

Jerusalem's Rebellion, Punishment and Hope 27 MAR - 2 APR 2018

ZEP 1-3; 2 KI 23; 2 CH 33-35; PS 33, 66-67, 100; JER 1-6

Week 26 - 24 Weeks to Go

Zephaniah wrote to the people of Judah to warn them of God's impending judgment, to urge them to repent and to offer them the hope of restoration. Josiah's rigorous reform efforts did not appear to fully penetrate to the hearts of the people and covenant faithfulness would be short-lived. Judgement would be followed by restoration where God would purify his own, bring rejoicing to Jerusalem and restore his people and Jerusalem's glory. Jeremiah begins his calling in a time of political and military unrest, where Judah found itself at the mercy of the day's superpowers. Despite Josiah's attempts at reform the people, Jeremiah's message to turn back to God would be consistently rejected by the people. When we choose sin instead of obedience to God, we reject God's defense and invite disaster into our lives. There are consequences to our sins, but God always forgives us when we return to Him. Obstinacy and complacency bring God's judgement and Jerusalem finds itself under siege.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 686-708)

Day 1: ZEP 1:1-3:20
 Day 2: 2 KI 23:1-25
 Day 3: 2 CH 33:1-35:19
 Day 4: PS 33, 66, 67, 100
 Day 5: 2 KI 23:26
 Day 6: JER 1:1- 3:25
 Day 7: JER 4:1- 6:30

Outline

Zephaniah's Prophecy: From Judgment to Joy [Day 1]
 Josiah Keeps the Passover [Day 2]
 Priestly Account: Bad and Good Kings [Day 3]
 Psalms of Joy and Praise [Day 4]
 Prophetic Account: Josiah's Last Years [Day 5]
 The Call of Jeremiah [Day 6]
 Unfaithful Israel [Day 6-7]

Key Characters

Zephaniah	Josiah
Hilkiah	Manasseh
Amon	Jeremiah
Shaphan	Huldah

Key Locations

Judah	Cush
Assyria	Bethel
Jerusalem	

Key Terms

Day of the Lord	Judgment
Repentance	Justice
Comfort	Remnant
Reform	Unfaithful

Key Verses

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger. [ZEP 3:3]

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. [PS 33:1]

Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious [PS 66:1-2]

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us [PS 67:1]

See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant. [JER 1:10]

EPOCH 5
 (930 - 586 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Zep1: "I will sweep away everything from the earth," declares the LORD. The day of the LORD is near. "I will bring distress on mankind."

Zep2: Seek the LORD, you humble. Gaza shall be deserted. The LORD is against you, O Canaan. He will stretch out his hand to destroy Assyria.

Zep3: Woe to the rebellious city! "I have cut off nations. I will leave a humble people." Sing, O Zion! The LORD will quiet you by his love.

2Ki23: Josiah destroyed the altars and high places and held Passover. He was killed in battle. Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim ruled and did evil.

2Ch33: Manasseh became king. He did much evil and was captured by the Assyrians. Then he sought the LORD. Amon became king and did evil.

2Ch34: Josiah became king. He repaired the temple and had the law read out. Huldah said, "The LORD says: You will be buried in peace."

2Ch35: Josiah celebrated the Passover. He appointed priests to their duties and provided offerings. Then he attacked Neco and was killed.

Ps33: Rejoice in the LORD! Make melody, play skilfully. Let all the earth fear the LORD. His eye is on those who hope in his steadfast love.

Ps66: Shout for joy to God! Come and see what he has done. He has not let our feet slip. I will make an offering. God has heard my prayer.

Ps67: May God be gracious to us, and make his face to shine upon us. Let the peoples praise you, O God! The earth has yielded its increase.

Ps100: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth! Know that the LORD is God. Enter his courts with praise. For his love endures forever.

Jer1: The LORD said to me: I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. Do not be afraid. I am calling the northern kingdoms against Judah.

Jer2: Go and proclaim: My people have exchanged their glory for idols. You have all rebelled against me. Now I will bring you to judgement.

Jer3: Israel played the whore on every hill. Her false sister Judah saw it. Return, O faithless children! Surely the LORD is our salvation.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jer4: Flee to safety! I am bringing disaster from the north, says the LORD. I have heard the trumpet! The whole land shall be a desolation.

Jer5: Israel and Judah have been utterly unfaithful to me. I am bringing a distant nation against you. Your sins have deprived you of good.

Jer6: Flee from Jerusalem! I appointed watchmen but you would not listen. An army is coming from the north. My people are rejected silver.

Big Ideas in ZEPHANIAH

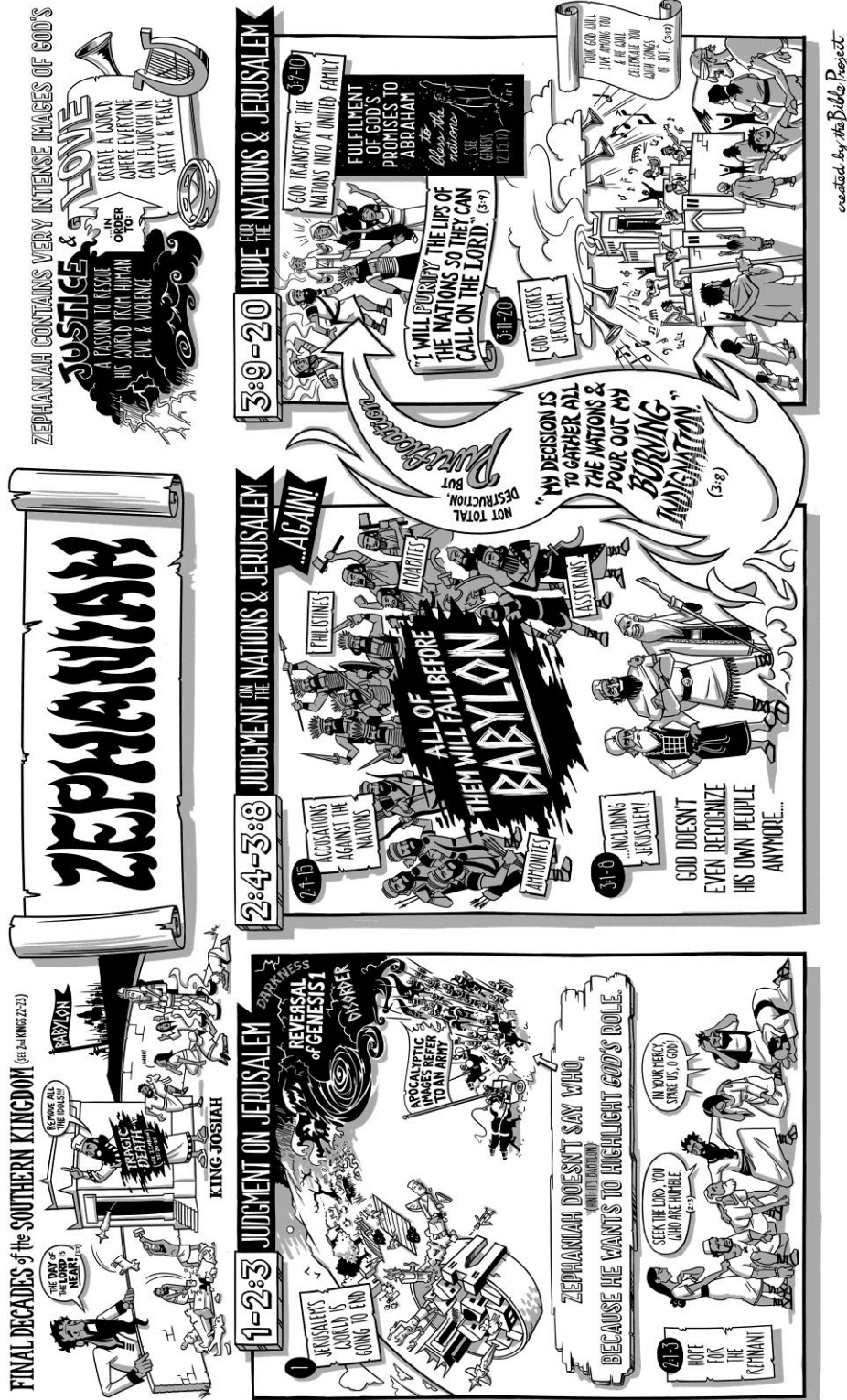
On the day of the Lord, he
will sweep away all nations
in judgment

Mixing worship of the true
God with idolatry yields
disastrous results


Seeking God alone
brings salvation

God will restore
both his people
and Jerusalem





Big Ideas in JEREMIAH



Jeremiah warns God's people to return to God and repent

Judah's idolatry will result in judgment and punishment

God will make a new covenant with his people

Ultimate trust must be found not in earthly things but in God

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

LifeLines: JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 1-51

All Ages Unknown

Serves as priest 1:1 

Called as prophet 1:4-10

Prophesies to Judah and Israel 2:1-11:23

Persecuted and imprisoned many times 11:18-21; 18:18-19; 20:1-2,7-10; 26:8-11,16; 32:2-3; 33:1; 37:15-16,21; 38:4-6,13,28

Warns Jerusalem of Babylonian invasion 34:1-22

Scroll is burned 36:23 

Survives Jerusalem's fall 39:1-14; 40:1-6

Taken to Egypt 43:4-7 

Gives final prophecy 51:59-64

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

27 MAR - 2 APR 2018

Week 26 - 24 Weeks to Go



Israel is taken into exile by Assyria

[2 Kings 17]

For over 200 years the northern kingdom of Israel had worshipped idols, dishonored their covenant relationship with God, and ignored God's warnings of exile.

For many years the Assyrians had been expanding their empire and had now become a large and dominant empire.

In 722 BC, Assyria conquered Israel and took most of the people from those 10 tribes to live in other conquered territories to the north and east of Israel. (Judah was taxed by the Assyrians but never conquered by them).

These 10 tribes of Israelites were scattered and assimilated into other cultures. These are the "10 lost tribes of Israel".

Assyria brought other conquered peoples to live in Israel (also called Samaria). These foreigners intermarried with the remnant of Israelites that had not been carried off into exile. The resulting people worshipped both God and idols. These people were referred to as Samaritans. In Jesus' day, the descendants of these Samaritans were looked down upon by other Jews (but not by Jesus!)



Judah last for another 135 years

[2 Kings 18-24 and 2 Chronicles 29-36]

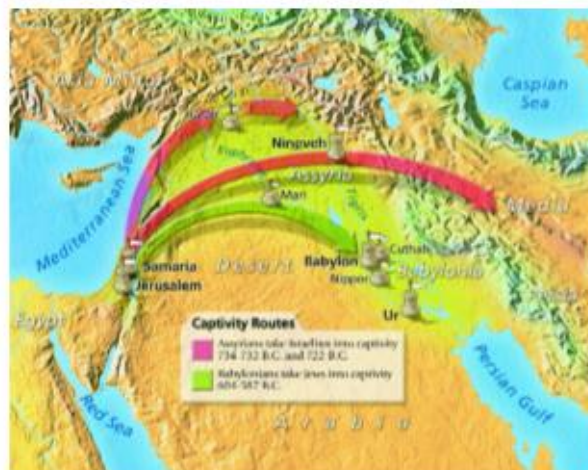
When the Assyrian Empire expanded into the Holy Land, the Assyrians did not conquer or exile the people of Judah. Judah was allowed to maintain its own kings and armies but they were considered to be part of the Assyrian Empire and were required to pay taxes to Assyria.

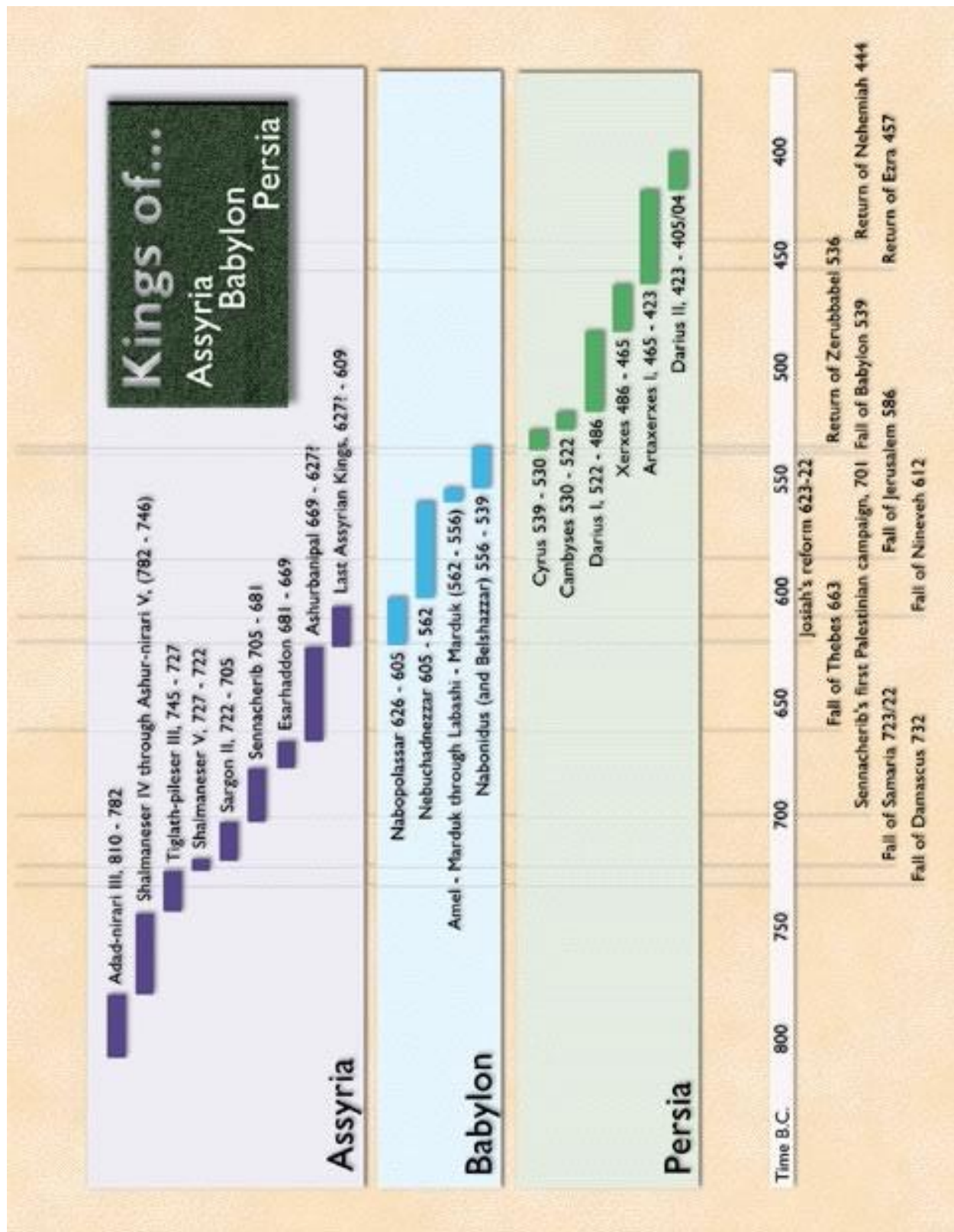
Judah survived as a nation 135 years longer than Israel.

Most of Judah's kings encouraged idol worship and God was displeased with Judah.

God raised up prophets in Judah to warn the people to turn away from sin and idol worship. These prophets predicted a 70 year exile ahead.

During these years the Assyrian Empire lost its strength and the Babylonian Empire grew in prominence and took over much of the former Assyrian Empire.





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Week 26 - 24 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What do the judgments in Zephaniah reveal about God's view of sin and its consequences? About God's view of the oppressor and the oppressed?
- What hope does God offer to any who gather together contritely before him (ZEP 2:1-3)? What attitudes and actions please the Lord? What will be the final result?
- God's wrath has its flip side – restoration. What one quality above all others do you think God wants restored in the nation, church or individual who worships him? How can that quality be modelled?
- If all nations end up worshiping God, "everyone in its own land" (ZEP 11), what do you imagine that will be like? Will that include worship of the one true God by various names?
- Psalm 33:4-9 focuses on God's creative power? How are both the love and power of God evident in creation? What are two things about creation that have impressed you about God's power? About his love? Do these things help you to worship God?

What did I learn about human nature?

- How do you tell the difference between honorable wealth and unjust riches?
- In what ways are our and our nation's attitudes and actions like and unlike Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Cush or Ninevah? What can be the outcome of overzealous pride in "God and country?"
- Is honesty that hard to practice? Why? When is it easy to be truthful? When is it hardest?
- Who do you think are false prophets today? What is their lie? How do they profit?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Throughout Zephaniah there is a pattern of rebellion, restoration and rejoicing. If this book were the story of your life, in which of these three stages do you find yourself in relation to God? Why?
- How does the Lord communicate with you: Are his plans for you always clear, sometimes clear or never clear? What role does Scripture play? What about advice, hunches, prayer and circumstances?
- How important is loyalty to you in your relationships apart from God? To what or whom do you feel most loyal? Why?
- Think of a place that has been devastated by war or disaster recently. Do you ever experience something like Jeremiah's concern and agony when you learn of people's suffering? Why or why not?
- What helps you worship best: Music? Loud shouts? Nature? Silence? Ritual? Why?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Evil and Injustice Will Not Last Forever

3 – 9 APR 2018

NA 1:1-3:19; 2 KI 23; JER 7-8, 11, 13, 15 17-18, 22, 25-26, 36, 45-47;
2 CH 35-36, HAB 1

Week 27 - 23 Weeks to Go

Nahum's prophecy of judgment on Ninevah was intended to bring hope to the people of Judah, who had suffered Assyrian abuse for many years. God cares for his people and will punish those who abuse them. He will protect them, free them from oppression and restore them. But he will not tolerate business as usual when he has called for repentance. He is the ultimate power and authority and he calls upon his people to live life his way. God is at work in the lives of his people even when it seems evil has triumphed. Because God is sovereign, he will not let injustice continue forever. God's ways may seem unfathomable, but He was in control.

Weekly Reading Plan (pg. 708-730)

Day 1: NA 1:1-3:19; 2 KI 23:28-34
Day 2: JER 22:10-17; 2 CH 35:20-36:4
Day 3: HAB 1:1-3:19; 2 KI 23:35-37
Day 4: JER 26:1-6; 7:1-8:3; 26:7-24;
11:1-12:17
Day 5: JER 47:1-7; 46:1-12; 13:1-14;
18:1-17
Day 6: JER 36:1-10; 25:1-14;
Day 7: JER 36:11-32; 45:1-5; 15:10-21

Outline

Nahum [Day 1]
The Death of Josiah [Day 1]
A Dirge for an Exiled King [Day 2]
Priestly Account: Josiah's Last Years [Day 2]
Habakkuk [Day 3]
Prophetic Account: Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin [Day 3]
Jeremiah's Temple Sermon [Day 4]
The Battle of Carchemish [Day 5]
Jeremiah's Scroll [Day 6-7]

Key Characters

Nahum	Josiah
Jehoahaz	Necho
Jeremiah	Jehoiakim
Habakkuk	Baruch
Nebuchadnezzar	Micah

Key Locations

Nineveh	Judah
Jerusalem	Charchemish
Megiddo	Shiloh
Egypt	Perath
Babylon	

Key Terms

Judgment	Conflict
Rebellion	Injustice
Salvation	Repentance

Key Verses

The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness. [NA 1:7-8]

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. [HAB 3:17-18]

As for all my wicked neighbors who seize the inheritance I gave my people Israel, I will uproot them from their lands and I will uproot the people of Judah from among them. But after I uproot them, I will again have compassion and will bring each of them back to their own inheritance [JER 12:15]

I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel [JER 15:21]

EPOCH 5
(930 - 586 BC)

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2 CH 35-36, HAB 1

Week 27 - 23 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Na1: Against Nineveh: The LORD takes vengeance on his enemies. The LORD says, "I will break his yoke from you." Hold your feasts, O Judah!

Na2: The LORD is restoring Jacob. Chariots race through the streets. Nineveh is like a draining pool. "I am against you," declares the LORD.

Na3: Woe to the bloody city! "The nations will look at your shame." Draw water for the siege. Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria.

2Ki23: Josiah destroyed the altars and high places and held Passover. He was killed in battle. Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim ruled and did evil.

Jer26: The LORD said: Speak in the courts. The priests seized Jeremiah to kill him, but the officials refused. Uriah had been put to death.

Jer11: Both Israel and Judah have broken my covenant. I will bring disaster. Do not pray for them. I will punish those who seek your life.

Jer12: O LORD, why do the wicked prosper? I have left my house. Many shepherds have ruined my vineyard. I will uproot my evil neighbors.

Jer47: Of the Philistines: Waters are rising from the north. The LORD is destroying the Philistines. How can the sword of the LORD be quiet?

Jer46: Of Egypt: There is no healing for you. Prepare yourselves for exile. I will deliver Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar. But fear not, O Jacob!

Jer13: The LORD told me to hide a sash in the rocks. So I will ruin the pride of Judah, says the LORD. All Judah will be carried into exile.

Jer18: The LORD said: Go to the potter. You are clay in my hand, O Israel. My people have forgotten me. O LORD, they have dug a pit for me.

Jer36: Baruch read out Jeremiah's words at the temple. The king sent for the scroll and burned it. The LORD said: I will bring disaster.

Jer25: You did not listen, says the LORD. So I will summon Babylon. Make the nations drink my cup of wrath. The LORD will roar from on high.

Evil and Injustice Will Not Last Forever

3 – 9 APR 2018

NA 1:1-3:19; 2 KI 23; JER 7-8, 11, 13, 15 17-18, 22, 25-26, 36, 45-47;
2 CH 35-36, HAB 1

Week 27 - 23 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jer45: When Baruch wrote these words, the LORD said to him: I am going to break what I have built. Do not seek great things for yourself.

Jer15: Send these people away from my presence! Who will mourn for Jerusalem? O LORD, I suffer insult for you. I am with you, says the LORD.

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Week 27 - 23 Weeks to Go

Judah is taken into exile by Babylon

[2 Chronicles 36]

The Babylonian Empire (under King Nebuchadnezzar) attacked Judah and quickly took many of the best leaders, families, nobles and youths captive. These captives were taken to Babylon and given food, land, training and sometimes positions of influence.

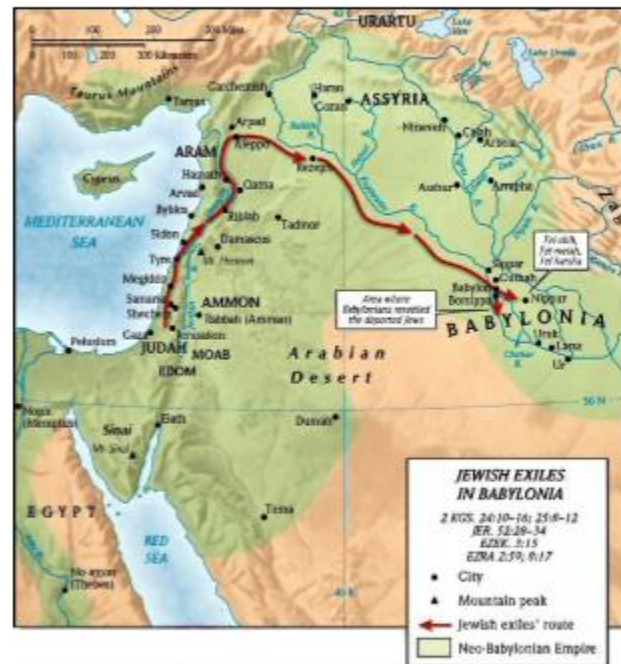
Judah was eventually completely conquered by the Babylonians who then destroyed Solomon's Temple and carried off all of its valuable articles including the Ark of the Covenant.

Most of the remaining people of Judah were then taken captive to Babylon in 2 successive groups.

These Judah captives clung to their worship of God and remained distinct from the Babylonians and their idol-worship. Many of these Judahs (now called Jews) prospered in Babylon.

In Babylon, the Jews formed small community groups for worship. These were the first synagogues.

