the same to us? How did Jesus respond to Satan? What application is there for us in this?

Answers:

1. Every seven years (15:1). This was a blessing from God so that the Israelites would not become entrapped or enslaved by debt.
2. Satan is attempting to turn Jesus from the Father and cause Him to sin just as Satan did with Adam & Eve. Jesus faithfully responded with the truth of God's word.

*But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deut. 4:29)*

**Mar 9**

Deut 16-19

1. What was to happen to the Israelite who was found guilty of worshiping other gods? How many witnesses were required to convict a person of this? What were the witnesses required to do?
2. In Deut. 18:14-22 Moses speaks of God raising up another prophet from among the Israelites. Who was the final prophet who came from the nation of Israel?
3. At least two or three witnesses were required to convict a person of a crime (19:15). What was to happen to the person who gave false testimony?

Answers:

1. They were to be stoned (17:5). At least two witnesses were required to convict and sentence a person (17:6). The witnesses were to be the first ones to stone the condemned (17:7).
2. Peter and Stephen both quoted these verses in referring to Jesus as this final prophet (Acts 3:22-24, 7:37).
3. He is to receive the punishment for which was intended for the person whom he had falsely accused (19:18-19).

*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14)*

**Mar 10**

1. Why did the Israelites need not fear as they went to war with the nations around them?
2. What was the punishment for those convicted of adultery?

Deut 20-23

Answers:

1. "For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give your victory" (20:4).
2. Death (22:22).

*But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matt. 5:44)*

**Mar 11**

Deut 24-25

Luke 5

1. In Deut. 25:11-12 the command is given to cut off the hand of a woman who tries to defend her husband by seizing the private parts of another man. Why such a severe punishment for this act?
2. What does God think of those who act dishonestly?
3. Jesus is criticized by the religious leaders for eating and drinking with tax collectors and "sinners." He responds in 5:31 by saying, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." What did Jesus mean by this?
4. In 5:36-39 Jesus is talking about putting new patches on an old garment and putting new wine into old wine skins. What's his point in all of this?

Answers:

1. It is likely that this punishment is so severe because of the value placed upon a man and woman to bear children, especially a son so that a man's name could be carried on and so his property could be inherited (25:5-10).
2. He "detests" them (25:16).
3. All men are sinners and need a Savior; only some aren't humble enough to understand this.
4. Jesus brought a whole new way of thinking of God and His kingdom. To receive it a person must be willing to humble themselves and accept these new truths and not stubbornly hold on to old ways.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)*

**Mar 12**

Deut 26-27

Luke 6

1. In chapter 6 we are commanded by Jesus to do an amazing thing.....to love our enemies. We certainly need the power of the Holy Spirit to love those that hate us. While the Holy Spirit empowers us to love our enemies, what should motivate us to do this?
2. In 6:37 Jesus gives the command not to judge others. What does He mean by this?

Answers:

1. The way in which God has loved us who are "ungrateful and wicked" (6:35-36).
2. We are not to judge others in a hypocritical, condemning, or unloving way. We are to observe the lives of others. For those who do not know Christ we are to share the gospel, for those who know Christ but are not living according to His will we are to lovingly confront them so that they might repent.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)*

**Mar 13**

Deut 28-29

Luke 7

1. The Israelites were chosen by God to be His holy people. Generally speaking, what would happen to the Israelites if they remained holy to God, if they remained obedient to Him? What would happen to the Israelites if they became disobedient to God? What does this say about how God looks upon obedience towards Himself?
2. In 7:11-17 we see Jesus bring a man back from the dead. What other powers do we see Jesus demonstrate throughout the gospels? What does this say about who He is?
3. In the story found in Luke 7:36-50, besides Jesus, there are two main characters, a woman who had lived a sinful life (probably a prostitute) and Simon (a Pharisee). How is the woman and Simon similar? How are they different?

Answers:

1. They would be blessed (28:1-14). They would be cursed (28:15-68).
2. Jesus heals the sick, rebukes demons, controls the weather, and forgives sins. It gives further credibility and confirmation to His claim to be the Son of God.
3. They are both sinners in need of a Savior. The woman appears to have a better understanding of her sinfulness and is responding more appropriately to Jesus.

*Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.  
(Jer. 33:3)*

**Mar 14**

Deut 30-31

Luke 8

1. According to the first few verses of chapter 31, what encouragement did Moses give Joshua and the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land?
2. Did God know the Israelites would eventually turn from Him?
3. In chapter 8 we have the story of Jesus bringing a 12 year old girl back to life because of the faith of her parents. Consider for a moment the joy of the girl's parents and their thankfulness to Jesus. The Bible (Eph. 2:1-3) speaks of us being spiritually dead apart from faith in Christ. Do you have faith in Christ? Are you thankful for the new life you have in Christ?

Answers:

1. Moses said to them, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you, He will never leave you or forsake you" (31:6, 8). These truths apply to all who follow Christ.
2. Yes (31:16-18, song in 32:1-43).
- 3.

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. (1 Peter 3:12)*

**Mar 15**

Deut 32-33

Luke 9

1. How does Moses refer to the word of God in 32:47? Do you know God's word?
2. Genuine faith in Christ involves a certain response on our part. Considering Luke 9:23-26 and describe in your own words how Jesus wants you to respond to Him.

Answers:

1. That the word of God is not just a bunch of idle words but the very life of the Israelites. In 2 Tim. 3:16-17 Paul speaks of Scripture as being "God breathed," meaning the very words of God. He declares that it is God's word that brings man salvation and equips him for the work of God.
- 2.

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1:35)*

**Mar 16**

Deut 34  
Joshua 1-3

1. Deuteronomy ends with Moses' death. How would you describe Moses' life?
2. What amazing promise does God give Joshua according to Joshua 1:5?
3. What command does God give Joshua three times in verses 1:6-9?
4. How many spies does Joshua send in to check out the Promised Land? Who saved them from being captured? What did the two spies report back to Joshua?
5. What happened as the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land?

Answers:

- 1.
2. "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 or forsake you."
3. "To be strong and courageous." Joshua can be this because God will be with him wherever he goes (1:9).

4. Two (2:1). Remember, the first time 12 spies were sent in and only two gave a good report. Rahab saved the spies (2:2). This same Rahab will become a direct descendent of Jesus (Matt. 1:5). The spies reported back that, "The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands" (2:24).
5. The river stopped flowing even though it was at flood stage and the Israelites crossed over on dry ground (3:9-17).

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exalt you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Ps. 9:1-2)*

### Mar 17

Joshua 4-7

1. When did God stop sending manna for the Israelites?
2. As the Israelites came toward Jericho they came upon what they thought was a man with a sword. Joshua asked him, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" How did the man respond? What was meant by this response?
3. What was God's battle plan for the Israelites in taking the city of Jericho?
4. Why was Achan's sin punished so severely?

Answers:

1. The day after they ate of the land of Canaan (5:12).
2. See 5:14. Sovereign God was taking over. He would oppose all who opposed Him, non Israelite or Israelite.
3. See 6:1-27.
4. Because the success and health of the Israelite nation would depend on their obedience to God. All the Israelites were told that all the plunder of Jericho was to be dedicated to the Lord. Achan disobeyed this command and for the benefit of the entire nation it could not go unpunished (7:1-28).

*My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day...But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more. (Ps. 71:8, 14)*

### Mar 18

Joshua 8-9

Luke 10

1. How did the Gibeonites trick Israel? What was Israel's great mistake in the matter? Is this a mistake that we must also guard against?
2. In Luke 10:27 we see Jesus' response to the question of the greatest commandment. He essentially says love God with everything you have and love your neighbor as yourself. Who is our neighbor?
3. In 10:38-41 Jesus visits the home of Martha. What is Martha upset about? What does Jesus tell her? What is the point of this story?

Answer:

1. By saying they were from a country far from Canaan and making a treaty with Israel (9:3-15). The Israelites' mistake was that they did not inquire of the Lord as to what they should do with the Gibeonites (9:14).
2. Jesus illustrates the answer to this in verses 30-37. Our "neighbor" is anyone whose path we may cross and extend God's mercy to.
3. That her sister Mary was listening to Jesus rather than helping her. Jesus told Martha that Mary has chosen the better thing.

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Ps. 139:14)*

### Mar 19

Joshua 10-11

Luke 11

1. In response to Joshua's words, what miraculous thing do we see God doing in chapter 10?
2. We have Jesus words in 11:9: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." What did Jesus mean by this?
3. Why was Jesus so critical of the religious leaders of His day?

Answers:

1. He caused the sun to stand still for about a full day (Joshua 10:12-14).
2. He meant we should be persistent and bold in our prayers (5-8) because our Father wants good for us (11-13).
3. See 11:39-54.

*O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. (Isaiah 25:1)*

**Mar 20**

Joshua 12-13

Luke 12

1. In chapter 12 we see the names of 31 kings listed. What does this tell us about Israel's conquest of the Promised Land?
2. Why didn't the Levites receive a portion of the land like the rest of the tribes of Israel?
3. The faithful following of Jesus will lead to persecution in our life. Should this persecution cause us to fear man? Whom should we fear? Why?
4. According to 12:13-34, what are some fundamental truths regarding our possessions?
5. What does Jesus teach us about worrying?

Answers:

1. That it involved the conquest of 31 kings and their kingdoms. These battles lasted seven years.
2. The Lord and offerings to Him are their inheritance (13:14, 33).
3. No. We should fear God alone (12:4-7).
4. We should trust God for everything, even the most fundamental needs we have like food and clothing. We should be satisfied with all that He has given us. We should freely share with others. And if our pursuit for more is hindering us, if we are in a rat-race simply to gain more possessions, then we are fools.
5. That we are not to worry about even the most fundamental needs of our life like food and clothing. That worrying is of no benefit to our life. Rather than worrying we are to trust in the Lord and place our full hope in Him (12:22-34).

*Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in my, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Ps. 139:23)*

**Mar 21**

Joshua 14-15

Luke 13

1. Caleb and Joshua were the only two adult men who were in Egypt who were permitted by God to enter the Promised Land. How old is Caleb when the Promised Land is initially conquered by the Israelites? What is the condition of his health?
2. In chapter 13 Jesus says that unless a person "repents" they will perish. What does it mean to repent? According to 13:6-9 what will be evidence of genuine repentance in a person's life? Do you understand doing good doesn't earn a right standing before God?
3. How did Jesus respond to the question given Him in 13:23, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" What does it mean to "enter through the narrow door"?

Answers:

1. Caleb is 85 years old (14:10). He was as strong and vigorous as what he was at 40 years old when Moses initially sent him and the other spies into the Promised Land (14:11).
2. Repentance means to have a change of heart, turn from one's sins, change one's ways. Genuine repentance will be evident by fruit in a person's life, by doing good. We must never forget though that "goodness" doesn't save, only faith in Christ. Our turning from sin and turning to Christ will result in goodness which is the evidence of genuine faith.
3. See 13:24-27. We come to the Lord only through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no other way and that is why the "door" is narrow. In Matthew Jesus said of the narrow gate/road that "it leads to life, and only a few find it" (Matt. 7:14).

*And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matt. 6:12)*

**Mar 22**

1. What does Jesus mean by what He said in 14:26-27?

Joshua 16-17

Answers:

1. Christ must be first in our lives! See 14:33. Genuine faith or belief includes devotion. A genuine disciple of Christ must be prepared to deny himself completely, even to the point of death.

Luke 14

*Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! (Ps. 4:1)*

**Mar 23**

Joshua 18-21

1. After the Israelites had been in the Promised Land for some time there were still seven Israelite tribes who had not yet received their portion of the land. How did Joshua address this?
2. Which two individuals received a special inheritance in the Promised Land? Why?
3. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge?
4. In chapters 13-19 we see the allotment of land to the various tribes of Israel. What did this fulfill?

Answers:

1. He had three men appointed from each tribe to make a survey of the land. After this was complete he cast lots to determine what each of the seven tribes would receive (18:1-10).
2. Caleb (14:8-15) and Joshua (19:49-50).
3. They were cities set aside so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood (20:3).
4. God's covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to receive the Promised Land (21:43-45).

*Give us this day our daily bread. (Matt. 6:11)*

**Mar 24**

Joshua 22-24

1. What is Joshua's encouragement and warning to Israel found in chapter 23?
2. The Book of Joshua ends with Joshua's death. How would you describe Joshua's life? Does 24:15 reflect your conviction as it did Joshua's?

Judges 1

Answers:

1. He encourages them by reminding them of God's faithfulness to all of His promises and he warns them of what will happen if they are unfaithful (23:14-16).
2. A great leader who constantly pointed the people to God and His will. Joshua 24:15, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Ps. 19:14)*

**Mar 25**

Judges 2-3

Luke 15

1. We see in Judges that after Joshua died the Israelites only had partial success in driving out the nations before them. Why was this? How many generations after Joshua died did the Israelites begin to serve other gods?
2. After Joshua, judges were raised up by God to provide civil and military leadership to the Israelites, freeing them from their enemies and drawing them back to the Lord. Who was the first judge God raised up?
3. In 15:11-32 Jesus tells the story of a man and his two sons. Who does the wild son represent in this story? Who does the father represent? What did the wild son need to do to be warmly received back by his father?

Answers:

1. Because of their unfaithfulness to God (2:1-3). One (Judges 2:11).
2. Othniel, Caleb's nephew (3:9), became the first judge 31 years after the Israelites entered the Promised Land.
3. The wild son represents everyone of us. The father in the story represents our heavenly Father. The wild son needed to repent just as we need to repent (turn from sin and turn to the Lord) before our heavenly Father will receive us.

*When I'm afraid I put my trust in you. (Ps. 56:3)*



**Mar 26**

Judges 4-5

Luke 16

1. In Judges 4 we see a female judge. What is her name?
2. How does God view wealth when it becomes more important in our lives than Him?
3. Jesus tells the story of a rich man who ends up in Hades after he died. The rich man pleads with Abraham for two things. What are they?

Answers:

1. Deborah, also a prophetess, was the civil leader of Israel at this time (4:4).
2. As "detestable" (16:15).
3. He pleads for personal comfort (16:24) and for a warning to be sent to his brothers so that they don't also end up where he is (16:27-31).

*Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. (Ps. 5:8)*

**Mar 27**

Judges 6-7

Luke 17

1. Gideon was chosen by God to be a judge, a deliverer of His people. Was Gideon a willing leader? How did Gideon describe himself? What would be the difference in Gideon's life?
2. What sign did Gideon ask for?
3. In chapter 7 we see that Gideon is ready to attack the Midians. However, the Lord told Gideon he had a problem. What was it? What did the Lord do to reduce the number of fighting men? Why did God use such a small number of Israelites to defeat the Midianites?
4. At the beginning of chapter 17 Jesus gives a warning about causing others to sin. What is it? Rather than causing people to sin, what are followers of Christ suppose to do?

Answers:

1. No (6:12-16). Gideon believed his clan was weakest among the tribe of Manasseh and that he was least of his family (6:15). Gideon was all he needed to be before the Lord – humble. God would be with him (6:16).
2. Wool fleece on the threshing floor with and without dew on it (6:36-40).
3. The problem was that Gideon had too many men (7:2). The Lord reduced their numbers from 32,000 to 300 by sending home those who were fearful and by selecting those who lapped water into their hands and into their mouths (7:3-6). The Lord used such a small number to make sure Israel didn't boast that it was by her own strength that she was saved, but rather, that it was God alone who saved them (7:2, 7).
4. That it would be better to die a terrible death than to cause others to sin. See verses 17:3-4.

*Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matt. 9:38)*

**Mar 28**

Joshua 8-9

Luke 18

1. In chapter 9 of Judges we read of Abimelech. Who is he? What kind of man was he? How did he die?
2. What was Jesus' parable about the widow who persistently pleaded with the judge attempting to teach His disciples?
3. What was the same between the Pharisee and the tax collector in verses 18:9-14? What was different?

Answers:

1. Abimelech is the son of Gideon (8:31). He is a wicked man. He killed his brothers, tried to rule over the Israelites and did not humble himself before God (9:1-50). He died when a woman dropped a millstone on his head and then his armor bearer ran him through with a sword (9:50-55).
2. That they should always pray and not give up (18:1).
3. Both were the same in that they were sinners. The difference was that the Pharisee was blind to his sin and was proud of himself while the tax collector recognized his sinfulness and humbled himself before the Lord.

*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. (Gen. 1:31)*

**Mar 29**

Judges 10-11

Luke 19

1. What cycle do the Israelites seem to repeat throughout the Book of Judges?
2. In chapter 19 we have the story of Zacchaeus. What brought about salvation in Zacchaeus' life?
3. As Jesus road into Jerusalem on a donkey the people were shouting, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord." What did the people mean by this saying? How did the Pharisees respond to this? How did Jesus respond? What does this say about who Jesus saw Himself as?

Answers:

1. Rebellion against God, punishment, repentance/humility, and then God saves and blesses them.
2. Faith in Jesus. Zacchaeus called Jesus Lord and began to follow His ways. He showed repentance and joy (19:8).
3. That Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ. They asked Jesus to rebuke His disciples. Jesus said, "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out" (19:40). The Messiah.

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)***Mar 30**

Judges 12-15

1. What did the angel of the Lord tell Samson's mother concerning how Samson was to be raised from birth?
2. Describe Sampson's life.

Answers:

1. No razor was to be used on his head, because he was to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from birth (13:5).
2. At times Samson lived according to his own will, disregarding his calling as a Nazirite, someone set apart for the Lord. He defiled himself by scooping honey from a carcass (14:8), he drank wine at a feast (14:10), and fraternized with the Philistines instead of trying to save Israel from them (14:1-3). But all the time he was unwittingly fulfilling God's purpose (14:4). He was the Lord's chosen instrument for the deliverance of Israel, and nothing that he did could change that. Sampson's life is a good example of God's sovereignty and grace. He works all things together for the good of His people even if they aren't aware of it.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son. (John 3:16)***Mar 31**

Judges 16-19

1. What was the secret of Samson's great strength? How did the Philistines find out about this? How did Sampson regain his strength before he died?
2. In chapter 19 we see the Danites taken the images and idols of the family in which the Levite priest had lived and used them as part of their worship. What commandments of God were they breaking by doing this? Do you think God was pleased by the Danite's actions? What idols may we still be clinging to in our own life?

Answers:

1. No razor had ever been used on Samson's head (16:17). Delilah tricked Sampson (16:5-16). Samson prayed to the Lord (16:28).
2. The Danites were breaking the first and second commands: not to have other gods before God and not to make yourself an idol in the form of anything. God was certainly not pleased. Even though 300 years had passed since the Israelites had entered the Promised Land, they still had not eliminated its idolatry and evil practices.

*That whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

**Apr 1**Judges  
20-21

1. Recalling in our earlier studies God's desire for the Israelites to be a people holy unto Him, how are the Israelites doing according to Judges chapters 17-21?
2. The religious leaders tried to publicly discredit Jesus by tripping Him up. What was the result of this?

Luke 20

Answers:

1. Awful. Micah's idols reflect the attitude of the nation itself. The Danites take Micah's idols for themselves. There are wicked men in Gibeon wanting to have sex with the Levite visitor. The raping of his concubine. Israelites at war with the Benjamites. The people were all doing what was right in their own eyes.
2. Some thought He answered well, others were astonished. They became silent and no one dared to ask Him any more questions (20:26, 39).

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! (Ps. 100:4)*

**Apr 2**

Ruth 1-2

Luke 21

1. How was it that Naomi and Ruth ended up living together?
2. In Ruth 1:16-18 we see Ruth's commitment to Naomi. What example is in this for the Israelites? For us?
3. Why does Jesus commend the offering of the poor widow?
4. In chapter 21 Jesus speaks of the destruction of the temple. Does this actually happen?

Answers:

1. See 1:1-22.
2. To be fully committed to God and to one another.
3. Because her offering was a much greater sacrifice than the others (21:1-4). Her offering also likely reflected her faith in God.
4. In A.D. 70, about 40 years after Jesus' prophecy, the Romans besieged Jerusalem and completely destroyed the temple. The only remnant of the temple remaining today is a portion of the outer wall, referred to by many as the Wailing Wall.

*The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)*

**Apr 3**

Ruth 3-4

Luke 22

1. A kinsman-redeemer had the responsibility in a family or clan to defend or provide for any other who was needy or a victim of injustice. This included buying back land, buying the freedom of the one who sold themselves into slavery, avenging a murder, and providing an heir for a male relative that died. Boaz became the kinsman-redeemer for Naomi and Ruth. How is this similar to God's provision for us?
2. In our earlier studies we talked about who Boaz's mother was. Do you remember her name? Who becomes the great-grandson of Boaz and Ruth?
3. In Luke 22:36 Jesus tells His apostles to buy swords. Jesus says this only in a figurative sense, as we know throughout the rest of Scripture the way of Jesus is not the way of the sword but of love. What is the point Jesus is trying to make in this verse?
4. After the last supper Jesus and His followers went to the garden of Gethsemane. Two different times Jesus urged His disciples to pray for something specific. What was it? What might surprise us about this?

Answers:

1. We are sinners without hope apart from God's saving grace. The Father sent the Son to redeem us from our sins.
2. Boaz's mother was Rahab (Matt. 1:5), the prostitute who hid the Israelite spies in Jericho (Joshua 2:1). King David, from whom Jesus descends.
3. That great difficulties lay ahead for He and His followers; difficulties that would include great opposition and even death.
4. Jesus urged His disciples to pray that they would not fall into temptation (22:40, 46). The apostles would soon fail to trust. Peter would deny Jesus and the rest of the apostles would flee from Him. What might surprise us is that Jesus didn't ask His disciples to pray for Him as He went to the cross and took upon Himself the sins of the world.

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (Col. 4:2)*

**Apr 4**

1 Sam 1-2

Luke 23

1. What promise did Hannah, the mother of Samuel, make with God if He provided her with a son?
2. Of all the people who were near Jesus as He hung on the cross, who is the only one we know of that defended Him? What did Jesus promise him? How was that possible?

Answers:

1. Hannah promised that she would give the son back to the Lord all the days of his life and that no razor would ever be used on his head (1 Sam. 1:11). This was why Samuel ended up living with Eli the priest.
2. The one criminal (23:40-41). Jesus promised the criminal that "today you will be with me in paradise" (23:43). It was possible for the criminal to be with Jesus because of his faith in Him.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! (Ps. 100:4)*

**Apr 5**

1 Sam 3-4

Luke 24

1. How did the Lord first appear to Samuel?
2. What did the loss of the Ark of the Covenant represent for the nation of Israel?
3. In chapter 24 of Luke we see Jesus' encounter with two men who were heading to Emmaus. What was the demeanor of the two men as Jesus first encountered them? How did these two men describe Jesus? How did Jesus describe them?
4. The evening of Jesus' resurrection He appeared before the disciples. How did they respond to Him? At this point was Jesus simply a spirit being?

Answers:

1. See 1 Sam. 3.
2. That the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel (4:21-22).
3. The two men were discouraged and downcast (24:17). The men describe Jesus as a prophet, powerful in word and deed, hoping he would be the one to redeem Israel (24:19-21). Jesus described them as foolish (24:25).
4. When Jesus appeared before the disciples they were "startled..afraid, thinking they saw a ghost...doubted" (24:37-38). No, Jesus remained fully man and fully God.

*May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" (Ps. 70:4)*

**Apr 6**

1 Sam 5-8

1. The Ark of the Covenant ended up in the Philistine's hands, reflecting that the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel. Did the loss of the ark in any way affect God's power or His sovereignty? How was this demonstrated among the Philistines? How was the ark returned to Israel?
2. Why did Israel want a king to lead them? How did God look upon Israel's desire to have a king? Are there areas of your life in which you have a tendency to conform to the ways of the world rather than God's ways?
3. In 1 Samuel 8:10-18 Samuel explains to the people what it will cost them to have a king. What is their response to all of this? This should be a good reminder for us to only ask for God's will to be done in our lives.