After 70 years of captivity, the Persian Empire overtook the Babylonian Empire and the Persian king encourage the Jews to return to their homeland and rebuild the Temple.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

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2 CH 35-36, HAB 1

Week 27 - 23 Weeks to Go

Big Ideas in HABAKKUK



God is holy and just; he is not indifferent regarding sin and injustice

God will punish the wicked at the right time

The righteous wait faithfully for God's purposes to be fulfilled

God's goodness can be seen even in the worst situations

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

Questions and Answers

Habakkuk



<i>Habakkuk's Questions</i>	<i>God's Answers</i>
God, have you abandoned us? 1:1-4	No, but Israel's wickedness has not gone unnoticed; I will send the Babylonians to punish my people 1:5-11
The Babylonians? God, how could you? 1:12-2:1	I know the Babylonians are not innocent; I promise to crush them as well 2:3,8
God, are you still there? 3:1-15	Yes, and I will strengthen my people even in difficult times 3:16-19

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

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Week 27 - 23 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

Evil and Injustice Will Not Last Forever

3 – 9 APR 2018

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2 CH 35-36, HAB 1

Week 27 - 23 Weeks to Go

What did I learn about God?

- In Nahum, we see that God is good in his anger. How do you reconcile God's wrath with God's love? Is one primary and the other secondary? Are they flip sides of the same coin? Or do you find it difficult to see consistency in these two natures of God?
- In 2 KI 23 we read about the revival brought about by Josiah. Is revival dependent all and only on God? What role, if any, should we play in revival today?
- Habakkuk calls out to God asking why there is evil and injustice. How might God use terrorists, drug lords, human traffickers, police states, and scandals in our day?
- In JER 18 we see the image of God as a potter. Are God's plans set in "concrete" or "wet clay"? How much does he mold people and how much do people mold themselves? Read RO 9:19-21.

What did I learn about human nature?

- God declares to Nineveh in Nahum "I am against you." To what extent is our nation guilty of the sins of Nineveh, such as cruelty and warmongering? Is our nation's capital as liable as Nineveh for lies and making money at the expense of others? What personal responsibility, if any, do we have in giving warning to our nation today? Who do you think raises the voice of reform today?
- What fears do some people, including Christians, have about something or someone other than themselves being in control? In what ways does our culture encourage people to be in control in their lives, jobs, marriage, etc? What do our fears indicate about our willingness or ability to let God be in control? What are some ways we can daily relinquish our lives to God's sovereign control?
- What do wars accomplish? Are they acts of God's wrath or the results of man's folly? Explain.
- In JER 36 King Jehoiakim burns Jeremiah's scroll containing God's word. How do people today show disdain for God's word? How do they honor it?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Describe a time when God gave you hope through something amazing He did in the life of another person.
- Describe a time when, like Habakkuk, you were "awed" by God's creation.
- Jeremiah was calm facing death (JER 26:14-15). Does the fear of the Lord make you immune to the fear of men? Should it? How can you overcome what you fear the most?
- Do you think serving the Lord was a pleasant task for Jeremiah? Would you have liked his job? Do you ever feel unrewarded for your dedication? Unappreciated by God? By others? How does God equip you for the role you play?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Words of Warning Rejected

10– 16 APR 2018

JER 8-10, 13-20; 22-24, 35; 2 KI 24-25; 2 CH 36; DA 1

Week 28 - 22 Weeks to Go

Jeremiah continues to warn God's people that those who do not turn away from evil will face severe consequences. Despite over 40 years of emotional appeals, Jeremiah's words continue to go unheeded. Along with words of discouragement about judgment, there is also encouragement in Jeremiah's message. God is our potter; he is in control of our circumstances. Faithfulness to God's way will always overcome the failures of sin in our lives. In captivity, Daniel shows uncompromising faith in God's sovereignty and power.

Weekly Reading Plan: (Pg. 730-751)

Day 1: JER 14:1-17:27

Day 2: JER 8:4-10:16

Day 3: 2 KI 24:1-4; JER 35:1-19

Day 4: JER 23:9-40; 18:18-20:18

Day 5: 2 KI 24:5-9; JER 22:18-30;
JER 13:15-27

Day 6: 2 KI 24:10-17; 2 CH 36:5-10

Day 7: JER 24:1-10; DA 1:1-21

Outline

The Drought [Day 1-2]

Jehoiakim's Rebellion Against Babylon [Day 3]

The Rekabites [Day 3]

False Prophets [Day 4]

Do Not Hope in King Jehoiachin [Day 5]

Jehoiachin Taken Captive [Day 6]

Priestly Account: Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin [Day 6]

Prophetic Account: Zedekiah and Jeremiah [Day 7]

Daniel's Training in Babylon [Day 7]

Key Characters

Jeremiah	Jehoiakim
Nebechadnezzar	Rekabites
Pashhur	Jehoiachin
Zedekiah	Daniel
Ashpenaz	

Key Locations

Judah
Jerusalem
Babylon

Key Terms

Punishment
Judgment
Prophecy
Obedience
Captivity
Word of the Lord
Faithless/Faithful

Key Verses

Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight." [JER 9:23-24]

Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians. My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. ..They will be my people and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart. [JER 24:5-7]

EPOCH 5
(930 - 586 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jer14: There is no water in the cisterns. O LORD, do not forsake us! I will destroy them by sword and by famine. Can any idols bring rain?

Jer15: Send these people away from my presence! Who will mourn for Jerusalem? O LORD, I suffer insult for you. I am with you, says the LORD.

Jer16: The LORD said to me: Do not marry or have children. Why has the LORD pronounced evil against us? You have followed your evil hearts.

Jer17: Cursed are those who trust in man. Blessed are those who trust in the LORD. If you keep the Sabbath, Jerusalem will remain forever.

Jer8: Why do these people refuse to return? They have no shame. The LORD has doomed us because we have sinned. Is there no balm in Gilead?

Jer9: No one speaks the truth. I will scatter these people, says the LORD. The sound of wailing is heard from Zion. I act with justice.

Jer10: Do not learn the ways of the nations. The LORD is the true God. Listen, a great commotion from the north! They have devoured Jacob.

2Ki24: The LORD sent raiders against Judah. Jehoiachin ruled and Nebuchadnezzar took all Jerusalem captive. Zedekiah ruled and did evil.

Jer35: The Rechabites refused to drink wine. The LORD said to Judah: The command of Jonadab has been obeyed, yet you have not obeyed me.

Jer23: I will raise up a righteous Branch, says the LORD. The prophets fill you with false hopes. I did not speak, yet they have prophesied.

Jer18: The LORD said: Go to the potter. You are clay in my hand, O Israel. My people have forgotten me. O LORD, they have dug a pit for me.

Jer19: The LORD said: Buy a clay jar. These people have burned sacrifices to foreign gods. Then break the jar. So I will smash this nation.

Jer20: Pashhur put Jeremiah in the stocks. Everyone mocks me. But the word of the LORD is a fire in my bones. Cursed be the day I was born!

Words of Warning Rejected

10– 16 APR 2018

JER 8-10, 13-20; 22-24, 35; 2 KI 24-25; 2 CH 36; DA 1

Week 28 - 22 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jer22: Proclaim at the palace: I will make you a desert. Shallum will not return. They will not lament for Jehoiakim. Coniah is cast away.

Jer13: The LORD told me to hide a sash in the rocks. So I will ruin the pride of Judah, says the LORD. All Judah will be carried into exile.

2Chr36: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah ruled. Then Nebuchadnezzar burned the temple and took Judah captive for seventy years.

Da1: Nebuchadnezzar brought the young nobles to Shinar. Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the king's food. God gave him wisdom.

Object Lessons

Jeremiah 13–43

Jeremiah communicates God's messages using the following objects:

Object

Lesson



**Ruined
linen belt**



**God will destroy the pride of
Judah**
13:1–11



Wineskins



**God will cause them to smash into each
other like drunk people**
13:12–14



Clay pot



**God forms his people as a
potter forms the clay**
18:3–12



**Good and
bad figs**



**The exiles will return to Judah; Zedekiah
and the survivors from Jerusalem will be
destroyed by sword, famine and plague**
24:1–10



Cup of wine



**God will pour out his judgment on
Judah and the nations**
25:15–29



**Yoke around
neck**



**Nations must submit to Babylon's rule
or face destruction**
27:1–15



**Deed of
purchase**



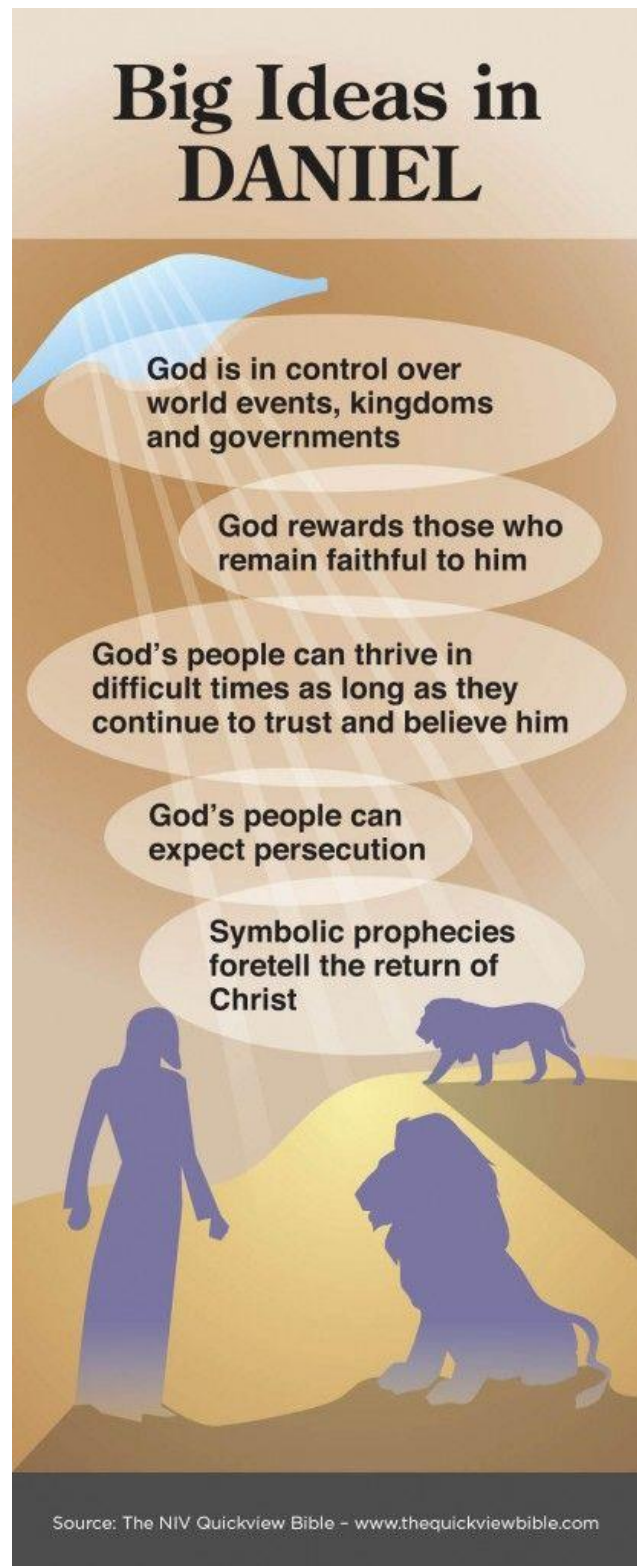
**God will once again restore his
people to their land**
32:6–15



**Buried
stones**



**Babylon will destroy and rule
over Egypt**
43:8–13





Persians take the Babylonian Empire

[The Book of Daniel]

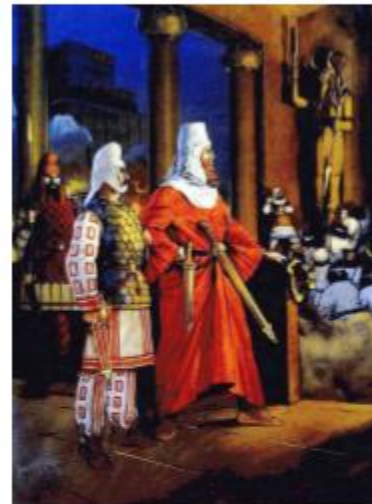
The Babylonian Empire was short-lived (about 70 years).

The neighboring nations of Persia and Media merged and under the leadership of Cyrus the Great they conquered the Babylonians, took their empire, and established the Persian Empire. The Holy land was now dominated by Persia.

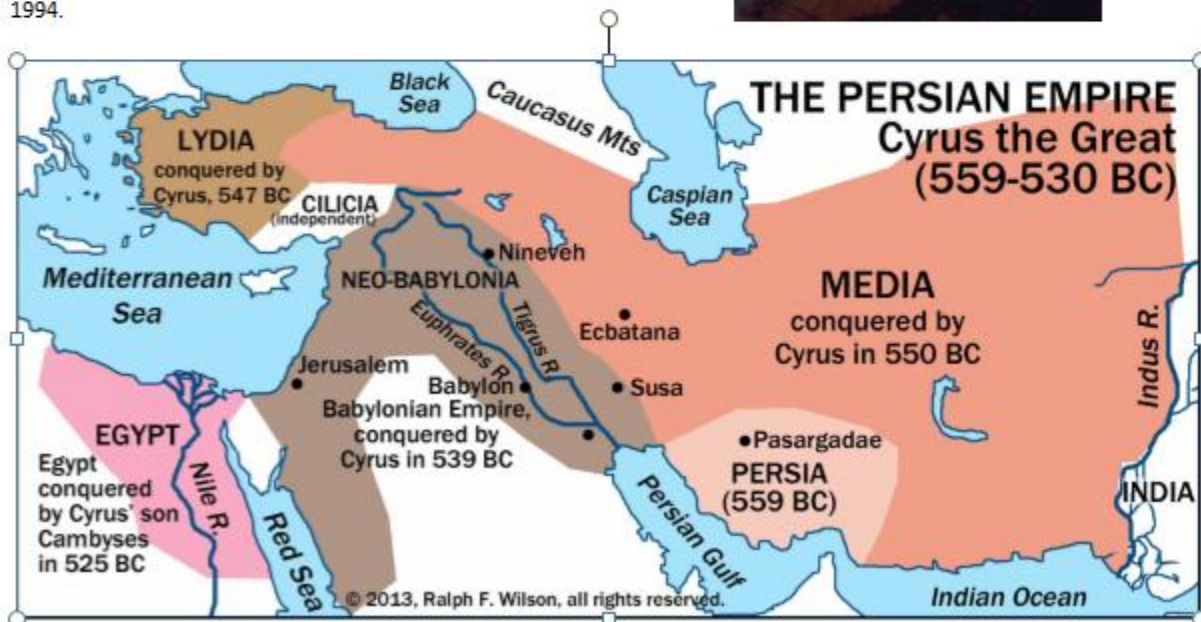
The new Persian Empire (often called the Medo-Persian Empire) included all of the old Babylonian Empire and much more.

The story of how the Persians stormed the Babylonian palace is the famous “handwriting on the wall” story in which Daniel is summoned by the Babylonian king to interpret the mysterious words: “mene. mene. tekel. parsin.”

King Cyrus (the 1st king of the Persian Empire) was “moved” by God to encourage the Jews (who had been held captive in Babylon for 70 years) to return to the Promised Land and rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.



Words of Warning Rejected

10– 16 APR 2018

JER 8-10, 13-20; 22-24, 35; 2 KI 24-25; 2 CH 36; DA 1

Week 28 - 22 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- Does God have a greater creative plan underlying the Babylonian invasion and the destruction of Jerusalem? What is it?
- Why does God keep sticking with the Judean people even when they won't listen?
- What does the symbolism of the potter and clay (JER 18) say about the relationship between God's sovereignty and our freedom to make moral choices (free will)? How is God at work with us "for His pleasure"?
- In DA 1, what does the author specifically credit God with? What does this show about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

- The people in Jeremiah's time believed that God would protect them no matter what their actions were. Some say that many Americans believe similarly that "God is on our side." How would you respond?
- Read JER 8:22. What situations in the world today strike you as too advanced, too far gone, to be healed? What places is the greater Church perhaps absent or turning away from the wounds of the world?
- If Jeremiah is any indication, faithfulness to God does not necessarily lead one to happiness. How do you respond? How do you see people respond to being ridiculed for witnessing to their faith?
- Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann claims that the crisis of Judah's downfall is "the dominant and shaping event of the entire Old Testament". What might be the dominant and shaping events for our society today? What is the church's prophetic role in speaking truth about these events?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Would you want to be charged with the responsibility to speak God's word to priests, kings, and nations (or the modern equivalent)? Why? What challenges are there? What good is there?
- The temple represented the religious faith of Israel. Is there a symbol or particular location that represents the Christian faith for you?
- Read JER 15:16-18 (pg. 729). Have you ever had similar feelings about God in the face of personal crisis? When have you experienced times of despair when you were unable to sense God's healing presence? What things seemed to block you? How do you respond to God's words of reassurance in the face of Jeremiah's despair in JER 19-21 (pg. 730)?
- Daniel and his friends excelled in what they were taught. What does this teach you about being "in the world but not of it"? How are you preparing not only to survive living in an ungodly culture, but thrive as an influence? What about Daniel's approach to the problem can you learn from and apply?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

In response to Daniel’s faithfulness, God gives him powers to interpret dreams and symbols. Yet even this supernatural skill does not remove Daniel and his friends from situations that test their faith in God. Daniel’s life and prophecies gave the Jews exiled in Babylon, and us, hope and helped restore their faith in the sovereignty and presence of their God. God is in control and we can safely frame our lives on resolute trust in his care. Ezekiel receives a majestic vision of God to prepare him for his time of ministry. He relays a discouraging message of Jerusalem’s destruction to his people in exile; a prophecy that is realized by the end of this week’s reading.

Weekly Reading Plan (pg. 751-777)

Day 1: DA 2:1-4:37
 Day 2: 2 KI 24:18-19; JER 52:1- 2
 Day 3: JER 27:1-11; 48:1-49:39
 Day 4: JER 25:15-38; 27:12-28:17
 Day 5: JER 29:1-32
 Day 6: JER 50:1-51:64
 Day 7: 2 CH 36:11, 12; EZE 1:1-3:21;
 2 KI 24:20-25:3, JER 52:3-6

Outline

Daniel’s Time in Babylon [Day 1]
 Zedekiah’s Alliances [Day 2]
 Zedekiah’s Jerusalem Conference [Day 3-4]
 Letter to the Exiles [Day 5]
 Oracles Against Babylon [Day 6]
 Priestly Account: Zedekiah and Jeremiah [Day 7]
 Ezekiel: A Prophet in Exile [Day 7]
 Prophetic Account: Rebellion Against Babylon [Day 7]

Key Characters

Nebuchadnezzar	Daniel
Astrologers	Shadrach
Meshach	Abednego
Zedekiah	Hananiah
Jeremiah	

Key Locations

Babylon	Judah
Jerusalem	Moab
Edom	Damascus
Kedar	Hazor
Elam	

Key Terms

Dreams
 Visions
 Judgment

Key Verses

“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself ensure forever.” [DA 2:44]

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” [JER 29:11]

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time”, declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people.” [JER 31:33]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Da2: Nebuchadnezzar had dreams. Daniel said, "God reveals mysteries. You saw a great statue broken by a stone. God will set up a kingdom."

Da3: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not worship the gold statue. Nebuchadnezzar threw them into the furnace but God protected them.

Da4: "I, Nebuchadnezzar, dreamt of a tree cut down. Daniel said, 'You shall eat grass like an ox.' Afterwards my kingdom was restored."

2Ki24: The LORD sent raiders against Judah. Jehoiachin ruled and Nebuchadnezzar took all Jerusalem captive. Zedekiah ruled and did evil.

Jer52: Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan burned the temple and took the people into exile. Evil-merodach released Jehoiachin.

Jer27: The LORD said: Put a yoke on your neck. I will hand all the nations over to serve Nebuchadnezzar. Do not listen to your prophets.

Jer48: Of Moab: Woe to Nebo, for it is laid waste. We have heard of his arrogance. How it is broken! Moab has become a derision to all.

Jer49: The LORD says: Rabbah will become desolate. I will make Edom small. Damascus has become feeble. Flee, O Hazor. I will destroy Elam.

Jer25: You did not listen, says the LORD. So I will summon Babylon. Make the nations drink my cup of wrath. The LORD will roar from on high.

Jer27: The LORD said: Put a yoke on your neck. I will hand all the nations over to serve Nebuchadnezzar. Do not listen to your prophets.

Jer28: Hananiah took Jeremiah's yoke and broke it. The LORD said: Tell Hananiah, I have put an iron yoke on these nations. Hananiah died.

Jer29: Jeremiah wrote to the exiles: Seek peace for the city. After seventy years you will return. Ahab, Zedekiah and Shemaiah speak lies.

Jer50: Of Babylon: A nation will make her desolate. Judah will seek the LORD. Repay Babylon for all her deeds. A sword against her warriors!

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

[Jer51](#): The LORD says: I will send a destroyer against Babylon. I will repay them for the evil done in Zion. Read these words in Babylon.

[2Ch36](#): Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah ruled. Then Nebuchadnezzar burned the temple and took Judah captive for seventy years.

[Eze1](#): I saw visions of God. Out of a storm came four creatures. I saw wheels within wheels. Above them was a throne and the figure of a man.

[Eze2](#): He said to me: "Son of man, stand up." The Spirit entered me. He said: "I send you to rebel Israel." Before me was a scroll of woe.

[Eze3](#): He said to me: "Israel will not listen." I came to the exiles. The LORD said: "I have made you a watchman. I will open your mouth."

[2Kgs24](#): The LORD sent raiders against Judah. Jehoiachin ruled and Nebuchadnezzar took all Jerusalem captive. Zedekiah ruled and did evil.

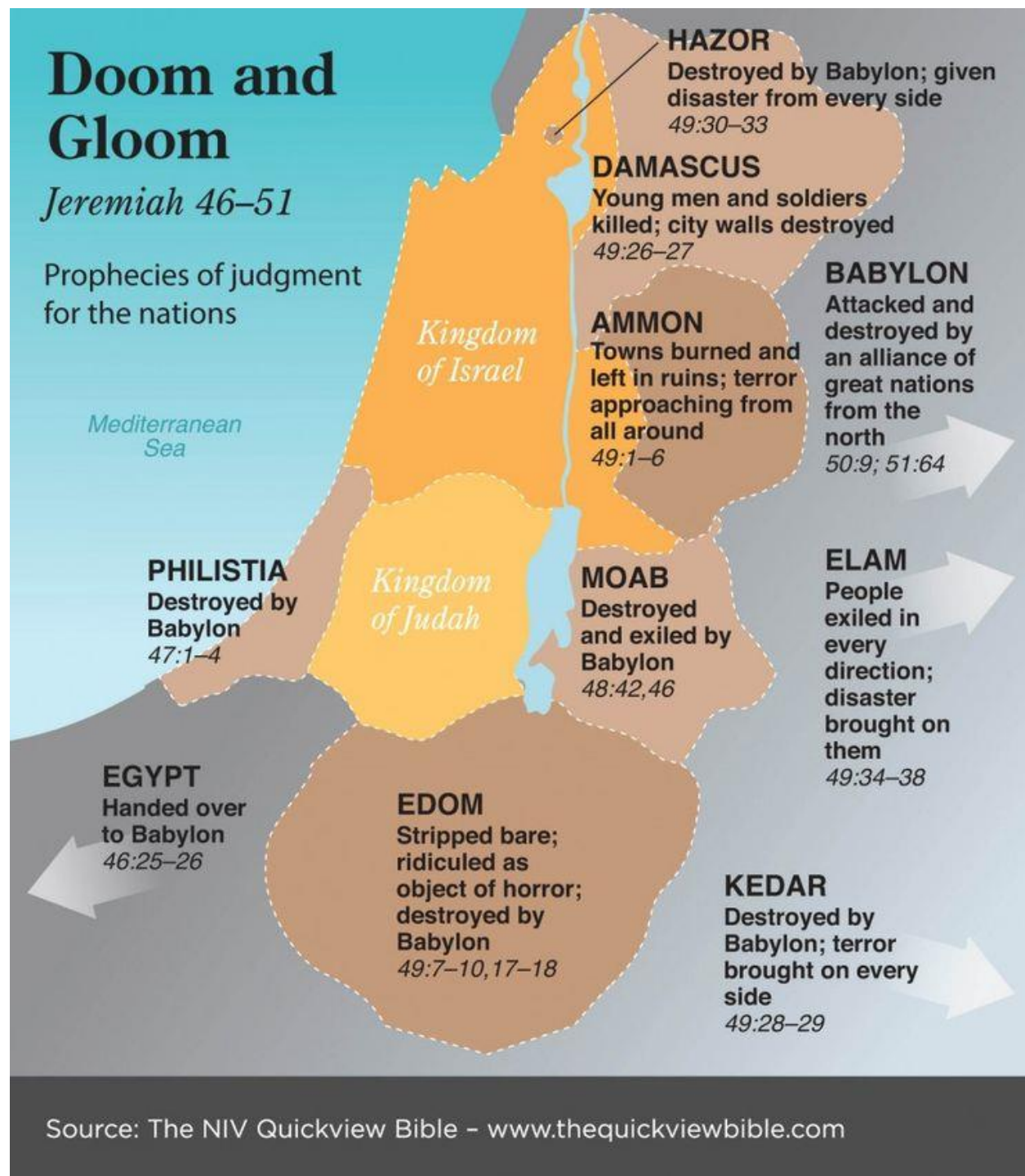
[2Kgs25](#): Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan burned the temple and took the people into exile. Evil-merodach released Jehoiachin.

[Jer52](#): Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan burned the temple and took the people into exile. Evil-merodach released Jehoiachin.

Promise Keeper

The number of times God promises to restore his people in different ways in Jeremiah





Bide Your Time

Jeremiah 29

God tells those in exile to make themselves at home in Babylon for the next 70 years but assures them that their stay there is not permanent



Build houses, plant gardens, marry, have children; seek peace and prosperity

PROMISE: *If Babylon prospers, exiles will prosper*



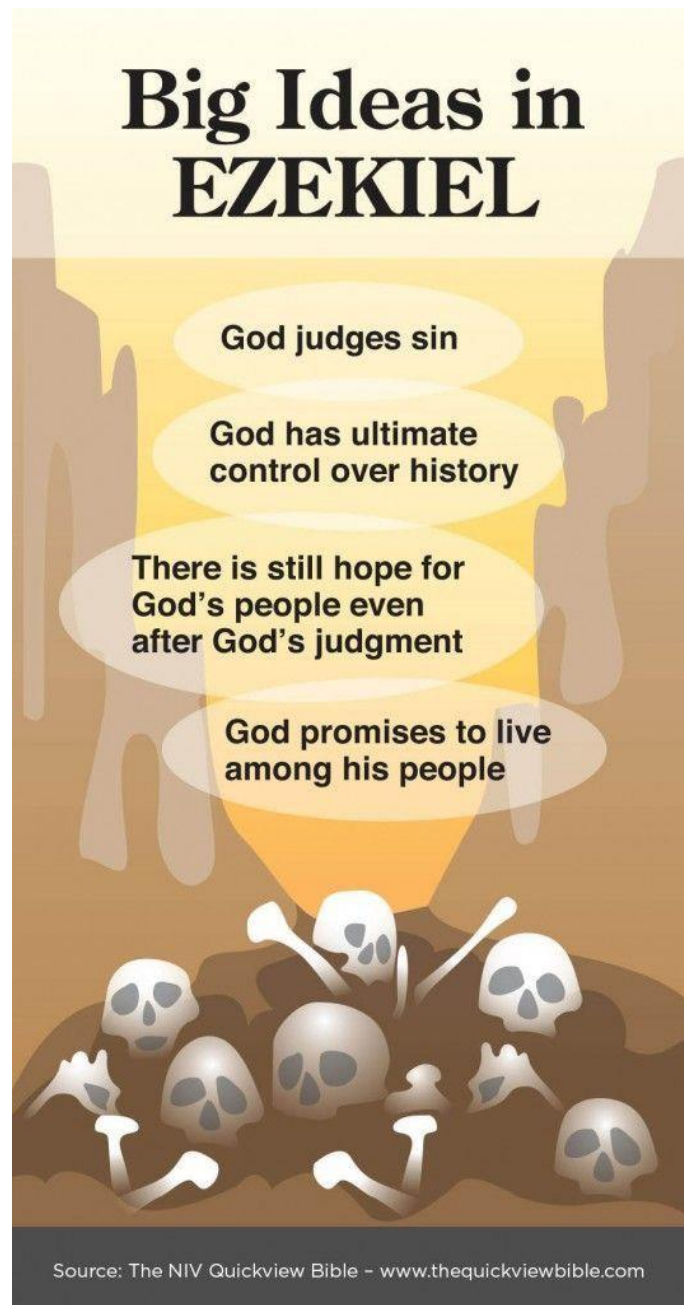
Don't be deceived by false prophets; call upon God and seek him

PROMISE: *God will listen to them, be found by them and prosper them*

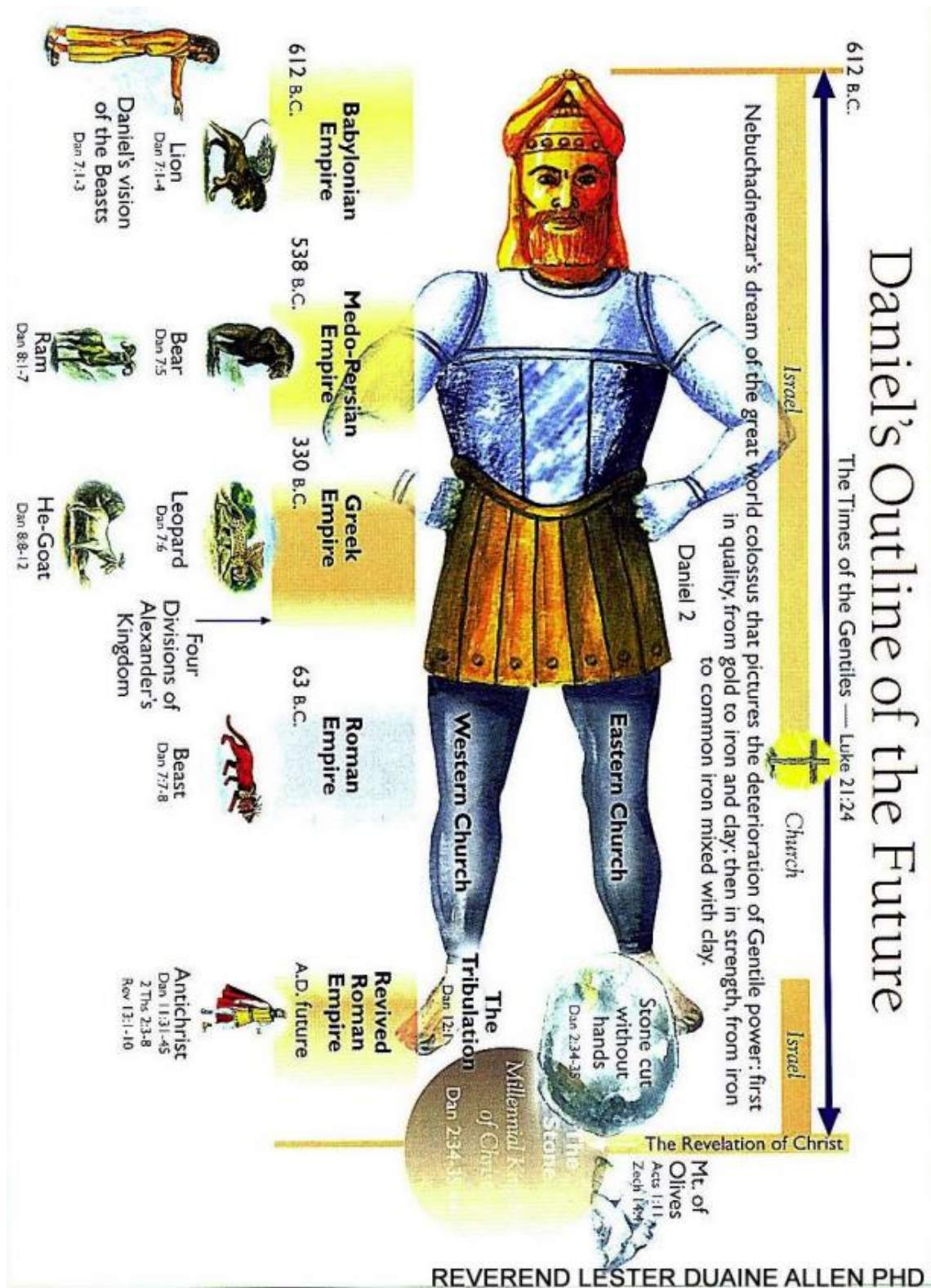


Live in exile for 70 years

PROMISE: *God will bring them back to Judah after 70 years*







Keeping His Word

17 – 23 APR 2018

DA 2-4; 2 KI 24; JER 25, 27-29, 48-52, 2 CH 36, EZE 1-3

Week 29 - 21 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- The expression “not by human hands” in Daniel 2:34 means without human power, something only God can do. What are some things only God can do?
- When we aren’t listening to God, what does He do to get our attention? Discuss how His methods vary with different people and at different times with the same people. What can we do to hear Him sooner rather than later?
- What keeps God working with the Judean people even though they just won’t listen? What is God’s greater creative plan underlying the Babylonian invasion and the destruction of Jerusalem?
- Why does God condemn pride and arrogance so severely? What is evil about them? (JER 48)

What did I learn about human nature?

- Do you think dreams can really have deep meanings like Nebuchadnezzar’s? How is Daniel similar to Joseph as a dream-interpreter? How are the dreams Daniel interprets for Nebuchadnezzar, and the way he interprets them, different from those Joseph interprets for the Pharaoh (GE 41)?
- What is the significance of Jehoiachin eating at the king’s table (JER 52:33)? What does this say about how God rewards faithful people, even those who wait years for answered prayer?
- In Jeremiah’s prophecies to the nations he warns against trusting in their riches. How much are riches and prosperity the basis of military strength today?
- God promises to protect the lives of orphans and widows (JER 49:11). Why are they exempt from God’s wrath? Who are the orphans and widows in our world that God would be merciful toward?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- It is not unusual to feel like we are at the mercy of the people and circumstances around us. How should a knowledge of God’s wisdom, sovereignty and power affect our view of the people and circumstances in our lives?
- We don’t have people in power that insist that we bow down to a golden image in worship, but what are some of the issues we face today that may challenge our faith?
- Times of adversity can be times of opportunity. When we stay true to our faith in extreme trials, we affect those around you. In the case of Daniel’s three friends, Nebuchadnezzar was so astonished at their faith and how God responded that he publicly admitted to God’s greatness (Dan 3:28-29). Discuss how our demonstration of faith affects our family, our friends, our coworkers, and others who see how we behave.
- Does life seem unfair or unpredictable or do you sense a basic fairness in life (what goes around comes around)? If God did to you as you have done to others, what would be your fate?

God's Sword of Judgment

24- 30 APR 2018

JER 9-10, 21, 23, 30-34, 37-38, 46; 2 CHR 36, EZE 8-11, 13-18, 20-23

Week 30 - 20 Weeks to Go

Walking in God's way brings blessings and life, but choosing a self-centered path yields death and destruction. This is the choice continually being made. God calls on the king and his people to show mercy to others; to follow God's law. Even when the people and their leaders turn to God in prayer they show they only want a superficial religion – a God that helps them without any personal cost. Jeremiah's vision was that the law of God will become the natural habit patterns of God's people, written in their hearts, so that all among them will know the Lord (JER 33:33-34). While God never wavers in his purposes for Israel and Judah, their stubborn rebellion requires justice. Their punishment and captivity are part of his design to soften people's hearts and restore them. But He never stops loving and longing for the best.

Weekly Reading Plan (p. 777-808)

Day 1: JER 10:17-25; 21:1-22:9;

JER 34:1-22; 46:13-28

Day 2: JER 37:1-21; 30:1-33:26

Day 3: JER 23:1-8; 38:1-28

Day 4: 2 CH 36:13-16; EZE 8:1-11:25

Day 5: EZE 13:1-18:32

Day 6: EZE 20:1-21:17; 22:1-22

Day 7: EZE 23:1-49

Outline

The Siege of Jerusalem [Day 1]

Hophra's Assault [Day 1]

A Lull in the Seige [Day 2-3]

Priestly Account: Rebellion Against Babylon [Day 4]

Ezekiel's Temple Vision [Day 4]

Ezekiel's Oracles Before the Fall of Jerusalem [5-7]

Key Characters

Jeremiah	Zedekiah
Nebuchadnezzar	Hophra
Irijah	Jonathan
Hanamel	Baruch
Ebed-Melek	Ezekiel

Key Locations

Jerusalem
Babylon
Judah
Egypt

Key Terms

Restoration
Righteous
Judgment
Prophecies
Condemnation
Sovereign

Key Verses

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his day Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior." [JER 23:5-6]

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. [JER 31:34]

"I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again." [EZE 11:17]

"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will deal with you as you deserve, because you have despised my oath by breaking the covenant. Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you...and you will know that I am the Lord." [EZE 16:59-60, 62]

EPOCH 5
(930 - 586 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jer10: Do not learn the ways of the nations. The LORD is the true God. Listen, a great commotion from the north! They have devoured Jacob.

Jer21: Zedekiah enquired about Nebuchadnezzar. The LORD says: Whoever stays in the city will die. Nebuchadnezzar will destroy it with fire.

Jer22: Proclaim at the palace: I will make you a desert. Shallum will not return. They will not lament for Jehoiakim. Coniah is cast away.

Jer46: Of Egypt: There is no healing for you. Prepare yourselves for exile. I will deliver Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar. But fear not, O Jacob!

Jer37: Zedekiah became king. Jeremiah said: Do not think the Babylonians will leave us. Irijah arrested Jeremiah. Zedekiah gave him bread.

Jer30: Write these words in a book. I will restore my people, says the LORD. I have punished you but I will heal you. I will be your God.

Jer31: Sing with joy for Jacob! Return to your cities. I will make a new covenant with Israel, says the LORD. I will put my law within them.

Jer32: Jeremiah bought a field in Anathoth. O LORD, the city has been handed over to Babylon. The LORD says: I will surely gather my people.

Jer33: The LORD says: I will tell you great things. I will bring healing to the land. David will never lack a son on the throne of Israel.

Jer23: I will raise up a righteous Branch, says the LORD. The prophets fill you with false hopes. I did not speak, yet they have prophesied.

Jer38: Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern. Zedekiah sent for him. Jeremiah said: If you surrender to the king of Babylon then you will live.

2Ch36: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah ruled. Then Nebuchadnezzar burned the temple and took Judah captive for seventy years.

Eze8: The Spirit lifted me up. "Son of man, see what they do. Elders burn incense to idols. Women weep for Tammuz. Men worship the sun."

Eze9: He cried, "Bring the executioners." Six men came. "Kill old and young, but do not touch those with the mark. I will not have pity."

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Eze10: He told the man in linen: "Take fire from between the wheels." Each wheel had four faces. The glory of the LORD left the temple.

Eze11: The Spirit said: "These men plot evil." I said: "Will you destroy the remnant?" The LORD said: "I will put a new spirit within them."

Eze12: "Son of man, they are a rebellious house. Bring out your baggage like an exile. I will disperse them. My word will not be delayed."

Eze13: "Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit. I will send a storm in my wrath. Woe to the women who sew magic charms."

Eze14: The elders came to me. The LORD said: "They have set up idols in their hearts. Even Noah, Daniel and Job would only save themselves."

Eze15: "Son of man, is wood taken from the vine to make anything? I have given it to the fire for fuel. So I have given up Jerusalem."

Eze16: "Jerusalem, I made you flourish. But you played the whore. I will gather your lovers against you. Yet I will remember my covenant."

Eze17: "An eagle planted a vine but it grew towards another eagle. Israel rebelled against Babylon with Egypt. I myself will plant a cedar."

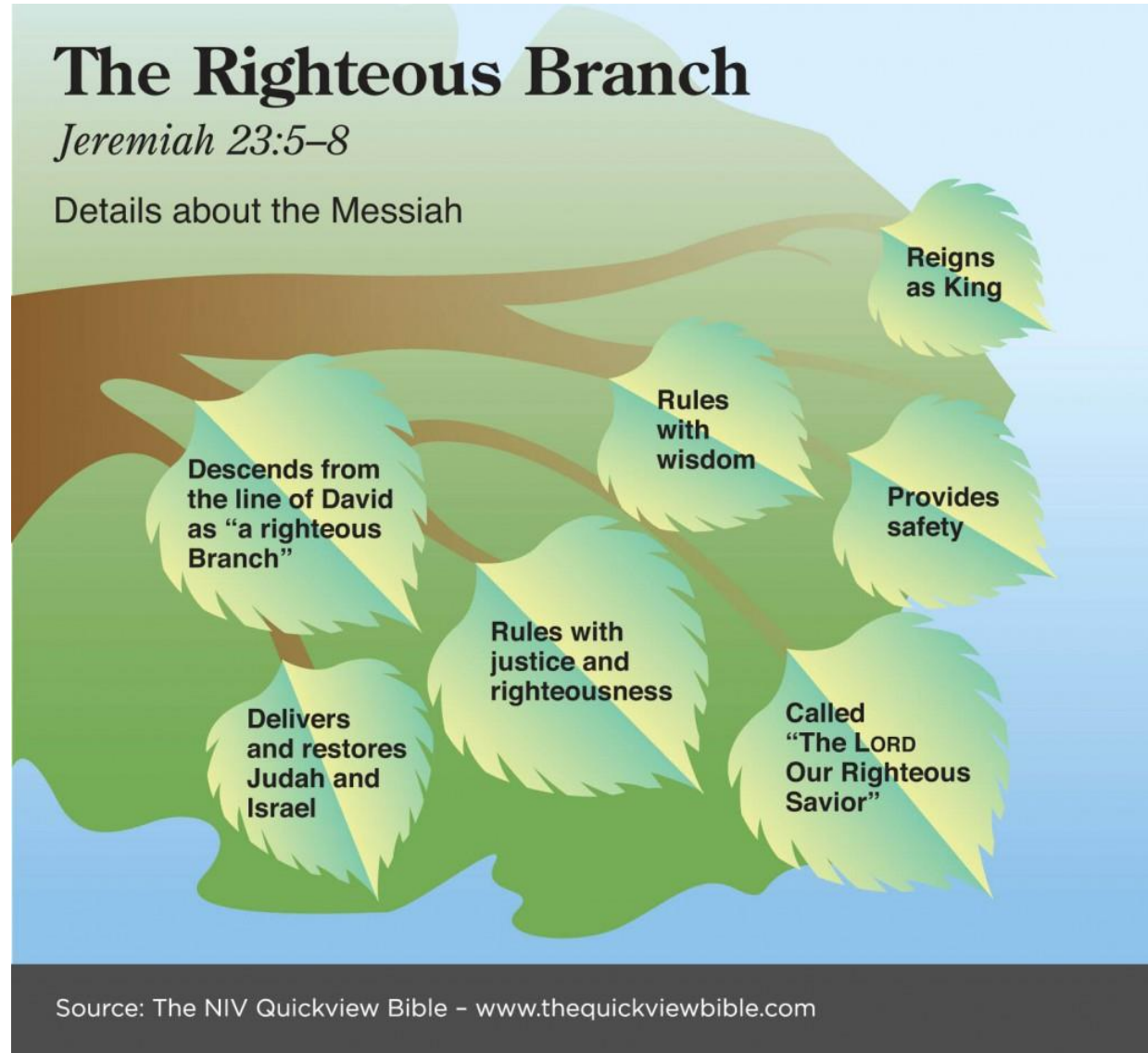
Eze18: "If a man is righteous, he shall live. If a son is violent, he shall die. I will judge each according to his ways. Repent and live!"

Ezk20: "I led Israel out of Egypt. They did not walk in my law. I withheld my hand for my name's sake. You will know that I am the LORD."

Ezk21: "Son of man, prophesy against Israel. A sword is sharpened! Mark the way for the king of Babylon. A ruin, ruin, ruin I will make it."

Ezk22: "A city that sheds blood. In you they oppress orphans and widows. Israel has become dross to me. I will pour out my wrath upon them."

Ezk23: "Two sisters: Samaria and Jerusalem. Oholah lusted after her lovers. Oholibah was worse in whoring. Bring an army and cut them down."



Creative Sermons

Ezekiel 4-21

Ezekiel uses creative illustrations to deliver God's messages

Draws Jerusalem on a clay tablet and sets up siege works against it 4:1-3

390



40

Lies on his left side for 390 days and his right side for 40 days 4:4-6

Is tied up with ropes 4:8

Cooks food over cow manure; eats and drinks in small increments 4:9-17

Shaves his hair and beard with a sword and divides it: burns a third, strikes a third with the sword and scatters a third 5:1-17

Faces the mountains of Israel and prophesies against them 6:1-10

Claps his hands, stomps his feet, shouts 6:11-14

Packs his belongings and carries them through the tunnel he digs through the wall 12:1-16

Trembles as he eats and shudders as he drinks 12:17-20

Groans with grief 21:6-7

Cries out, wails, beats chest, claps hands, slashes sword 21:8-17

Draws a map of two roads for the king of Babylon to take 21:18-23

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

Jerusalem's Sins

Ezekiel 22:3-28

Sins of the people of Jerusalem



God's Sword of Judgment

24- 30 APR 2018

JER 9-10, 21, 23, 30-34, 37-38, 46; 2 CHR 36, EZE 8-11, 13-18, 20-23

Week 30 - 20 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- Regarding “the Lord’s Council” (JER 23:18, 22) and the shape of the future, do you think God A) knows all? B) controls all? C) both D) neither? What difference does it make to you? How does it affect your faith? What is involved in standing in the council of the Lord?
- The exiles rebuilt Jerusalem after 70 years. The city did not prove invincible, but was sacked again, most notably by the Romans in 70 AD. What then does God’s promise of eternal security for Jerusalem (JER 31:38-40) really mean?
- God gave Jeremiah advance confirmation of his will regarding Jeremiah’s purchase of the field from his cousin. Has God ever told you in advance what he wants you to do when a certain situation arose? What role does God have in your decision making process? What investment would God want you to make in the future of your world as a testimony of your faith in God?
- In EZE 10 the glory of God departs from the temple. What is conditional and what is unconditional about God’s presence? What might cause the “glory of the Lord” to withdraw from a person’s life?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Read JER 9:23. What kinds of things do people today boast or take pride in?
- Even in circumcision, Judah had become like the surrounding countries (JER 9:25). In what ways is the Christian Church today indistinguishable from the society it is in? In what ways is the Christian Church distinct from any other social group? How does the church “stay relevant” yet attract new believers?
- How was the Jewish concept of God different from that of the pagans (JER 10:10-13). How easy would it be to combine the monotheism of Israel with worship of local cultic deities? Why was idolatry such a temptation for the people of Israel? What kinds of things do people idolize today – things they count on to speak to them, carry them or do good for them as only God can?
- Who in our world are “oppressors” and who are the “robbed”? How can we help bring justice to the oppressed?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How much time do you take to meditate on God’s creation and power? What aspect of nature speaks most clearly to you of God’s power?
- In JER 21, Jeremiah tells the people to leave Jerusalem. Would you have deserted the city as Jeremiah advised? What would it have cost you to flee? What would it have cost you to remain? How might leaving Jerusalem be an allegory for becoming a committed Christian? What would you need to leave behind to become more committed to Christ?
- Hope shines in even the most difficult chapters of Israel’s history. How does hope shine for you?
- Jeremiah’s new covenant promises: A) ready forgiveness of sins (JER 30:34)? B) freedom from the sins of the parents (JER 30:29)? C) internal working of the Spirit (JER 31:33-34)? D) all of the above? E) other? Which aspect means the most to your spiritual walk? Why? Which covenant are you living under: the law or grace? How do you know?