Answers:

1. No. See chapter 5. How the ark was returned to Israel is shown in chapter 6.
2. Because the sons of Samuel didn't walk in his ways and because all the other nations around them had a king (8:5, 20). God looked upon this as a rejection of Him (8:7) and as an evil thing (12:17).
3. They refused to listen to Samuel and demanded a king so that they could be like all the other nations (10:19-20).

*But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deut. 4:29)*

**Apr 7**

1 Sam 9-12

1. Who was chosen as the first king of Israel? What was unique about him?
2. Was Saul initially enthusiastic about being king?
3. What was the one way Israel would be successful under a king?
4. How did God view Israel's request for a king?

Answers:

1. Saul (9:15-16). Saul was physically impressive, more than a head taller than anyone else (9:2).
2. No (See 10:20-23).
3. If both the king and the people fear the Lord and serve and obey Him (12:14-15).
4. God viewed Israel's request for a king as an evil thing, as sin against Him (12:17-19).

*The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call on him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)*

**Apr 8**

1 Sam 13-14

1. How old was Saul when he became king? How long did he reign?
2. In John 1:1 John refers to Jesus as the "Word." Why?
3. How was Jesus, born of a woman, able to make "all things"?

Answers:

John 1

1. Saul was 30 years old when he became king and he reigned 42 years (13:1).
2. "Word" was another expression for God. "Word" was an agent of creation [Ps. 33:6], the source of God's message to His people through the prophets [Hosea 1:2], and God's law [Ps. 119:11].
3. Jesus was able to do this because He was fully God, without beginning or end, and fully man.

*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.*

**Apr 9**

1 Sam 15-16

1. Why was Saul rejected as king?
2. The Lord sent Samuel to Jesse of Bethlehem to anoint the next king of Israel. Who did Samuel think would make a good king? Why? But what did the Lord have to say to Samuel?
3. Who was God's chosen man for Samuel to anoint as king?
4. The Jews demanded a miraculous sign from Jesus to prove His authority. What did Jesus say to them? The Jews thought Jesus was referring to the physical temple that had taken 46 years to build. What was Jesus referring to?

John 2

Answers:

1. Because he was disobedient to God (15:10, 26).
2. Samuel believed God would anoint Eliab as king because of his appearance and height (16:7a). The Lord said to Samuel, "The Lord does not look at things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
3. David (16:12-13).
4. Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days" (2:19). Jesus was referring to Himself and His resurrection that would occur three days after His own death.

*...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. (Eph. 6:18)*

**Apr 10**

1 Sam 17-18

1. Describe Goliath. What was the one thing David had that Goliath did not? Do you have any Goliath's in your life that you are trying to fight without the Lord?
2. What was the relationship like between Saul and David?
3. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus must happen to a person in order to see or enter the kingdom of God? What does this mean? Are you born again? Are those closes to you?
4. What attitude did John the Baptist have towards Jesus that we all should have?

John 3

Answers:

1. Goliath was over nine feet tall, wore armor that weighed 125 lbs., the point of his spear weighed 15 lbs. God (17:45-47).
2. Saul was jealous and afraid of David (chapter 18) and wanted to kill him (19:1).

3. They must be born again (3:3). Look how often "believed" is used in 3:15-21. "Belief" of the Bible includes the understanding that Jesus died on the cross for your sin and that you are trusting in Him for salvation. It also means that you have repented of your sinful lifestyle and have turned to Christ in obedience; you have committed to living your life for Him.
4. Joy and humility (3:29-30).

*But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matt. 5:44)*

#### **Apr 11**

1 Sam 19-20

John 4

1. What was the relationship like between Saul's son Jonathan and David.
2. In John chapter 4, as Jesus speaks to the woman at the well, He informs her that it's not the place of worship that really matters, but rather how a person worships. How is true worship to God given according to Jesus in 4:23? What does this mean?

Answers:

1. Jonathan and David were close to one another, they loved each other,
2. In spirit and in truth. True worship must have God as the object of worship and must be genuine, accomplished through the life, freedom, and power given by the Spirit and through understanding the truth of the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)*

#### **Apr 12**

1 Sam 21-22

John 5

1. What incident do we see in chapter 22 that demonstrates Saul's turning completely away from the Lord?
2. In 5:1-9 we have the account of Jesus healing the crippled man. What similarities, if any, do you have with the crippled man?

Answers:

1. He had 85 priests of the Lord killed along with the whole town of priests living in Nob (22:18-19).
2. We too are crippled in the sense we are sinners in need of a Savior. We are helpless to be saved from eternal damnation without the help of the Lord.

*...therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matt. 9:38)*

#### **Apr 13**

1 Sam 23-26

1. As Saul is in pursuit of David, trying to kill him, what covenant do David and Jonathan make? Do you believe God used Jonathan to be a great encouragement to David? Are you an encouragement to others?
2. As Saul was pursuing David to kill him, did David have an opportunity to kill Saul? Why didn't David kill Saul?
3. In chapter 26, after David had spared Saul's life a second time, what did David tell Saul that the Lord rewards every man for?

Answer:

1. That David will be king and Jonathan will be his second (23:17-18).
2. Yes, twice; once in the cave (24:3-4) and once as Saul slept among his men (26:9-11). David didn't kill Saul because Saul was made king by God (24:6-7).
3. "Righteousness and faithfulness" (26:23).

*Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. (Jer. 33:3)*

#### **Apr 14**

1 Sam 27-30

1. Who did Saul seek out to help him? Was there anything wrong with Saul doing this?
2. While David and his men were away, the Amalekites came and raided their village and took captive their families. What did David's men consider doing to David? Where did David find strength?
3. David and 600 of his men went to attack the Amalekites who had raided their town and had taken their wives, children, and possessions. 200 of David's men were unable to continue on because they were exhausted. After David and his 400 men were victorious, did all of them want to share with the other 200? Why not. What did David command?

Answers:

1. A medium (28:5-6). God had commanded the Israelites not to have anything to do with mediums (Lev. 19:31; Duet. 18:9-14).
2. Stoning him (30:6). David found strength in the Lord his God (30:6).
3. Some of the 400 said that because the two hundred didn't go out with them they would not share what they had recovered (30:22). But David replied that they must not do that because it was the Lord who had given them victory (30:23).

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. (1 Peter 3:12)*

**Apr 15**

1 Sam 31  
2 Sam 1

1. How did Saul die?
2. Jesus described Himself in 4:10 as "living water" and in 6:35 as "bread of life." What did Jesus mean by these?

Answers:

John 6

1. By the Philistine army (chapter 31).
2. Jesus offers everything a person truly needs – new life received through faith.

*Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. (Ps. 55:22)*

**Apr 16**

2 Sam 2-3

1. What tribe of the nation of Israel did David first become king over?
2. Did Jesus' own brothers believe He was the Messiah?
3. According to Jesus, what would flow from the person who believed in Him?

John 7

Answers:

1. Judah (2:4).
2. No (7:5).
3. "Streams of living water" (7:38), which was a reference to the Holy Spirit.

*If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. (Ps. 66:18)*

**Apr 17**

2 Sam 4-5

John 8

1. How old was David when he became king? How long did he reign?
2. In 8:31-47 we see the Israelites believing they were right with God because they were descendants of Abraham. They did not understand that it was only through faith in Jesus that they would be saved from their sins. What false hopes do people today trust in to be right with God and to be saved?
3. In 8:58-59 we see the Jews wanting to stone Jesus. Why?

Answers:

1. David was 30 years old when he became king over Judah. He was 37 when he became king over all of Israel. In all he reigned 40 years (5:4-5).
2. Good deeds, baptism, saying a sinner's prayer, sacraments, attending church, faith of their parents, etc. These are all good things but none of them can save a person. A person is saved by faith alone (Eph. 2:8-9).
3. When Jesus said to the Jews "before Abraham was born, I Am," He used for Himself the name "I am," the same name God had used in referring to Himself when He spoke to Moses (Ex. 3:14); Jesus was declaring that He was God.

*There they cry out, but he does not answer, because of the pride of evil men. Surely God does not hear an empty cry, nor does the Almighty regard it. (Job 35:12-13).*

**Apr 18**

2 Sam 6-7

John 9

1. David had defeated the Jebusites living in and around Jerusalem. He then made Jerusalem his home city. What happened as the Israelites were moving the Ark of the Covenant there? Why did this happen?
2. How is it possible for God's promise to David in 2 Sam. 7:12-16 to be fulfilled?
3. In chapter 9, why did Jesus' disciples think that the man was blind? And why did Jesus say he was blind? What did the Pharisees think of the man whom Jesus healed? Who were the ones truly blind in this situation?

Answers:

1. Uzzah was struck down by God when he had grabbed hold of the ark as it slipped (6:7). Uzzah died because both he and David had not followed the law God had given concerning the ark. Not only was no one to touch it, but according to Numbers 4:5-15 the ark was to be moved only by the Levites who were to carry it using the carrying poles. God's commands were disobeyed and there were consequences for it.
2. Through both the lives of the kings of Judah that will come after David and through the King (Jesus) who will come from the line of David.
3. Because of his own sin or that of his parents (9:1-2). Jesus said he was blind "so the work of God might be displayed in his life" (9:3). The Pharisees claimed the man was a disciple of Jesus (v. 28) and that he "was steeped in sin at birth" (v. 34). The Pharisees were blind spiritually (39-41).

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1:35)*

**Apr 19**

2 Sam 8-9

1. Who was Mephibosheth? How did David honor him?
2. In John 10:10 who does the "thief" represent? And what is the mission of the thief? What did Jesus come to bring?

John 10

Answers:

1. He is the son of Jonathan, David's good friend who had died (9:8). David honored him by giving him all that belonged to his grandfather Saul and his family and he ate at David's table every day (9:9-10).
2. Anyone who is presenting a path to God other than faith in Jesus Christ. The mission of the "thief" is to "steal and kill and destroy." Jesus came to bring life, and to the full.

*In those days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. (Luke 6:12).*

**Apr 20**

2 Sam 10-13

1. What sin did David commit that we see written of in 11:2-5? How was David's wickedness further magnified? What lessons are there for us in these verses?
2. Was David a good leader of Israel? Did he desire to be faithful to God? Was he without sin? What sins did David commit concerning the Bathsheba situation? Did God forgive David? Were there consequences for David's sin?

Answers:

1. David's adultery with Bathsheba. He attempted to have Bathsheba's husband come home and sleep with her so that he would think the child was his. When that didn't work David had Uriah sent to the front lines where the fighting was heaviest so that Uriah would die (11:6-18).
2. Yes, David was a good leader and desired to be faithful to God, but he certainly wasn't without sin. David committed covetousness, adultery, deception, and murder. He "despised the word of the Lord..." (12:9). God did forgive David (12:13) but there certainly were consequences for his sins including the death of his and Bathsheba's son (12:14) and turmoil within David's family (13:19).

*And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)*

**Apr 21**

2 Sam 14-17

1. Which of David's sons conspired to overthrow him as king?

Answers:

1. Absalom (15:10).

*For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Rom. 10:13)*

**Apr 22**

2 Sam 18-19

1. How did David's son Absalom die? How did David respond to Absalom's death? What was Joab's response to David?
2. How long had Lazarus been in the tomb before Jesus arrived? What was Jesus' purpose for raising Lazarus from the dead? What happened as a result of Lazarus being raised from the dead? Let this be a reminder to us that life, and even death, brings many opportunities for us to point to God so that others might come to trust in Jesus.

John 11



Answer:

1. As he was being pursued his head was caught in a tree (18:9) and then he was killed by David's men (18:14-15). David mourned his son, wishing that he had died instead of his son (18:33). Joab was very angry with David (19:5-7).
2. Four days (11:39). Jesus' purpose for raising Lazarus from the dead was "for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it" (v. 4) and so Jesus' disciples may believe (v. 15). Afterwards many people put their faith in Jesus (v. 45).

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

**Apr 23**

2 Sam 20-21

John 12

1. We see in 12:13 that the people of Jerusalem met Jesus with palm branches which were symbols of victory. In what way did Jesus' entry into Jerusalem represent "victory"?
2. We see John state that "many even among the leaders (Jewish) believed in Him (Jesus). But these leaders did not publically confess their faith in Jesus. Why? Do we also commit this failure?

Answer:

1. Through Jesus' death on the cross victory was won over sin and death.
2. They were afraid that the Pharisees would have them put out of the synagogue; "for they loved praise from men more than praise from God" (12:42-43).

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing to your name, O Most High. (Ps. 9:1-2)*

**Apr 24**

2 Sam 22-23

John 13

1. How does David describe the Lord in verses 22:2-3? Is the Lord these things in your life as well?
2. What does Jesus do to the apostles as they gather for the Passion meal? Why?
3. How are we to love one another?

Answers:

1. See 22:2-3.
2. Jesus washes their feet, providing them with an example to follow in serving each other and others (13:15).
3. We are to love one another as Jesus loved us (13:34).

*You who fear the Lord, praise him. (Ps. 22:23)*

**Apr 25**

2 Sam 24  
1 Kings 1

John 14

1. Why was David's counting of the fighting men a sin? What are we tempted to trust in rather than God?
2. Who does David declare the next king of Israel to be? Who was his mother?
3. In chapter 14 Philip asks Jesus a question, what is it? What was Jesus' response?
4. Who is the "Counselor" Jesus is referring to in chapter 14? According to Jesus, what role does the Holy Spirit play in a believer's life?

Answers:

1. He was trusting in numbers rather than God (24).
2. David declared that Solomon should follow him as king of Israel (1:32-34). Solomon's mother was Bathsheba (1:28-30).
3. "Lord, show us the Father..." (v. 8). Jesus responded with "if you have seen me you have seen the Father." Jesus is God in the flesh.
4. The Holy Spirit (14:26). The Holy Spirit teaches us and reminds us (14:26).

*O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. (Ps. 29:1-2)*

**Apr 26**

1 Kings 2-3

John 15

1. What was David's final charge or challenge to Solomon?
2. Through a dream God had spoke to Solomon saying, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." What did Solomon ask for? Was God pleased with Solomon's request? Did God give Solomon more than he asked for?
3. In chapter 15 of John we have Jesus' words, "If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." According to Jesus, how do we remain in Him?
4. According to 15:20, what can a genuine follower of Christ be certain of?

Answers:

1. Solomon was to "be strong, show yourself a man and trust in God" (2:2).
2. Solomon asked God for wisdom (3:9). God was very pleased with Solomon's request (3:10) and also gave him riches and honor (3:13).
3. By obeying His commands (15:10) which reflects our love for the Lord.
4. Persecution. John goes on to write, "a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God (16:2).

*I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together! (Ps. 34:1-3)*

**Apr 27**

1 Kings 4-7

1. How wise was Solomon?
2. How many men were used just to provide the materials for the temple?
3. How long did it take for Solomon and the Israelites to build the temple? Solomon built a physical temple built by human hands. Where is the temple located today?

Answers:

1. Solomon was wiser than any other man (4:31).
2. 30,000 for gathering the wood needed. 70,000 for transporting temple stones and another 80,000 for cutting them (5:13-15).
3. It took 7 years to build the temple (6:38). Every true believer is now the temple of God (2 Cor.6:16).

*For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! (Ps. 57:10-11)*

**Apr 28**

1 Kings 8-11

1. In what part of the temple was the ark kept? What did the ark contain?
2. As we discussed yesterday, those of us who have faith in God are God's temple. Now consider part of Solomon's prayer of dedication for the temple found in verse 8:27. How does it make you feel that even though the heavens cannot contain God, He lives in you if you believe in Jesus?
3. What brought Solomon down? What turned him from the Lord?
4. What were the consequences of Solomon's actions of turning away from God?

Answers:

1. In the Most Holy Place (8:6). The two stone tablets which Moses had placed in it (8:9).
- 2.
3. Wives (11:3), idolatry (11:7-8), all rooted in pride (11:2, 10).
4. His son would lose the kingdom of Israel, retaining only the tribe of Judah/Benjamin (11:34-36).

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. (Ps. 63:1)*

**Apr 29**

1 Kings 12-13

John 16

1. Jeroboam became king over the ten tribes of Israel. What is one of the first things he did after becoming king?
2. In chapter 13 of 1 Kings we see "a man of God" sent to Bethel to prophecy against Jeroboam and the altar he had built where he placed the golden calf. What did the man of God have to say? How did Jeroboam respond?

Answers:

1. He built two golden calves (12:28-31). Of the 20 kings that would rule over the northern tribes of Israel, none of them would be faithful to the Lord. There would also be 20 kings that would rule over Judah. Some of these would be faithful, while others would not.
2. See verses 2-3. This prophecy would be fulfilled 300 years later.

*Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. (Ps. 68:19)*

**Apr 30**

1 Kings 14-15

John 17

1. As Jeroboam is king over Israel and Rehoboam king over Judah, what is the spiritual state of all the Israelites at this time?
2. What is "eternal life" according to Jesus' words in chapter 17?
3. We see in chapter 17 that Jesus prays to the Father on behalf of the disciples of that time and all who would come after them. What are some of the things that He asks the Father?

Answers:

1. They are in rebellion against God (14:9, 22-24).
2. "...that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (v. 3).
3. Protection by the power of God's name (v. 11), protection from the evil one (v. 15), sanctify (set apart) them by the truth (v. 17), that believers would be one, completely unified (v. 21-23), to be with Jesus where He is and to see His glory (v. 24), that the love of the Father and Jesus be in us (v. 25-26).

*And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." (Mark 9:23)*

## May 1

1 Kings 16-17

1. Do you think the leaders of Israel and Judah had great influence over the Israelite people. Would each person still be responsible before God for the choices they made?
2. If the Jewish religious leaders had condemned Jesus, why did they need to take Him before the Roman governor Pilate (John 18)?

John 18

Answers:

1. Certainly, for good and/or for bad. Yes, just as each person today is responsible for their own choices. Leadership that leads people away from God must be resisted.
2. Under Roman law it was not lawful for anyone to be killed without the consent of Rome.

*And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. (Col. 1:9)*

## May 2

1 Kings 18-19

John 19

1. How did Elijah demonstrate before the people of Israel that the Lord God is real and Baal a false god?
2. The Lord told Elijah to go and stand on the mountain as He passed by. Then a powerful wind tore at the mountain and shattered rocks; then there was an earthquake; then fire came. But the Lord wasn't present in these. How did the Lord appear to Elijah?
3. The last words of Jesus while He was on the cross were: "It is finished" (19:30). What was finished?

Answers:

1. See chapter 18.
2. As a "gentle whisper" (19:12).
3. The purpose for which Jesus came was finished. He came to provide a way for man to be saved. Jesus took upon Himself our sins and the punishment for them so that those who believe in Him will be saved. Jesus' part was finished.

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. (Ps. 56:3)*

## May 3

1 Kings 20-21

John 20

1. What was the name of King Ahab's wife? What did she do so that Ahab could gain the vineyard of Naboth?
2. What is the first thing Jesus says to his disciples the first time He sees them after the resurrection? Why is this significant?
3. Thomas missed seeing Jesus the first time He appeared. What did Thomas say in response to the claim that Jesus was alive? Did Jesus give Thomas what he wanted? What did Jesus say would be better?

Answers:

1. Jezebel (21:5). She had him falsely accused and stoned (21:7-14).
2. Jesus said, "Peace be with you" (20:19). The peace that surpasses all understanding could be theirs, even if Jesus died on a cross, even if other Israelites may be after them, even with the difficult road that still lies ahead.
3. Thomas said he must see and touch Jesus to believe (20:25). Jesus did give Thomas what he wanted, but Jesus said it would be better to believe without seeing.

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! (Ps. 118:1)*

## May 4

1 Kings 22  
2 Kings 1-3

1. In chapter 1 of 2 Kings we see Ahaziah is king of Israel. He is so far from the Lord that he sends messengers to consult the false god Ekron about injuries he has sustained, wanting to know if he'll recover. What does God do in response to this? How does King Ahaziah respond to Elijah's message from God?
2. How was Elijah taken up to heaven? Who replaced Elijah as God's prophet?

Answers:

1. God sends Elijah with a message for Ahaziah (1:3-4). To this Ahaziah sends three different captains with 50 men each to bring Elijah in.
2. See 2:11-12. Elisha.

*Pray without ceasing. (1 Thess. 5:17)*

**May 5**

2 Kings 4-7

1. How did Elisha help the widow woman who had financial debts? What other miracles did God do through Elisha?
2. How did God supernaturally rescue Elisha from the Arameans?

Answers:

1. See 4:1-7. Through Elisha God restored life to the woman's son (4:8-37), kept other prophets from being poisoned by the stew (4:38-41), fed 100 people with a few loaves (4:42-44), healed the man of leprosy (5:1-27), and floated the ax head (6:1-7).
2. See 6:16-23.

*Give thanks in all circumstances..(1 Thess. 5:18)***May 6**

2 Kings 8-9

John 21

1. In chapter 9 of 2 Kings we are introduced to Jehu. Who is he? What did the prophet tell him? Did he succeed? Who else did he destroy? Was Jehu faithful throughout the time he was king?
2. Jesus asked Peter three times if "he loved Him." What was significant about this?
3. Jesus shares with Peter what kind of death he would face. What was it? What about "the disciple whom Jesus loved"?
4. John writes that Jesus did many other things that were not written down. How does John describe what it would be like if everything about Jesus had been written down?

Answers:

1. He is commander of Israel's army (9:5). See 9:6-10. He succeeded and also destroyed the ministers of Baal (10:18-29). Jehu was not faithful throughout his kingship (10:28-31).
2. Because Peter had denied Jesus three times.
3. Crucifixion. See 21:22-23.
4. He wrote that "the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written (21:25).

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse.. (1 John 1:9)***May 7**

2 Kings 10-11

Acts 1

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples they would receive after He went up into heaven? For what purpose?
2. Who was selected to take Judas' place? By what method?

Answer:

1. Jesus said they would receive "power through the Holy Spirit (1:8) for the purpose of being His "witnesses."
2. Matthias was selected by casting lots. We must remember that the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon the disciples.

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be open to you. (Matt. 7:7)***May 8**

2 Kings 12-13

Acts 2

1. The Holy Spirit came upon the first disciples at Pentecost, 50 days after Passover, the time Jesus was crucified. What were some unique things that happened to the first disciples as the Holy Spirit came upon them? Was this your experience when you placed your faith in Christ? How did the people respond to what happened to the disciples?
2. How is Peter different now than he was 50 days earlier? How do the people respond to Peter's challenge? What did Peter tell them? What does it mean to repent and be baptized?
3. How many people were added to the church on the Day of Pentecost?
4. What were the early disciples devoted to? Do you think God's desire for the church has changed in these last 2,000 years?

Answers:

1. They heard a sound like a blowing of a violent wind, saw tongues of fire that rested on them, and spoke in tongues (2:2-4). This was probably not your experience as this was something unique that happened the first time the Holy Spirit came upon believers. Some of the people who saw what had happened to the disciples were "amazed and perplexed" and wondered what it meant. Others thought they were drunk (2:12-13).
2. See chapter 2. The people were convicted by Peter's words and they wanted to know how to be saved (2:37). Peter shares with them that they must repent and be baptized (2:38). Repent means to turn from old way of life to following Christ. It involves an acknowledgement that a person is a sinner and they need the work of Christ to be saved. They have some recognition of God's gift and His sacrifice, rooted in love, and they respond with a radical love towards God. Baptism is an outward expression of an inward change of heart. Through baptism a person acknowledges God's work in their life and witnesses to the world they are a follower of Christ.
3. 3,000 (2:41).
4. They were devoted to the apostle's teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer (2:42). No.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made to the Lord. (Phil. 4:6)*

## May 9

2 Kings 14-15

Acts 3

1. We see in chapters 12-15 a transition from one king to the next, both in Judea and in the northern tribes of Israel. How would you describe the kings of Judea: Joash, Amaziah, Azariah, and Jotham? How would you describe the kings of Israel during this same time: Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Nemahem, Pekahiah, and Pekah?
2. In chapter 3 of Acts, Peter and John encounter a blind man. What happens?

Answers:

1. These kings of Judea were known for doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but they did not remove all of the idol worship from Judah. Like the rest of the kings of the northern tribes of Israel, these kings all did evil in the eyes of the Lord.
2. The blind man is healed, which provides an opportunity to point to God.

*May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! (Ps. 70:4)*

## May 10

2 Kings 16-17

Acts 4

1. Thinking back a number of weeks, God had shared with the Israelites that a king would not help them. Considering what we have read in 1 and 2 Kings, was God right? What finally happened to Israel in Samaria? Why did this happen?
2. Did the King of Assyria eventually return some people to Samaria? Did the people worship the Lord?
3. Because of the healing of the blind man, Peter and John were brought before the Sanhedrin for questioning. What astonished the Sanhedrin about Peter and John? What did the Sanhedrin order Peter and John to do? What was Peter and John's response?
4. It was the Sanhedrin that had condemned Jesus to death. What did the disciples pray for in response to the Sanhedrin's threats against them?
5. Were the early disciples committed to the mission of proclaiming the truth of Jesus Christ? Is that still the mission of Jesus' followers today?

Answers:

1. Absolutely. The Israelites of the northern kingdom were captured by the Assyrians and deported from Israel (17:6). This happened because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God (17:7).
2. Yes (17:24-25). Somewhat. The king sent a priest of Israel to teach them how to worship God, but they only listened in a partial way. This was why the Israelites of the N.T. despised the Samaritans.
3. They were unschooled, ordinary men who had been with Jesus (4:13). They ordered Peter and John not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus (4:18). Peter and John replied with "should we obey you or God?"
4. For more boldness in proclaiming the truth and that God would move in mighty and miraculous ways (4:29-30).
5. Yes. Very much so.

*The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call on Him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)*

## May 11

2 Kings 18-21

1. Which king was praised most for his obedience to God?
2. What did Hezekiah do when threatened by the great army of the Assyrians? What can we do when we are overwhelmed by the circumstances of our life?
3. Which king of Judah was the worst?

Answers:

1. Hezekiah (18:1-7).
2. He went to the Lord and sent for the prophet Isaiah (19:1-2). We too can go to the Lord in prayer and also look to His word, the Bible, for encouragement and guidance.
3. Manasseh, son of Hezekiah (21).

*And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.*

## May 12

2 Kings 22-25

1. Josiah, the grandson of Manasseh, ordered the temple to be restored. What was found during this time? What does this tell us about the spiritual state of Judah and Jerusalem? How did Josiah respond to this?
2. In chapter 23 of 2 Kings we see that Josiah renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord – to follow the Lord and keep His commands, regulations and degrees with all his heart and all his soul. Did Josiah hold up his end of the commitment by helping Israel be obedient to God again?
3. Judah had turned back to God, however, God allowed them to be defeated by the Babylonians. Why?
4. Nebuchadnezzar eventually laid siege to Jerusalem two times. What happened the first time? The second time?

Answers:

1. The Book of the Law (22:8). Things were so bad spiritually that the Jews did not even know Scriptures existed (22:10). When Josiah learned of God's word he tore his robes (22:11).
2. Yes. See chapter 23:23-25.
3. "To remove them from His presence for the sins of Manasseh...." (24:3).
4. For the first time see 24:13-14. The second siege lasted 18 mo., no food, people tried to escape, they were captured/killed, Nebuchadnezzar set fire to the temple and every other important building, broke down the walls, carried the people into exile (25:1-21).

*But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matt. 5:44)*

## May 13

1 Chron 1-2

Acts 5

1. What happened to Ananias and Sapphira? What impact did this have on the church and upon those outside who were observing the church?
2. In response to all the commotion that the disciples were causing, what did the Sanhedrin want to do to them? What did they do to them? How did the disciples respond to this? Are we boldly proclaiming Christ in our lives and do we rejoice when we are persecuted for it?

Answers:

1. They sold property, lied about it, and were killed (5:1-11). The impact was fear, purification, and attraction (5:11).
2. The Sanhedrin wanted to put them to death (5:33). Instead they had them flogged (5:40). The disciples responded by "rejoicing for being counted worthy to suffer disgrace for the Name" and then just kept right on preaching Christ (5:41-42).

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Col. 3:17)*

## May 14

1 Chron 3-4

Acts 6

1. While genealogies may not be exciting to everyone, the record in the first three chapters of 1 Chronicles is a great review of some of the key men of the O.T. Do you understand the connection between Noah and Abraham, and then from Abraham to Isaac and Jacob (Israel)? Do you understand how the 12 tribes of Israel came about? Do you understand how Israel's son Judah was the ancestor of King David? All this is found at the beginning of 1 Chronicles.
2. According to Acts 6:5 and 6:8, what are some characteristics that the Bible gives us for Stephen?

Answers:

- 1.
2. Stephen was "full of faith and the Holy Spirit," and "full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people."

*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)*

## May 15

1 Chron 5-6

Acts 7

1. Why did Joseph receive the rights of being Israel's (Jacob's) firstborn?
2. Stephen is on trial before the religious leaders of Israel (Sanhedrin), being accused of blasphemy against Moses and against God. When asked to respond to these charges what does Stephen do?
3. How did the Israelites respond to Stephen's words? Who is singled out as being involved in this stoning? What can we learn from Stephen's example?

Answer:

1. Because Israel's physical firstborn, Reuben, defiled his father's marriage bed and his rights as firstborn were taken from him (5:1).
2. Stephen gives a history lesson of Israel in which the people constantly resisted God and those God sent. He then tells those persecuting him that they are doing the same by resisting and betraying and murdering the Righteous One....Jesus Christ (Acts 7).
3. The Israelites stoned Stephen (7:54-60). Saul (Paul) is singled out (7:58). Stephen's example, as well as Jesus', teaches us that true discipleship can be costly, but for those who are faithful a great reward lies ahead.

*Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. (Jer. 33:3)*

## May 16

1 Chron 7-8

Acts 8

1. What happened to the other disciples of Jesus after Stephen's stoning? What blessing was found in this?

Answers:

1. The other disciples were also persecuted and scattered (8:1). The blessing was that the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, went forward (8:4).

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers. (1 Peter 3:12)*

## May 17

1 Chron 9-10

Acts 9

1. We learned earlier that after the Israelites left Egypt the Lord commanded Moses to take a census of the tribes. He was to count each man who was 20 years old or more who was able to serve in the army. The number of men from Judah was 76,500. How many people from the tribe of Judah returned from captivity in Babylon?
2. What is Saul's (Paul) mission according to the beginning of Acts 9? What happens to him as he approaches Damascus? Does this get Saul's attention? What mission does God have for Paul?

Answer:

1. 690 (9:6). Israel's unfaithfulness led to their own devastation, but God remained faithful to them.
2. Saul was intent on destroying followers of Christ and then he has an encounter with the Lord. This does get Saul's attention and he immediately becomes a disciple of Jesus (9:18). God's mission for Paul is given in 9:15-16.

*Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be moved. (Ps. 55:22)*



**May 18**

1. Why is Jerusalem also known as the city of David?

1 Chron  
11-14

Answer:

1. David and his men attacked and defeated Jebus, which then became David's home (11:4-7).

*If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. (Ps. 66:18)*

**May 19**

1 Chron  
15-18

1. In chapter 15 we see that David finally brings the ark to Jerusalem. This is the second time he attempts to do this. What was one thing he did differently from the first attempt with regard to the handling of the ark? How did David lead the ark into Jerusalem?
2. Why did Michal "despise" her husband David for dancing and celebrating as the ark entered Jerusalem (15:29)?
3. Who fulfilled God's promise to David found in 17:11-14?

Answers:

1. Only the Levites were to carry the ark (15:2). David led the ark into Jerusalem with rejoicing, dancing, singing, music, and celebrating (15:25, 27-29).
2. It appears she believed that King David's actions were undignified. As the ark was entering Jerusalem and much of the nation of Israel was rejoicing, Michal could only think of David's actions and the embarrassment they were causing her. This says a great deal about her own spiritual condition. As her father Saul wandered from the Lord, it appears that his daughter had done likewise.
3. Jesus.

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all your wonderful deeds. (Ps. 9:1)*

**May 20**

1 Chron  
19-20

1. In chapter 10 we see that Peter has a dream. What is this dream about? What does it mean? Who is Cornelius? What happens when Peter arrives at Cornelius' home?

Answers:

1. God was about to bring Gentiles into His kingdom. Cornelius is a centurion in the Roman army who loved God (10:1-2). When Peter arrived at Cornelius' home and began to share, the Holy Spirit came upon him and those with him (10:44-48).

*Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. Ps. 29:2)*

**May 21**

1 Chron  
21-22

Acts 11

1. What foolish thing do we see in chapter 21 that David does? What did this result in?
2. Was it David's desire to build a temple for the Lord? Did God permit David to do this? Why not?
3. What were some things David did, however, to prepare for the building of the temple?
4. How did the Israelite Christians back in Jerusalem respond to Peter concerning what happened with Cornelius and his household? Does their view of things change after Peter explains what happened?

Answers:

1. He took a census of Israel (21:1-2, 8). This demonstrated a lack of trust in God. 70,000 men died from a plague (21:14).
2. Yes, David desired to build a temple for the Lord, but God did not permit him because he had shed much blood (22:8).
3. David provided 3,750 tons of gold and 37,500 tons of silver along with bronze, iron, wood, stone, and craftsmen beyond number (22:14-16).
4. They were critical of Peter because he "went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them," (11:3) something that was against Israel's man-made laws. Yes (11:18).

*My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. (Ps. 63:8)*

## May 22

1 Chron  
23-24

Acts 12

1. How many Levites were to be assigned to supervise the building of the temple?
2. What does all of this say about the building of the temple? As we've talked about in past weeks, we are now the temple of the Lord. This includes individual Christians but the Bible emphasizes even more, Christians collectively, the church. What principles can we learn from the building of the temple and apply to the church?
3. In chapter 12 we see persecution against Christians being directed at the apostles themselves. First with the death of James and then with the imprisonment of Peter. What happens when Peter is taken as a prisoner? What is the church doing during this time? How do they react to their prayers being answered?

Answers:

1. 24,000 (23:4).
2. Israel was committed to building the best temple they could. They were giving God their best.
3. See 12:1-19. During this time the church is praying. Surprised.

*Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. (Ps. 68:19)*

## May 23

1 Chron  
25-26

Acts 13

1. As Paul and Barnabas and those with them began to travel about sharing the good news of Jesus what happened? Is this any different today?

Answers:

1. Some believed and some rejected (13).

*O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things... (Isa. 25:1)*

## May 24

1 Chron  
27-28

Acts 14

1. How many men were there in each of the 12 divisions of the Israelite army?
2. When Paul healed the man who had been crippled from birth, how did the people respond? How did Paul and Barnabas respond to this? What happened after some Jews turned the crowd? What applications are in this section for us?

Answers:

1. 24,000 (27:1)
2. The people called Paul and Barnabas gods and wanted to offer sacrifices to them (14:11-13). See 14:14-18. The people then stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city. We also should give the glory to God and always be prepared for persecution, even when things seem to be going well.

*Search me, Oh God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way of everlasting! (Ps. 139:23-24)*

## May 25

1 Chron 29  
2 Chron 1-3

1. David died at the age of 70. How many years was he king?
2. According to Solomon, would the temple truly be God's dwelling place?
3. Approximately how many workers were assigned to build the temple?

Answers:

1. 40 – 7 in Hebron and 33 in Jerusalem (29:26).
2. No, as Solomon declared, "the heavens, even the highest heavens cannot contain Him" (2:5-6).
3. 153,600 (2:17-18).

*Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. (2 Thess. 3:16)*

## May 26

2 Chron 4-7

1. After the temple is dedicated to the Lord, we see the Lord appearing to Solomon. What, in general, does He tell Solomon?

Answers:

1. As the people sin, if they truly humble themselves before God and seek His forgiveness, they will be forgiven. Also, if Solomon is faithful he will be blessed, but if Solomon is unfaithful Israel will be punished (7:12-22).

*Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. (Ps. 5:8)*

**May 27**

2 Chron 8-9

Acts 15

1. Was the Queen of Sheba impressed with Solomon?
2. At the beginning of chapter 15 we see the leaders of the church gathered together to discuss an issue that had arisen. What was it? What did the church leaders decide?
3. As Paul and Barnabas prepared to go on another missionary journey they had a sharp disagreement that led to their going separate ways. What was the argument over? Who was right and who was wrong in this argument? Will Christians ever disagree over things? What's key in the disagreement?

Answers:

1. Very impressed (9:5-6).
2. The issue was whether or not gentile believers needed to follow the Law of Moses. In other words, they were deciding if Gentiles had to become Jews before they could become Christians. The church decided not to burden them with what they themselves had not been able to bear (15:10-11).
3. They argued over taking John Mark along with them (15:37). We really don't know who was right or wrong. Until Christ returns Christians will disagree over things but the key is that as long as it's not a disagreement over a major issue like the Trinity or that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, Christians must remain unified even when they disagree on something. They can agree to disagree over secondary issues and move on.

*Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. (Ps. 25:5)*

**May 28**

2 Chron 10-11

Acts 16

1. Who succeeded Solomon as King of Israel? What critical event happened under his leadership? Which tribes made up the southern kingdom?
2. In chapter 16 we have the story of Paul and Silas being stripped and severely beaten and then thrown into prison. What did they do after that? Did their response affect others in the prison?

Answers:

1. His son Rehoboam (9:31). The nation of Israel divided into the northern and southern kingdoms. The southern kingdom, often referred to as Judah, was made up of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin (11:3).
2. Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns. Their response certainly affected others. The jailer came to ask how he could be saved.

*When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you. (Ps. 56:3)*

**May 29**

2 Chron 12-13

Acts 17

1. Why did things not go very well for King Rehoboam and the southern kingdom? What happened when they again humbled themselves before the Lord?
2. In chapter 17 the Bereans were commended for two things. What were they? Are you also eager for the word and do you examine Scriptures to make sure what you are hearing is true?

Answers:

1. Because they had abandoned the law of the Lord (12:1). He delivered them from their enemies (12:7).
2. They were commended because they "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true," (v. 11).

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Ps. 19:14)*

**May 30**

2 Chron  
14-15

1. What good things did King Asa do for the southern kingdom of Judah (2 Chron. 14)?
2. Acts 18:18 speaks of Paul having his hair cut off because of a vow he had taken. What was this likely associated with?

Answers:

Acts 18

1. Asa got rid of the idols and commanded the people to seek the Lord and to obey His laws and commands.
2. A Nazirite vow. See Numbers 6:1-21.

*Give us this day our daily bread... (Matt. 6:11)*

**May 31**

2 Chron  
16-17

1. What did the seer Hanani tell King Asa God would do for those who were fully committed to Him?
2. How long did Paul stay in Ephesus, preaching and teaching the word of God?

Answers:

Acts 19

1. He said, "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him" (16:9).
2. Two years (19:9-10).

*Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. (Ps. 68:19)*

## June 1

2 Chron  
18-21

1. In 2 Chronicles 19:1-2 we see that Jehoshaphat king of Judah is rebuked by Jehu the seer or prophet. Why?
2. In chapter 20 a vast army is advancing towards Judah to make war against them. What is Jehoshaphat's response when he is told of the advancing army? What was God's response to them? As we face battles in our own life, do you believe God wants us to fully trust Him and not be afraid or discouraged?

Answers:

1. Because Jehoshaphat had aligned himself and all of Judah with Israel as they fought the Arameans. At that time Israel was considered "wicked" and "those who hate the Lord."
2. Jehoshaphat ordered a fast in all of Judah to inquire of the Lord (20:3) and went before the Lord in prayer, fully trusting Him (20:6-12). God told them "don't be afraid or discouraged because of the vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's" (20:15).

*...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matt. 6:12)*

## June 2

2 Chron  
22-25

1. As we have already seen, sometimes man thinks he's got things figured out pretty well and goes ahead in doing something without inquiring of the Lord. We see this again in chapter 25 as King Amaziah of Judah hires 100,000 Israelite soldiers to go to battle with him. What does the man of God say to king Amaziah? Do you have anything in your life that God would have you send away?

Answers:

1. The man of God told the king not to go into battle with the Israelites because God is not with them. The man of God said to the king, "Send them away" (25:7-10).

*There is none holy like the Lord; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. (1 Sam. 2:2)*

## June 3

2 Chron  
26-27

Acts 20

1. In chapter 26 we learn of King Uzziah. Did he start out well? Did he end well? Why not?
2. What happened to the young man named Eutychus? What day of the week had the church gathered together?
3. In chapter 20 Paul informs the Ephesian elders that he has received warning from the Holy Spirit. What was it? Should Paul have stopped his ministry to avoid these things? How does Paul respond to this warning? Although Paul had received this warning from the Holy Spirit, did he know everything about the future, even his own?
4. What was Paul's warning to the elders at the church of Ephesus?
5. What consistently happened everywhere Paul went?

Answers:

1. King Uzziah did start well, but he did not end that way. After he had become powerful he became proud and thought his way was better than God's (26:16-20).
2. He fell asleep as Paul spoke and then fell out of a third story window. Paul revived him (20:7-12). The church gathered on the first day, Sunday (20:7). This is first time in N.T. we see the church meeting on Sunday rather than Saturday, the Sabbath.
3. Paul's warning was "that prison and hardship are facing him" (v. 23). Paul should never have avoided this unless it was God's will. Paul responded that his life wasn't worth anything to himself; he only wanted to finish the work the Lord had given him (v. 24). Paul did not know what his future held (20:22).
4. Paul's warning to the Ephesian elders was to "keep watch....be shepherds....savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them" (20:28-30).
5. He shared the gospel and some believed and some became angry and persecuted Paul.

*To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:11)*

**June 4**

1. What is one of the first things King Hezekiah did after he became king?

2 Chron  
28-29

Answers:

1. King Hezekiah purified the temple (29:3-5, 15).

Acts 21

*“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

**June 5**

1. In chapters 29-32 we read of Hezekiah. What happens under his leadership?
2. We saw the warning given by the Holy Spirit to Paul, that prison and hardship await him. Is this Paul's experience as enters Jerusalem? What form of hardship does Paul experience according to chapter 22 of Acts?

2 Chron  
30-31

Acts 22

Answers:

1. Hezekiah purifies the temple, he also reinstitutes the Passover celebration, puts the Levites back in their rightful place of leading the people in worshiping God, trusts in God as the Assyrians attack.
2. Yes. The crowd wanted to kill Paul (22:22) and he was arrested by the Romans (22:23). We also see in chapter 23 that Paul was persecuted before the Sanhedrin (23:1-2), a plot is formed to kill him (23:12-22), and finally Paul is taken away from Jerusalem (23:23-35).

*“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”  
(John 1:12)*

**June 6**

1. How did Hezekiah encourage the people as the Assyrians prepared to attack them? Is that your attitude when you face battles in this life?
2. How low did things sink for Judah under King Manasseh and his son Amon?

2 Chron  
32-33

Answers:

Acts 23

1. Hezekiah told the people, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discourage because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles” (32:7-8).
2. They turned away from God in a great many ways (33:6), although later in life Manasseh humbled himself before God (33:12-13). By the time King Josiah came along the people of Judah were not even aware the Book of the Law existed (34:18).

*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)*

**June 7**

1. Much of Chronicles has been a repeat of what was covered earlier in the Bible. The Bible itself says all Scripture is God breathed (inspired by God). Why do you believe God wanted this repeated?
2. Governor Felix kept Paul under guard while his case was being considered. How long was Paul retained?

2 Chron  
34-35

Acts 24

Answers:

1. We often need to hear things over and over again in order to learn from them.
2. Paul was retained more than two years (24:7).

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! (Ps. 118:1)*

**June 8**

1. How did God eventually punish Judah for its unfaithfulness?
2. In chapter 1, verse 1 of Ezra, it starts out with these words, “In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia....” Judah was taken prisoner by the Babylonians, now we are talking about the Persians and King Cyrus, what happened?
3. Consider the sovereignty of God displayed in the first chapter of Ezra. God had moved the Babylonians to attack and defeat Judah. Now, He moves a pagan king (Cyrus) to not only let His people go, fulfilling the prophecy of Jeremiah that the Jews would remain in captivity 70 years, but to also encourage and equip them to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the temple.
4. How many Jews returned to Judah initially?

2 Chron 36  
Ezra 1-3

Answers:

1. Judah was defeated and taken into captivity by the Babylonians (36:15-20).
2. The Persians defeated the Babylonians.
- 3.
4. 42,360 returned to Judah initially (2:64).

*Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.  
(Psalm 5:8)*

## June 9

1. Was the Israelites' transition back to Jerusalem an easy one?
2. What does Ezra 6:1-12 and 7:11-26 say about the sovereignty of God?

Ezra 4-7

Answers:

1. No. The people around Jerusalem resented that the Jews were again building the temple and went to great lengths in preventing them from doing so (chapter 4). Also, some of the Jews had married foreign women.
2. As God was sovereign in overthrowing the Jews and having them led into captivity, He too was sovereign in returning them to Jerusalem and working through three pagan kings (Cyrus, Darius, Artaxerxes) in bringing about His will.

*Note: Approximately 80 years after the initial group (Ezra 1-2) of Jews returned to Judah, Ezra and a second group come back to Jerusalem (7:1-10). Then, approximately 13 years later Nehemiah comes to Jerusalem with a third group of Jews.*

*Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. (Psalm 27:11)*

## June 10

1. Governor Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, who also tried Paul. What eventually freed Paul from his captivity in Caesarea?

Ezra 8-9

Answers:

Acts 25

1. Paul's appeal to Caesar (25:12). Paul would remain a prisoner but would be sent to Rome for trial.

*For God so love the world that He gave His one and only Son. (John 3:16)*

## June 11

1. What radical step did the people of Judah take in response to their sin of intermarrying with foreigners?
2. In Neh. 1:11 Nehemiah asks the Lord for success in his request of King Artaxerxes. What was included in Nehemiah's prayer prior to this request? Are your prayers characterized by this as well?
3. How would you describe what Paul shared with King Agrippa in chapter 26? Does our approach of witnessing to others need to be any different?
4. As we have seen in these chapters of Acts, Paul faced a great deal of persecution for his faith. Did this persecution seem to discourage him? Do you understand that persecution is part of being a follower of Christ and are you prepared for it?

Ezra 10

Neh 1

Acts 26

Answer:

1. They sent the foreign wives and their children away (10:3).
2. Prior to asking for God's help, Nehemiah praised and thanked God and repented of his sin and asked for the forgiveness of Israel's sin (1:5-10).
3. Paul simply shared what Christ had done in his life, what Christ had called him to do, and tied the truths of Jesus back to Scripture.
4. No, Paul seemed to expect it and it seemed only to push him on further. He knew it was part of being a follower of Christ (Matt. 5:10-12; 1 Peter 2:21).

*"...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts..." (Eph. 3:16-17)*

**June 12**

Neh 2-3

Acts 27

1. What does Nehemiah hope to do when he goes to Jerusalem?
2. As we continue with the last parts of Acts we see details of Paul's trip to Rome. How would you describe that trip? What happens to the boat Paul is traveling on? How many total people were on the boat? How many died at sea?

Answers:

1. Rebuild the outer walls and replace the burned out gates (2:3-5).
2. The boat is destroyed. There are 276 on board (27:36) and none die.

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)*

**June 13**

Neh 4-5

Acts 28

1. Chapter 4 begins with, "When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed." Who is Sanballat?
2. Why was Sanballat angry that the Jews were rebuilding the city walls?
3. In addition to Paul's time at Caesarea, how long was he held captive?