A Valley of Dry Bones

8- 14 MAY 2018

EZE 19, 22, 25-26, 32-48; PS 137; OB 1; JER 52

Week 32 - 18 Weeks to Go

Throughout his message, Ezekiel emphasizes again and again God's declaration that all the things that happen do so in order that the Israelites "may know that I am the Lord." In everything that God does, whether in grace or in judgment, his aim is to reveal himself – no less today than in Ezekiel's day. In the message from Obadiah to Edom, we are reminded that proud hearts that thrive on self-centeredness will reap the bitter fruit of judgment. No situation, nation or circumstance can be truly secure unless God is in the center of it, for justice ultimately belongs to him.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 836-869)

Day 1: EZE 33:21-33; 19:1-14;
EZE 22:23-31
Day 2: EZE 25:1-28:26; 32:1-32
Day 3: PS 137; OB 1-21;
JER 52:28-30
Day 4: EZE 33:1-20; 34:1-37:28
Day 5: EZE 38:1-39:29
Day 6: EZE 40:1-42:20
Day 7: EZE 43:1-48:35

Outline

The News Arrives in Babylon [Day 1]
Oracles Against Judah's Neighbors [Day 2]
Despair and Anger [Day 3]
Obadiah's Vision [Day 3]
Various Deportations to Babylon [Day 3]
Ezekiel's Message of Hope [Day 4]
Ezekiel's Apocalyptic Prophecies [Day 5]
Ezekiel's Second Temple Vision [Day 6]
The Glory of God Returns [Day 7]

Key Characters

Ezekiel Jeremiah
Nebuchadnezzar

Key Locations

Jerusalem	Babylon
Ammon	Moab
Edom	Philistia
Tyre	Sidon
Egypt	Israel

Key Terms

Sovereign Lord
Prophecy
Shepherd
Restored
Temple
Exile

Key Verses

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. [PS 137:1]

The house of Jacob will be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame; the house of Esau will be stubble, and they will set it on fire and consume it. There will be no survivors from the house of Esau. [OB 18]

And the name of the city from that time on will be: the Lord is there. [EZE 48:35]

EPOCH 5
(930 - 586 BC)

EPOCH 6
(586-322 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Eze33: "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for Israel." Jerusalem was struck down. The LORD says: "I have made the land a desolation."

Eze19: "Lament for the princes of Israel: A lioness had cubs. One was taken to Egypt, another to Babylon. A vine was stripped of its fruit."

Eze22: "A city that sheds blood. In you they oppress orphans and widows. Israel has become dross to me. I will pour out my wrath upon them."

Eze25: "To the Ammonites: You jeered at Israel so I will destroy you. I will judge Moab. I will lay vengeance upon Edom and Philistia."

Eze26: "Tyre jeered at Jerusalem so I will make her a bare rock. Nebuchadnezzar will lay siege to you. I will bring you to a dreadful end."

Eze27: "Lament for Tyre: Of oaks they made your oars. Tarshish, Dedan, Judah and Damascus traded with you. Now you are wrecked by the seas."

Eze28: "To the king of Tyre: You were perfect in Eden. You became proud. I cast you to the ground. There will be no more thorns for Israel."

Eze32: "Lament for Pharaoh: You are a dragon in the seas. The sword of Babylon will come upon you. Elam and Edom are laid with the slain."

Ps137: By the rivers of Babylon, we wept when we remembered Zion. How can we sing the LORD's song? O Babylon, happy the one who repays you!

Ob1: The LORD says of Edom: "What disaster awaits you! You stood aloof when strangers entered Jerusalem. Saviors shall rule Mount Esau."

Jer52: Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan burned the temple and took the people into exile. Evil-merodach released Jehoiachin.

Eze33: "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for Israel." Jerusalem was struck down. The LORD says: "I have made the land a desolation."

Eze34: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel! They did not feed my flock. I myself will seek my sheep. My servant David will be their shepherd."

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Eze35: "Son of man, prophesy against Mount Seir: Because you delivered Israel to the sword, blood will pursue you. You will be desolate."

Eze36: "Prophecy to the mountains of Israel: I will make you inhabited again. I will vindicate my name. I will put my Spirit within you."

Eze37: The LORD said: "Prophecy to the bones." The bones became an army. The LORD said: "Join two sticks. I will join Ephraim and Judah."

Eze38: "Son of man, prophesy against Gog: You will come against my people. My jealousy will be roused. I will summon a sword against Gog."

Eze39: "I am against you, O Gog. I will give you a burial place in Israel. Gather the birds for a feast. Now I will have mercy on Jacob."

Eze40: In visions the LORD brought me to a temple. He brought me through the gates to the inner court. There were tables for the offerings.

Eze41: He measured the nave and the inner room. The side chambers were in three stories. In front of the Holy Place was an altar of wood.

Ezk42: He led me to the outer court. The north and south chambers are where the priests eat the offerings. He measured all the temple area.

Eze43: The glory of the LORD filled the temple. He said: "Son of man, describe the temple to Israel. The priests shall cleanse the altar."

Eze44: "No foreigner shall enter my sanctuary. The sons of Zadok shall minister to me. They shall distinguish between the holy and unholy."

Eze45: "Set apart a holy district for the LORD. The prince shall have land on each side. You shall have honest scales. Celebrate Passover."

Eze46: "The prince shall bring offerings on the Sabbaths and New Moons. You shall offer a lamb daily." In the four corners were kitchens.

Eze47: Water was flowing from the temple. He led me in until it was too deep to cross. The LORD says: "Divide the land among the tribes."

Eze48: "Set a portion for each tribe. Adjoining Judah shall be the portion for the LORD. The name of the city shall be, The LORD Is There."

Two Empires, Two Prophets

Empires and rulers during the ministries of Daniel and Ezekiel



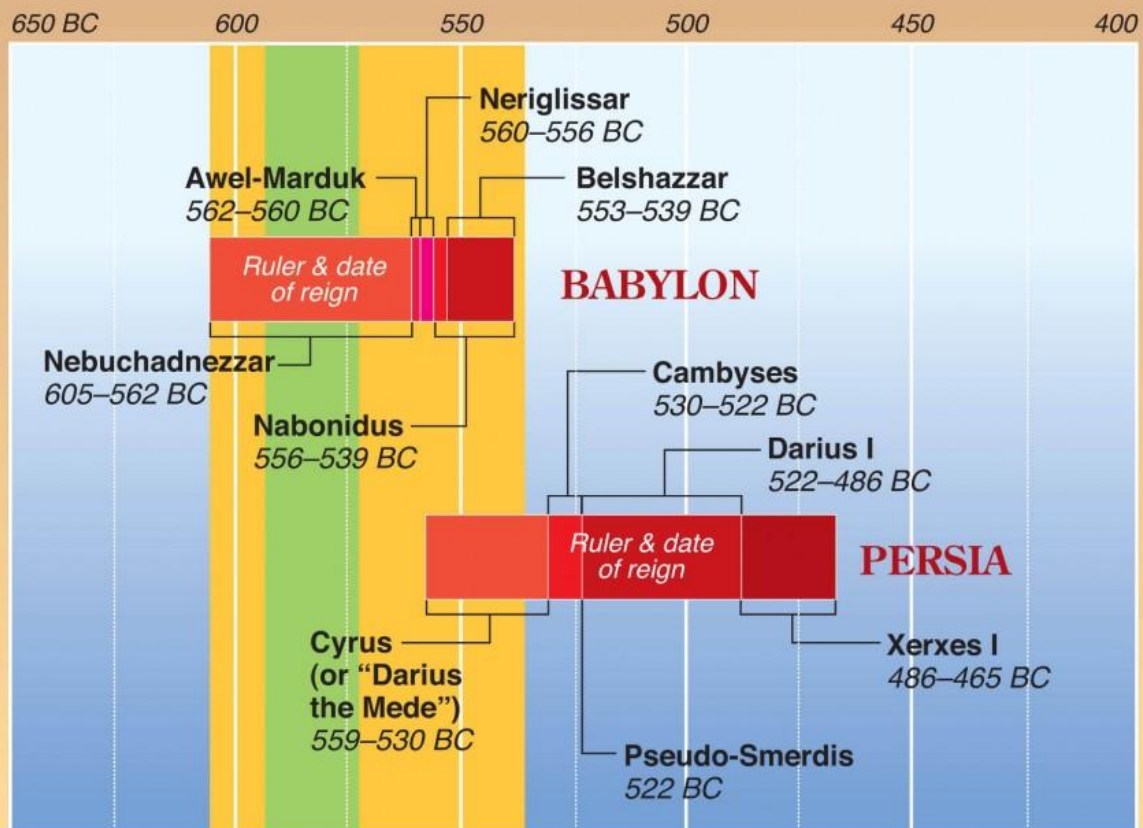
Daniel's ministry

approximately 605–530 BC (arrives as exile in Babylon in 605 BC)



Ezekiel's ministry

593–571 BC (arrives as exile in Babylon in 597 BC)



Big Ideas in OBADIAH

God will punish the
Edomites because of their
poor treatment of Israel

Although Israel's enemies
appear to prosper, God will
give their lands to Israel



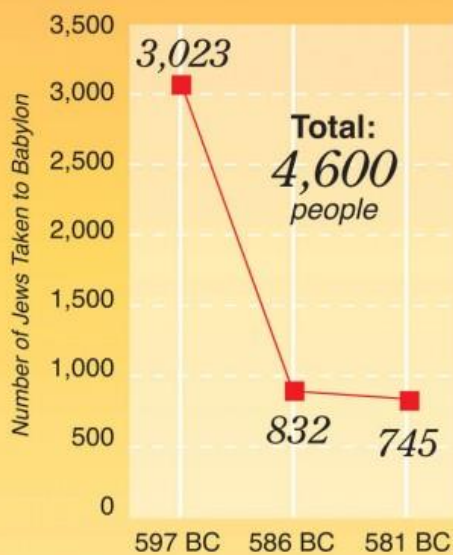
Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com



Exiled!

Jeremiah 52:28-30

Jews taken captive by
Nebuchadnezzar



Nebuchadnezzar removes three rounds of exiles after initially taking some members of the Israelite nobility and royal family in 605 BC (Daniel and his three friends were among this group; see Daniel 1:1-6). Ezekiel is taken captive eight years later in 597 BC.

A Valley of Dry Bones

8- 14 MAY 2018

EZE 19, 22, 25-26, 32-48; PS 137; OB 1; JER 52

Week 32 - 18 Weeks to Go

FAITHFUL SHEPHERD

Ezekiel 34:8-29
Characteristics of God as Israel's Shepherd

Searches for lost sheep and looks after them
Blesses sheep so that other nations will no longer scorn them

Brings scattered sheep into their own land
Binds up the injured and strengthens the weak
Protects sheep from other nations and wild animals

Judges between sheep, goats and rams

Provides sheep with green pasture
Rids land of enemies so the sheep can have peace

Provides crops for the sheep

Assigns David to shepherd the sheep

Gets rid of dangerous beasts
Removes shepherds who do not care for the flock

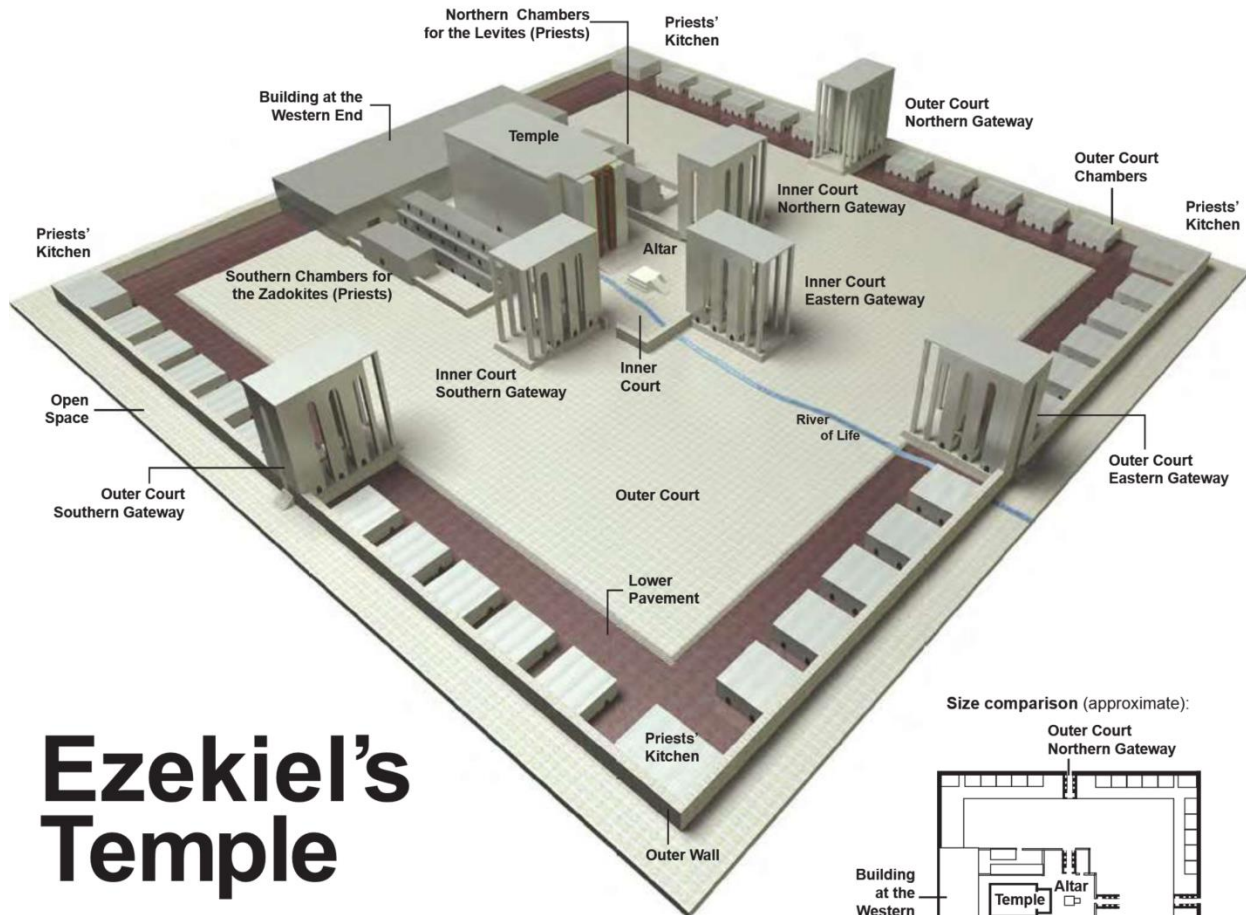
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A Valley of Dry Bones

8- 14 MAY 2018

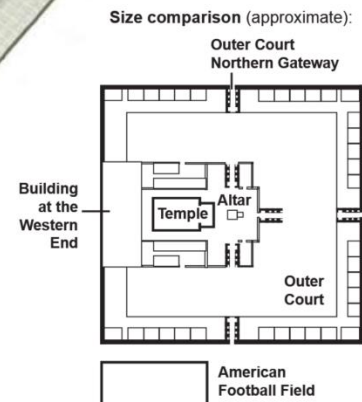
EZE 19, 22, 25-26, 32-48; PS 137; OB 1; JER 52

Week 32 - 18 Weeks to Go



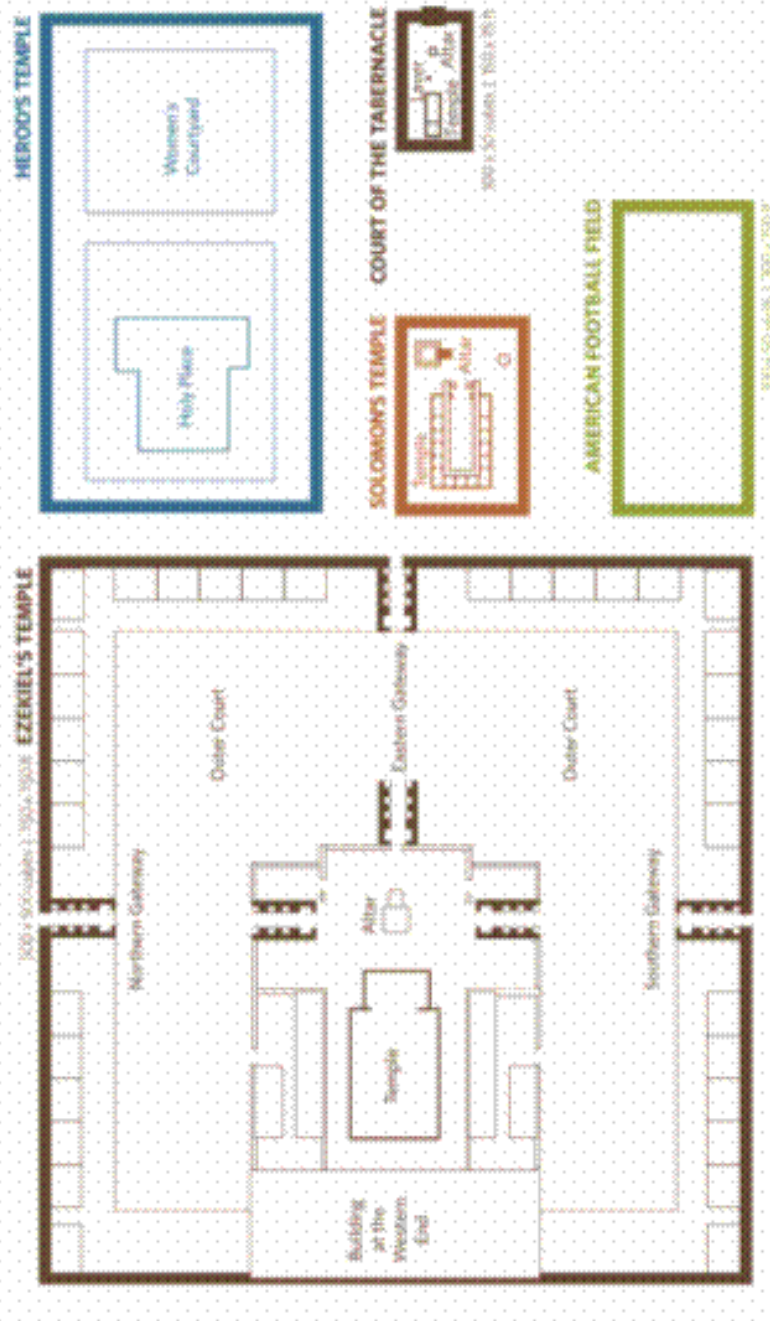
Ezekiel's Temple

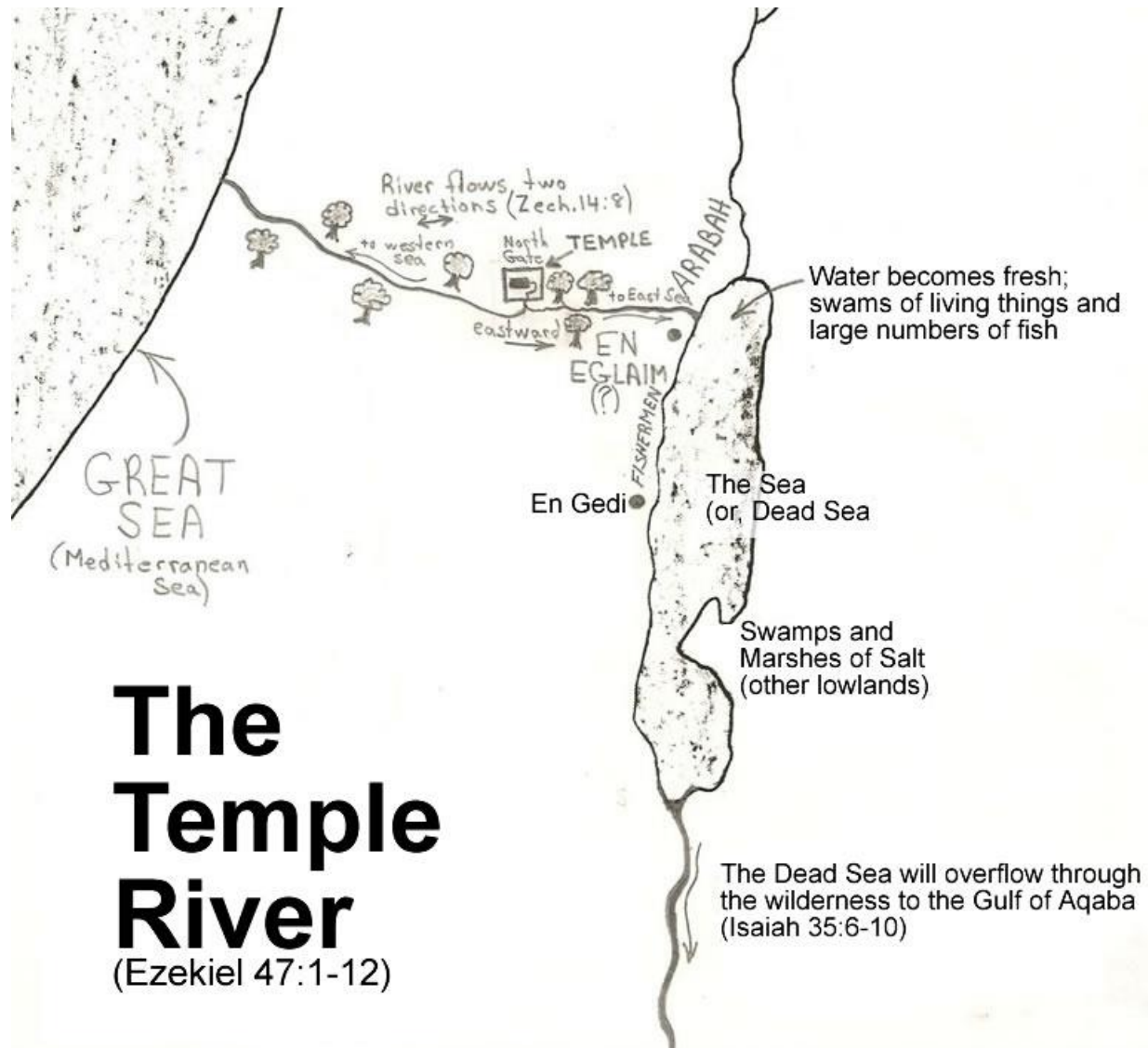
The prophet Ezekiel was shown a vision of the Third Temple in 572 BC, just years after the First Temple was destroyed and before the Second Temple was built. Though the destruction of the Second Temple occurred in AD 70, a third temple has not yet been constructed.



GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA, COPYRIGHT 2008 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE

Temple Size Comparisons





A Valley of Dry Bones

8- 14 MAY 2018

EZE 19, 22, 25-26, 32-48; PS 137; OB 1; JER 52

Week 32 - 18 Weeks to Go



A Valley of Dry Bones

8- 14 MAY 2018

EZE 19, 22, 25-26, 32-48; PS 137; OB 1; JER 52

Week 32 - 18 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- If God did not give Israel's neighbors biblical revelation, how do you think he made his will known? How does God communicate today? With whom does God communicate?
- What does EZE 26 do to the ancient belief that gods only have power within territorial borders? Was Yahweh "washed up" when Israel was destroyed?
- In the allegory of the sheep/shepherd in EZE 34, who are the sheep? The shepherds? What is God promising to do? Who is the coming Shepherd?
- In EZE 48, God redistributes the land. Does he distribute it evenly? Does the land all have the same economic value? When you picture God's kingdom coming to this world, do you see economic justice as a central feature? Why or why not? Should it be?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Why do you think it was wrong (EZE 35) for Edom to rejoice when God punished Israel? How do you see people behave when people "get what they deserve?" How should we react?
- In the Valley of Dry Bones story (EZE 37), Hebrews used the word "ruach" for wind, breath and spirit. How are these three related (vv. 5, 9, 14). What does it mean to be 'filled with the Spirit'? Is the description in EZE 37 any different than our New Testament understanding of the Holy Spirit?
- Christendom is has, over the years, divided into hundreds of rival groups (denominations). Do you think God approves or is concerned by these divisions? What would it take to restore the unity of all believers?
- Who are some displaced people today? What hope might Obadiah offer them? What would Obadiah say to those who encouraged their displacement?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- We read a lot of laments in this week's readings. What do you lament? What does God lament? What difference do you see between what breaks your heart and what breaks his? What can you do to be more a person "after God's own heart," even in your laments?
- Who is the Jeremiah or Ezekiel in your life who warn you when you've made a wrong turn or bad decision? Do you try to tune them out (and God) in any way?
- What do you think about the idea that God will ultimately destroy all evil? In the real world, does good always triumph over evil? Do you feel that God is in control of your life? Your country? World destiny? How much depends on human choices?
- What physical place best draws you into worship? Is place or setting irrelevant to your worship or important? How much are the senses of sight and hearing involved? Smell? Taste? Touch?

Comfort and Hope for the Future

15-21 MAY 2018

EZE 29-30; 2 KI 25; JER 52, ISA 13-14, 21, 33-35, 40-51; DA 5

Week 33 - 17 Weeks to Go

Ezekiel and Isaiah both prophesize that God would not only judge his own people, but will also judge foreign nations for their sinful behavior. God is sovereign and has absolute autonomy over world history. Despite appearances, God is in control over global events, kingdoms and governments. The good news for Jerusalem centers on a God who restores and redeems his people. When we hope in the Lord – trusting his promises and timing—we have strength and energy in our most difficult times. God is more than we can imagine and no one and nothing is equal to God. He makes us strong and supports us. He is always with us.

Weekly Reading Plan (pg. 870-898)

Day 1: EZE29:17-21; 30:1-19
Day 2: 2 KI 25:27-30; JER 52:31-34
Day 3: ISA 13:1-14:23; 21:1-17;
ISA 33:1-35:10
Day 4: DA 5:1-31
Day 5: ISA 40:1-45:25
Day 6: ISA 46:1-48:22
Day 7: ISA 49:1-51:23

Outline

Nebuchadnezzar's Siege of Tyre [Day 1]
Prophetic Account: Hope for the Future [Day 2]
Isaiah and the Fall of Babylon [Day 3]
Daniel and Belshazzar [Day 4]
Isaiah and Cyrus the Persian [Day 5]
Babylon and Her Idols [Day 6]
The Servant of the Lord [Day 7]

Key Characters

Nebuchadnezzar	Ezekiel
Awel-Marduk	Jehoiachin
Daniel	Belshazzar
Isaiah	Cyrus

Key Locations

Tyre	Babylon
Egypt	Edom
Arabia	Jerusalem

Key Terms

Judgment
Redeemed
Mercy
Savior
Restoration

Key Verses

Lord, be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress. [ISA 33:2]

Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you. [ISA 35:4]

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. [ISA 40:28-31]

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. [ISA 41:10]

But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail. [ISA 51:6]

EPOCH 6
(586-322 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Eze29: "I am against you, Pharaoh, the great dragon. Egypt will never again rule the nations. Nebuchadnezzar will carry off its wealth."

Eze30: "A sword will come upon Egypt. Those who support her will fall. Nebuchadnezzar will destroy the land. I will break Pharaoh's arms."

2Ki25: Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan burned the temple and took the people into exile. Evil-merodach released Jehoiachin.

Jer52: Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan burned the temple and took the people into exile. Evil-merodach released Jehoiachin.

Isa13: The oracle concerning Babylon: Listen! The LORD is calling an army. I will punish the world for its evil. Babylon will be overthrown.

Isa14: The LORD will again choose Israel. How you are fallen, O Lucifer! You will be cast away like a trampled corpse. Wail, O Philistia!

Isa21: The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea: I set a watchman. He said, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon!" The glory of Kedar will end.

Isa33: Woe to you, O destroyer! The fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure. "I will arise," says the LORD. You will see the king in his beauty.

Isa34: The LORD is enraged against the nations. His sword is filled with blood. He has a day of vengeance for Zion. Edom shall lie waste.

Isa35: The desert shall rejoice and bloom. The eyes of the blind shall be opened. The ransomed of the LORD shall return to Zion with songs.

Da5: Belshazzar drank from the temple vessels. A hand wrote on the wall. Daniel said, "Your kingdom is given to the Medes and Persians."

Isa40: Comfort, comfort my people. A voice cries: Prepare the way of the LORD! He is the everlasting God. He gives strength to the weary.

Isa41: Let the nations meet for judgement. Do not fear, O Israel. I will help you. Idols are nothing. I will give a messenger of good news.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Isa42: Behold, my Servant! He will bring justice to the nations. Sing to the LORD a new song. Hear, you deaf! The LORD gave Israel as spoil.

Isa43: But I am with you, O Jacob. I am the LORD. There is no other savior. Behold, I will do a new thing! Yet you have not called upon me.

Isa44: I will pour my Spirit on your offspring. Who makes an idol? A carpenter prays to a block of wood. I am the LORD who made all things.

Isa45: The LORD says to Cyrus: For the sake of Jacob I have called you. I am the LORD. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!

Isa46: The idols of Bel and Nebo are burdens to be carried. O Jacob, I have made you and I will carry you. I am God and there is no other.

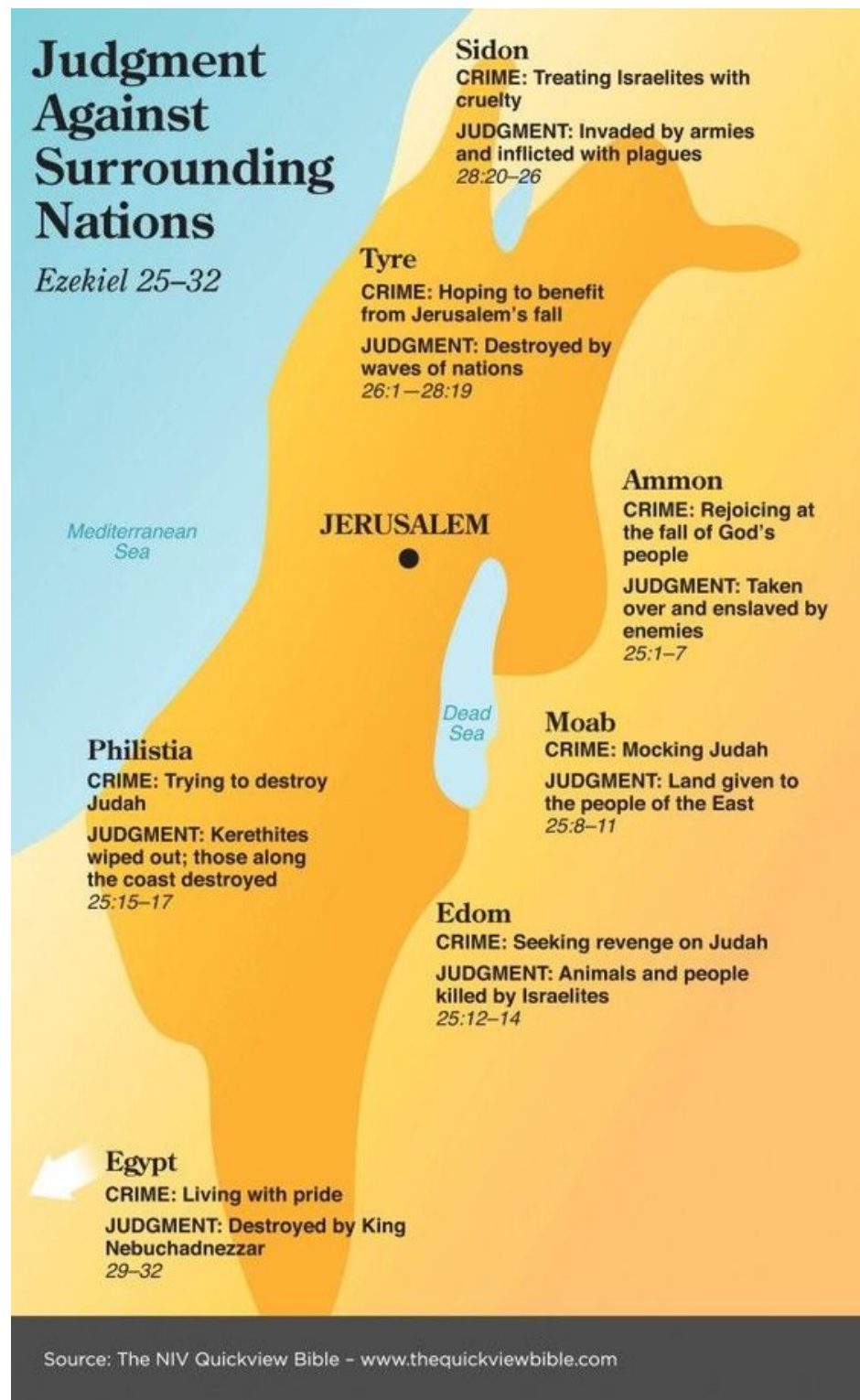
Isa47: Sit in the dust, O daughter of Babylon. You showed no mercy. You trusted in sorcery. Evil shall fall upon you. No one shall save you.

Isa48: Hear this, O Jacob: I have refined you for my own sake. I am the First and the Last. Thus says your Redeemer: Go out from Babylon!

Isa49: The LORD formed me in the womb to restore Jacob and to bring salvation. Can a mother forget her nursing baby? I will not forget Zion.

Isa50: Have I no power to deliver? The LORD has given me a learned tongue. I gave my back to those who beat me. He who justifies me is near.

Isa51: Listen, the LORD will comfort Zion. Awake, O arm of the LORD! The ransomed shall return. You will drink the cup of my wrath no more.



Comfort and Hope for the Future

15-21 MAY 2018

EZE 29-30; 2 KI 25; JER 52, ISA 13-14, 21, 33-35, 40-51; DA 5

Week 33 - 17 Weeks to Go

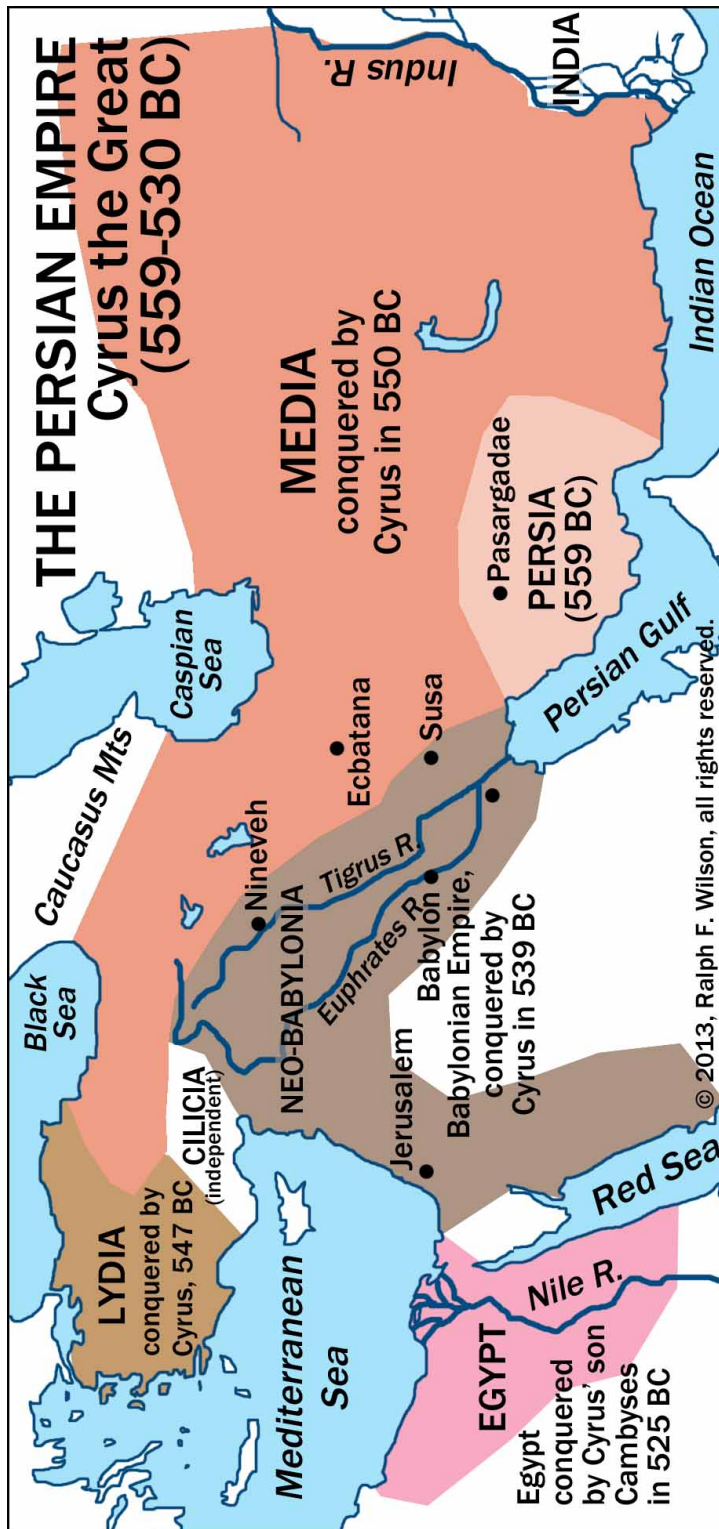


Comfort and Hope for the Future

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Week 33 - 17 Weeks to Go



Comfort and Hope for the Future

15-21 MAY 2018

EZE 29-30; 2 KI 25; JER 52, ISA 13-14, 21, 33-35, 40-51; DA 5

Week 33 - 17 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What does God promise to do for His people in Isaiah 14:32? How does God provide refuge for His people today?
- In Daniel 5, God again demonstrates His control over kings and kingdoms and that His plan will not be thwarted. How does this encourage you? How does this challenge you?
- How is God's strength found through His word? Through worship? Through fellowship with others?
- Isaiah tells us that God is the creator of everything [ISA 40:12, 22] and the ruler over the nations [ISA 40:15-17]. When are you likely to forget that God is the creator and ruler? How can you remind yourself?
- Isaiah uses images to teach about God and turn God's creation into reminders about God's character. (a shepherd with lambs (Is 40:11), stars (Is 40:26), nations (Is 40:15-17), grass and flowers (Is 40:6-8), scales and measurements (Is 40:12), grasshoppers (Is 40:22), craftsmen (Is 40:19-20), eagles (Is 40:31), youth (Is 40:30).) What are some modern images that could be used to describe God and His character?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What are some "broken reeds" [EZE 29-30] upon which the people of God trust even now?
- What contemporary examples come to mind of people mocking God by demeaning sacred things as Belshazzar did with the temple goblets in Daniel 5? Why would Belshazzar have chosen those goblets versus something that belonged to some pagan deity? Then, and now, does it seem that God is quick or slow to judge such sacrilegious behavior?
- Why do people often fail, as Belshazzar did, to learn from the past?
- What does it mean for God's people to be "a light for the Gentiles"? In what ways do you see people "letting their light shine"? How do you see people representing God's covenant in their everyday life? [ISA 42:6-7]

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How do you deal with the unknowns of the future? What practical things do you do? What role does God play in your view of the future and how you plan for it?
- How should God's control over history challenge our actions and attitudes, priorities and personal contacts? How should it impact us this week?
- What does it look like for you to "wait for the Lord" (Is 40:31)? In what circumstances is it difficult for you to wait for the Lord? Why?
- What do you rely on for strength or energy? Do you depend on caffeine, sleep, "comfort food," or something else? Where do you get Biblical strength and energy?
- When do you desire comfort? How do you train yourself to seek Biblical comfort? Do you desire that all of God's children know his comfort? Are there some you would rather not be comforted?

Even in Suffering, God is Sovereign

22 – 28 MAY 2018

ISA 52-55; 1 CH 36; PR 22-24; 30-31; JOB 1-21

Week 34 - 16 Weeks to Go

Trust in the Lord! When the omnipresent God leads, he securely hems us in, moving both before and behind us. We are natural wanderers – we would rather go our own way, even if it leads to destruction. But Isaiah presents a picture of a shepherd leader who is wholly loving, compassionate and willing to suffer on our behalf. When we take refuge in God, he promises us peace beyond human comprehension. We should not fear, for no battle is too fierce for God. When our focus shifts from God we must remember that God is in control. We must focus on His sovereignty and faithfulness to face the many storms of life.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: ISA 52:1-55:13

Day 2: 2 CH 36:22, 23; PR 22:17-24:34

Day 3: PR 30:1-31:31; JOB 1:1-2:13

Day 4: JOB 3:1-7:21

Day 5: JOB 8:1-11:20

Day 6: JOB 12:1-17:16

Day 7: JOB 18:1-21:34

Outline

The Suffering Servant [Day 1]

Priestly Account: Hope for the Future [Day 2]

Words of the Wise [Day 2]

The Wisdom of Agur and Lemuel [Day 3]

The Suffering of Job [Day 4-7]

Key Characters

Agur	Jakeh
Lemuel	Job
Job's Family	Satan
Messengers	Angels
Eliphaz	Bildad
Zophar	

Key Locations

Jerusalem
Uz

Key Terms

Redeemer
Compassion
Righteous
Justice

Key Verses

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. [ISA 53:4-5]

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. [ISA 55:8]

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. [PR 31:8-9]

“Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” [Job 1:21]

But I desire to speak to the Almighty and to argue my case with God. [JOB 13:3]

EPOCH 6
(586-322 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Isa52: Awake, O Zion! How beautiful are those who bring good news. The LORD has redeemed Jerusalem. Behold, my Servant will be lifted up.

Isa53: He was despised and rejected. He was pierced for our transgressions. By his wounds we are healed. Out of anguish he will see light.

Isa54: Sing, O barren woman! Your offspring will inherit the nations. Your Maker is your husband. No weapon formed against you will prosper.

Isa55: Come, all you who are thirsty. I will make an everlasting covenant. My word will not return void. The mountains will burst into song.

2Ch36: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah ruled. Then Nebuchadnezzar burned the temple and took Judah captive for seventy years.

Pr22: A good name is better than riches. Train a child and he will not go astray. Incline your ear and apply your heart to my teaching.

Pr23: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Do not move a boundary marker. Buy the truth, and do not sell it. Do not linger long over wine.

Pr24: Do not envy the wicked. Wisdom is sweet to the soul. Fear the LORD and the king, my son. I saw thorns in the field of the sluggard.

Pr30: Every word of God is pure. Give me neither poverty nor riches. Four things are never satisfied: Sheol, a barren womb, earth and fire.

Pr31: Speak up for the speechless. Who can find an excellent wife? She buys a field, she makes garments, she watches over her household.

Job1: Job was blameless. The LORD allowed Satan to test him. Job's servants and children were killed. He tore his robes and worshipped.

Job2: Satan struck Job with boils. Job's wife told him to curse God. But Job did not sin. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar came to comfort him.

Job3: Job said, "Curse the day I was born! Why did I not die at birth? Why is light given to him who suffers? I have no rest, only turmoil."

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Job4: Eliphaz said, "Will you become impatient? When did the innocent ever perish? I heard a voice: 'Can a man be more righteous than God?'"

Job5: "Who will answer you? Man is born to trouble. As for me, I would seek God. Do not despise his discipline. He wounds, but he binds up."

Job6: Job said, "My misery would outweigh the sand of the seas! You have proved no help. Show me how I have been wrong! Would I lie to you?"

Job7: "O God, my life is but a breath! Therefore I will speak out. What is man, that you examine him? Why have you set me as your target?"

Job8: Bildad said, "Does God pervert justice? Learn from past generations. He will not reject the blameless, nor will he uphold evildoers."

Job9: Job said, "How can a man dispute with God? His power is vast! But he destroys the innocent. If only there were a mediator between us!"

Job10: "God, why do you reject the work of your hands? You know that I am not guilty! Why did you bring me out of the womb? Leave me alone."

Job11: Zophar said, "Should your babble go unanswered? God exacts less than your guilt deserves! Reach out to him and you will find hope."

Job12: Job said, "Who does not know all these things? With God are wisdom and power. He brings darkness into light. He destroys nations."

Job13: "I want to argue my case with God. Be quiet and I will speak. Though he slay me, I will hope in him. God, why do you hide your face?"

Job14: "Man is like a fleeting shadow. If a tree is cut down, it will sprout again, but will a man live again? You overpower him forever."

Job15: Eliphaz said, "Your own mouth condemns you! Why do you turn against God? The wicked will be like a vine stripped of unripe grapes."

Job16: Job said, "You're miserable comforters! God has torn me and shattered me. But my prayer is pure. Even now, my advocate is on high!"

Even in Suffering, God is Sovereign

22 – 28 MAY 2018

ISA 52-55; 1 CH 36; PR 22-24; 30-31; JOB 1-21

Week 34 - 16 Weeks to Go

Job17: "My spirit is broken. He has made me a byword. But come again all of you! I will not find a wise man among you. Where is my hope?"

Job18: Bildad said, "Why are we stupid in your sight? Indeed, the light of the wicked goes out. His roots dry up and his branches wither."

Job19: Job said, "How long will you torment me? God counts me as an enemy. My closest friends abhor me. But I know that my redeemer lives!"

Job20: Zophar said, "My understanding inspires me to answer. The triumph of the wicked is short. His food will turn sour in his stomach."

Job21: Job said, "Listen to me. Why do the wicked grow mighty? How often do they have trouble? Who repays them? Your answers are empty!"

Messianic Prophecies in ISAIAH

Part 2

He will be humble yet bring forth justice
42:1–6 (*fulfilled Matt. 12:15–21*)

He will endure people spitting on him and beating him
50:6 (*fulfilled Matt. 26:67*)

He will be rejected and despised
53:3 (*fulfilled Matt. 13:57; Mark 6:4*)

He will suffer
53:3,10 (*fulfilled Matt. 27:26,29*)

He will be punished and die for our sins
53:4–5,8,11–12 (*fulfilled 2 Cor. 5:21*)

He will not defend himself
53:7 (*fulfilled Matt. 26:62–63; 27:11–14*)

He will be buried with the rich
53:9 (*fulfilled John 19:38–42*)

He will be anointed by God's Spirit
61:1 (*fulfilled Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10*)

He will minister in public
61:1–3 (*fulfilled Luke 4:16–21,43*)

Christ and the Crucifixion

Isaiah 52–53



**He will be disfigured
beyond recognition**
52:14

**He will be despised
and rejected by
people**
53:3

**He will not defend
himself**
53:7

**He will be led like a
lamb to the slaughter**
53:7



**He will be raised and
lifted up**
52:13

**He will bear the pain
and suffering of
humanity**
53:4

**He will be punished,
stricken and afflicted
by God**
53:4

**He will be crushed and
pierced for the sins of
humanity**
53:5–6, 8, 10, 12



**He will die as an
innocent man**
53:9

**He will be buried with
the wicked and in a
rich man's grave**
53:9

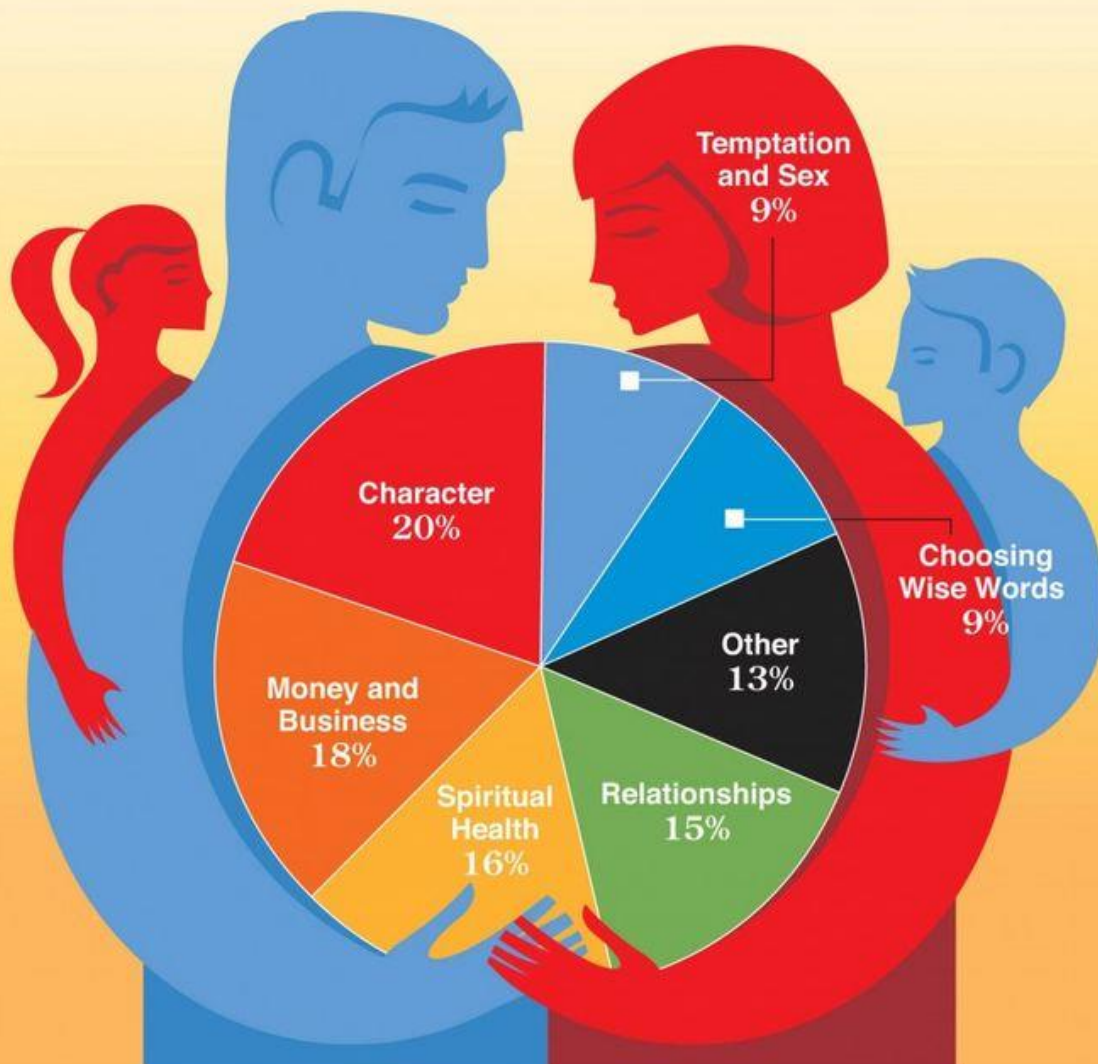
JESUS FULFILLS PROPHECIES IN ISAIAH 53

Isaiah Prophecy	Theme	Fulfilled by Jesus
He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted [ISA 52:13]	Jesus' exaltation	Therefore, God highly exalted him to the highest place [PHP 2:9]
He was despised and rejected by men [ISA 53:3]	Jesus was despised	The people stood watching, and the rulers sneered at him [LK 23:35]
He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows [ISA 53:4]	Jesus' work of healing	This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases [MT 8:17]
He was pierced for our transgressions [ISA 53:5]	Jesus was pierced	One of the soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. [JN 19:34]
The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all [ISA 53:6]	Jesus took our sin	He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree [1 PE 2:24]
He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;...he had done no violence nor was any deceit in his mouth. [ISA 53:7,9]	Jesus' example of suffering	Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him he did not retaliate. [1 PE 2:21-23]
He was assigned a grave with the wicked. [ISA 53:9]	Jesus died with evil people	The robbers who were crucified with [Jesus] also heaped insults on him. [MT 27:44]
He will see the light of life [ISA 53:11]	Jesus' resurrection	[Christ] was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures [1 CO 15:4]
He ...was numbered with the transgressors. [ISA 53:12]	Jesus himself claimed to fulfill this prophecy	"It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment. [LK 22:37]
He bore the sins of many [ISA 53:12]	Jesus bore our sins	Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people [HEB 9:28]
He...made intercession for the transgressors [ISA 53:12]	Jesus prayed for those who nailed him to the cross	Jesus said, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." [LK 23:34]