Answers:

1. He was governor of Samaria. Samaria was home to those who were formerly Israelites who intermarried with other nations. They continued to practice the commands of God, but mixing it together with practices of foreign gods. They were looked upon by the Jews as impure. There was great indifference between the Samaritans and Jews that would only grow over time. In Jesus day the Jews and Samaritans hated each other. (The woman Jesus spoke to at the well was a Samaritan).
2. (1) Jews refused the help of the Samaritans when Ezra first returned and rebuilt the temple. (2) It threatened Sanballat's authority. More and more Jews were returning and there was likely a great concern that the Jews would eventually rule over the Samaritans.
3. More than 4 years (24:27; 28:30) plus the time it took to travel from Caesarea to Rome.

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, (Galatians 1:3-4)*

**June 14**

Neh 6-7

Rom 1

1. What did the Samaritans do to try and prevent the Jews from building the wall?
2. How long did it take to complete the wall? How was that possible?
3. As you look at the first 17 verses of chapter one of Romans, what is Paul focused on? What is the literal meaning of the word "gospel"?
4. How is a person saved according to Rom. 1:16-17? What does "faith" mean?
5. Read 1:18-32. Who are the "they"?

Answers:

1. Planned to attack them (4:15); threatened them with the lie that they were building the wall in order to revolt against the King of Persia (6:5-7); encouraging Nehemiah to hide in the temple to save his life (6:10-13).
2. It took 52 days to complete the wall (6:15). It was only possible "With the help of God...." (6:16).
3. The gospel, which is mentioned six times in these verses. Gospel means "good news."
4. By "faith" and faith alone. Genuine faith includes believing that Jesus died on the cross taking upon Himself your sin; it includes repentance, a turning away from sin and a turning to Christ in obedience.
5. "They" are everyone, as Paul makes clear as he continues in chapter 2.

*...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matthew 6:12)*

**June 15**

Neh 8-11

1. After the Israelites had returned to Judah and had settled into the land, what did they do according to chapter 8? What happened on the 8<sup>th</sup> day?

Answers:

1. They held a feast that lasted seven days (v. 18). On the 8<sup>th</sup> day the people gathered together and confessed their sins (9:2), read from the Book of the Law and worshiped the Lord (9:3), praised the Lord (9:5-37), renewed their covenant with God (9:38).

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. (Psalm 51:1)*



## June 16

Neh 12-13  
Esther 1-2

1. The Book of Esther begins with King Xerxes holding a big bash celebrating "the wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty." He displays his vast wealth for 6 months and then holds a week-long celebration. Everything seems to go very well until what happens? What does the king do in response to this?
2. What were the qualifications required of the woman who would become the new queen? How would she be selected as queen? Esther won favor of all those she encountered, including the king, and she became queen.

Note: The Bible doesn't always go in chronological order. The setting for the Book of Esther lies between the first and second groups of Israelites returning to Jerusalem, approximately 25 years before Ezra led the second group back and 28 years before Nehemiah led the third group back. At the time of Esther, Xerxes is king of Persia.

Answers:

1. Queen Vashti refuses to come to the king as he has commanded (1:12). Because of this, Vashti is never again to enter into the king's presence and her position of queen is given to someone else (1:1-20).
2. The qualifications for the new queen were that she be beautiful, young, and a virgin (2:2). The queen would be selected as Xerxes pleased (2:4).

*Isaiah 25:1 O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.*

## June 17

Esther 3-4

Rom 2

1. In chapter 3 we see King Xerxes places a man named Haman in the place of highest honor. Haman does not like Mordecai. Why not? What did Haman decide to do?
2. What does Mordecai then do? Was Esther eager to help? Did that stop Mordecai from urging her to go to the king anyway?
3. In Romans 2:28-29 Paul speaks of a certain kind of circumcision that is important. What is it? Has your heart been circumcised?

Answer:

1. Because Mordecai refuses to bow down to him (3:2). Haman persuaded the king to issue an edict to have the Jews destroyed (3:12-14).
2. He went before the Lord (4:1) and before Queen Esther to get her to help. She was not eager to help because she feared for her life, to go into the king without being summoned could result in her death (4:11). That did not stop Mordecai (4:13-14).
3. Circumcision of the heart, an inward change that takes place, by the Spirit, through faith in Jesus Christ.

*I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. (Psalm 145:1-3)*

## June 18

Esther 5-6

Rom 3

1. How many "good people" are there according to Paul? So if no one can do the right thing, then why did God give us the law, things like the 10 commandments?
2. So if we cannot be right with God through obeying the law, through being good enough, how do we become right before God?

Answers:

1. No one (3:11-12). The Law was given to show us that we are sinners in need of a Savior, (3:20).
2. Through faith in Christ (3:22, 28). Genuine faith includes trusting in Him for salvation as He died on the cross, taking upon Himself our sins and the punishment for them, and through repenting, turning from sin and turning to Christ and following Him.

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:14)*

**June 19**

Esther 7-8

Rom 4

1. What happens to Mordecai and Haman? What biblical principle or truth is fulfilled through both Mordecai and Haman?
2. Did King Xerxes repeal the first command that would have allowed the Jews to be destroyed?
3. In Romans 4, Paul speaks of Abraham, considered to be the greatest descendent of the Israelites. According to Paul, what made Abraham "right" before God? Is there anything other than faith that can save us? Is there anything that needs to be added to faith in Christ to save us?

Answers:

1. Mordecai is honored (6:1-10) and Haman is hanged (7). The biblical principle or truth fulfilled through this is from Matthew 23:12, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."
2. No, he could not (8:8). But he did allow Esther and Mordecai to come up with new orders that allowed the Jews to defend themselves and to attack those who would attack them (8:9-17).
3. His faith/belief (4:3); not circumcision, as many Israelites believed. Abraham was credited with righteousness before he was circumcised, so his righteousness was not through the law. We can only be saved through faith and nothing can be added to it. Genuine faith will bring about a changed life and will lead to acts of righteousness, but acts of righteousness cannot save a person. They mean nothing without faith (4:4-5).

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble. (Psalm 107:1-2)*

**June 20**

Esther 9-10

Rom 5

1. At the beginning of chapter 5 Paul speaks of us rejoicing in the hope that we now have through faith in Christ. He goes on to mention something else we should rejoice in. What is it (see v. 3)? Why?
2. How does Paul describe us in 5:10 prior to faith in Christ? What did God do for us who were His enemies?

Answers:

1. Suffering. Because it produces change in us. Genuine faith lived out will result in persecution but will bring with it growth in spiritual maturity and drawing nearer to the Lord.
2. As God's enemies. God the Father sent His Son to die for us while we were still His enemies (5:8).

*Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. (Psalm 100:3)*

**June 21**

Job 1-2

Rom 6

1. What kind of man is Job?
2. In chapter 1 there is recorded a discussion that takes place between God and Satan. What is essentially said concerning Job? God permits Satan to attack the things Job possesses. What does Satan do? Does this cause Job to curse God?
3. What did God allow Satan to do next to Job? How did Job's wife respond? How did Job respond?
4. In Romans 6:15-23 Paul writes that we were once slaves to sin. Sin was our master. As we place our faith in Christ, what do we become slaves to?

Answers:

1. Job is "blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil" (1:1).
2. Satan says that Job only fears God because God has put a hedge around him and has blessed him abundantly; if this was taken away, Job would curse God (1:9-10). Satan causes Job to lose his possessions and children (1:13-19). No, Job continues to praise God (1:21).
3. Cover his body with painful sores (2:7). Job's wife tells him to "curse God and die" (2:9), but Job remained faithful to God (2:10).
4. Righteousness.

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! 9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! (Psalm 96:8-9)*

**June 22**

Job 3-6

1. Three friends visit Job, hoping to comfort and encourage him. What does Job proclaim after his friends had been with him a week?
2. What does the first friend of Job suggest when he speaks?

Answers:

1. Job cursed the day he was born (3:1) and he wished he would die (3:20-22).
2. He is suggesting that Job is guilty of something (4:7), that he is acting foolish (5:1-3), that if he was in Job's shoes he would go to God (5:8), and that God is disciplining Job (5:17).

*I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. 3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! (Psalm 34:1-3)*

**June 23**

Job 7-10

1. How does Job respond to his friends?
2. Does the second friend that speaks bring Job any comfort?
3. Job's response in chapter 9 is essentially, "No one is perfectly righteous before God (9:1-3), no one measures up to God's greatness, even to go before Him. What does Job suggest in 9:32-35?

Answers:

1. He essentially tells them they don't know what they are talking about and they are no help. Job is telling them that he is innocent before God [6] and he doesn't know why God is doing these things to him (7:21-22).
2. No. He continues to suggest that Job is being foolish, that Job's children died because of their sin (8:4), and that Job is guilty before God (8:20).
3. The need for an arbitrator or mediator, which is what Jesus will be.

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

**June 24**

Job 11-12

Rom 7

1. In chapter 7 of Romans Paul describes what it's like to try and live in such a way that at person can gain a right standing before God through obedience to the law; following the commands of God. How does Paul describe the person that strives for this? What is the only thing that can save him?

Answers:

1. He/she desires to do what is right, but cannot. Paul describes this spiritual battle raging inside of himself. He describes himself as a "wretched man" and the only thing that can save him is Jesus Christ (7:24-25; 8:1).

*Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; 2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. (Isaiah 59:1-2)*

**June 25**

Job 13-14

Rom 8

1. According to 13:3, what does Job desire?
2. Through faith in Christ we go from being enemies of God to what?
3. In 8:31 Paul writes, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Do you believe God wants the very best for you and me? How do we know this? If God wants the best for us, how do we know what that is?

Answers:

1. To speak to God and argue his case before Him.
2. To being His children and heirs to His kingdom (8:17).
3. We know God wants the best for us because He sent Jesus to die for us (8:32). We need to trust God to reveal it to us through His word and through the Holy Spirit.

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)*

**June 26**

Job 15-16

Rom 9

1. What are some of the things that Job's friends continue to suggest about Job?
2. What does Job's sentiment towards his friends continue to be?
3. According to chapter 9, how do we obtain a righteousness before God? What did we do to earn this righteousness?
4. In 9:33 Paul quotes Isa. 28:16. What does this mean?

Answers:

1. They continue to suggest he's a sinner and fool (15:1-6); that all men are sinful and wicked ones are punished (15:14-26).
2. Job's sentiment towards his friends continues to be "miserable comforters are you all!" (16:1).
3. Through faith (v. 30). We did nothing to earn this righteousness. It was a gift from God (v. 16).
4. That God provided a way to be made right before Him by sending His Son; that if a person believes in Him they will be saved. But many stumbled and fell over Jesus trying to maintain a faith that comes by works.

*Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. (Ps 55:22)*

**June 27**

Job 17-18

Rom 10

Answers:

1. The gospel, the word of Christ (10:17).

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)*

**June 28**

Job 19-20

Rom 11

Answers:

1. Those closes to him have been alienated from him, his servants do not respond to him, his relationship with his wife is not good, he's scorned by little boys, those closes to him detest him and have turned against him.
2. As a branch that has been grafted into a fruitful tree.

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Eph. 6:18)*

**June 29**

Job 21-24

1. Much of the response of Job's friends is based on the assumption that good people are blessed by God and bad ones are punished. Does Job believe that bad things can happen to good people and good things to bad?
2. What does Job continue to believe about his situation according to 23:1-12.

Answers:

1. Yes (21).
2. That if he could just make his case before God he would be found innocent.

*....therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matthew 9:38)*

**June 30**

Job 25-28

1. What does Job's sentiment toward God continue to be?
2. Ever since Job was afflicted and his friends showed up we seem to have this debate among them, one thinking he is smarter or wiser than the other, with none of them being fully right in their thinking. In 28:12, 20 Job repeats the same questions, "But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell?" What answer did Job give for this?

Answer:

1. That God has denied Job justice and has made him taste bitterness of soul (27:1-2).
2. Complete wisdom lies with God alone (28:23) and man is only wise when he completely humbles himself before God and follows His way (28:28).

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)*

## July 1

1. At the beginning of Romans chapter 12, what does Paul urge the believer to do?
2. How is the follower of Christ to overcome the evil harm of another person?

Job  
29-30

Answers:

Rom 12

1. To offer themselves as a living sacrifice. In the O.T. sacrifices were offered up to God; they were killed and then burned for such things as atoning for a person's sin. Christ has become the atoning sacrifice for our sins and, therefore, animal sacrifices are no longer needed. Instead, we are to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice for God's glory.
2. Overcoming evil with good (v. 12:21).

*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5:44)*

## July 2

1. If Job is guilty of something, what might it be? Are we tempted to also be self-focused when things don't go as we would like?
2. Does the word of God say we are to submit to governing authorities? Who are the governing authorities? What does it mean to submit to them? How far should that submission extend?

Job  
31-32

Rom 13

Answers:

1. Pride, self-righteousness, self-centeredness. In chapters 29-31 Job, immediately after declaring, "The fear of the Lord – that is wisdom," Job uses the words "I," "me," and "my" 134 times. While Job seems to have lived a morally good life, it is never our own righteous that saves us. We are only saved by God's grace.
2. Yes (13:1). Governing authorities include everyone who has been placed in some kind of position over us. To submit to them means to do what they tell us to do with a godly attitude. This submission should extend to everything that does not go against God's word/will for us.

*...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)*

## July 3

1. The first three friends of Job that spoke argued that God is just and that Job's suffering proves he has sinned and God is punishing him for it. Job's response is that he has not sinned and, therefore, is being treated unjustly by God. Is Job right?
2. In chapter 14 Paul exhorts believers to stop passing judgments on each other over disputable matters, like eating or abstaining from meat sacrificed to idols or considering one day of the week more sacred than another. What are some "disputable matters" that Christians today may be tempted to pass judgment on each other?

Job  
33-34

Rom 14

Answers:

1. No. Job was wrong to accuse God of injustice [34:1-37] and Job should not have complained but called to God (35:1-16).
- 2.

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Rom. 12:12)*

## July 4

1. How are we to respond in situations where we may have differing views concerning disputable matters?
2. Paul was hoping to visit Rome on his way to where? Did Paul ever make it to Spain?

Job  
35-36

Rom 15

Answers:

1. See 15:1-2. This response is necessary to maintain unity (15:5).
2. Spain (15:23). There is no record of Paul ever reaching Spain. Tradition has it that Paul was beheaded in Rome approximately A.D. 67. The Book of Romans was written approximately 10 years earlier.

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess. 5:18)*

## July 5

Job  
37-38

1. Elihu (chapters 32-37) comes along and essentially says Job and the first three friends are all wrong. He argues that suffering is discipline from God for sins that may have been committed or as a warning against sins that may be committed. Does Elihu say many good and right things? Is he completely right in what he is saying?

Rom 16

Answers:

1. While Elihu shares many good and true things, he is not completely right in the things he says. He also does not fully understand God and what is happening with Job.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleans us form all unrighteousness.  
(1 John 1:9)*

## July 6

Job  
39-42

1. Did you find it interesting that God answered Job "out of the storm"? They say words account for a small percentage of our communication; that tone and body language account for the majority of our communication. What approach does God take with Job to address Job's inaccurate thinking and wrong attitude (chapters 38-41)?
2. What answers does God give to Job?
3. How does Job respond to God at the beginning of chapter 40? How does he respond to Him at the beginning of 42? What is the lesson in all of this for us?

Answers:

1. He asks Job about 60 questions to demonstrate to Job that he knows little about God's physical creation. If Job is limited in his understanding of creation, how much more limited is he in his understanding of the way God thinks or of His character?
2. None. Job and his friends thought they had God all figured out. God comes along and ask Job a series of questions to help him realize how little he truly understands. There is a natural order to things. There is God and there is God's creation – including man. God used Job's ignorance of nature to help him understand his overall ignorance of things.
3. Job basically said to the Lord, "I'm unworthy and I'm going to now shut my mouth" (40:3-5). In great humility (see 42:2-6). There is God and we are not Him! We must always be humble before Him.

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened for you. (Matt. 7:7)*

## July 7

Psalms 1-4

1. In Psalm 1, who is the blessed man? What is the blessed man like?
2. In Psalm 2, who is David referring to when he uses the words "Anointed One," "King," "Son"? How can we be certain of this?

Answers:

1. The one who does not do evil but loves the Lord by following His ways (1:1-2). Like a tree planted by streams of water that is fruitful and prospers (1:3).
2. Christ Jesus. We can be certain of this because the N.T. authors use Ps. 2 to refer to Jesus. See Acts 4:25-26; 13:33; Heb. 1:5-6; 5:5; Rev. 2:26-27; 12:5; 19:15.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Phil. 4:6)*

## July 8

Psalms 5-6

1 Cor 1

1. The first issue or problem Paul addresses in 1 Corinthians is divisions within the church. What was causing these divisions?
2. According to Paul, what is the message of the cross to people? What is their response to it?

Answers:

1. Cliques or camps arising based on who their favorite minister was (1:10-12).
2. To those who are perishing it is foolishness, it is a stumbling block to the Jew and foolishness to the Gentile (1:18, 23), but to for those who have genuine faith in Christ it is the power of God and wisdom of God (1:24).

*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (James 1:6)*

- July 9**
- Psalm 7-8      1. In Psalm 8 David begins and ends with, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic (honorable) is your name in all the earth!" What is in between?
- 1 Cor 2      2. In chapter 2:9 Paul quotes from Isaiah (6:4). What is Paul trying to communicate through this quote?
3. What do we receive through faith in Christ that turns our thinking from foolishness to wise?

Answers:

1. Reasons God is worthy to be praised.
2. That a person cannot begin to fathom how their life will be different through faith in Christ, different in this world and different for eternity with God.
3. The Holy Spirit (2:13-15).

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51:17)*

- July 10**
- Psalm 9-10      1. What are some general things that today's Psalms remind us of concerning God?
2. Can we get to heaven or become right before God by our works or good deeds? Does our works or good deeds matter?

1 Cor 3      Answers:

1. That He is a righteous judge (9:4), He reigns forever (9:7), He's a refuge for the oppressed (9:9), He is King forever and ever (10:16).
2. No! (See Eph. 2:8-9). Yes, our good deeds matter because they validate our faith and by them we will receive reward (3:14).

*The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)*

- July 11**
- Psalm 11-12      1. According to what Paul wrote in chapter 4, what is the fundamental problem in the Corinthian church?

Answers:

1. Spiritual pride (4:18).

1 Cor 4

*And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. (1John 5:14)*

- July 12**
- Psalm 13-14      1. Are many of these Psalms of David written while he is going through good times or difficult ones? Do these challenges seem to draw him nearer to the Lord?
2. What is the person called who doesn't believe in God?
3. What specific problem is mentioned in chapter 5? What does Paul tell the church to do with this man? Why does Paul tell the church to do this?
- 1 Cor 5      4. According to Paul, are we to judge people?

Answers:

1. In many of the Psalms it appears David is going through great challenges in His life. Yes. He knows God has blessed him and been faithful to him and he continues to trust in Him (Ps. 13:5-6).
2. A fool (Ps. 14:1).
3. A man is having an affair with his step-mother and the church isn't doing anything about it. To "hand this man over to Satan" (5:5), in order to cleanse the church and to help bring the man to a point where hopefully he will again humble himself before God.
4. Yes, those inside the church, but not those outside (5:9-13).

*Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. (Eph. 6:18)*

## July 13

Psalm 15-18

1. Consider the words of Psalm 15 and how they can guide your life.
2. In Psalm 16:11 David states that God has made known something to him. What is it?
3. What does God mean to David according to Ps. 18:1-2? Is God these things to you as well?

Answers:

- 1.
2. "the path of life." Consider this with regards to John 10:10 *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*
3. God is David's Lord, strength, rock, fortress, deliverer, refuge, shield, horn of salvation, and stronghold.

*But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matt. 5:44)*

## July 14

Psalm 19-22

1. Some people may think the word of God is confining or stuffy, but what words does David use to describe it in 19:7-10?
2. Did David face challenges in his life? What did he consistently do in response to these challenges?

Answers:

1. David writes, "The law of the Lord is perfect, the statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, the precepts of the Lord are right, the commands of the Lord are radiant, the fear of the Lord is pure, the ordinances of the Lord are sure....they are more precious than gold...they are sweeter than honey."
2. It appears that David faced many great challenges in his life. He called upon the Lord (Ps. 22:6-11).

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Col. 3:17)*

## July 15

Psalm 23-24

1 Cor 6

1. Ps. 23 is probably the most quoted psalm. Why is this? Who is our great Shepherd?
2. According to Ps. 24:1, what on this earth belongs to God?
3. According to Paul, what should two brothers in Christ do if they have a dispute between them? What would it be better to do than go on disputing with another brother in Christ?

Answers:

1. It's simple and it focuses on God's loving care for His sheep. Just like sheep, we too are very dependent upon our shepherd. Jesus (1 Peter 2:25).
2. Everything and everyone.
3. Appoint some in the church to settle it (6:4). It would be better to be wronged or cheated (6:7).

*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)*

## July 16

Psalm 25-26

1 Cor 7

1. According to God's word, if a spouse dies is the other spouse free to remarry? Are there any restrictions to who he/she can remarry?

Answers:

1. Yes. Yes, a believer can only marry another believer (7:39 and 2 Cor. 6:14).

*Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (Matt. 9:38)*

## July 17

Psalm 27-28

1 Cor 8

1. According to Ps. 27, when trouble came to David's life where did he turn? Why?
2. In the first verse of chapter 8, what does Paul say about knowledge and love? What is Paul trying to address in this statement?
3. According to what Paul wrote in chapter 8, can a person eat meat sacrificed to idols? Why would it be sinful for one person to eat meat sacrificed to an idol and not another person? What might be some applications for us today?



Answers:

1. To the Lord because the Lord was his light and salvation and his stronghold (v. 1) and it was the Lord who would keep him safe (v. 5).
2. "Knowledge puffs up, and love builds up." The Corinthians thought that knowledge alone positioned them right before God. Paul is attempting to correct their thinking by emphasizing agape love, self-sacrificial service towards others.
3. It is permissible, but only if it does not cause another brother or sister in Christ to sin. The knowledge here is that it is permissible to eat meat sacrificed to idols since it is just meat and nothing more, but love here is not eating the meat if it is going to cause another brother or sister in Christ to stumble. See also Rom. 14:23.

*Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. (Jer. 33:3)*

## July 18

Psalms 29-30

1. Why do you think Paul defends himself as an apostle in chapter 9?
2. In 9:24 Paul urges his readers to "Run in such a way as to get the prize." What does that mean for us?

Answers:

1 Cor 9

1. It appears some were questioning his standing as an apostle, possibly because he didn't exercise his rights as an apostle. If they questioned his standing as an apostle they would also question his authority, which Paul was most concerned about.
2. Be faithful. Be disciplined in how we live just as an athlete is disciplined in what he eats and how he exercises. Paul provides specific examples of this in 10:6-13.

*If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:14)*

## July 19

Psalms 31-32

1. As you consider Ps. 32:1-2, do you realize how blessed you are if you have faith in Christ? How is it possible that our sins are forgiven and covered?
2. What bottom line rule of thumb does Paul give us when we find ourselves in situations where we are not sure how to respond?

1 Cor 10

Answers:

1. Jesus made it all possible on the cross. When we have faith in Christ we are not only forgiven, but covered in Jesus' righteousness (Phil. 3:8-9).
2. "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (10:31).

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. (1 Peter 3:12)*

## July 20

Psalms 33-36

1. In Ps. 33 the author talks about things man trusts in (v. 16-17). Can we place our trust in possessions? Wealth? Health? Position? Nations/Government?
2. Read Ps. 36:5-9 and consider the character and goodness of the Lord and the impact these truths have upon your own life.

Answers:

1. We absolutely can, but ultimately we must place our trust in God and God alone!
- 2.

*Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be moved. (Ps. 55:22)*

## July 21

Psalms 37-40

1. In Psalm 37 David writes, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." What does it mean to "delight yourself in the Lord"? Sometimes people will just focus on the last part of this verse, "the Lord....will give you the desires of your heart." What will be the desires of our heart apart from the Lord? What will be the desires of our heart as we are "delighting" ourselves in the Lord?
2. How does the psalmist describe the length of life in Ps. 39:4-6? Do agree with this? How should this impact the way in which we live now?