Water, M. (1999). The bible made plain & simple. Hendrickson Publishers. Peabody, MA

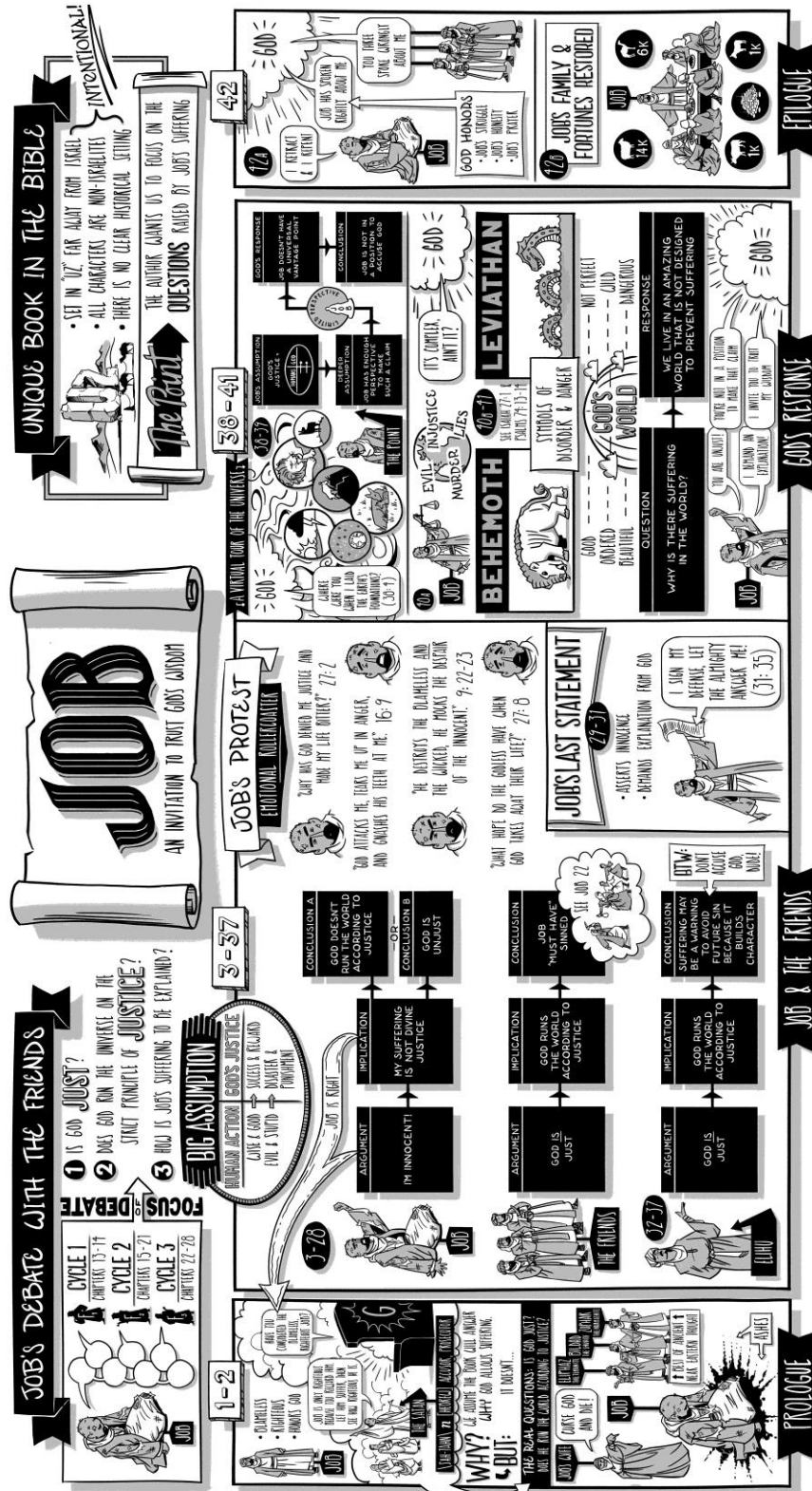
Topics in Proverbs

Main themes found in Proverbs



Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com





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What the Bible Says About Angels

Characteristics

Created by God
Col. 1:16

Eternal beings
Luke 20:36; Rev. 4:8

Witnesses of creation
Job 38:4-7

Not married
Matt. 22:30

Discerning and wise
2 Sam. 14:17; Dan. 9:21-22

Swift travelers
Dan. 9:21; Rev. 14:6

Spiritual beings
2 Kings 6:15-17

Sometimes invisible
Job 4:15-16

Not to be worshiped
Rev. 19:10

Able to make choices
Jude 6

In submission to Christ
1 Pet. 3:22

Emotional beings
Job 38:7; 1 Pet. 1:12

Not all-powerful or all-knowing like God
Dan. 10:12-13; Jude 9

Too numerous to count
Ps. 68:17; Heb. 12:22

Job Description

Worship the Father and the Son
Heb. 1:6; Rev. 4:8; 5:11-12

Present themselves to God
Job 1:6; 2:1

Observe God's people
Luke 12:8-9; 1 Cor. 4:9; 1 Tim. 5:21

Minister to Jesus
Matt. 4:11; Luke 22:43

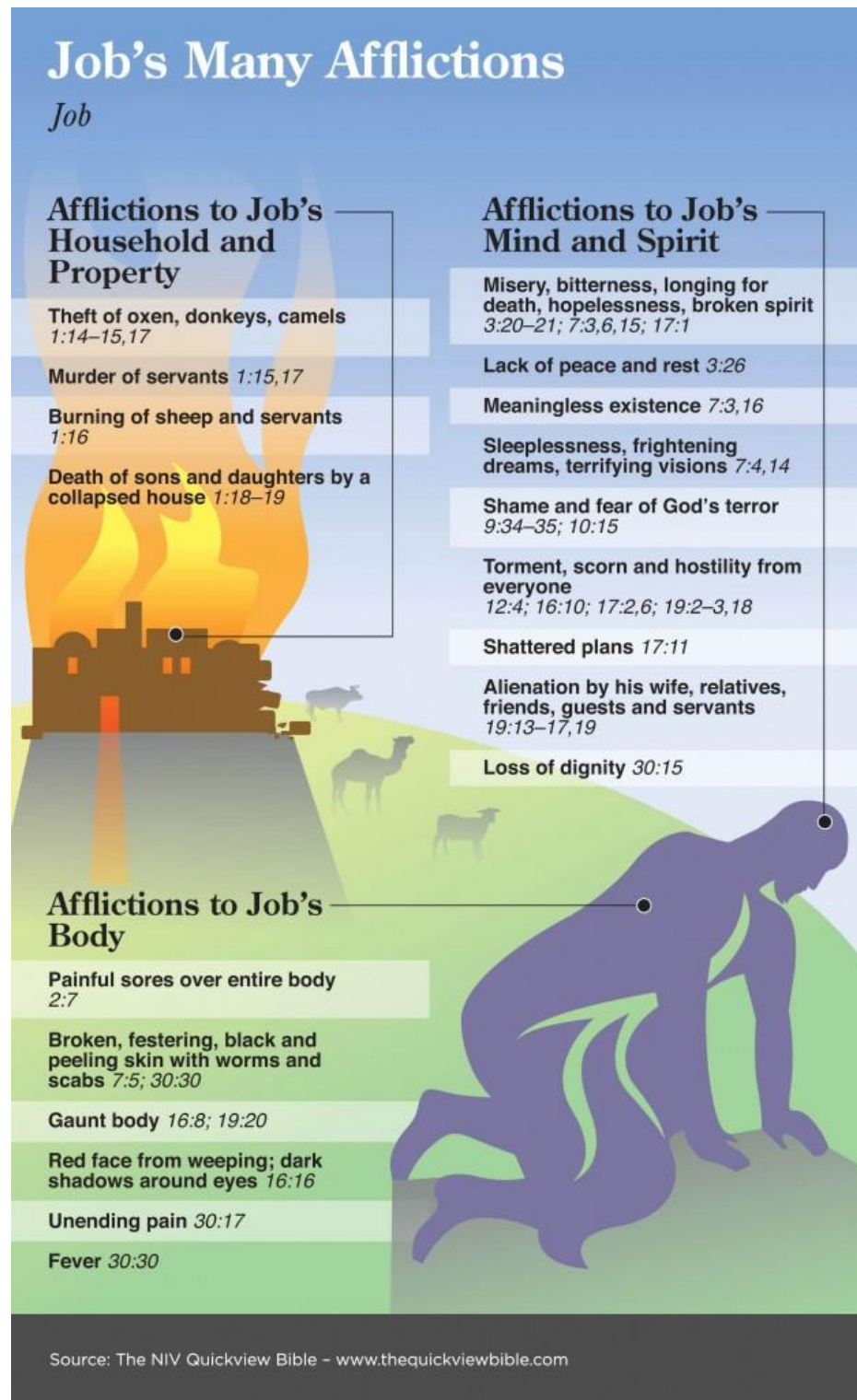
Minister to humans
Dan. 10:5-11; Heb. 1:14

Rejoice in God's creation
Job 38:4-7; Luke 2:13-14

Rejoice in God's salvation
Luke 15:10

Join believers in heaven
Heb. 12:22-23

Angels are known in the Bible by the following names:
Cherubim | Seraphim | Servants of God | Messengers | Heavenly hosts |
Heavenly beings | Sons of God | Chariots | Gabriel | Michael



Even in Suffering, God is Sovereign

22 – 28 MAY 2018

ISA 52-55; 1 CH 36; PR 22-24; 30-31; JOB 1-21

Week 34 - 16 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- ISA 53 is applied in the New Testament to Jesus. From this song, how would you explain the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection? How does it bring reassurance to you of God's forgiveness and love?
- In Job 1, what does it mean that the Lord, not Satan, initiates the testing of Job? What limits does God place on Satan? What does Satan want to prove? Whose integrity is really at stake here: Job's? Satan's? God's?
- What is the proper role of faith and reason in solving the mysteries of life, such as the one faced by Job? Does prayer reveal answers to the otherwise unexplainable? Or, is prayer itself a mystery? Explain.
- What does it mean to "know" God as Job does? How is it different than knowing "about" God, as Eliphaz does? Which knowledge do you possess?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In what ways are the "Sayings of Agur" (PR 30) like Solomon's proverbs? How are they different? Which ones are more like the Psalms, addressed to God? What is the point of the literary style and device that compares three and four items with one another?
- Job's friends help him, but then they go off on long rants about the nature of life and how badly Job must have messed up. Are these real friends? What is the nature of friendship in Job?
- How does the idea of blind faith play into Job's story and claim?
- Why do you think the wicked prosper? Why aren't good people honored and evil persons shown for who they really are? In your experience, have you seen the rich get richer and the poor get poorer? How do you account for that? Is God to blame? Why or why not?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Isaiah 55:2 states: "Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?" How does this question strike you? What things have you spent your money or labor on that have ultimately proven to be unfulfilling?
- In PR 31, the wife of noble character feared both the Lord and received the praise of children, husband and co-workers. Apart from the Lord's favor, whose opinion or praise matters most to you? Who is it harder to please – your family members or co-workers? Why?
- If you could make two requests of God, with the prospect of them both coming true, what would they be? How might they change if you were facing extreme hardship?
- When are you most comfortable with silence? Why? When is silence more preferable, even more powerful than words?
- How do you see sin and suffering related: A) I suffer the consequences for my sins B) I suffer for the sins of others C) I suffer without regard to sin D) I sin without suffering any immediate consequences? E) I sin without suffering, period. Which statement would Job most agree with?

Return to the Promised Land

29 MAY -4 JUN 2018

JOB 22-42; EZR 1-2, 4-5; HAG 1-2; ZEC 1-6

Week 35 - 15 Weeks to Go

As Job endures suffering by finding hope in the Lord, he continues in his complaints to God about evil, injustice and God's presence in the world. Job is ultimately restored and rewarded for his faithfulness. Bad things do happen to good people. God does allow his children to undergo testing. But the Book of Job reminds us that God is still in control and gives us strength in bad times. As the remnant return to Jerusalem we are again reminded that God is in control of earthly events – after 70 years of exile and captivity, the Israelites return to their promised land, the temple is started and the Israelites are reminded to keep their priorities on God.. Zechariah moves the Israelites to action when they realize that God's glory will only return to Jerusalem if the temple is complete. The future holds no fear when we remain obedient.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: JOB 22:1-25:6
Day 2: JOB 26:1-31:40
Day 3: JOB 32:1-37:24
Day 4: JOB 38:1-41:34
Day 5: JOB 42:1-17; EZR 1:1-2:70
Day 6: EZR 3:1-5:1; HAG 1:1-2:23
Day 7: ZEC 1:1-6:15

Outline

Job's Trials and God's Faithfulness [Days 1-5]
The Exiles Return [Day 5]
Restoring Worship in Jerusalem [Day 6]
Opposition to the Temple [Day 6]
Haggai [Day 6]
Zechariah [Day 7]

Key Characters

Job	Eliphaz
Bildad	Elihu
Cyrus	Exiles
Ezra	Joshua
Zerubbabel	Darius
Haggai	Zechariah

Key Locations

Uz
Jerusalem
Persia

Key Terms

Evil/Good
Injustice/Justice
Judgment
Defiled
Temple
Blessings

Key Verses

The fear of the Lord – that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding. [JOB 28:28]

“I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, “Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?” Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. [JOB 42:1-3]

This is what Cyrus, king of Persia says: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. [EZR 1:2]

He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever. [EZR 3:11]

Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Return to me,” declares the Lord Almighty, “and I will return to you.” says the Lord Almighty. [ZEC 1:3]

EPOCH 6
(586-322 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Job22: Eliphaz said, "Is not your wickedness great? You withheld bread from the hungry. Is not God high? Submit to him and be at peace."

Job23: Job said, "If only I knew where to find God! When he has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. But he does whatever he pleases."

Job24: "The wounded cry out, but God charges no one with wrong. Some rebel against the light; they are exalted a while, and then are gone."

Job25: Bildad said, "Dominion and awe belong to God. Who can be righteous before him? Even the stars are not pure in his sight!"

Job26: Job said, "How you have helped the weak! Sheol is naked to God. The pillars of heaven tremble. These are the fringes of his ways!"

Job27: "My heart does not reproach me. Let my enemy be as the wicked! His many sons are for the sword. The wind sweeps him from his place."

Job28: "There is a mine for silver, but where is wisdom found? It is hidden from the eyes of all living. The fear of the Lord is wisdom!"

Job29: "Oh, for the days when God watched over me! When I took my seat in the square. I was father to the needy and comforted the mourners."

Job30: "But now younger men mock me. They do not hesitate to spit at me. God has cast me into the mire. When I expected good, evil came."

Job31: "Does God not see my ways? Have I lied? Have I refused to help the poor? Have I put my trust in money? Let the Almighty answer me!"

Job32: Elihu was angry with Job and his three friends. He said, "I am young, but it is not only the old who are wise. I will have my say."

Job33: "Job, please listen to my words. God does speak, perhaps in a dream or through pain. He does this to deliver a person from the pit."

Job34: "It is unthinkable that God would do wrong. Can one who hates justice govern? God shows no partiality. Job speaks like the wicked!"

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Job35: "Even if you are righteous, what do you give to God? He does not answer because of the pride of evil men. You must wait for him!"

Job36: "I have more to say on God's behalf. He is mighty but does not despise any. Who is a teacher like him? Remember to extol his work!"

Job37: "God thunders with his voice. By the breath of God, ice is made. Do you know his wondrous works? He is great in power and justice!"

Job38: Then the LORD said, "I will question you. Where were you when I founded the earth? Who enclosed the sea? Can you bind the Pleiades?"

Job39: "Do you mark when the deer is born? Will the wild ox serve you? Do you give the horse his might? Does the hawk fly by your wisdom?"

Job40: Job said, "I have no answer." The LORD said, "Will you condemn me? Behold now, Behemoth, which I made. Can anyone pierce his nose?"

Job41: "Can you catch Leviathan with a hook? Everything under heaven is mine. His breath sets coals ablaze. He is king over all the proud."

Job42: Job said, "I repent in ashes." The LORD said to Eliphaz, "You have not spoken rightly of me, as Job has." He restored Job's fortunes.

Ezr1: Cyrus said, "Let the LORD's people go up to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple." He gave the articles from the temple to Sheshbazzar.

Ezr2: The exiles returned to Judah with Zerubbabel. A total of 42,360 people returned. The heads of families gave offerings for the temple.

Ezr3: The Israelites made regular offerings. When the builders laid the foundation of the temple, the Levites sang praise to the LORD.

Ezr4: Enemies hindered the work in Judah. Rehum wrote to Artaxerxes: "Jerusalem is a rebellious city." So Artaxerxes stopped the building.

Ezr5: Zerubbabel began to build the temple. Tattenai wrote to Darius: "The elders say that Cyrus issued a decree to rebuild this temple."

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Hag1: The LORD says: "Consider your ways! You never have enough because the temple lies in ruins." So the people worked on the temple.

Hag2: The LORD says: "The latter glory of this temple shall be greater than the former. This nation is unclean. But now I will bless you."

Zec1: The LORD said, "Return to me." So the people repented. I saw a man on a red horse. The LORD said, "I will return to Zion with mercy."

Zec2: I saw a man going to measure Jerusalem. The LORD says, "I will be her glory." He sent me to the nations. The LORD will inherit Judah.

Zec3: Joshua stood before the angel. The LORD rebuked Satan. They put new clothes on Joshua. The LORD says, "I will bring forth my servant."

Zec4: I saw a lampstand. I asked the angel about it. "Not by might but by my Spirit," says the LORD. "Zerubbabel will complete the temple."

Zec5: I saw a flying scroll. He said, "This is the curse on thieves and liars." I saw a woman in a basket. He said, "This is Wickedness."

Zec6: I saw four chariots with red, black, white and dappled horses. The LORD said, "Make a crown for Joshua. He shall build the temple."



Temple Treasures

Ezra 1:7-10

Cyrus king of Persia returns not just some but all the temple articles that Nebuchadnezzar had taken to Babylon from Jerusalem

1,000

Silver dishes

1,000

Miscellaneous articles

410

Matching silver bowls

30

Gold dishes

30

Gold bowls

29

Silver pans

Opposition to Rebuilding

Ezra 4:12-22

The Samaritans file a vindictive report to the king of Persia that claims the following:

Jerusalem is a wicked city

Jerusalem will stop paying taxes

Jerusalem is troublesome to kings and provinces

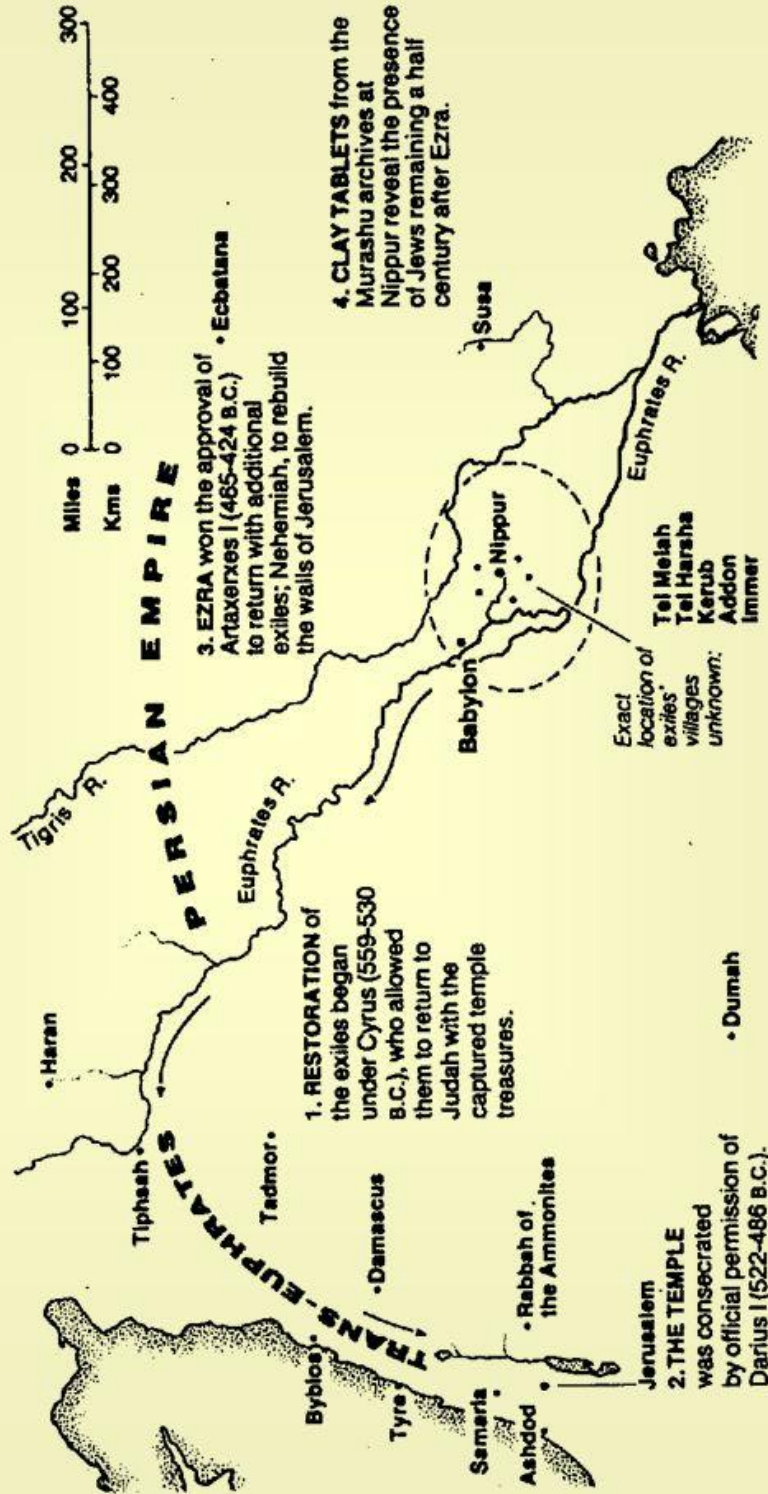
Jerusalem has a long history of revolt and sedition