Answers:

1. Take in the Lord fully, know Him personally, know His ways, and follow them. Apart from the Lord our desires will be selfish, self-centered things. If we are delighting ourselves in the Lord our desires will be the things of the Lord....trusting in Him and His will.
2. As "fleeting," "a mere handbreadth," "but a breath" (the width of a hand), "a phantom." Our hope and trust should be in the Lord and we should live to glorify Him.

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)*

## July 22

Psalm 41-  
42

1 Cor 11

- 1 The Psalmist begins Ps. 42 with the image of a thirsty deer drinking up water. This is to reflect his longing for God. Does this reflect your attitude towards God? Is there anything in your life at this time that is hindering you from seeking God more fully?
- 2 What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper (or communion)? What warning does Paul give regarding this?

Answers:

- 1.
2. To remember Christ and His sacrificial death (11:23-26). Participating in an unworthy manner (11:27-32). The Lord's Supper is given so that we can remember what the Lord has done for us. An "unworthy manner" is primarily participating without remembering Christ and His work on the cross for us.

*You asked and did not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (James 4:3)*

## July 23

Psalm 43-  
44

1 Cor 12

1. What is a spiritual gift? What are some examples listed in Scripture? Why does God give us spiritual gifts for?

Answers:

1. Spiritual gifts are some kind of special ability given to us through the Holy Spirit. Examples of spiritual gifts include acts of mercy, administration, apostleship, discernment, encouragement, evangelism, faith, giving, healing, helps, leadership, prophecy, service, speaking in tongues/interpreting, teaching, wisdom, working miracles, and many more. These are given for the good of the church (12:7), and for building it up (14:26).

*Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! (Ps. 106:1)*

## July 24

Psalm 45-  
46

1 Cor 13

- 1 When we face difficulties in this life we can become anxious which often leads to restlessness and an urging to do something, anything to try and fix the difficulty. What does God declare that we are to do according to Ps. 46:10?
- 2 According to Paul, all the spiritual gifts in the world are worthless without what? What does the "love" of the Bible mean?

Answers:

- 1 "Be still, and know that I am God...."
- 2 Love (13). "Agape" love is self-sacrificial service towards others.

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He (Jesus) departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed. (Mark 1:35)*

## July 25

1. What spiritual gift are we to eagerly desire?
2. What issue does it appear that Paul is addressing in chapter 14.

Psalms 47-48

Answers:

1 Cor 14

1. "Prophecy" (14:1). Prophecy can mean predicting the future, but it generally means sharing God's will with others, sharing the word of God with others.
2. At least some were speaking in tongues without it being interpreted. This was leading to disorder in the church. It also appears that some of the speaking in tongues had a self-focus to it rather than a focus of building up or strengthening the church, 14:26-28, 39. God is a God of order.

*And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)*

## July 26

1. According to Psalm 50, what belongs to God?
2. What will our heavenly body be like compared to our earthly one? How was Jesus' resurrected body different from His original body? How was Jesus' body the same?
3. Because those who have faith in Jesus have victory over death and will experience eternal life, what does Paul encourage believers to do at the end of 1 Cor. 15? Are you responding to this?

Psalms 49-50

1 Cor 15

Answers:

1. "Every animal in the forest," "the cattle on a thousand hills," "every bird in the mountain," "the creatures of the field," and "the world and all that is in it."
2. Imperishable, glorified, powerful, spiritual (15:42-44). He looked different but maintained some of the same features. For example, the wounds of the cross remained. He was able to pass through locked doors. He appeared and disappeared. He still had a physical body. He still ate and drank.
3. To "stand firm" in the truth of the gospel and to "always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord."

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Ps. 9:1-2)*

## July 27

1. Scripture describes David, the writer of Psalm 51, as "a man after God's own heart." Does David consider himself a good person? At what point in David's life did he believe he became a sinner? David writes that God doesn't delight in sacrifices or take pleasure in burnt offerings. What does God want from man?
2. Upon whom is David, the writer of Ps. 54, dependent?

Psalms 51-54

Answers:

1. No (51:1-4). David believed that he was a sinner from the point he was conceived (51:5). God wants from us "a broken and contrite heart" (51:17). Another way of saying this is God wants us to have faith in Jesus, demonstrated by repentance, a turning from sin and turning to Christ.
2. David appears to consistently be dependent upon the Lord.

*You who fear the Lord, praise Him! (Ps. 22:23)*

## July 28

1. What does David write in Ps. 55:22?

Psalms 55-58

Answers:

1. That we are to cast our cares or our problems upon the Lord and that He will sustain us and will always uphold those who trust in Him.

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. (Ps. 57:9)*

## July 29

Psalms 59-60

1. What words does David use to describe the Lord in Ps. 59:17? Where do you turn when you experience problems or struggles in your life?
2. Consider Paul's final challenge in 1 Cor. 16:13-14. What does this include? Are you giving this challenge proper consideration and application in your life?

1 Cor 16

Answers:

1. David calls God his "Strength," "my fortress," "my loving God."
2. "Be on guard, stand firm in the faith; be men (and women) of courage; be strong. Do everything in love."

*Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. (Ps. 68:19)*

## July 30

Psalms 61-62

1. As we read Ps. 62 it is again evident that David's trust is in God and God alone for his hope, for his health and well being, for his honor, and even for his salvation. Is it God and God alone that you also find these core values of life?
2. What is one reason that God comforts us in our times of trouble according to 2 Cor. 1:3-4?
3. As Paul experienced great struggles in his life, what was he able to learn and do?

2 Cor 1

Answers:

- 1.
2. So that we can help those that may experience the same troubles we have already experienced.
3. Not to rely on himself or others, but to rely on the Lord (2 Cor. 1:8-10).

*My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day. (Ps. 71:8)*

## July 31

Psalms 63-64

1. As you consider the words of Ps. 63 have you found anything in life that satisfies the way the Lord does?
2. In 2:14-17 Paul creates an image of Christians being led by God in a parade and as they go along they share the good news of Jesus Christ. Paul describes it as spreading the "fragrance of the knowledge of Him." How do people respond to this fragrance?

2 Cor 2

Answers:

1. God created us and we are His. He and He alone can truly satisfy the built in longing that we have for Him. Jesus said it this way, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35).
2. While it can be painful to spread the "fragrance" of Christ to those who reject Him, how great of a blessing is it to spread the "fragrance" to those who receive it as the "fragrance of life"?

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! (Ps. 95:6)*

**Aug 1**

1. Paul begins 3:7 by referring to "the ministry that brought death." What is he referring to?

Psalm 65-66

Answers:

1. To the Law which only shows man that he doesn't measure up to God's standard; only shows man he is a sinner that deserves death (Rom. 3:19-20).

2 Cor 3

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! (Ps. 103:1)*

**Aug 2**

1 In Ps. 67:1 the psalmist asks God's blessings upon the people. For what purpose? Are we also to fulfill this purpose?

Psalm 67-68

2 In 4:7 Paul speaks of a "treasure." What is he referring to? Why does Paul say this treasure is in jars of clay? What is God's purpose for doing this?

2 Cor 4

Answers:

1. That God's ways may be known on earth and that other nations may know His salvation (Ps. 67:2) and praise the Lord.
2. The gospel; the good news of Jesus Christ. Because the most valuable gift in all the world is stored in frail and imperfect human beings ("jars of clay"). God's purpose in this is "to show that this all surpassing power is from God and not from us."

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. (John 3:16)*

**Aug 3**

1 Consider David's words from Ps. 70:4. Are you saying by your attitudes and the way you live your life, "Let God be exalted."?

Psalm 69-72

2 What is the psalmist's request of God in 71:18? Is this your desire as well?

Answers:

- 1.
2. He asked that God "not forsake him" until he had declared God's "power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come."

*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)*

**Aug 4**

1. According to Ps. 76:7 who is to be feared?

Psalm 73-76

Answers:

1. God and God alone.

*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. (Matt. 9:38)*

**Aug 5**

1. In Ps. 77:7-9 the psalmist wonders if he'll ever again experience God's grace. What did the psalmist do according to versus 10-11?

Psalm 77-78

2. In 5:10 Paul talks about appearing before the judgment seat of Christ. What kind of judgment is Paul talking about here?

2 Cor 5

3. In chapter 5 Paul speaks of the "ministry of reconciliation" that God has given to all Christians. What is this ministry?

Answers

1. He remembered God's past faithfulness. We too can look at God's past faithfulness in our own lives and trust that He is always with us and caring for us.
2. Not salvation judgment, but rather judgment concerning a Christian's faithfulness.
3. That "God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ" (v. 19), sharing the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ with others so they can be reconciled to God.

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground. (Ps. 143:10)*

**Aug 6**

1. What is the psalmist plea in Ps. 80?
2. In 2 cor. 6:14 Paul gives a warning. What is it? What does this mean?

Psalm  
79-80

Answers:

2 Cor 6

1. Three times his plea is "Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved" (v. 3, 7, 19).
2. Paul's warning is that Christians are not to be "yoked together with unbelievers." We are not to relationally bind ourselves with unbelievers because we are to be and to live in ways very different from them.

*Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. (Ps. 119:37)*

**Aug 7**

1. Why did Israel face great persecution and destruction according to Ps. 81?
2. In 7:5 Paul speaks of a great struggle as he states "this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn – conflicts on the outside, fears within." What brought relief to Paul?

Ps 81-82

2 Cor 7

Answer:

1. God declares in verse 9 that Israel "shall have no foreign god among you; you shall not bow down to an alien god." So as the psalmists writes in verses 11-12, "But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices." Because Israel rebelled against God, He removed His grace from them.
2. Titus' coming and his good report of things in Corinth (7:6-7). While God is certainly our refuge, do you realize the encouragement you can be to other brothers and sisters in Christ as you share with them what God is doing?

*When I am afraid, I will trust in you. 4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? (Ps. 56:3-4)*

**Aug 8**

1. Are you able to say "Amen!" to Ps. 84:12?
2. What does Paul commend the church at Macedonian for?
3. What principles does Paul provide in 8:20-21 concerning the financial gifts given to the church?

Ps 83-84

2 Cor 8

Answers:

- 1.
2. Their sacrificial giving (8:2-4).
3. Paul speaks of "avoiding criticism" and more importantly speaks of "taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21)*

**Aug 9**

1. What does the psalmist ask the Lord for in Ps. 86:11? Are you asking the Lord for these as well?
2. According to chapter 9 of 2 Cor., what are some attitudes followers of Christ are to have regarding giving? What else besides money should these attitudes extend to?

Ps 85-86

2 Cor 9

Answers:

1. To know the way of the Lord so that he can walk in it and to have an undivided heart so that he would fear the Lord's name.
2. We are to give generously, from the heart, and cheerfully (9:6-7). This should extend to all that we possess including our time, talents, and treasures.

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Ps. 119:14)*

**Aug 10**

1. According to 90:2, when did God come into being?

Psalm 87-90

Answer:

1. God always was and always will be as the psalmist declares "from everlasting to everlasting are you God."

*Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer. (Ps. 4:1)*

**Aug 11**

1. Reflect on Ps. 91:1. What does this mean to you?

Psalm 91-94

Answers:

1. The psalmist is referring to the person who trusts fully in the Lord. It is that person who will be taken under God and experience fully His grace in their lives.

*You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you. (Ps. 86:5)*

**Aug 12**

1. What are some reasons given in Ps. 95:1-7 concerning why we should worship the Lord?
2. Are we ever proud? Are we every tempted to boast or brag about something we did or something we have? What does Paul tell us we should boast in?

Psalm 95-96

Answers:

2 Cor 10

1. He is "the Rock of our salvation," "the great God," "the great King above all gods," He made everything and holds everything together, He is "the Lord our Master...our God," and we are "the flock under His care."
2. The Lord. See 10:17-18.

*Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matt. 6:12)*

**Aug 13**

1. The psalmist begins Ps. 98 with "Sing to the Lord a new song; for He has done marvelous things..." Consider for a moment what "marvelous things" of the Lord you have experienced in your life.
2. In 11:14 Paul states, "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." What is Paul's point in stating this? How do we know who is genuine and who is not?
3. Is Paul boasting in 11:16-33? Is he boasting in Christ or in himself?
4. Do you believe Paul was bold in his proclamation of the gospel, the good news of Jesus? What did it result in? Should Paul's persecution surprise us? Should we be surprised by persecution when we share the gospel?

Psalm 97-98

2 Cor 11

Answers:

- 1.
2. There are some who are Satan's servants who "masquerade as servants of righteousness." They may look good on the outside, but their intentions are evil. We can discern righteousness from evil by comparing what people say and how they live to the word of God. Are they preaching the Jesus of Scripture? Are they preaching the gospel of Scripture? Are they living faithfully? (v. 11:4)
3. Yes. Paul appears to be boasting in himself in order to defend his position as an Apostle and the authority that comes with it because of his concern for the Corinthian church and those who are trying to mislead it. See v. 19.
4. Paul appears to be very bold in his proclamation of the gospel. This led to physical persecution (11:24-29). The list is written probably about 8-10 years before Paul's death. We should not be surprised by Paul's persecution. Jesus said in John 15:20 "Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also." We should expect persecution as we live faithful lives and we can "rejoice and be glad" when it happens (Matt. 5:11-12).

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. (Ps. 51:1)*

**Aug 14**

Psalm 99-100

1. Consider meditating on the words from Ps. 100 as you go before the Lord in prayer today.
2. What is Paul talking about in 12:1-6?
3. To keep Paul from becoming proud what was he given? Why was this "thorn in the flesh" beneficial to Paul?

2 Cor 12

Answers:

- 1.
2. Paul is referring to himself being taken up to heaven. Paul had several visions and revelations that are mentioned in Scripture [Acts 9:4-6; 16:9-10; 18:9-11; Gal. 1:15-16]. We are not sure of the event that he singles out here. "14 years ago" would have placed this particular event some years after his conversion.
3. Paul was given "a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me." We don't really know what this was; possibly some physical ailment or even some great temptation in Paul's life. It was beneficial to Paul in that it kept him humble and strong in the Lord as he was weak in himself.

*O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago. (Isa. 25:1)*

**Aug 15**

Psalm 101-102

2 Cor 13

1. What does David commit to in Ps. 101 in order that he and those around him might live righteously? Are these things we should also be committed to?
2. In 2 Cor. 13:5 Paul urges the Corinthians to examine themselves. For what purpose? In what ways should we be able to determine if Christ is in us? Is it evident that Christ is in you?

Answers:

1. Praise God (v. 1), take care to lead a blameless life (v. 2), set before his eyes no vile thing (v. 3), not associate with perverse men (v.4), but be with the faithful (v. 6), and rid the land of sin (v. 8).
2. He is urging them to examine themselves to determine if they are in the faith. Scriptures makes clear that as we place our faith in Christ we become a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17) with different values, attitudes, thoughts, speech, and actions. Change may sometimes be gradual, but over time change must take place in the Christian's life if our faith is genuine.

*There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. (1 Sam. 2:2)*

**Aug 16**

Psalm 103-104

Gal 1

1. According to Ps. 103, what is with those who fear the Lord? In what way is this expressed?
2. In Galatians chapter one Paul gets right to his concern for his readers. What is it? What is Paul's desire for those who would preach a false gospel?

Answers:

1. God's great love (v. 11). This love is expressed as God doesn't treat us as our sins deserve (v. 10), and He has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west (v. 12).
2. They "are turning to a different gospel." Paul clearly understood the importance of the salvation that comes from a right response to the true gospel. At the same time he clearly understood the danger that a false gospel represented for those who would believe in it. Paul absolutely wished those proclaiming a false gospel would be "eternally condemned!" (1:8-9)

*I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. (Ps. 145:1-3)*

**Aug 17**

Psalm 105-108

1. In Ps. 107 the psalmist encourages his readers to give thanks to the Lord five different times because of His unfailing love. How has God expressed His unfailing love in your life? Have you given thanks to Him?

*Praise the LORD. Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. 2 Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore. 3 From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised. (Ps. 113:1-3)*



**Aug 18**

Psalms  
109-112

1. Who is David writing about in Ps. 110?
2. According to Ps. 112, what does the person who fears the Lord and follow His command generally experience?

Answers:

1. The Messiah or Christ – Jesus.
2. A blessed family (v. 2), prosperity (v. 3), light even in dark times (v. 4), good (v. 5), the ability to stand firm (v. 6), fearlessness (v. 7-8), an impactful life that will last (v. 9).

*Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. (Ps. 68:19)*

**Aug 19**

Psalm  
113-114

Gal 2

1. In Gal. 2:11 Paul describes an encounter in which he opposes Peter publically. What is happening here?
2. Are things any different today? Are people still being encouraged to add “works” to their faith in order to be right before God? Are we simply saved by being baptized? Or by taking communion? Or by being a good person?

Answers:

1. Remember Peter's vision in Acts 10 in which the sheet came down from heaven. The sheet had on it all kinds of things that the Jews weren't suppose to eat and Peter was told, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” The kingdom of God that has come is going to make things different. Part of that difference is the clear understanding that the law cannot save. Only faith in Christ can save a person. Peter's actions could have led some to think that it's faith plus the observance of the law that saves a person. Paul makes very clear that this is not the case; that a person is saved by faith alone (2:21).
2. Paul writes in 2:21, “if a righteousness could be gained through the law (works), Christ died for nothing”. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Genuine faith will always result in works of love, in obedience to God, but no works can ever save a person.

*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (James 4:3)*

**Aug 20**

Psalm 115-  
116

Gal 3

1. In Psalm 115:1 the psalmist pleads to God that something not happen. What is it? It is tempting to sometimes glorify ourselves rather than God?

Answers:

1. That glory not be with man.

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Heb. 4:16)*

**Aug 21**

Psalm  
117-118

Gal 4

1. While Ps. 117 is the shortest psalm, it is a “praise the Lord” sandwich and is a great reminder for us to praise the Lord for His love and faithfulness in our lives.
2. What is Paul's concern for believers in Galatia? What is the problem with that?

Answers:

- 1.
2. Paul's concern for the Galatians is that they are trying to be right before God by following the law, by works (4:21). No one can be right before God this way. Our goodness only comes from Christ as we place our faith in Him (5:4-6).

*....if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:14)*

**Aug 22**Psalm  
119-120

Gal 5

1. The psalmist in Ps. 119 refers to God's word over 160 different times as he uses the words law (45), statutes (23), precepts (12), decrees (22), commands (22), word (30), and promises (14). He does so to describe the greatness of God's word and the great blessing it is in his life. In verse 105 he writes, "The word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." What does this mean? Is this true in your life?
2. The gift of the Holy Spirit is one of the greatest gifts a believer receives. What impact will the Holy Spirit have on our life if we live by the Spirit?

Answers:

1. The "lamp to my feet" refers to light that keeps the psalmist from stumbling as he goes along through life and "light to my path" refers to the direction that God's word provides him in determining the path his life is to take.
2. Fruit in our lives. See 5:22-23. This fruit will glorify God as we witness (Acts 1:8) for Him and will also bless our lives.

*Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. (Jer. 33:3)*

**Aug 23**Psalm  
121-122

Gal 6

1. Considering the words from Ps. 121, the Lord watches over those who are His. If you are a follower of Jesus, the Lord is watching over you. What does this mean to you?
2. What does Paul mean in Gal. 6:7 when he writes, "God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."

Answers:

- 1.
2. If we live by faith in obedience to God, He will be glorified and we will receive eternal life. If we live for our own selves we will eventually face destruction.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. (Ps. 51:1)*

**Aug 24**Psalm 123-  
126

Answer:

1. He says they are like something that "cannot be shaken but endures forever."

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)*

**Aug 25**Psalm 127-  
130

Answers:

1. What is the meaning of Ps. 127:1?
  2. What does Ps. 130 remind us of?
1. Unless the Lord is central to whatever we try to build in life (family, career, church, etc.) our building is a waste of time. It will have no lasting value.
  2. It reminds us of the assurance of God's forgiveness for those who have faith in Him and repent of their sins.

*But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matt. 5:44)*

**Aug 26**Psalm  
131-132

Eph 1

1. In Ps. 131 what does the psalmist compare his soul to? Is your soul experiencing this as well?
2. What is Paul's prayer for the Ephesian believers in chapter one?

Answers:

1. His soul is like "weaned child with its mother." The psalmist uses this image to describe the great peace he has within himself because of his hope in the Lord.
2. "give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better," "the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe" (1:15-19).

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Eph. 6:18)*

**Aug 27**

Psalm  
133-134

1. In Eph. 2, how does Paul describe the life of a person apart from faith in Christ? What changed things for the believer?
2. Are we saved by works? How do we know? Are we saved for works?

Answers:

Eph 2

1. As being "dead in your transgressions and sins" (2:1). This is what we are born into. We are spiritually dead until the time we genuinely believe or have faith in Jesus. God changed things (2:4-7).
2. We are not saved by works as Paul clearly states in 2:8-9. But we are saved for works (2:10).

*And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matt. 6:5-6)*

**Aug 28**

Psalm 135-  
136

1. In Ps. 135 the psalmist writes 11 different times "praise the Lord." What do you at this time have to praise the Lord for?
2. According to Eph. 3, what means does God use to make known the good news of Jesus Christ to others?

Eph 3

Answers:

- 1.
2. His church (3:10).

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)*

**Aug 29**

Psalm 137-  
138

1. In the beginning of Ephesians 4 how does Paul urge the Christian to live?
2. In the rest of Ephesians Paul provides us with instruction for how we are to live out our faith. In 4:25 he exhorts us to put off falsehood (lying) and then instructs us in those times we become angry. What does Paul tell us to do? Why?
3. What is the person who has been stealing to do?
4. What instructions does Paul give regarding our speech?

Eph 4

Answers:

1. Paul urges them to live "worthy of the calling....humble....gentle....patient....unified"
2. When we become angry we are not to let the sun go down on our anger. We are to deal with our anger right away. The reason for this is so that we don't allow the devil to gain a foothold in our life.
3. He is to not only to work, but to do so in a way that provides extra so it can be shared with others (4:28).
4. The words that come out of our mouths are to be wholesome and beneficial to others (4:29).

*But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deut. 4:29)*

## Aug 30

Psalms 139-140

Eph 5

1. As you read Ps. 139 consider all the ways in which the Lord knows you personally and intimately. Do you praise God that you were "fearfully and wonderfully made" (v. 14)?
2. How does Paul summarize the way we are to live in 5:1-2?
3. Wives are to submit to their husbands. What are husbands to do towards their wives? What does "agape" love mean? What does it mean then to love our wives?

Answers:

- 1.
2. We are to "be imitators of God....as dearly loved children and live a life of love..."
3. Husbands are to love their wives (5:25). "Agape" is a Greek word which means to love others by cherishing them, often demonstrated by serving them in self-sacrificial ways. We husbands are to live self-sacrificially toward our wives.

*But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "Let God be exalted!" (Ps. 70:4)*

## Aug 31

Psalms 141-144

1. Consider Ps. 141:5. How does David respond to a righteous rebuke? How do you respond to righteous correction?
2. Life is filled with troubles, as Jesus told us it would be. In the midst of your troubles do you look to God as David expresses in Ps. 144:1-2 as he considers God his "Lord," "Rock," "fortress," "stronghold," "deliverer," "shield," and "refuge." Jesus told us that in Him we would have peace even as we experience troubles in this life (John 16:33).

Answers:

1. David responds to a righteous rebuke by allowing it to come, by seeing it as a kindness and blessing, and by accepting it.
- 2.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Phil 4:6)*

**Sept 1**

1. Consider for a moment the truth of Ps. 147:1. May this bring a resounding "Amen!" from us all.

Psalm  
145-148

*May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer (Ps. 119:14)*

**Sept 2**

1. What warning does Paul give us fathers regarding our children?
2. What is to be our attitude concerning how we go about doing our work?
3. Paul concludes his letter to the Ephesians with a warning regarding the devil and his attacks. What does Paul tell us to do to be ready when these attacks come?