Jerusalem is a threat to royal interests

298

Return from Exile

The Bible Visual Resource Book, 95



Return to the Promised Land

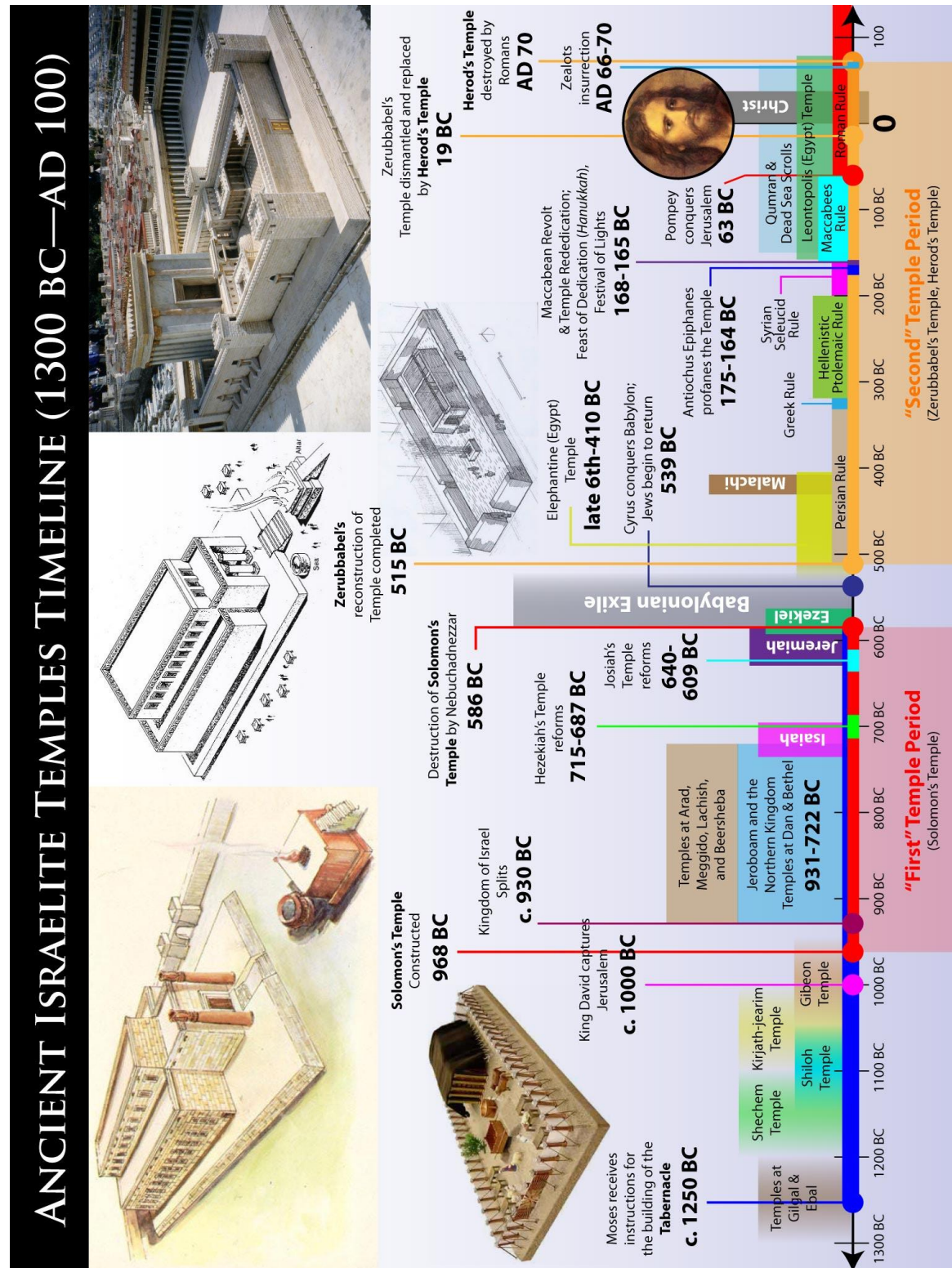
29 MAY -4 JUN 2018

JOB 22-42; EZR 1-2, 4-5; HAG 1-2; ZEC 1-6

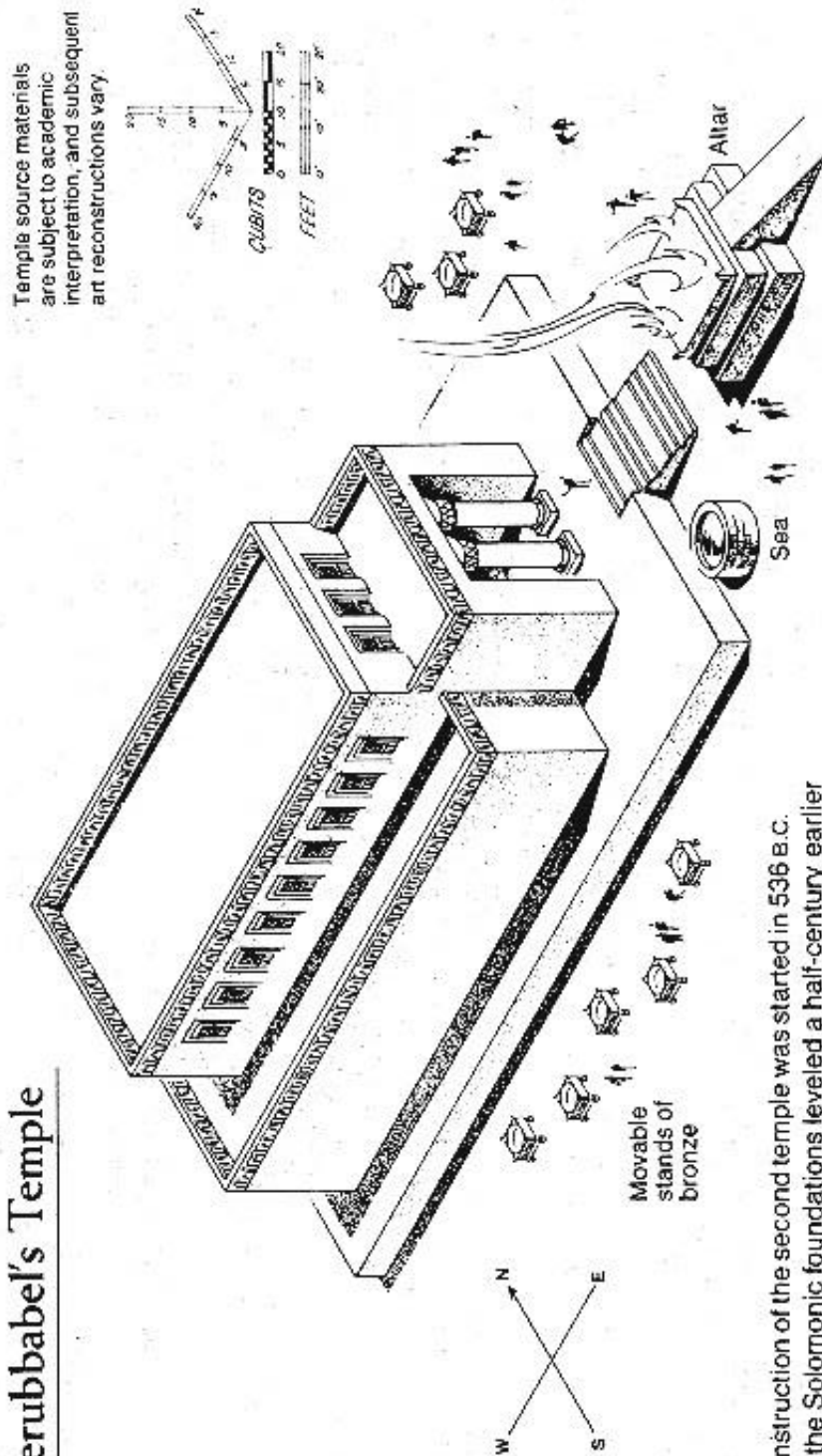
Week 35 - 15 Weeks to Go







Zerubbabel's Temple



Construction of the second temple was started in 536 B.C. on the Solomonic foundations leveled a half-century earlier by the Babylonians. People who remembered the earlier temple wept at the comparison (Ezr 3:12). Not until 516 B.C., the 6th year of the Persian emperor Darius I (522-486), was the temple finally completed at the urging of Haggai and Zechariah (Ezr 6:13-15).

Archaeological evidence confirms that the Persian period in Palestine was a comparatively impoverished one in terms of material culture. Later Aramaic documents from Elephantine in Upper Egypt illustrate the official process of gaining permission to construct a Jewish place of worship, and the opposition engendered by the presence of various foes during this period.

Of the temple and its construction, little is known. Among the few contemporary buildings, the Persian palace at Lachish and the Tobiad monument at Iraq el-Amir may be compared in terms of technique.

Unlike the more famous structures razed in 586 B.C. and A.D. 70, the temple begun by Zerubbabel suffered no major hostile destruction, but was gradually repaired and reconstructed over a long period. Eventually it was replaced entirely by Herod's magnificent edifice.

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29 MAY -4 JUN 2018

Week 35 - 15 Weeks to Go



Return to the Promised Land

29 MAY -4 JUN 2018

JOB 22-42; EZR 1-2, 4-5; HAG 1-2; ZEC 1-6

Week 35 - 15 Weeks to Go



Messianic Prophecies in ZECHARIAH

The prophet Zechariah prophesies about
the final week of Christ's ministry

He will enter Jerusalem on a donkey
9:9 (fulfilled in Matt. 21:1-5)

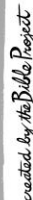
**He will be sold for thirty pieces of silver, which are later
used to buy a potter's field**
11:12-13 (fulfilled in Matt. 26:15; 27:7)

He will be pierced
12:10 (fulfilled in John 19:34-37)

His disciples will forsake him
13:7 (fulfilled in Matt. 26:31,56)

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Week 35 - 15 Weeks to Go



Return to the Promised Land

29 MAY -4 JUN 2018

JOB 22-42; EZR 1-2, 4-5; HAG 1-2; ZEC 1-6

Week 35 - 15 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- In Job 23, Job can't sense God in his life. Why does God sometimes choose to "hide"? What can you do to make God reveal himself? Is he hiding from you or are you hiding from him? How does God take the initiative in finding you?
- When you look at the condition of the world today, do you ever wonder whether God is in control? Explain? Why do evil people prosper? Why does poverty and social injustice persist? What satisfaction do you derive from God's justice?
- What does the believer's apparent freedom to question or argue with God say about the character of God? Does questioning God mean you are lacking in faith or exercising faith?
- In history (c. 333BC) God used Alexander the Great to deal convincingly with those who opposed his will. Thus was the oracle in ZEC 9 fulfilled. What lessons does that teach you about God's love and holiness? About the authority of God's word spoken through prophets?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What does it mean to be basically good or evil?
- What would you say is the primary theme of Job: Suffering? Justice? Patience?
- What is the importance of rebuilding the temple?
- Why do the foreign leaders want the temple rebuilding to fail? What do they fear?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Looking to the future, what right do we have to expect only good things from God? Doesn't God always give us "the desires of our heart"? What does God promise that we can expect? What doesn't he promise?
- How can the events of your life be used by God for reasons you might not be aware of? From what perspective can you say "the pain is worth the gain?" Are we each being tested like Job depending on what God knows we can handle?
- Do you agree with Elihu that God speaks to us through suffering? In what ways have times of suffering changed you? How did it affect your relationship with God? Were you ultimately a "better person" for it or were you devastated by it?
- How does God's glory and blessing come into your life? Does it come more in day-to-day work (Zerubbabel) or in worship (Joshua)? Into whose life do you bring blessing and renewal? What do your heart felt actions of justice and mercy say to God? To the world?

Indifference Brings Faithless Ritual

5-11 JUN 2018

ZEC 7-8; EZR 4-6; DA 6; 1 CH 1-9; EST 1-10; MAL 1

Week 36 - 14 Weeks to Go

The prophets bring messages that are designed to shake people out of meaningless religious routines and ignite a new passion for God in their hearts. God wants repentance and right relationship, not just meaningless ritual. Daniel and Esther demonstrate the kind of faithfulness that God is seeking. God often turns the wisdom and power of the world on its head and uses surprising tactics to accomplish His plan. God helps shape the events of the faithful and His presence and caring not only reach out to protect the Biblical heroes like Daniel and Esther, but act in the lives of ordinary people like us, as well. We are called to replace complacency and injustice with repentance and love for the Lord.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: ZEC 7:1-8:23; EZR 5:2-6:22
Day 2: DA 6:1-28
Day 3: 1 CH 1:1-9:34
Day 4: EST 1:1-2:23
Day 5: EST 3:1-8:17
Day 6: EST 9:1-10:3; EZR 4:6-23
Day 7: MAL 1:1-4:6

Outline

Replacing Fasting with Obedience [Day 1]
Tattenai's Opposition [Day 1]
Darius the Mede [Day 2]
Priestly Genealogies Day 3]
Esther [Day 4-6]
Opposition to Rebuilding Jerusalem [Day 6]
Malachi [Day 7]

Key Characters

Darius	Zechariah
Zerubbabel	Joshua
Tattenai	Haggai
Daniel	Esther
Queen Vashti	Xerxes
Hegai	Mordecai
Haman	Hathak
Artaxerxes	Rehum
Shimshai	Malachi

Key Locations

Bethel	Jerusalem
Judah	Susa
Trans-Euphrates	

Key Terms

Prophet
Temple
Passover
Purim
Covenant
Faithful Remnant
Judgment

Key Verses

“This is what the Lord Almighty said: “Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.” [ZEC 7:8]

For he is a living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions. [DA 6:26-27]

Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other and the Lord listened and heard. ..”They will be mine,” says the Lord Almighty “In the day when I make up my treasured possession.” [MAL 3:16-17]

EPOCH 6
(586-322 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Zec7: The people asked, "Should we fast?" The LORD said, "Show mercy and do not oppress. But they would not listen. So I scattered them."

Zec8: The LORD said: "I am jealous for Zion. I will save my people. Your fasts shall be feasts. Nations shall seek the LORD in Jerusalem."

Ezr5: Zerubbabel began to build the temple. Tattenai wrote to Darius: "The elders say that Cyrus issued a decree to rebuild this temple."

Ezr6: Darius issued a decree: "The cost of the temple shall come from the treasury." The temple was completed and the Israelites celebrated.

Da6: The satraps urged Darius to sign a law against prayer. Daniel prayed to God and was thrown to the lions. God closed the lions' mouths.

1Ch1: Adam, Seth, Noah, Shem, Eber, Abraham; Abraham's sons were Isaac and Ishmael; Isaac's sons were Esau and Israel. Kings ruled in Edom.

1Ch2: Judah's line led to Obed, Jesse and David. Caleb was son of Hezron; Jerahmeel was firstborn of Hezron. Caleb's line were the Kenites.

1Ch3: David had six sons at Hebron, four by Bathshua and nine others. Solomon's line led to Jeconiah, and then to the sons of Elioenai.

1Ch4: Reaiah's sons were the Zorathites; God blessed Jabez; Shelah's sons worked for the king. Simeon's line went to Gedor to seek pasture.

1Ch5: Reuben lost his birthright; his sons lived in Gilead. The sons of Gad and the sons of Manasseh lived in Bashan until the captivity.

1Ch6: Levi's sons were Gershon, Kohath and Merari. The musicians were Heman and Asaph. Aaron's sons made offerings. They were given cities.

1Ch7: Issachar's sons were 87,000. Benjamin's sons were Bela, Beker and Jediael. Ephraim's line led to Joshua. Asher's sons were 26,000.

1Ch8: Benjamin was father of Bela, Ashbel, Aharah, Nohah and Rapha; Ner's line was Kish, Saul, Jonathan; the sons of Ulam were mighty men.

1Ch9: Jerusalem was resettled by Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasseh; there were priests and Levite gatekeepers. Kish was father of Saul.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Est1: King Ahasuerus gave a feast for all his officials. Queen Vashti refused to come to him, so the wise men advised him to replace her.

Est2: Mordecai raised Esther. She was taken into the king's harem and was chosen as queen. Mordecai told Esther of a plot against the king.

Est3: Ahasuerus promoted Haman, but Mordecai would not bow to him. Haman asked to destroy the Jews. The king gave his seal for the decree.

Est4: Mordecai asked Esther to plead with the king. Esther said, "Hold a fast. I will go to the king against the law, and if I die, I die."

Est5: Esther won favour with the king. She said, "Let the king and Haman come to a feast tomorrow." Haman built a gallows to hang Mordecai.

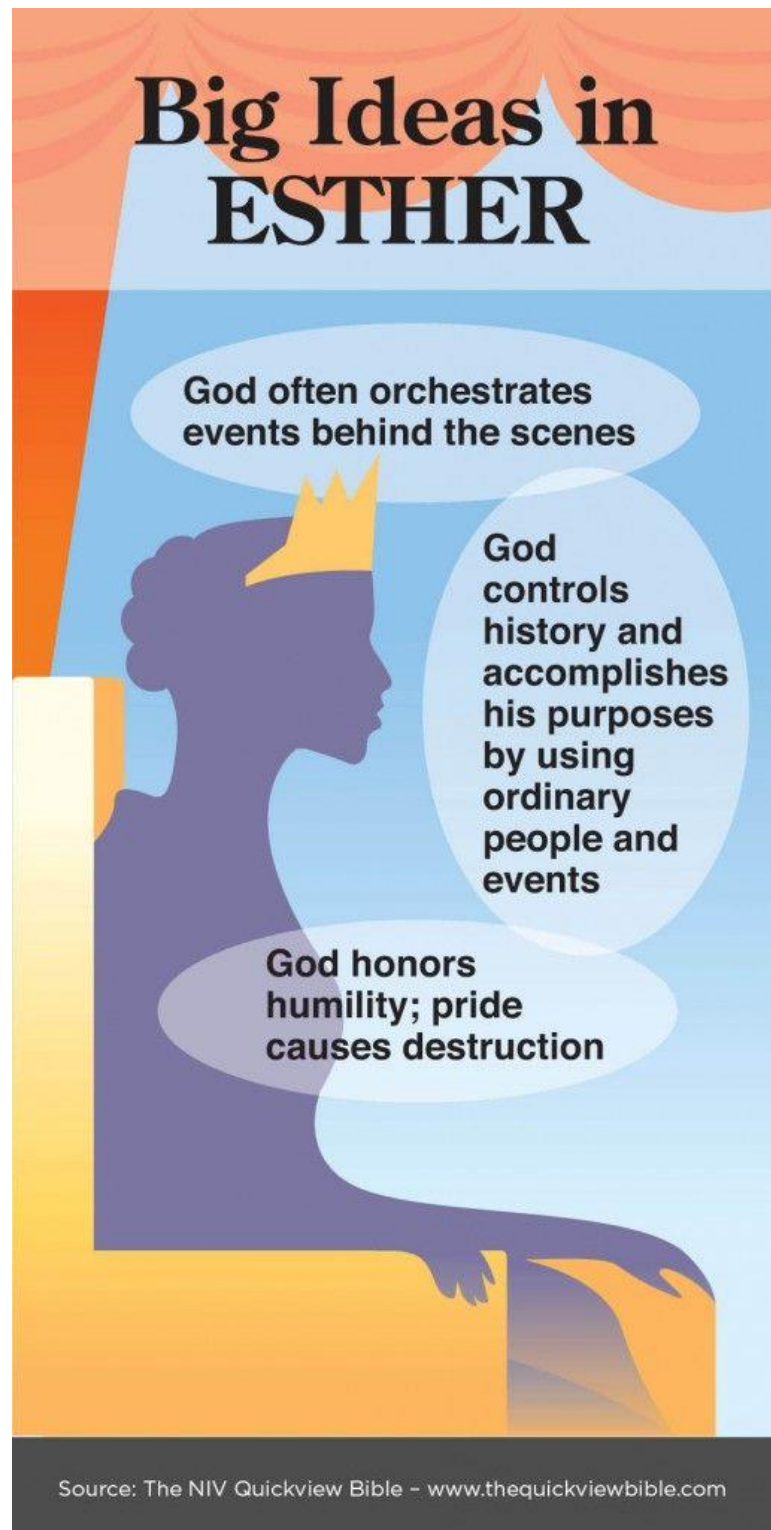
Est6: That night the king read about the plot against him. Haman came to ask about hanging Mordecai. The king told Haman to honour Mordecai.

Est7: At the feast, the king asked Esther, "What is your request?" She said, "My people have been sold by Haman." The king had Haman hanged.

Est8: The king gave his ring to Mordecai. Mordecai sent letters to the provinces allowing the Jews to defend themselves. The Jews rejoiced.

Est9: On the day of the king's decree, the Jews destroyed their enemies. Mordecai wrote to all the Jews and established the Feast of Purim.

Est10: Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus.



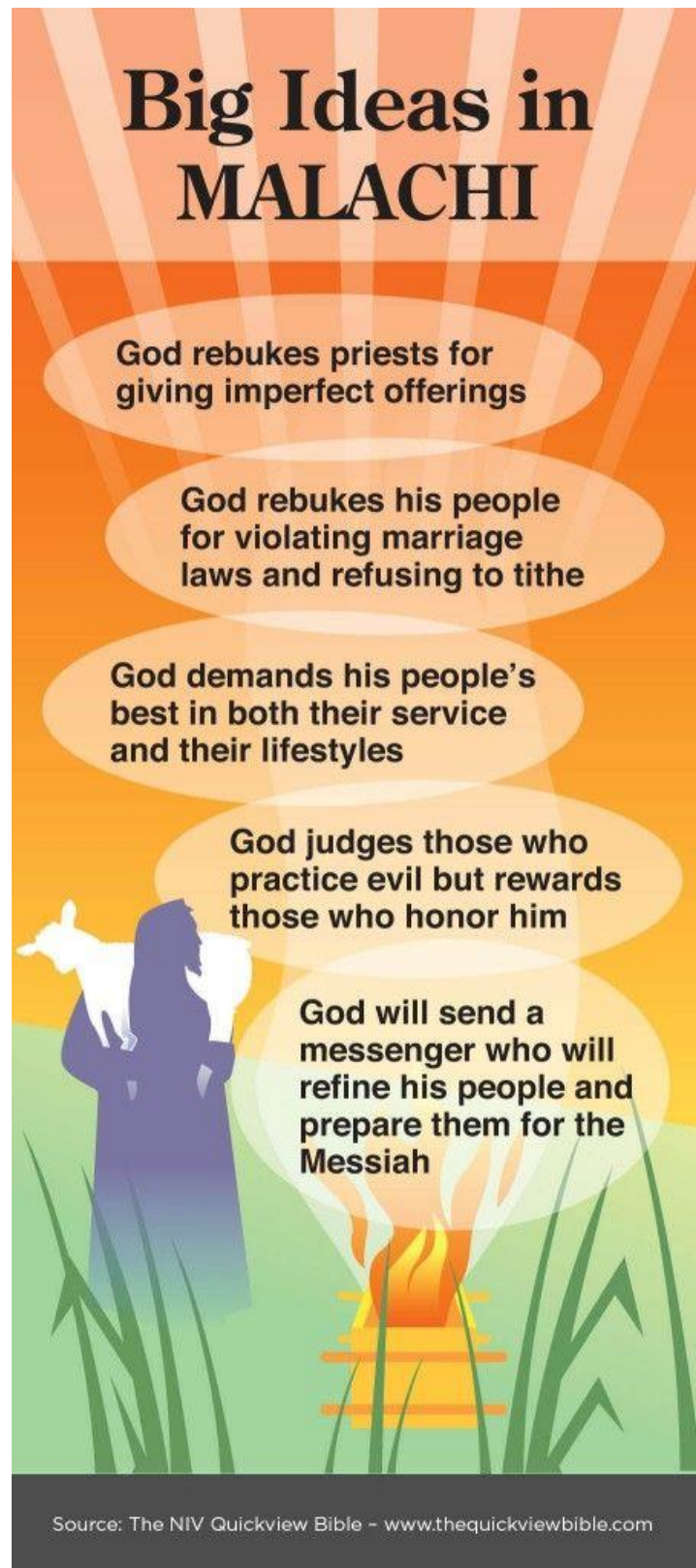
5-11 JUN 2018

ZEC 7-8; EZR 4-6; DA 6; 1 CH 1-9; EST 1-10; MAL 1

Week 36 - 14 Weeks to Go



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5-11 JUN 2018

Week 36 - 14 Weeks to Go

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Indifference Brings Faithless Ritual

5-11 JUN 2018

ZEC 7-8; EZR 4-6; DA 6; 1 CH 1-9; EST 1-10; MAL 1

Week 36 - 14 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- How did God react to the fasting of the Bethel people (ZEC 70)? Did God's scattering of the people result in their separation from God, or were the people already separated from God? What happens when people do not put their heart in worship?
- In ZEC 8, the Lord Almighty speaks of blessings concerning Jerusalem. What moral force is given to each blessing by the constant refrain, "The Lord Almighty says"? What will it take to restore the people to covenant favor and be given the blessings?
- What saved Daniel in the lion's den (his faith, his innocence, God's faithfulness, sleeping lions, the king's prayers)?
- What is the central theological point of the book of Esther? Why would a book so obviously Jewish be devoid of any reference to the Lord? Is the God-story of Esther and Mordecai better suited to its purpose if they are seen as obedient servants of God or as unknowingly used by a sovereign God?
- How has God shown his greatness to you? Did you have to feel small before you knew he was great? Explain

What did I learn about human nature?