Psalm  
149-150

Eph 6

Answers:

1. Fathers are warned not to "exasperate" or make angry or resentful their children (6:4).
2. We are to work as if we were serving the Lord, not man (6:7).
3. To be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power and to put on the full armor of God (6:10-18).

*For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. (Ps. 51:1-2)*

**Sept 3**

1. According to the first part of chapter 1, what is the purpose of Proverbs?
2. What is the beginning of knowledge? What does this mean?
3. Where is Paul writing his letter to the Philippians from? What impact has Paul's imprisonment had on other Christians?
4. Does Paul believe his imprisonment may lead to his death? Would Paul rather live or die?

Prov 1-2

Phil 1

Answers:

1. See verses 1:2-6.
2. "The fear of the Lord" (1:7). This means God is God and we are not. He is the creator and we are the creation. He knows what is best.
3. Paul is writing from prison (1:12). Paul's imprisonment has led to other Christians proclaiming God's word more courageously and fearlessly (1:14).
4. Yes (1:19-20). He is torn. See 1:21-26.

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Rom. 12:12)*

**Sept 4**

1. Proverbs 3:5-6 is one of the most quoted verses from all the Bible. What truths do these verses remind us of?
2. Should we expect to be disciplined by God?
3. In Philippians 2:1-4 Paul urges us to be unified, likeminded, humble and eager to help others. Who does he give us as an example to follow?
4. What does Paul mean when he says, "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling"?
5. We are commanded to do what at the beginning of 2:14? What reason is given for this?

Prov 3-4

Phil 2

Answers:

1. Our emotions, feelings, even our own understanding can lead us astray but God and His ways we can fully trust in. Fear the Lord and follow His ways. He cannot be mocked. What a man reaps he sows (Gal. 6:7).
2. Yes. We remain at times like rebellious children who attempt to go their own way. Our Father is a loving Father who will correct us (3:11-12).
3. Christ Jesus (2:5-11).
4. It doesn't mean work "for" your salvation. The very word "salvation," which means rescue, signifies we cannot save ourselves (John 15:4-5; 1 Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:5, 8), but we can and must live lives that demonstrate God's saving power. We have our part to do, but that is made possible by God's work in us. He gives both the desire and strength to do what is pleasing to Him (2:13).

5. To "do everything without complaining or arguing." The reason for this is "so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life-- in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing" (2:15-16).

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (Col. 4:2)*

## Sept 5

Prov 5-6

Phil 3

1. In chapter 5 who does the adulteress represent?
2. In Philippians 3:2 who is Paul referring to when he says, "Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh." Why "mutilators of the flesh"? Why was Paul so angry with these men?

Answers:

1. It can represent a literal prostitute or adulteress, as well as any other evil or foolishness that would lead a person away from the Lord. Following the ways of this world, of Satan, and of our own fleshly desires is like uniting oneself with a prostitute in committing adultery.
2. Jews who were claiming to be Christians; Jews who wanted Gentile Christian to act Jewish. "Mutilators of the flesh" was a reference to those who demanded circumcision. Because they were urging a following of the law and associating righteousness with that rather solely through faith in Christ. They were claiming faith in Jesus plus something.

*Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. 2 Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray. (Ps. 5:1-2)*

## Sept 6

Prov 7-8

Phil 4

1. What does the person who finds true wisdom also find?
2. What are some wonderful truths we find in Philippians 4:4-7?
3. What are the things Paul tells us we should think about?
4. How did Paul learn to be content whatever his circumstances?

Answers:

1. Life and favor from the Lord (8:36).
2. See 4:4-7.
3. We should think on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy (4:8).
4. By relying fully on Christ (4:13).

*...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess 5:18)*

## Sept 7

Prov

9-12

1. What is stated for the second time in the Book of Proverbs in verse 9:10?
2. What does the Bible call the person who hates to be disciplined or corrected by truth?

Answers:

1. That "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom/knowledge." A right understanding of who God is and who we are as sinners should lead a person to a reverent fear of the Lord. This is the starting point for all true wisdom/knowledge.
2. "Stupid" (12:1).

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

## Sept 8

Prov

13-16

1. Prov. 13:14 states, "The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares death." Do you see yourself as a "fountain of life" as you hold out the good news of Jesus Christ to those who need to hear it?
2. Notice as you read though Proverbs 16 the number of proverbs related to the tongue.

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (Matt. 7:7)*

**Sept 9**Prov  
17-18

1. What is the teaching of Prov. 17:28?
2. Considering Prov. 18:10, where should the Christian turn when trouble comes?
3. In Colossians 1:15 Paul writes, "He is the image of the invisible God...." Who is Paul referring to? What does Paul go on to write about Him?

Col 1

Answers:

1. There are times in which we should remain silent. Silence can be beneficial if we have nothing worthwhile to share and it provides us with the opportunity to truly listen so that when we do speak, it may be of benefit.
2. To the Lord.
3. Jesus. "Firstborn over all creation" (not in the sense of birth but in the sense of authority and rule), "by Him all things were created," "all things held together," "head of the body, the church," "through Him to reconcile to Himself all things...."

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:6-7)*

**Sept 10**Prov  
19-20

Answers:

1. Paul is warning his readers not to be led astray by false teaching that finds its source in man or the world rather than in Christ.

Col 2

*And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith. (Matt. 21:22)*

**Sept 11**Prov  
21-22

1. According to Prov. 21:21, what does the person who pursues righteousness and love (or kindness) gain?
2. In Chapter 3 of Colossians, where does Paul encourage us to place our focus?
3. What does Paul tell us to do to those things that belong to our "earthly nature"? What does that make you think of?

Col 3

4. "As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved," what are we to clothe ourselves with?
5. How are we to forgive others? Do you sometimes struggle with forgiveness? In the midst of that struggle are you reminding yourself how much God has forgiven you?

Answers:

1. They gain "life, prosperity (or righteousness) and honor."
2. "On things above....not on earthly things (3:1-3).
3. "Put to death..." (3:5).
4. "With compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (3:12).
5. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (3:13).

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51:17)*

**Sept 12**Prov  
23-24

1. What does the writer of Proverbs compare an "honest answer" to (Prov. 24:26)?
2. In Colossians 4:2, what does Paul say we are to be devoted to?

Answers:

1. "It is like a kiss on the lips." In that culture a kiss on the lips was a sign of true friendship.
2. Prayer.

Col 4

*The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)*

**Sept 13**

1. Where was Thessalonica located?

Prov 25-26

Answers:

1. In what is present day Greece.

1 Thess 1

*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14)*

**Sept 14**

1. What can one righteous person do for another according to Prov. 27:17? Do you have these types of relationships in your life?

Prov 27-30

2. Consider the words of Prov. 30:5. Do you recognize God's word as "flawless"? Is God your "shield" and are you taking "refuge in Him"?

Answers:

1. When Christians gather together and share God's truths and hold one another accountable in living those truths out, they "sharpen" each other.

2.

*...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. (Eph. 6:18)*

**Sept 15**

1. It is believed that Ecclesiastes is written by Solomon, a man who was king of Israel at the very height of its earthly success. God had given Solomon great wisdom but he squandered much of that on sinful pursuits as he turned away from God. According to chapter one, what did Solomon pursue that he came to the conclusion was meaningless, "a chasing after the wind."

Prov 31

Eccl 1-3

2. According to chapter 2, what did Solomon declare as "meaningless"?

Answers:

1. "study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven" (1:13) and "understanding of all wisdom and also of madness and folly" (1:17).

2. "pleasure" (2:1), "undertook great projects" (2:4), had great possessions and wealth (2:7-8), and work (2:17).

*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matt. 5:44)*

**Sept 16**

1. According to chapters 5-6, what did Solomon declare as "meaningless"?

2. According to Paul, what kept him from returning Thessalonica?

Eccl 4-5

3. According to 1 Thess. 2:11-12, how did Paul and those with him deal with the Thessalonians when they were with them?

1 Thess 2

Answers:

1. The pursuit of wealth and money (5:10), the accumulation of things just to pass them on to others (6:2).

2. Paul had visited Thessalonica on his 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary trips. Satan kept him from returning (2:18).

3. "As a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God."

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)*

**Sept 17**

1. What is Paul's desire for the Thessalonians according to verses 3:12-13?

Eccl 6-7

Answers:

1. That the Lord would make their love increase for each other and for others, and that they would be strengthened so that they would live holy lives.

1 Thess 3

*Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matt. 9:38)*



**Sept 18**

Eccl 8-9

1. According to chapter 8, what did Solomon declare as "meaningless"?
2. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:3, what is God's will for our life?
3. What will Christ's return be like?

1 Thess 4

Answers:

1. Righteous men who get what the wicked deserve, and wicked men who get what the righteous deserve (8:14).
2. That we would be sanctified, meaning set apart for Him. "For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life" (4:7).
3. See 4:13-5:10. See also 1 Cor. 15:35-43.

*...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:14)*

**Sept 19**

Eccl 10-11

1. How does Paul describe the timing of Jesus' second coming?
2. For the second time in Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians he declares something to be God's will. What is it?

2 Thess 5

Answers:

1. Paul describes it as being "like a thief in the night," meaning Jesus' return will occur at an unexpected time.
2. To "be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances" (5:16-18).

*Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. (Ps. 55:22)*

**Sept 20**

Eccl 12

Song 1

2 Thess 1

1. What was the conclusion of the matter according to Solomon? What things of your life may have been "meaningless, a chasing after the wind"? What is the conclusion of the matter for you and I?
2. The Book Song of Songs is a reflection of God's love for us and the love we are to have for Him?
3. What does Paul say will happen to those who "do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord?"

Answers:

1. Solomon wrote the conclusion of the matter to be, "Fear God and keep His commands, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil" (12:13-14). Solomon learned that every effort undertaken in his life was "meaningless" apart from faithfulness to God.
- 2.
3. "They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord..." (2 Thess. 1:8).

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)*

**Sept 21**Song  
2-5

1. Song of Song 4:1-7 describes the intimate exchange taking place between two lovers. Do you see the Lord as your lover and are you His? The Father loved us so much that He willingly sacrificed His own Son and the Son willingly gave Himself so that we might be saved. Is that not the greatest demonstration of love? In return the Lord has called us to love Him with all we have and to love others as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31).

*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (James 1:6)*

**Sept 22**

Song  
6-8  
Isaiah  
1

1. At the time of Isaiah the nations of Israel and Judah had gone through approximately 50 years of relative peace. That was about to change in a big way. Isaiah means "Yahweh is salvation." He was a prophet from about 740-700 B.C. In verses 1:2-4, what accusation is brought against the nation of Judah?
2. What is God planning to do to Judah? (See verses 1:21-31)

Answers:

1. They have rebelled and turned away from God.
2. God is going to turn His hand against Israel and purge away their impurities (1:25).

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1:35)*

**Sept 23**

Isaiah  
2-3

1. In 2 Thess. 2:3 Paul writes of "the man of lawlessness....the man doomed to destruction." Who is he referring to? If the antichrist appears in our lifetime, what are some ways we will be able to identify him? What does Paul encourage the brothers and sisters in Christ to do if they face this?

2 Thess 2

Answers:

1. Paul is referring to the antichrist, a tool of Satan used to try and achieve his purposes of destroying man. He will attempt to place himself over everything of God and proclaim himself to be God (2:4); he will perform "all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders..." (2:9). Paul encourages believers to "stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you" (2:15).

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. 2 I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Ps. 9:1-2)*

**Sept 24**

Isaiah  
4-5

1. As you read through chapters 2-5 notice the ways in which Israel has turned away from God. Are many of these still familiar today?
2. What was Paul's instruction to the church for those who were idle and unwilling to work?

Answers:

1 Thess  
3

- 1.
2. The rule Paul gave the church for those who would not work was: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat" (3:10).

*I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. 3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! (Ps. 34:1-3)*

**Sept 25**

Isaiah  
6-7

1 Tim 1

1. At the beginning of chapter 6 Isaiah shares a vision he has. What are some ways in which he describes God? As Isaiah observed what was happening in his vision, what did he think of himself?
2. Isaiah volunteered to serve God. What was the mission assigned to him?
3. In chapter one of 1 Timothy, how does Paul describe his life before faith in Christ? Why does Paul say God showed him mercy?

Answers:

1. "Seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robes filled the temple.....Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory" (6:1-3). Isaiah knew he was a sinner from among sinners and that he was in the presences of God Almighty. He thought he was "ruined" (6:5).
2. Isaiah was to share God's judgment on the nation of Israel (6:9-10). The more Isaiah would share, the harder the people's hearts would become. Even though the nation as whole will not respond to God, there will be a remnant (a portion) that will (6:13).

3. He describes himself as a "blasphemer (insulting, slanderous towards God), persecutor, violent man, ignorance, unbelief....the worst of sinners (1:13, 15). God showed Paul mercy that "Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life" (1:16).

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. (Ps. 57:9)*

## Sept 26

Isaiah  
8-9

1 Tim 2

1. Who would God use to bring about His judgment of His people?
2. Although the nation of Israel will be defeated by the Assyrians and many will be destroyed, is there any hope for the future? Why? Who is this?
3. Why is Jesus uniquely qualified to be the mediator between us and God (1 Tim. 2:5)?
4. 1 Tim. 2:6 states that Jesus "gave Himself as a ransom for all men." In O.T. times a "ransom" was a price paid for the release of slaves or captives. In what way did Jesus ransom you?

Answers:

1. The Assyrians (8:4).
2. Because a "light" is coming, a "child" will be born "and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (9:1-6). Jesus Christ.
3. Because He is both fully God and fully man and because He gave Himself as a ransom for all man (Mark 10:45). Both of these make Jesus alone qualified to be mediator between God and man.
4. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, paying the price needed to free us from sin. This gift is received as we place our faith in Jesus.

*Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah 20 Our God is a God of salvation, and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death. (Ps. 68:19-20)*

## Sept 27

Isaiah 10-  
11

1 Tim 3

1. What will happen to the Assyrians after they defeat the Israelites?
2. In Isa. 11:1, what is the nation of Judah/Israel referred to? What will rise up from this stump? Who is this referring to?
3. What role is being described in 3:1? Is it good to desire this type of role? What are the general qualifications of an overseer? What is not required of an overseer?
4. What does "deacon" mean? Regarding qualifications, what is the primary difference between "overseer" and "deacon."

Answers:

1. They will also be defeated (10:5-19).
2. They are referred to as the "stump of Jesse," like a cut down tree with only a remaining stump. A branch will rise up from the stump. Christ Jesus.
3. "Overseer," also referred to as elder, pastor, shepherd in the N.T. It is the role of a church leader. The role of "overseer" or elder is described as "a noble task." The general qualifications for this role include faithful character, manages family well, and able to teach the Word of God. There is no educational requirement, nor other requirements that churches or man have added.
4. "Deacon" in Greek means "servant." The primary qualification difference is the ability to teach.

*The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! (Ps. 99:1)*

## Sept 28

Isaiah 12-  
15

1. The first 12 chapters of Isaiah focus on the Lord's judgment of Israel. Chapters 13-23 speak of the Lord's judgment on other nations, beginning with Babylon.

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. (Ps. 103:1-2)*

**Sept 29**

Isaiah 16-  
19

1. Consider the Lord's sovereignty or control as the prophecies against Babylon, Assyria, the Philistines, Moab, Damascus, Cush, and Egypt have been fulfilled.

*Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!*  
(Ps. 106:1)

**Sept 30**

Isaiah 20-  
21

1. In 1 Tim. 4:3 Paul is writing of false teachers who are adding to the commands of God's word. Why is it so dangerous to place commands upon people that the Bible doesn't?
2. In 1 Tim. 4:16 Paul urges Timothy to watch two things "closely." What are they? What does Paul tell Timothy will happen if he "perseveres" in these?

1 Tim 4

Answers:

1. When man or organizations begin to add or take away from God's word, it begins to dilute God's "authority" in people's lives as that authority shifts towards man.
2. His life (right behavior) and his doctrine (right beliefs). Paul is warning Timothy and us to watch very carefully both our behavior and what we believe. If Timothy does this Paul declares that "you will save both yourself and your hearers." What Paul means by this is that if Timothy remains faithful to the Lord he will be saved and will be used of the Lord to help others gain salvation as well.

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*  
(Ps. 139:14)

**Oct 1**Isaiah  
22-23

1. In the first part of chapter 5 Paul describes someone who has "denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (5:8). Who is he writing about?
2. The early church had a list of widows that were taken care of. What qualified a woman for being added to the widow's list?

1 Tim 5

Answers:

1. Someone unwilling to provide for his relatives, "especially for his immediate family." Followers of Jesus are called to "love our neighbors as ourselves." A person cannot have genuine faith in Jesus Christ and at the same time be unwilling to express love towards others, especially those closes to him or her.
2. She was elderly and someone who was faithful to the Lord (5:9-10).

*I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. 4 For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! (Ps. 108:3-5)*

**Oct 2**Isaiah  
24-25

1. After many chapters focusing on the judgment of God upon the world, we see praise and thanksgiving being offered up to the Lord beginning in chapter 25. What is this for?
2. What instructions does God have for us in 1 Timothy chapter 6 concerning money?
3. What does "contentment" mean? Are you content?

1 Tim 6

Answers:

1. For the salvation of God that will come for His people (25:6-9; 26:4).
2. See 6:6-19.
3. Being satisfied with what one has; being satisfied with what one needs.

*O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. (Isa. 25:1)*

**Oct 3**Isaiah  
26-27

2 Tim 1

1. From what we are aware of, 2 Timothy is Paul's last letter. He is in prison and believes he will soon die. Tradition has it that Paul was beheaded in Rome not long after this letter was written.
2. From Scripture we get the sense that Timothy was like a son to Paul. He loved him very much and wanted the absolute best for him. With that in mind, what does Paul ask Timothy to do in 2 Tim. 1:8? How is it that Paul is able to urge Timothy on in this way?
3. As Paul was imprisoned, who was one person that was a great encouragement to him? Did it take courage for Onesiphorus to reach out to Paul? By your faith in Christ, are you an encouragement to others?

Answers:

- 1.
2. "But join with me in suffering for the gospel..." Paul is in prison and believes his death will soon come because of his witnessing for the Lord. Now he is asking Timothy to join him in continuing to share the good news of Jesus. Paul understood that the mission of sharing the gospel was more important than life (physical) itself.
3. Onesiphorus (v. 16). It took great courage from Onesiphorus as it was a time in the Roman Empire when Christians were being severely persecuted.

*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)*

**Oct 4**Isaiah  
28-29

2 Tim 2

1. Beginning in chapter 28, emphasis is being placed on the nation of Israel. First on the northern kingdom, "that wreath, the pride of Ephraim's drunkards." What will happen to them? Then, beginning in chapter 29, attention is turned to the southern kingdom, to the nation of Judah. They too will face judgment (30:15) but God's hand will not be totally against them (30:18; 33:2-6).
2. What is Paul almost certainly talking about when he refers to the "things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses" (2 Tim. 2:2)?
3. What does Paul tell us to flee from? What could this include? Even though some of us are no longer youths, are we still tempted by these? What are we to pursue instead?

Answers:

1. They will be defeated (28:2-3); a reference to the defeat at the hands of the Assyrians.
2. To the gospel; to the good news of Jesus Christ found in the teachings of the N.T.
3. We are to "flee the evil desires of youth" (v.22). This would include all sins that tempt our lives. We will be tempted by sin until we pass from this life or until Christ comes again. We are to pursue "righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

*...therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matt. 9:38)*

## Oct 5

Isa. 30-33

1. Even though Israel as a whole is in rebellion against God, what does God long for according to Isa. 30:18?

Answers:

1. To be gracious and compassionate towards Israel. This is true of us as well. Even though we have been rebellious towards God, He longs to be gracious and compassionate towards those who humble themselves before Him. (Rom. 5:8-9)

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!  
(Ps. 143:10)*

## Oct 6

Isaiah  
34-37

1. Beginning in chapter 36, Isaiah records the king of Assyria's threats against Jerusalem. What is included in these threats? How does King Hezekiah respond to these threats? How does the Lord respond?
2. Much of Isaiah in chapters 1-34 speaks of God's judgment upon the nations, including Israel and Judah. Now Isaiah shifts to writing about what the redeemed will experience. Who are the redeemed? What are some things the "redeemed" will experience according to chapter 35?

Answers:

1. A reminder that the Assyrian's have beaten everyone, a bribe, and the comment, "The Lord Himself told me to mark against this country and destroy it" (36:4-10). He takes them to the Lord and he himself goes before the Lord (37:1-20). The Lord destroys the Assyrians (37:36-37).
2. "Redeemed" means to buy back. Through Jesus death on the cross He paid the price for our sins. For those who have faith in Him they are "the redeemed." The redeemed "will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God" (v. 2), "eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy" (v. 5-6).

*Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. 34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. (Ps. 119:33-34)*

## Oct 7

Isaiah  
38-39

2 Tim 3

1. King Hezekiah became ill and was about to die. What happened?
2. In chapter 3 Paul warns Timothy that everyone who lives a godly life in Christ Jesus will face what? Are you facing this because of your faith?
3. What does Paul have to say about all of Scripture, all of the Bible? Is that how you see it? If this is the case, what should that mean for our lives?

Answers:

1. God granted him 15 more years and this was confirmed by the sun going back "ten steps" (38:5-7).
2. Persecution (3:12).
3. That it is "God breathed," meaning that it all comes from God to help us be equipped and trained to live life as God desires us to. We should read, meditate on, and be obedient to God's word.

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. 4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? (Ps. 56:3-4)*

**Oct 8**Isaiah  
40-41

2 Tim 4

1. Beginning in verse 40, Isaiah's ministry changes. He now begins to share with the nation of Judah wonderful events that will take place in the future. What are your thoughts concerning chapter 40?
2. What is Paul's main challenge or charge to Timothy? What does Paul warn Timothy about concerning the Word?
3. Does Paul believe he is about to die? What does Paul have to say about this?

Answers:

- 1
- 2 "Preach the Word..." (4:2).
- 3 Yes (4:6). See 4:7-8.

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21)*

**Oct 9**Isaiah  
42-43

Titus 1

1. As we continue to read through the Book of Isaiah we read of Israel's rebellion against God but also the hope that God provides, both in the near term as Cyrus defeats the Babylonians and allows Israel to go back and rebuild Jerusalem (chapter 41; 43; 44:28) and Christ in the long term (42:1-9;). Israel's salvation is in God's hands alone (43:25; 44:6-8).
2. What do we know about Titus from Scripture?
3. How do the qualifications for "overseer" in 1 Timothy 3 compare with the qualifications Paul lists for an "elder" in Titus 1:5-9.
4. In Titus 1:10-16 Paul is warning Titus about a group of people. Who are they? What is the warning?

Answers:

- 1.
2. He was someone Paul was very blessed by. Paul considered him a partner and fellow worker in ministry (2 Cor. 8:23). Titus was a Greek and uncircumcised (Gal. 2:3).
3. They are very similar. Most of the qualifications involve a man's character.
4. Primarily Jews (v. 10). They are teaching lies.

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (Ps. 19:14)*

**Oct 10**Isaiah  
44-45

Titus 2

1. How does God describe Himself in 44:6-8; 45:21-25?
2. As we place our faith in Christ we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. What does God's grace that comes through faith enable us to do?

Answers:

- 1.
2. It allows us to resist "ungodliness and worldly passions" and to pursue "self-controlled, upright and godly lives" (2:12).

*Give us this day our daily bread. (Matt. 6:11)*

**Oct 11**Isaiah  
46-47

Titus 3

1. How does Paul describe our lives prior to faith in Christ? What changed that? Verse 3:7 begins with, "...so that, having been justified by His grace...." What does "justified" mean?

Answer:

1. See verse 3:3. "Justified" means to put into a right relationship (with God); it means to be acquitted or declared as righteous.

*Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! (Ps. 4:1)*

**Oct 12**

1. Who is Isaiah writing of in 49:1-7?

Isaiah  
48-49

Answers:

1. The coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

*...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matt. 6:12)*

**Oct 13**

1. Both Isaiah (52:7) and the Apostle Paul (Rom. 10:15) wrote that those who bring God's "good news" are beautiful. What a great privilege, burden, and blessing it is to be able to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Who does God want you to share this good news with?

Isaiah  
50-53

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (Ps. 51:1-4)*

**Oct 14**

1. What are we reminded of in Isaiah 55:8-9?
2. Who is Philemon? Who is Onesimus?
3. What do you think of Paul's argument in support of Onesimus?

Isaiah  
54-55

Answers:

Philemon

1. God is the Creator and we are the creation. His ways and thoughts are on a completely different level than ours.
2. Philemon is a wealthy man who is a Christian living in Colosse. Onesimus is Philemon's runaway slave.
- 3.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Ps. 139:23-24)*

**Oct 15**

1. What happens to the righteous person when they die according to the first part of chapter 57? How do we become righteous?
2. The setting for the book of Hebrews is probably mid to late 60s at a time of great persecution towards the church from both Romans and Jews. The purpose of Hebrews is to remind all believers of all that faith in Christ offers. The author of Hebrews is unknown.
3. In chapter 1 of Hebrews, what are some ways in which Jesus is described?
4. How does the author of Hebrews describe the role of angels in v. 14?

Isaiah  
56-57

Hebrews 1

Answers:

1. He/she is "taken away to be spared from evil" and to "enter into peace." Through faith in Christ His righteousness is imparted to us (Rom. 3:21-31).
- 2.
3. See v. 2-13.
4. As "ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation."

*I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. (Ps 145:1-3)*

**Oct 16**

1. What impact does sin have on our relationship with God according to the first part of chapter 59?
2. In the O.T. the high priest was the mediator between God and His people, offering sacrifices for sin and interceding with God for the forgiveness of the people's sins. In chapter 2 of Hebrews Jesus is referred to as "a merciful and faithful high priest." In what way does He act as our high priest and much more?

Isaiah  
58-59

Hebrews 2



Answers:

1. It separates us from God (v. 2).
2. Jesus intercedes on our part, offering Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. He was the perfect Lamb of God that once and for all paid the penalty for our sins by His own sacrificial death. This is what "atonement" means.

*O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. (Isa. 25:1)*

**Oct 17**

Isaiah  
60-61

1. Read 61:1-2a. Who said these words?
2. In Hebrews 3:3 who is Jesus described as being "found worthy of greater honor than"? Why?

Answers:

Hebrews  
3

1. Jesus read this passage in the synagogue of His hometown of Nazareth. After reading this to them He sat down and said, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:16-21).
2. Moses. Because Jesus is the Creator and Moses the creation.

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! (Ps. 108:5)*

**Oct 18**

Isaiah  
62-63

1. How is God's word described in 4:12?
2. In chapter 4 of Hebrews the author speaks of entering the rest of God. How does a person enter into this rest? How is genuine faith evident in a person's life?

Answers:

Hebrews 4

1. The Word of God, the Bible, isn't just some story book written by man. It is the living and active word of God that can take dead people and make them alive, that can bring about a new and transformed life to a person.
2. A person enters into God's rest by faith (4:3-4). Genuine faith is evident by obedience that leads to fruitfulness (6:7-8).

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Ps. 139:14)*

**Oct 19**

Isaiah  
64-66  
Jer 1

1. What does Isaiah 64:6 mean?
2. According to the final chapters of Isaiah, will Israel be blessed by the Lord? Who is Israel?
3. Jeremiah was a prophet in Judah. He prophesized approximately 40 years, urging the people to repent and turn to God. His ministry ended as Judah was overthrown by the Babylonians and most of the people of Judah were either killed or taken captive to Babylon. In man's sight Jeremiah is a miserable failure. He has virtually no material wealth, he's not admired or respected, and basically no one listens to his message. But we are not measured by men but by God. In God's sight Jeremiah is obedient and faithful, and has sacrificed greatly in doing so. Jeremiah has faith in God and is willing to serve Him no matter what the cost.
4. According to chapter 1 of Jeremiah, what work does God have for Jeremiah? How does Jeremiah respond to God initially? Are we at times reluctant to serve the Lord?
5. What is going to happen to the nation of Judah? Why is God doing this?

Answers:

1. We are infected with sin. Even our best efforts fall short of God (Rom. 3:23).
2. Yes. According to Rom. 4:16; 9:6-8; Gal. 3:7 it is those who believe in God who are Abraham's offspring.
- 3.
4. To be a prophet to the nations (v. 5). Jeremiah's response is reluctant because he believed he was unable to speak (v. 6.). Sometimes our focus is more on ourselves and what we are able to do in our own flesh rather than what God can do through us by His Holy Spirit.
5. God's judgment is about to come upon them as they will be overthrown by another nation (v. 15). God does this because Judah has forsaken Him (1:16; 2:11, 19; 3:11).

*Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! (Ps. 105:1)*

**Oct 20**

1. How does God describe Israel in 2:2-3? What two sins had Israel committed according to 2:13?

Jer 2-5

Answers:

1. God describes Israel of the past as "devoted," as a "bride" who loved Him, as "holy to the Lord." The Israel at the time of Jeremiah had committed the sins of forsaking the Lord, the spring of living water, and having dug their own cisterns which were broken and could not hold water. Israel had foolishly rejected the Lord and gone their own way.

*Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. (Ps. 68:19)*

**Oct 21**

1. As you read Hebrews 5:1-3, in what way is Jesus our high priest?

Jer 6-7

Answers:

Hebrews  
5

1. He represents us before God the Father, He has offered Himself for the forgiveness of our sins, and He is able to deal gently with us and our sins because He understands what it is like to be tempted.

*Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. (Ps. 29:1-2)*

**Oct 22**

1. What are some things that men tend to boast in? What alone are we to boast in?
2. Hebrews 6:7-8 speaks of two types of land, one that produces a crop which is blessed by God and one that produces only thorns and thistles, which is cursed. These two types of land represent two types of people, those that are fruitful and blessed by God and those that are unfruitful who will be condemned. If we are saved through faith alone in Christ alone, then why is the person who does good saved while the one who does evil perishes?
3. Melchizedek is mentioned once in the O.T. After Abraham had just won a battle Melchizedek came out to him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand" (Gen. 14:18-20). What Melchizedek said was significant for at least two reasons. First, he was acknowledging God as God and second, his words reminded Abram that it was because of God that he was victorious. Melchizedek means "king of righteousness" and "king of Salem," meaning king of peace, which may have reference to or be a foreshadowing of Christ. Melchizedek was referred to as a priest even before the role of priest was instituted by God among the Israelites. That is why the priesthood of Jesus (not of Levi descent) was in the order or like that of Melchizedek. With a new covenant from God, a new type of priest has come (Heb. 5:6).

Jer 8-9

Hebrews 6

Answers:

1. Wealth/possessions, knowledge, abilities, accomplishments, and anything else we can think of to impress others. God alone (9:24). The apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:14, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."
2. No one is saved by their works (Eph. 2:9). Rather, genuine faith will always lead to good works. The good works simply then are the evidence of genuine faith.
- 3.

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

<b>Oct 23</b>	1. In considering chapters 7-10 of Jeremiah, what one word would you use to describe God's charge against the nation of Judah?
Jer 10-11	2. How was Jeremiah received by the people?
Hebrews 7	Answers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Faithless.</li> <li>2. They wanted to kill him, even those from his hometown (11:18-23).</li> </ol> <p><i>And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1:35)</i></p>
<b>Oct 24</b>	1. Essentially, what is Jeremiah's message to the nation of Israel? But will God permanently abandoned them?
Jer 12-13	Answers:
Hebrews 8	1. That because they have rejected God and have turned to idols and their own ways, they will be punished (13:8-11; 15:1-2; 16:11-13). No (16:14-15).
	<i>But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (James 1:6)</i>
<b>Oct 25</b>	1. How is the blood of Christ far superior as a sacrifice than the blood of "goats and bulls"?
Jer 14-15	Answers:
Hebrews 9	1. See Hebrews 9:13-14; 26-28.
	<i>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)</i>
<b>Oct 26</b>	1. In chapter 17:5-8 the Lord describes the man who is cursed and the one who is blessed. How are they described?
Jer 16-19	Answers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The man who is cursed is like "a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert." The man who is blessed will be "like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. He does not fear when heat comes; it's leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."</li> </ol> <p><i>For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (1 Peter 3:12)</i></p>
<b>Oct 27</b>	1. In 23:5-8 a Righteous Branch is spoken of. Who is this?
Jer 20-23	Answers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jesus.</li> </ol> <p><i>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)</i></p>
<b>Oct 28</b>	1. In chapter 24 Jeremiah speaks of two fig baskets that the Lord places before him. What are these a sign of? How long would the Israelites remain in captivity?
Jer 24-25	2. In Hebrews 10:26 the author writes, "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and raging fire that will consume the enemies of God." While all sin is obviously offensive to God and will result in some kind of consequence for the sinner, the author is not writing here about sin in general. What specific sin is the author referring to in this verse?
Hebrews 10	

Answers:

1. The two fig baskets represented two different groups of Jews. The good figs represented those who were exiled to Babylon. God would watch over and preserve those from among this group and would bring them back to the land. The bad figs represented those who remained in Judah or who fled to Egypt. This group would not receive God's blessings. The Israelites remain in captivity 70 years (25:11).
1. The sin of rejecting Christ as Savior and Lord. In Hebrews this warning is for those facing persecution to remain faithful to God.

*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matt. 5:44)*

**Oct 29**

Jer 26-27

Hebrews  
11

1. In chapter 26 Jeremiah's life is threatened. Who threatens him? What happens to Jeremiah?
2. How does the author of Hebrews describe "faith" in verse 11:1? The author goes on to list men and women who lived out that type of faith in their lives. Consider and be encouraged by those that have come before us who have lived by faith.
3. Where is the citizenship of those who live by faith?
4. The author concludes chapter 11 by saying, "These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised." What was "promised" which they had not received?

Answers:

1. The priests and prophets threaten Jeremiah (26:11). Jeremiah is saved because "the officials and all the people" (v. 16) said Jeremiah was speaking in God's name. They quoted Scripture to back up their argument (v. 18).
2. "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."
3. In heaven (11:13-16).
4. The Messiah, the Christ that would come. Through faith in Christ all are joined with Christ and share in everything that is His.

*The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)*

**Oct 30**

Jer 28-29

Hebrews  
12

1. Verse 29:11 is a verse that is often quoted. What does it mean? Is there application for us?
2. In the first part of chapter 12 the author of Hebrews encourages believers to consider the lives of those faithful witnesses that have come before them and to keep going, to keep running the race marked out for them, to keep being faithful.
3. How does the author encourage disciples to look at the hardships they are facing? How does hardship positively affect us?

Answers:

1. In the context of this chapter things look bleak for the Israelites. They have just been defeated and have been taken into captivity by their conquerors. And yet, none of this is outside God's sovereign control. While things are bleak for the Israelites at that time, they would again return to Judah in 70 years. God indeed has a "hope and a future" for them. Ultimately this "hope and future" rests on the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ – our hope and future as well.
- 2.
3. As discipline that will "produce a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it" (v. 11). Sometimes it teaches us what not to do, sometimes it shows us God's faithfulness and that we can fully trust Him, sometimes it removes things from our life that we are better off without.

*May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" (Ps. 70:4)*

**Oct 31**

Jer 30-31

Hebrews  
13

1. Why did God allow the Babylonians to defeat the Israelites?
2. In Hebrews 13:1 we are encouraged to love other brothers and sisters in Christ. We are also encouraged to entertain strangers. What reason does the author give for this?
3. What is the author's encouragement in 13:5? Is that a challenge in the culture in which we live?

Answers:

1. Jeremiah writes in 30:15, "Because of your great guilt and many sins I have done these things to you."
2. Because we may be entertaining angels without knowing it.
3. To keep our lives "free from the love of money and to be content" with what we have. Our culture brings a great deal of added challenge to us in the area of material wealth because it is so opposite of what we are commanded.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Phil. 4:6)*

- Nov 1**  
Jer 32-33  
James 1
1. The letter of James is attributed to James, the brother of Jesus, who became a leader in the Church at Jerusalem. Tradition has it that James was a holy man who spent a great deal of time praying in the temple. His nickname was "camel-knees." Eventually he was martyred for his faith by being thrown down from the top of the temple and then being stoned to death. It's interesting that James begins his letter as the letter of Hebrews leaves off, with persecution being looked upon as a good thing that produces greater maturity in a believer's life.
  2. What is the encouragement James gives us in chapter 1 concerning the word or God?

Answers:

- 1.
2. "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (1:22).

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (Matt. 7:7)*

- Nov 2**  
Jer 34-37
1. God commanded Jeremiah to write down on a scroll all the disasters that He planned to inflict upon the people. What did Jeremiah do with this scroll when he was finished? What happened to the scroll?

Answers:

1. He commanded Baruch, his scribe, to go to the temple and read what Jeremiah had dictated to him (36:4-7). The king burned the scroll.

*...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess. 5:18)*

- Nov 3**  
Jer 38-41
1. Jeremiah's message was not popular. What happens to him? (37-38)
  2. After many chapters of the Book of Jeremiah in which Jeremiah prophesies about the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the capture of the Israelite people, the event finally occurs as recorded in chapter 39 and 52. How is Jerusalem captured? What happens to the people?
  3. What happens to Jeremiah after Jerusalem falls?
  4. How was it that Jeremiah did not end up in Babylon with the rest who were carried into exile?

Answers:

1. Jeremiah was beaten and thrown in prison 37:15 and later thrown into a cistern (38:6).
2. Jerusalem is captured as the Babylonians lay siege to it for 18 months (38:1-2). After Jerusalem falls the king is captured and his eyes are put out, sons are killed, soldiers and nobles killed, other people in Jerusalem taken to Babylon, and the poor remain behind to take care of the vineyards and fields (38:5-10; 52:12-16).
3. After Jerusalem falls Jeremiah is treated well (39:11-14).
4. He was given permission by the Babylonian commander to go or stay as he wished because the commander believed he was a prophet of God (40:1-6).

*Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. (Jer. 33:3)*

- Nov 4**  
Jer 42-43  
James 2
1. What happens to the Israelite remnant that remains behind in Judea?
  2. What does James call faith without good deeds? Is James then referring to a gospel by which we must earn our right standing before God?

Answers:

1. They disobey God and go to Egypt where they will die of the sword, famine and plague (42:22).
2. Faith without good deeds James calls "dead" (2:18). No. Through faith in Christ we become new creations that have transformed hearts and minds that cannot help but do good (Eph. 3:10).

*...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chron 7:14)*

**Nov 5**

1. According to Jer. 44:2-6, 23 why did disaster come upon the Israelites?
2. According to James 3:8 what can no man tame?

Jer 44-45

Answers:

James 3

1. Disaster came upon the Israelites because they had turned away from God. They committed idolatry by worshiping other gods.
2. The tongue. This should cause us to be even more careful with our words.

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Rom. 12:12)*

**Nov 6**

1. In 4:4 James writes, "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?" What is meant by this? Is your loyalty to God divided? What would the Lord have you do?
2. What does God have to say to us through James concerning our boasting about what we will do in the future?

Jer 46-47

James 4

Answers:

1. It's similar to Jesus comment of not being able to serve two masters: God and money. Our loyalties cannot be divided between God and something else. We can enjoy pleasures that come from God's goodness, but pleasures that keep us from God or His will is sinful.
2. See 4:13-16.

*...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess. 5:18)*

**Nov 7**

1. As part of James concluding instructions, what does he urge his readers in verse 5:12?

Jer 48-49

James 5

Answers:

1. To simply be honest in their dealings. James is speaking here of having such a reputation for honesty that one needs nothing more than letting their "Yes" be yes, and their "No" be no.

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

**Nov 8**

1. The Lord used the Babylonians to punish the Israelites. What would eventually happen to Babylon?
2. In 1 Peter 1:3-5 Peter opens with great praise for things that God has given believers. What does this include?
3. What does Peter write about concerning salvation in verses 10-12?
4. Since we have been given these wonderful gifts from God, what are we encouraged to do beginning in verse 1:13?

Jer 50-51

1 Peter 1

Answers:

1. The Babylonians themselves would be completely destroyed (50:8-10, 13). Babylon was destroyed in 539 B.C. by the Medo-Persians.
2. "new birth into a living hope....an inheritance....shielded by God's power."
3. The prophets searched intently, trying to figure out the time and circumstances of Jesus death and resurrection and Peter adds, "Even angels long to look into these things" (v. 12).
4. Act like the children of God we are through faith in Jesus.

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Phil 4:6)*

## Nov 9

Jer 52  
Lam 1-3

1. How large is the remnant of Jews that is taken into exile? How does this number compare to the number of Israelites that left Egypt during the exodus?
2. Lamentations is also written by Jeremiah in response to Jerusalem's fall to the Babylonians. As a human, Jeremiah could have had an "I told you so" attitude. Instead, we see his heart broken over what happens to his people as a result of their rejection of God.
3. As you read through the first two chapters of Lamentations, what thoughts went through your mind?
4. Jeremiah describes himself in chapter 3 as an afflicted man. He describes his affliction as "walking in darkness," "skin and flesh grow old," "broken bones," "bitterness and hardship," "weighed down with chains." Who does Jeremiah accuse of doing this? Is Jeremiah without hope though? Why not? Are there times we face challenges in our own life and feel like we are afflicted? Do we also have hope in the midst of those times?

Answers:

1. 4,600 Israelites were carried into exile (52:28-30). Probably 2-3 million Israelites had left Egypt.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Jeremiah accuses God. Jeremiah remains hopeful (3:21) because he knows the character of God, including His faithfulness (22-26).

*But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deut. 4:29)*

## Nov 10

Lam 4-5  
Ezekiel 1-2

1. Within a few years of the Israelites being taken captive to Babylon Ezekiel becomes a prophet of God there. He's probably around 30 years old when he begins his ministry. You can think of Ezekiel somewhat like a street preacher. He does this in Babylon for 22 years. He's telling the people about God's judgment, but also of the eventual salvation He will bring. Just like Jeremiah, Ezekiel is also urging the people to repent and obey. The Book of Ezekiel is extremely confusing if you don't have some understanding of the time lines involved. Remember, the Jews were taken to Babylon during three different periods of time. Ezekiel is taken captive to Babylon more than 10 years before Jerusalem falls. So, even though he's already a captive in Babylon, part of his prophecy is about the fall of Jerusalem.

*The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)*

## Nov 11

Ezekiel 3-4  
1 Peter 2

1. We see in chapter 1-3 God's calling upon Ezekiel. What specifically does He call him to do? What was Ezekiel's reaction after the vision concluded?
2. The Lord commands Ezekiel to do some unusual things in chapters 3-5. What are they?
3. How are believers described in 1 Peter 2:9?
4. In 2:13 we are commanded to submit ourselves to "every authority instituted among men." Who would this include for us? To what extent are we to submit to them?

Answers:

1. He is to speak God's words to the people whether they listen or not (3:4-7). He sat for seven days – overwhelmed (3:15).
2. Ezekiel was not to speak unless God gave him something to say (3:26), he was to construct a visual aid showing Jerusalem and the siege against it (4:1-3), he was to lay on his side over a year (4:4-8), and he was to cut off his hair and beard (5:1-2).
3. Believers are described as "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God."
4. This would include government authorities, police, supervisors at work, teachers, etc. We are submit to them the full extent of the authority they have over us up until the point in which what they are asking us goes against God's will for us as given to us by His Word.

*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14)*



**Nov 12**

1. Consider the meaning and the application of 1 Peter 3:15.

Ezekiel 5-6

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people. (1 Tim. 2:1)*

1 Peter 3

**Nov 13**

1. In chapter 8 Ezekiel records another vision he has. What is this a vision of?
2. What does Peter have to share with believers in chapter four regarding suffering?

Ezekiel 7-8

Answers:

1 Peter 4

1. Israel's sin against God that led to their downfall.
2. As Christ suffered in the body we should be prepared for the same (4:1); don't be surprised by it, but rejoice that we are able to join in the sufferings of Christ (4:12-13); suffering is a form of blessing (4:14); don't suffer for doing wrong but for doing God's will (4:16-19).

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)*

**Nov 14**

1. What warning does Peter give us in chapter 5 concerning the devil? What instructions does Peter provide?

Ezekiel 9-10

Answers:

1 Peter 5

1. We should be on guard against him, knowing that he is out looking for someone to destroy. We are to resist the devil and remain firm in our faith.

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. (1 Peter 3:12)*

**Nov 15**

1. According to 11:17-20 what would God eventually do for the Israelites held in captivity? How is this similar to what God has done in our life?
2. At the end of 2 Peter chapter 1 Peter makes clear where the Bible came from? What does he say?

Ezekiel 11-12

2 Peter 1

Answers:

1. He would return them to the land of Israel (v. 17), would change their heart of stone into a heart of flesh (v. 19) which would allow them to again follow God (v. 20). We too at one time had a heart of stone that was in rebellion to the Lord but through faith in Jesus we have been given new hearts that allow us to love God fully and to love others around us.
2. That the words of Scripture or the Bible are God's words (1:20-21).

*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)*

**Nov 16**

1. In chapter 16 we see that Ezekiel is given an illustration from God that he is to pass on to the Jews. What is it? What were your thoughts?

Ezekiel 13-16

Answer:

1. The illustration is to remind the Israelites of their wickedness apart from God. They were like a child born from wicked parents who was left lying in its own afterbirth (3-5). It was only through God's intervention that they were able to survive and prosper. But rather than loving God, they acted like a prostitute (v. 15).

*Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. (Ps. 55:22)*

**Nov 17**

Ezekiel  
17-20

1. We see in chapter 18 that many of the Jews were discouraged because they believed they were being punished by God for the sins of their fathers. What message are they given?

Answers:

- 1 God's message to them is the same message He gives to us today, "Repent and live." (18:30-32).

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)*

**Nov 18**

Ezekiel  
21-22

1. What are some of the sins God accuses Israel of in 22:6-12?
2. What is Peter's warning in 2:1? Are you on guard against false teaching? What is one way we can identify false teaching.

Answers:

2 Peter 2

- 1 "shed blood...treated father and mother with contempt...oppressed the alien and mistreated the fatherless and the widow...despised my holy things and desecrated my Sabbaths...bent on shedding blood...eat at the mountain shrines and commit lewd acts...dishonor their father's bed....."
- 2 That there have been and will remain false teachers among the people. False teaching can be identified by taking the words spoken by man and comparing them against God's word, the Bible.

*You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (James 4:3)*

**Nov 19**

Ezekiel  
23-24

2 Peter 3

1. What does God compare Israel to in chapter 23?
2. In chapter 24 Ezekiel's wife dies. How does God have him respond to this? How is this to be an example for Israel?
3. In 2 Peter 3 we see that some were growing impatient in waiting on the Lord's return. What does Peter share with them? What is one reason given as to why Jesus hasn't yet returned?
4. What does Peter have to say about Paul's writings?

Answers:

- 1 Prostitutes.
- 2 Ezekiel was not to show any mourning or weeping. He was to go on doing what he had done before (24:15-18). The Israelites in captivity were not to weep or mourn when the destruction of Jerusalem occurred.
- 3 Peter reminds his readers of God's faithfulness but also that God doesn't work on the same time frame as we do (3:8-9). One reason for the Lord's delay in returning is to provide opportunity for others to come to faith in Christ.
- 4 He supports them and considers them to be "scripture," the words of God (3:15-16).

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. 2 I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Ps. 9:1-2)*

**Nov 20**

Ezekiel  
25-26

1 John 1

Answers:

- 1 John calls Jesus the "Word of life." The term "Word" is used in the O.T. to refer to the One who created (Ps. 33:6), the source of God's message to His people through the prophets (Hosea 1:2), and God's law, His standard of holiness (Ps. 119:11). "Word" was another expression for God.

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! (Ps. 57:11)*

- Nov 21** 1 Read the prophecy against the ruler of Tyre in 28:2-5. Do you believe there is a similar pride among many people of this world today?
- Ezekiel 27-28 2 According to what John has written, what are some ways in which we know we are saved?
- 1 John 2 3 According to how John is using the term "antichrist" in 2:18-27, who is the antichrist?
- 4 What does John mean when he says in 2:27 "you do not need anyone to teach you"?

Answers:

- 1
- 2 By walking in the light (1:6-7), obeying His commands (2:4), walking as Jesus walked (2:6), whoever loves his brother lives in the light (2:10), not walking in the ways of the world (2:15).
- 3 Anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ (2:22).
- 4 By writing this letter John is teaching believers. It is likely that he means that they have no need for any instruction beyond the word of God; no need for instruction by those who are proclaiming a false gospel.

*O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. (Ps. 63:1)*

- Nov 22** 1. What does John mean when he writes, "No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning" (3:6, 9)?
- Ezekiel 29-30 2. What are some ways we are to love one another according to 3:11-24?

Answers:

- 1 John 3 1 No one can continue to live just like they lived before if they have genuine faith in Jesus.
- 2 We are to "lay down our lives" (v. 16), share our material possessions (v. 17).

*Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he! (Ps. 99:5)*

- Nov 23** 1. When was Ezekiel's mouth opened, when was he again freed to speak?

Ezekiel  
31-34

Answers:

- 1 After the fall of Jerusalem (33:21-22).

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! 5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Ps. 100:4-5)*

- Nov 24** 1. In chapter 37 God gives Ezekiel a vision of hope. What is it? What application is there for us?

Ezekiel  
35-38

Answers:

- 1 The vision given to Ezekiel was seeing life again come to dry, human bones. It was a reflection of the Nation of Israel's physical and spiritual condition. Apart from God and held in captivity they were like dry, dead human bones. Just as God brought life to dead bones, He would bring life again to spiritually dead people. Those of us who have genuine faith in Jesus Christ have experienced this new life.

*Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! (Ps. 105:1)*

- Nov 25** 1. John writes in 1 John 4:7-8, "Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." How would many in the world describe "love"? What is the biblical definition of love?

Ezekiel  
39-40

Answers:

- 1 John 4 1. Most in the world would describe love in a romantic or sexual way. The Greek word for love in these verses is "agape," describing a love of self-sacrificial service to others

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Ps. 139:14)*

**Nov 26**

1. How is love further described in 1 John 5:3?
2. Are we capable of knowing we are saved in Christ?

Ezekiel  
41-42

Answers:

1 John 5

- 1 "This is love for God: to obey His commands."
- 2 Yes. See 1 John 5:13.

*I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. (Ps. 145:1)*

**Nov 27**

1. Chapter 40-44 speaks of the temple. Why would this be important for the Israelites?
2. In 2 John verse 5 John reminds his readers of an old command. What is it? How do we know how to love one another?

Ezekiel  
43-44

Answers:

2 John

- 1 For the Israelites the temple was the place where God dwelt among them. And when God was with them they would experience His blessings.
- 2 To "love one another." John writes to his readers in the next sentence: "And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands." God has given us His word, the Bible, to show us how we are to live, especially in loving one another.

*There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. (1 Sam. 2:2)*

**Nov 28**

1. What gave John great joy according to verse 3?

Ezekiel  
45-46

Answers:

3 John

1. Because of Gaius' "faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth." Does your faithfulness bring joy to others?

*O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. (Isa. 25:1)*

**Nov 29**

- 1 The Book of Ezekiel begins by describing God's holiness and Israel's turning away from God. How does Ezekiel end?
- 2 What is Jude's warning to the church?

Ezekiel  
47-48

Answers:

Jude

- 1 The book ends with a description of the new temple, the new city, and the new people, demonstrating God's work and continued faithfulness in the life of Israel.
- 2 To guard against false teachers that have slipped into the church (4-5).

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Ps. 119:14)*

**Nov 30**

- 1 Daniel is a young man, possibly a teenager, when he is part of an early group that is exiled in 605 B.C. to Babylon, 19 years before Jerusalem is destroyed. Daniel serves in captivity for almost 70 years. The Book of Daniel focuses on the sovereignty of God – His control over things.
- 2 What were the qualifications for the group of people that Daniel was exiled with? For what purpose were they being brought to Babylon? Did Daniel and the others perform well?
- 3 Daniel also has the ability to interpret dreams and visions. What is his interpretation of the king's first dream? Which kingdom is greatest? How did the king respond to Daniel's interpretation? Who did Daniel give all the credit to?
- 4 What are Hananiah, Mishaiah, and Azariah best known for?

Dan 1-4

Answers:

1

- 2 The exiles were of the nobility, young men without any physical defect, handsome, strong aptitude for learning, smart, qualified to serve in the king's palace (1:4). They were to enter into the king's service (1:5). They performed "ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters" in the king's kingdom (1:20).
- 3 A large statue: head made of gold (Babylon), chest and arms of silver (Medo-Person), belly and thighs of bronze (Grecian), legs of iron (Roman) (2:31-45). The greatest kingdom is the kingdom of God (2:44). The king honored Daniel and worshiped God (2:46-49). Daniel gave all the credit to God.
- 4 Also known as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (their Babylonian names), they are best known for refusing to worship the gold statue, being thrown into the fiery furnace but not being harmed (see chapter 3).

*Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Ps. 139:23-24)*

**Dec 1**

Dan 5-8

1. What happened to King Belshazzar after he and his people drank from the gold and silver goblets that were taken from the temple in Jerusalem?
2. In 6:1 King Darius is mentioned. Who is he? Why does he throw Daniel into a den of lions? What happens?
3. What is Daniel's vision in chapter 7 and what does it mean?

Answers:

- 1 He died (5:30).
- 2 Darius was the king of the Medo-Persians. The king throws Daniel into the lions' den to uphold the law, but God saves Daniel (chapter 6).
- 3 It's a vision of four great beasts, each representing an evil world empire. But God's kingdom would conquer them all.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! (Ps. 51:1-2)*

**Dec 2**

Dan 9-10

Rev 1

1. Revelation is a book written around A.D. 95, nearly 60 years after Jesus died on the cross. The Roman emperor at this time was Domitian, who initiated persecution against the church around the time John writes this book. In fact, John himself is being persecuted as he wrote this while on the Island of Patmos; a place where he had been exiled. One of the reasons that Domitian may have initiated persecution against Christians is because he saw himself as a god. His favorite title for himself was "our lord and god." No genuine Christian could acknowledge the emperor as such.

This book is a "Revelation," a revealing of something, an uncovering of something. This was a revelation of Jesus Christ given to the Apostle John by an angel. But what is the revelation? We see in verse 3 that John declares it a prophecy, the revealing of God's truth. God the Son's truth is being revealed to both strengthen and encourage the church and to warn it. The King of kings has a message for His church. As we read and discuss the Book of Revelation we must realize that we will not understand every detail of it. Even John did not understand everything that was being shared with him.

*Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! (Ps. 4:1)*

**Dec 3**

Dan 11-12

Rev 2

1. Consider the four churches listed in chapter 2. What encouragement does Jesus have for them? What warning does He give them? What does Jesus promise to give to the faithful? What application is there for us?

*To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thess. 1:11-12)*

**Dec 4**

Hosea 1-2

Rev 3

1. The last number of weeks, as we studied Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, the situation dealt with the coming destruction and exile of Judah to Babylon. Now as we go to the Book of Hosea we are going to back up approximately 150 years. At this point the nation of Israel is split. With the northern kingdom in the area of Samaria and the southern kingdom located in Judah, including Jerusalem. Hosea is a prophet to the northern kingdom. The northern kingdom lasted about 200 years before they were destroyed by the Assyrians. During that 200 year period of time the northern kingdom had 20 different kings. Do you remember how many of them were good kings, faithful to God? The northern kingdom was consistently in rebellion against God. Hosea is a prophet to the northern kingdom during the last 30-40 years of their existence. The Book of Hosea demonstrates God's love for His sinful people.
2. What does God call Hosea to do in chapter 1? Is Hosea's wife faithful to him after he marries her?

3. Consider the three churches listed in chapter 3. What encouragement does Jesus have for them? What warning does He give them? What does Jesus promise to give to the faithful? What application is there for us?

Answers:

1. The northern kingdom did not have a single faithful king.
2. Hosea was to marry an adulterous woman (v. 2). Even after Hosea marries Gomer she is unfaithful (chapter 2).
- 3.

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! (Ps. 143:10)*

## Dec 5

Hosea 3-4

Rev 4

1. Does Hosea take Gomer back even after her unfaithfulness? What does this situation illustrate? How does this apply to us?
2. While every person will be judged for the choices they make, who does God hold most responsible for Israel's rebellion against Him?
3. How does John describe God in Rev. 4:2-3? Does this paint a clear picture of what God looked like?
4. What are the "four living creatures" that are around the throne constantly saying?

Answers:

1. Yes. See chapter 3. Hosea even sacrificially buys her back (3:2). This illustrates Israel's unfaithfulness and God's steadfast love for them. We too have been unfaithful towards God, yet He loved us anyway, sending Jesus to die so that our sins could be forgiven and we be saved.
2. Their leaders (4:18; 5:1).
3. John describes Him as having the "appearance of jasper and carnelian." No. God's splendor and majesty may be too great to put into human terms.
4. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come" (4:8).

*Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. 36 Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! 37 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. (Ps. 119:35-37)*

## Dec 6

Hosea 5-6

Rev 5

1. How did John react to the fact that no one was able to open the scroll? John is told not to weep because there is One worthy. Who is He?
2. When Jesus takes the scroll, how do the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders respond? What does this say about Jesus?

Answers:

1. John "wept and wept" (5:4). Jesus.
2. They worship Him (5:8-10). He is God.

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. (Ps. 56:3)*

## Dec 7

Hosea 7-10

Answers:

1. The prophet is considered a "fool" and the "inspired man a maniac" (9:7).

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21)*

**Dec 8**

1. Is there any hope for the northern kingdom of Israel?

Hosea  
11-14

Answers:

1. It appears there is no hope for the northern kingdom as a nation, but there remains hope for those who will humble themselves and repent, again trusting in God (14:1, 4).

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (Ps. 19:14)*

**Dec 9**

Joel 1-2

Rev 6

1. Joel is a prophet to Judah. His ministry lasts for approximately 40 years (835-796 B.C. Judah falls to Babylon in 586 B.C.) During Joel's ministry there is a great famine in the land. At least part of the problem was caused by locusts. One swarm of locusts can contain up to 10 billion locusts. A swarm can devour in one day what it would take 40,000 people to consume in one year.
2. How does Joel describe the locusts swarm in 2:1-11?
3. In what appears to be a crisis situation, what does Joel call the people to do? The people appear to respond to this call. How does God respond to them?
4. When was Joel 2:28-29 partially fulfilled?
5. Scripture makes clear that when Jesus comes again and judgment takes place there will be two and only two groups of people, those saved through faith in Christ and those damned to everlasting punishment. Have you considered the group you are in? Have you considered the group those you know and love are in?

Answers:

- 1.
2. See 2:1-11.
3. Joel calls the people to repentance and prayer (1:13-20; 2:12-13). God promises to provide for them (v. 19) and to drive the locusts away (v. 20).
4. At Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers in Jerusalem (Acts 2:16-21).
- 5.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! (Ps. 51:1-2)*

**Dec 10**

Joel 3  
Amos 1

Rev 7

1. Amos is another prophet to the northern kingdom (Israel), just as Hosea was. Amos began to prophesy about seven years prior to Hosea and their two ministries overlapped by about three years. The northern kingdom will fall about 30 years after Amos' ministry ends. The Book of Amos begins with Amos prophesying about God's judgments on the nations around Israel, even upon Judah, the southern kingdom. What do you think might have been going through the minds of those in the northern kingdom as Amos prophesied God's judgment against the nations around them? How does the northern kingdom's judgment compare to the rest?

Answers:

1. Those in the northern kingdom were probably celebrating the judgments that were being spoken concerning those around them. See 2:6-16.

*There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. (1 Sam. 2:2)*

**Dec 11**

Amos 2-3

Rev 8

1. What happens as the first angel sounds his trumpet? (v. 8:7) The second? (v. 8-9) The third? (v. 10-11) The fourth? (v. 12)

*Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD! 2 Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! (Ps. 113:1-2)*



## Dec 12

Amos 4-5

Rev 9

1. How would you describe God's attitude toward the northern kingdom and their unwillingness to return to Him?
2. How were we like the northern kingdom? How are we different than the northern kingdom?
3. After all of this destruction recorded in Revelation, how did those who were still living respond?

Answers:

1. See chapter 4.
2. All followers of Jesus Christ we were once sinners in rebellion against God. Hopefully we have turned to Jesus in faith and repentance.
3. They still did not repent and turn to God (9:20-21).

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! (Ps. 108:5)*

## Dec 13

Amos 6-7

Rev 10

Answers:

1. John is told to eat the little scroll. In his mouth it tasted like sweet honey, but in his stomach it turned sour. In a similar way God's word is "sweet" to the believer but brings with it a sour sense as it condemns unbelievers. John received God's word but was told he must share it with unbelievers.

*Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he! (Ps. 99:5)*

## Dec 14

Amos 8-9

Obadiah 1

Jonah 1

1. Obadiah means "servant or worshiper of the Lord." Very little is known about Obadiah. He was a prophet to the southern kingdom (Judah) during the time the northern and southern kingdoms were divided. His prophecy is against the Edomites, a nation that had often harassed God's people. Who were the Edomites descendants of?
2. Jonah is another prophet to the Northern Kingdom. He prophesied for approximately 40 years, beginning 35 years before Amos. In the very first verse of chapter 1, God commands Jonah to do something. What is it? Does Jonah listen to God? How does the Lord get Jonah's attention?

Answers:

1. The Edomites were descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob (Gen. 36).
2. God commands Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against it. Nineveh is the capital of Assyria, the great enemy of the northern kingdom. Jonah refuses to obey God. Instead he heads in almost the opposite direction. God has a great fish swallow Jonah (1:4-2:10).

*For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! (Ps. 57:10-11)*

## Dec 15

Jonah 2-4

Micah 1

1. Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh? Did that happen?
2. Micah is a prophet to both the northern and southern kingdoms. His ministry lasts for about 55 years. His ministry begins about 20 years before the northern kingdom falls to the Assyrians. What does Micah prophecy concerning Israel? Do you see a theme being repeated in the prophets?

Answers:

1. Jonah was afraid that as he preached the Word of God to the Assyrians, whom he despised, that they might repent and God would have compassion on them (4:1-3). That is what happens (3:1-10).
2. Micah prophecies that judgment will come upon Israel.

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

## Dec 16

1. In Revelation chapter 11 we are told of two witnesses that must prophecy for 1,260 days. How did the witnesses "torment those who live on the earth" (v. 10)?

Micah 2-3

Answers:

1. By simply proclaiming the words of God.

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)*

## Dec 17

1. Does Micah speak of any hope?
2. Even though the saints are conquered by the beast, do they lose?
3. Did you notice in Rev. 12:11 that some believers overcame Satan through faith and trust in Christ even as they were physically killed?

Micah 4-5

Rev 12

Answers:

1. Yes. He prophesies that from Bethlehem will come a ruler (5:2). The ruler is our Savior Jesus Christ.
2. No, just the opposite is true. Their death-defying faithfulness conquers the dragon and the beast (12:11, 15:2).
- 3.

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (Rom. 8:26)*

## Dec 18

1. Who are the only ones who will not worship the beast?
2. What is meant by verses 9-10?

Micah 6-7

Answers:

1. All those who belong to Jesus; all those whose names have been written in the book of life (13:8).
2. That imprisonment and death may await followers of Christ during the reign of the beast. Christians need to be prepared and faithfully endure.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17)*

## Dec 19

1. Nahum began his prophetic ministry in Judah about 25 years after the northern kingdom falls to the Assyrians and about 80 years before Judah falls to the Babylonians. Nahum begins with "An oracle concerning Nineveh." What is Nineveh? What does Nahum prophecy about them? Is God still sovereign over the nations today?
2. While God used Babylon to punish Judah, will Babylon be punished as well?
3. Whose names are written on the foreheads of the 144,000? What does that say about Jesus?
4. Rev. 14:6 speaks of an angel flying in midair who has the "eternal gospel." Generally, what is the gospel? Why is it important for the inhabitants of the earth to respond to this eternal gospel?
5. According to verses 9-11, what will happen to those who do not have the Father and Son's name on their forehead, but that of the beast's mark? How is this wrath described in verses 10-11?

Nahum 1-2

Rev 14

Answers:

1. Nineveh is the capital of Assyria. Nahum prophesies that Nineveh will be destroyed, (1:10-15). About 50 years after Nahum's prophecy Nineveh falls and within three years Assyria is completely destroyed by the Babylonians and Medes. God remains sovereign over all nations.
2. Babylon will also be punished by God. See chapter 2.
3. God the Father and Son (14:1). For Jesus' name to be engraved next to the Father's on that which is God's, clearly points that Jesus and the Father truly are One, they both are God.

4. The word "gospel" means good news. It is the good news of Jesus Christ and it includes: (1) God created a perfect world making man in His image, (2) man sins against God and thereafter all men have a sin nature that deserves God's wrath and judgment, (3) the Father sent the Son to die in our place, to take upon Himself our sin, (4) the gift of salvation is received through faith in Jesus. Faith involves trust, commitment, and repentance, which means turning from sin and turning to Christ in obedience. It is important for people to respond to the gospel because John writes, "the hour of His judgment has come" (v. 7).
5. Those without God's name will receive the wrath of God. See v. 10-11.

*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.  
(1 John 5:14)*

## Dec 20

Nahum 3  
Habakkuk  
1-2

Rev 15

1. Habakkuk becomes a prophet to Judah approximately 25 years before it is destroyed by the Babylonians. The book starts with Habakkuk having a dialog with God. What is the basic question Habakkuk is asking God in verses 2-4? How does God respond? And Habakkuk's response?
2. Those standing beside the sea of glass were those who placed their faith in Christ. Verse 15:2 says they were "victorious over the beast and his image." How were they victorious over the beast? What were these saints doing?

Answers:

1. Habakkuk is asking God how long is He going to let this evil against Judah go on? God responds by proclaiming that He is going to use Babylon to punish Judah (1:5-11). Habakkuk believes that while Judah is bad, the Babylonians are even worse (v. 13).
2. They were victorious by remaining faithful to the Lord, even to the point of possibly being martyred for their faith (12:11). These were worshiping the Lord in song.

*The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)*

## Dec 21

Habakkuk  
3  
Zeph 1-3

1. What's the message of Habakkuk's prayer found in chapter 3?
2. Zephaniah is a prophet to Judah. His ministry begins about 55 years before Judah is defeated by the Babylonians. The events of the Book of Zephaniah occur during the reign of King Josiah. Was Josiah a good king?
3. What is going to happen to Josiah and Judah? Why did God do this if Josiah and Judah had repented?
4. Consider the words of Zeph. 3:17.

Answers:

1. That God is great and no matter what happens, he will continue to trust in Him.
2. Josiah's grandfather (Manasseh) and father (Amon) were evil kings. It was during Josiah's reign that the Book of the Law was found in the temple and Josiah was committed to obeying it.
3. Josiah will die in battle and Judah will be defeated by the Babylonians. Prior to Josiah becoming king God had already determined that Judah would be destroyed as a result of their sin. Sometimes people suffer as a consequence to others' sin.
- 4.

*May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"  
(Ps. 70:4)*

## Dec 22

Haggai 1-2  
Zech 1-2

1. Haggai is a prophet of Judah after Judah is destroyed. Judah is destroyed in 586 B.C. After the Jews are exiled they are given permission to return years later. They are also given permission to start rebuilding the temple. The work begins in 536 B.C. but then stalls out. Haggai and Zechariah are prophets at the same time and see that the work on the temple is resumed in 520 B.C.
2. Zechariah is a priest and prophet to Judah after their return from exile from Babylon. As was mentioned, the Israelites returned to Jerusalem and the surrounding area and had begun to rebuild the temple, but after a time the work stopped. Essentially the foundation was laid and no further work was completed because of powerful opposition to its rebuilding. The unfinished temple was a great discouragement to the Israelites as they sensed God had abandoned them. Then God sent Haggai and Zechariah as prophets which led to the work resuming on the temple and eventually being completed. These prophets also came with words of God's love for His people and that He would again prosper them.

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, (Ps. 103:1-2)*

## Dec 23

Zech 3-4

1. In the first six chapters of Zechariah we see a list of visions that he has. What's happening in chapter 3? How does this impact us?

Answers:

Rev 16

1. The filthy clothes represent the filth of sin in the lives of the people. By God's grace these clothes are replaced with pure clothes of God's righteousness. When we place our faith in Christ our sins are forgiven (the filth is removed) and we are clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (Col. 4:2)*

## Dec 24

Zech 5-6

Rev 17

1. In 6:12 Zechariah speaks of a "Branch: for he shall branch out from this place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord." Who ultimately is the "Branch"? And what temple will He build?
2. What is the goal of the beast and the kings?

Answers:

1. Ultimately the branch is Jesus Christ (John 15:5). Jesus, the apostles and prophets, and those who have faith in Jesus Christ are the new temple of God (Eph. 2:19-22).
2. Their goal is to destroy the Lamb, Jesus Christ (17:13-14).

*The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; 8 they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. (Ps. 111:7-8)*

## Dec 25

Zech 7-8

Rev 18

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:11-12)*

## Dec 26

Zech 9-10

Rev 19

1. Who is the great multitude referred to in 19:1, 6? What were they shouting?
2. What happens as John attempts to worship an angel?
3. Who is the rider on the white horse (19:11)? What is white a symbol for?

Answers:

1. The great multitude are those who have placed their faith in Christ. They are shouting "hallelujah," which means "praise the Lord," along with other words describing God's character and what He has done.
2. The angel tells John not to do it; that he was a fellow servant with John. He then tells John to worship God! We see this response throughout Scripture whether it be an angel of God or a man of God.

3. Jesus is the rider on the white horse, a symbol for victory.

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isa. 7:14)*

**Dec 27**

Zech 11-12

1. What is Zechariah to act out in 11:4-16?
2. Even though Satan's evil army is as numerous as "the sand on the seashore" (20:8), will God's people be protected?

Rev 20

Answers:

1. Zechariah was to act out the role of a shepherd (Christ) whom the sheep come to detest, and who then leaves the flock to a worthless shepherd.
2. Yes, God will protect them (v. 9).

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)*

**Dec 28**

Zech 13-14

1. It is important to note that approximately 54 passages of Zechariah are found in 67 different places in the N.T.

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Ps. 139:14)*

**Dec 29**

Malachi  
1-4

1. The Hebrew name Malachi means "my messenger" or "messenger of the Lord." There's no clear evidence as to the time period in which Malachi ministered. It was likely after the Israelites returned from exile, and even after the temple was rebuilt.
2. We see in Malachi 1 that God is again angry with Israel. Who does He find primarily at fault? What specifically does God accuse them of?
3. While Malachi means "my messenger" who is the "messenger" that Malachi writes about at the beginning of chapter 3?
4. After Malachi's ministry, God is silent for 400-500 years. It is not until John the Baptist appears that God again begins to speak to His people through John, preparing them for the coming Messiah/Christ.

Answers:

- 1.
2. The priests (1:6-2-9). God accuses them of offering polluted sacrifices (1:7-8). They have turned from God and have turned others away as well (2:8).
3. Jesus.
- 4.

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. (Ps. 95:6-7)*

**Dec 30**

1. How is heaven described in verses 21:1-7?

Rev 21

Answers:

1. See v. 1-7. This could be the restored earth or a completely new earth.

*The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)*

**Dec 31**

1. What is Jesus warning in Rev. 22:18-19?

Rev 22

Answers:

1. Not to add to or take away from the words of this book. All Scripture is of God and is to stand on its own.

*....if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:14)*