- In ZEC 7:9-10, the Lord tells the people of Bethel to: "Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other." Where do you see this advice in action today? Where is it lacking?
- One sign of a restored Israel is that people the world over will say, "Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you" (ZEC 8:23). What does this say about how we might better worship and witness as Christians today. Where have you seen this lived out? What could we, as individuals and the church in general, do to be better at this?
- When one party says they alone are the true worshippers of God, and all others are a mixed breed, what might be expected in return? Why was Israel right to insist on religious exclusivity and spiritual purity [Ezra 4]? Today, when might it be valid to assert one's expression of the faith as the only way? Over against whom? Other denominations? Cults? State religion? Government interference?
- In Daniel 6, Daniel's peers were jealous of Daniel. Besides jealousy, what might cause people to be interested in the private lives of public figures, especially incorruptible ones?
- What do Haman's pride and racial hatred bring him? What do Mordecai's meekness and loyalty bring him? What is the object lesson?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- In the work God has given you to do, when is his hand of blessing obvious to you? A) in warding off opponents as in EZRA 5:5? B) In "making rapid progress" as in EZRA 5:8? C) Only in the project's completion as in EZRA 6:15-17? D) In construction delays?
- When have you invoked God's authority as your own? Where do you draw the line and dare someone to cross over or defy your authority? What defiance (by your kids, partners or subordinates) would trigger you and bring them into conflict with you?
- Can you imagine a crisis in which you would go "against the law" as Esther does, to find a solution?
- In your life, have you ever experienced God in the midst of a "lion's den" (of skeptics, critics, persecutors, etc.)? Has your lifeline ever been only God and God alone?
- How do you square the story of annihilating and humiliating one's enemy in Esther 9 with what Jesus stood for: namely, to "love your enemy"? Would it make a difference to you if it were "kill or be killed"? When, if ever, have you faced such a dilemma?

Rebuilt Walls and Renewed Faith

12-18 JUN 2018

EZR 7-10; NE 1-12; PS 1, 91, 119

Week 37 - 13 Weeks to Go

Rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem represents the renewal of the spiritual lives of the workers and the restoration of true worship in Israel. Through dependence on God and unswerving devotion to his task, Nehemiah reminds the exiles of their spiritual heritage and encourages them to successfully rebuild the city walls. Nehemiah demonstrates godly leadership through difficult assignments, yet accompanied by feelings of inadequacy. The psalmist reminds us of the need to focus on God's word so that we can find joy in God's way. Success is achieved by staying connected to God through prayer and scripture – every day and in every situation.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: EZR 7:1-10:44
Day 2: NE 1:1-11
Day 3: NE 2:1-6:14
Day 4: NE 6:15-7:73a
Day 5: NE 7:73b – 10:39
Day 6: PS 1, 91, 119
Day 7: NE 11:1-12:30

Outline

Ezra the Teacher of the Law [Day 1]
Nehemiah and the Wall [Day 2-5]
Ezra Reads the Law [Day 5]
Wisdom Psalms [Day 6]
Names of the Returned Exiles [Day 7]

Key Characters

Ezra	Artaxerxes
Meremoth	Eleazar
Shekaniah	Nehemiah
Hanani	Asaph
Eliashib	Sanballet
Tobiah	Hananiah
Israelites	

Key Locations

Jerusalem	Babylon
Trans-Euphrates	Ahava
Judah	

Key Terms

Rebuilding the Wall
Law/Covenant
Exiles
Confession

Key Verses

“The joy of the Lord is your strength.” [NE 8:10]

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways [PS91:11]

I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. [PS 119:45]

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path [PS 119:105]

Great peace have they who love your law [PS 119:165]

EPOCH 6
(586-322 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ezr7: Ezra went up to Jerusalem to teach the law. Artaxerxes wrote: "I decree that whatever Ezra needs shall be done." So I was encouraged.

Ezr8: I assembled the family heads from Babylon and gave the gifts for the temple to the Levites. We came to Jerusalem and made offerings.

Ezr9: The leaders told me that the people had taken foreign wives. I tore my robe and prayed, "O God, we have forsaken your commandments."

Ezr10: The Israelites wept. They all assembled and Ezra said, "Separate from your foreign wives." The family heads investigated the matter.

Ne1: The words of Nehemiah: Men from Judah said, "The wall of Jerusalem is broken down." I prayed, "O LORD, give me favour with the king."

Ne2: The king granted my request to go and rebuild Jerusalem. Sanballat was displeased. I inspected the walls and said, "Let us rebuild."

Ne3: The priests rebuilt the Sheep Gate, the Tekoites made repairs, Jedaiah repaired opposite his house, Meremoth repaired another section.

Ne4: Sanballat ridiculed us and plotted to attack Jerusalem. So we prayed and posted a guard. The builders carried swords as they worked.

Ne5: The people cried out, "We have to borrow to get grain." I told the nobles, "Let us stop exacting usury." I did not take my allowance.

Ne6: Sanballat and Tobiah sent for me to do me harm. I replied, "Why should I come?" The wall was finished and our enemies were afraid.

Ne7: I gave Hanani and Hananiah charge over Jerusalem. I registered the nobles, rulers and people by genealogy. The assembly was 42,360.

Ne8: The people gathered and Ezra read from the law. Nehemiah said, "This day is holy. Do not mourn." The people held the Feast of Booths.

Ne9: The Israelites confessed. The Levites said, "LORD, you brought our fathers out of Egypt. They rebelled but you did not forsake them."

Ne10: The leaders sealed a covenant. The people made an oath: "We will not marry foreigners. We will bring the offerings for the temple."

Rebuilt Walls and Renewed Faith

12-18 JUN 2018

EZR 7-10; NE 1-12; PS 1, 91, 119

Week 37 - 13 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps1: Blessed is the man who does not walk with the wicked, whose delight is in the law of the LORD. He is like a tree planted by the water.

Ps91: I will say of the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress." His faithfulness will be your shield. He will command his angels to guard you.

Ps119: Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD. Teach me your decrees. I love your commands. Deliver me according to your promise.

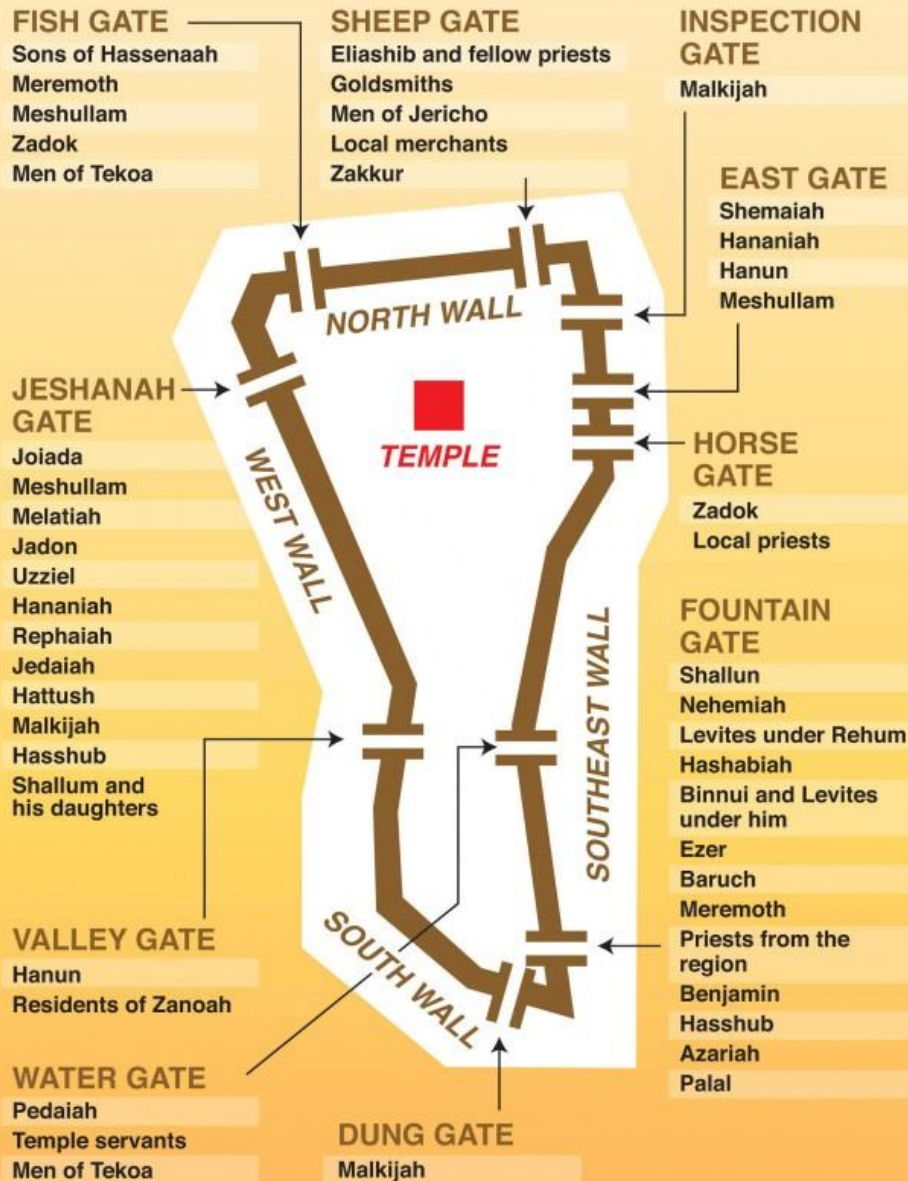
Neh11: The leaders and one in ten of the people lived in Jerusalem. There were descendants of Judah and of Benjamin, priests and Levites.

Neh12: All the Levites and leaders gathered to dedicate the wall. They made offerings and rejoiced. Men were appointed over the storerooms.



Walls and Their Builders

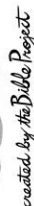
Nehemiah 3 tells us the names of many who help rebuild Jerusalem's wall





12-18 JUN 2018

Week 37 - 13 Weeks to Go



The Walls are Rebuilt around Jerusalem

[The Book of Ezra and Nehemiah]

The Temple was rebuilt but the city of Jerusalem was unfortified. The Jews who settled around Jerusalem began to intermarry with idol worshippers in the area (a dangerous thing to do).

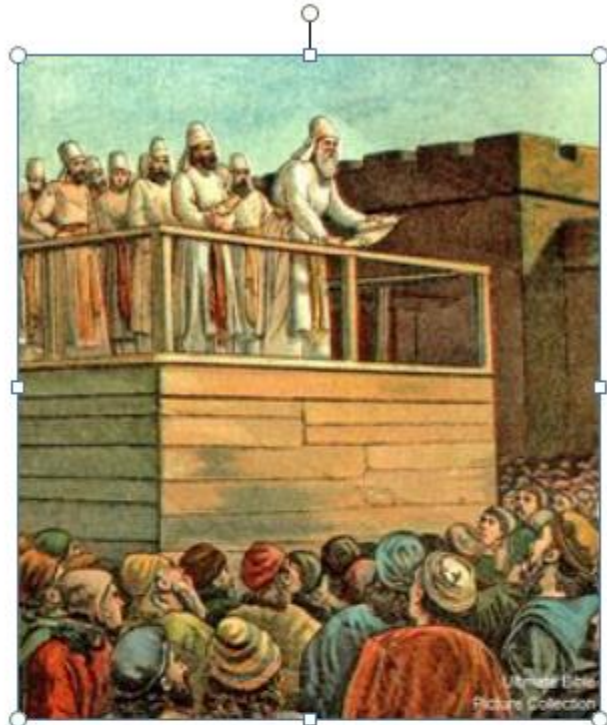
Ezra, a Jewish priest and scribe in Persia, led a group of Jewish returnees back to Jerusalem to rekindle religious enthusiasm and discourage intermarriage with idol worshippers.

At almost the same time, Nehemiah, a Jewish cupbearer to the Persian king, asked for the king's permission to lead a group of Jewish returnees to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls around the city. (A fortified city would provide security and national identity for the Jews in the homeland).

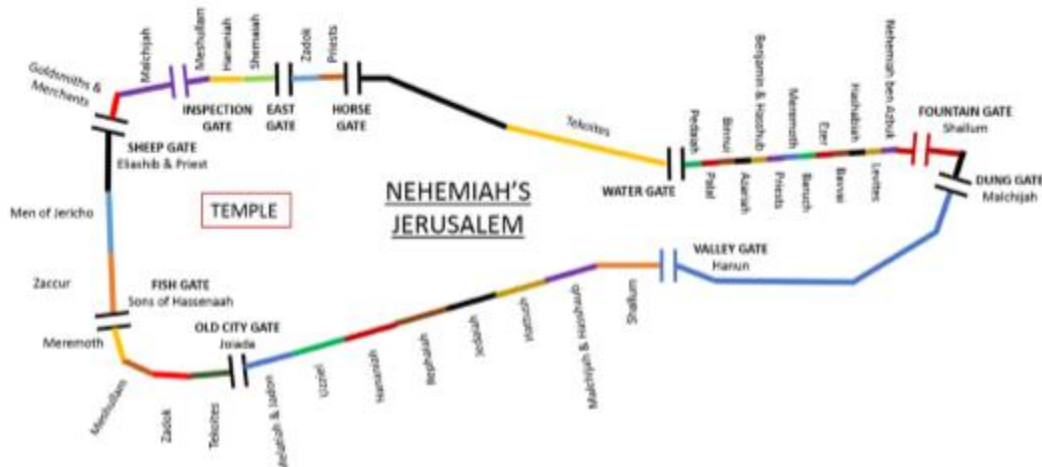
Nehemiah boldly persevered in rebuilding the walls around the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was once again a sacred city.

Ezra, as spiritual leader, and Nehemiah as civil leader, were a powerful and effective team.

At the dedication ceremony, Ezra stood on a high platform and read from the 1000 year old scroll of scripture that contained the original covenant between God and the Israelites.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.



Rebuilt Walls and Renewed Faith

12-18 JUN 2018

EZR 7-10; NE 1-12; PS 1, 91, 119

Week 37 - 13 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What do you see of God's nature through Nehemiah's prayer [NE 1:5-11]? What does Nehemiah see in himself, the more he focuses on God?
- How does a Christian distinguish between what is God's will and the words of a false prophet or misguided person? From Nehemiah's example, how should slander be handled?
- In Psalm 1, the psalmist talks about "the law of the Lord". What is the "Law of the Lord" for you?
- Read PS 91. If God promises such perfect protection, why does evil befall believers? What does it mean to "make God your refuge"? Is God calling you to take some risks? How can you avail yourself of God's protection?
- In PS 119, how involved is the commitment to remember God's law? What commitment is necessary to speak God's truth? Can anyone dispute the justice of God's law?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Ezra [EZR 9] wanted to establish a holy nation with pure marriages. What are the pros and cons of this? It is common today to marry outside of one's faith. What effect, if any, has this had?
- In EZR 10, we see the people's confession of sin. What is the connection between repentance and hope? Between prayer and action? Between unilateral covenant and mutual agreement?
- What attitude is a hallmark of following the law? What does this say about the psalmist's perception of the law in PS 119?
- What does it mean to be a "stranger on Earth"? [PS 119:19]

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Do you tend to despair over what is? Accept what is? Or pray for what should be?
- Which gives you more difficulty? External criticism or internal fears? Why? Which do you tend to do "with all your heart": Work? Worry? Worship? Warfare? Why?
- Nehemiah shows us that loving God and others may require personal sacrifice. What privileges and rights are you ready to give up so that God's work may prosper? When have your beliefs really cost you something?
- Is personal stewardship a reliable index of commitment to God and his work? Why or why not? What else might serve that purpose for you?
- Read Psalm 1. What makes you happy? Where have you searched for happiness?

Repentance for Revival

19 – 25 JUN 2018

PS 92, 104, 107, 111-118, 120-134-136, 145-150; NE 12-13,
JOEL 1-3, ISA 56-66

Week 38 - 12 Weeks to Go

We begin our reading this week with songs of worship – songs that ascents that speak of the joy of worship and the call for God’s blessings. These songs may well have been sung as Jerusalem was rebuilt with the leadership of Nehemiah and Ezra. The prophet Joel appeals for a change of heart – making us contemplate our own tendency to wander away from God when life seems to be going well. Joel reminds us that a close relationship with God is vital not only in bad times, but in good times as well. Isaiah’s prophecy does not end with horror, but with victory, with promises of everlasting deliverance, hope and restoration in God’s future kingdom – not just for Israel but for the Gentiles as well.

Weekly Reading Plan (pg. 1022-1058)

Day 1: PS 120-134; NE 12:31-47
Day 2: PS 104, 107, 111-118
Day 3: PS 135-136, 145-150;
Day 4: NE 13:1-22; PS 92;
NE 13:23-31;
Day 5: JOEL 1:1-3:21;
Day 6: ISA 56:1-59:21
Day 7: ISA 60:1-66:24

Outline

Songs of Ascents [Day 1]
Nehemiah and the Levites [Day 1]
The Last Word in Praise [Day 2-3]
Nehemiah’s Religious Reforms [Day 4]
Joel [Day 5]
Isaiah and the Restoration [Day 6]
God’s Glory upon God’s City [Day 7]

Key Characters

Nehemiah	Levites
Eliashib	Tobiah
Artaxerxes	Joel
Isaiah	

Key Locations

Jerusalem
Judah
Gates of Jerusalem
Tyre
Zion

Key Terms

Worship	Trust
Blessings	Praise
Thanksgiving	Sabbath
Lamentations	Judgment
Salvation	Comfort
Justice	Redemption
Hope	

Key Verses

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. [PS126:3]

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. [PS 111:10]

In my anguish I cried to the Lord, and he answered by setting me free. The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies. [PS 118:5-7]

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. [JOEL 2:13]

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. [ISA 55:8]

EPOCH 6
(586-322 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps120: In my distress I cry to the LORD. Deliver me from a deceitful tongue. Woe to me! Too long have I lived among those who hate peace.

Ps121: I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. He who keeps you will not slumber. The LORD will keep you from all evil.

Ps122: I was glad when they said, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" The tribes go up to give thanks. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Ps123: As the eyes of servants look to their master, so our eyes look to the LORD. Have mercy on us! For we have endured much contempt.

Ps124: If the LORD had not been on our side, attackers would have swallowed us alive. We have escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD.

Ps125: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved. Do good, O LORD, to those who are good. Peace be upon Israel.

Ps126: When the LORD brought back the captives, we were like dreamers. He has done great things. Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

Ps127: Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Ps128: Blessed are all who fear the LORD. You will eat the fruit of your labour. May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life.

Ps129: They have greatly oppressed me from my youth. But the LORD has cut the cords of the wicked. May all who hate Zion be put to shame!

Ps130: I cry to you, O LORD! If you kept a record of sins, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness. O Israel, hope in the LORD!

Ps131: My heart is not proud, O LORD. I have quietened my soul, like a weaned child with its mother. O Israel, put your hope in the LORD.

Ps132: Remember, O LORD, how David vowed, "I will find a place for the LORD." The LORD has chosen Zion: "This is my resting place forever."

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps133: How good it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil upon the head. There the LORD commanded his blessing.

Ps134: Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD! Lift up your hands to the sanctuary. May the LORD bless you from Zion.

Ne12: All the Levites and leaders gathered to dedicate the wall. They made offerings and rejoiced. Men were appointed over the storerooms.

Ps104: O LORD, you are very great. You set the earth on its foundations. All your creatures look to you for food. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Ps107: Oh give thanks to the LORD! Let the redeemed say so. He brought them out of darkness. He stilled the storm. He raises up the needy.

Ps111: Praise the Lord! Great are his works. He is ever mindful of his covenant. All his precepts are sure. His praise endures forever.

Ps112: Blessed are those who fear the LORD. Their righteousness endures forever. They are not afraid of evil tidings. The wicked melt away.

Ps113: Praise the LORD! Blessed be the name of the LORD forever. He is exalted over all the nations. He lifts the needy from the ash heap.

Ps114: When Israel came out of Egypt, Judah became God's sanctuary. The sea looked and fled. Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord.

Ps115: Not to us, O LORD, but to your name give glory. Idols have eyes, but they cannot see. O Israel, trust in the LORD. He will bless us.

Ps116: I love the LORD, for he heard my cry. When I was brought low, he saved me. What can I give for all his goodness? I will keep my vows.

Ps117: Praise the LORD! For great is his love towards us.

Ps118: Give thanks to the LORD; for his love endures forever! The nations surrounded me; I cut them off! The LORD has become my salvation.

Ps135: Praise the LORD! He is above all gods. He struck down many nations. Their idols are but silver and gold. O Israel, bless the LORD!

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ps136: Give thanks to the LORD, his love endures; who spread out the earth, his love endures; who led Israel out of Egypt, his love endures.

Ps145: I will exalt you, my God and King. All you have made will praise you. The LORD is faithful. He is near to all who call upon him.

Ps146: Praise the LORD, O my soul! Do not trust in mortal men. The LORD executes justice for the oppressed. He watches over the fatherless.

Ps147: It is good to sing praises to our God! He counts the stars. He lifts up the humble. Praise the LORD! He declares his word to Israel.

Ps148: Praise the LORD from the heavens! Praise him, sun and moon! Praise the LORD from the earth! Young and old together, praise the LORD!

Ps149: Praise the LORD! Let Israel rejoice in their maker. The LORD takes delight in his people. Let swords be in their hands for judgement.

Ps150: Praise the LORD! Praise him with trumpet and strings! Praise him with loud cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

Ne13: I cleared Tobiah out of the temple. I confronted those who profaned the Sabbath and who married foreign women. Remember me, O God.

Ps92: It is good to give thanks to the LORD. How great are your works! Your enemies shall perish. The righteous flourish in your courts.

Joel1: What the locust swarm has left other locusts have eaten. The fields are destroyed. Lament, O priests! The day of the LORD is near.

Joel2: A great army is on the mountains. Return to the LORD for he is merciful. "Fear not, I will restore you. I will pour out my Spirit."

Joel3: "I will gather all the nations for judgement. For the day of the LORD is near. Jerusalem will be inhabited for all generations."

Isa56: Keep justice, for salvation is near. I will bring the outcasts of Israel to my house and gather still others. The watchmen are blind.

Isa57: The righteous find peace in death. As for you rebels, you make your bed wide. Let your idols save you! But I will not accuse forever.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Isa58: You seek pleasure on your fast days. Is this not the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice? Then your ruins will be rebuilt.

Isa59: Your sins have separated you from God. Justice is far from us. Truth is nowhere. So the LORD put on garments of salvation and fury.

Isa60: Arise, shine, for your light has come! The nations will come to you. I will make you majestic forever. Your God will be your glory.

Isa61: The Spirit of the LORD is on me. He has sent me to proclaim freedom. My people will inherit a double portion. I delight in the LORD.

Isa62: For Zion's sake I will not keep silent. You will be given a new name. Your God will rejoice over you. Raise a banner for the nations!

Isa63: Why are your robes red? I have trampled the nations. Israel remembered who brought them through the sea. You, O LORD, are our father.

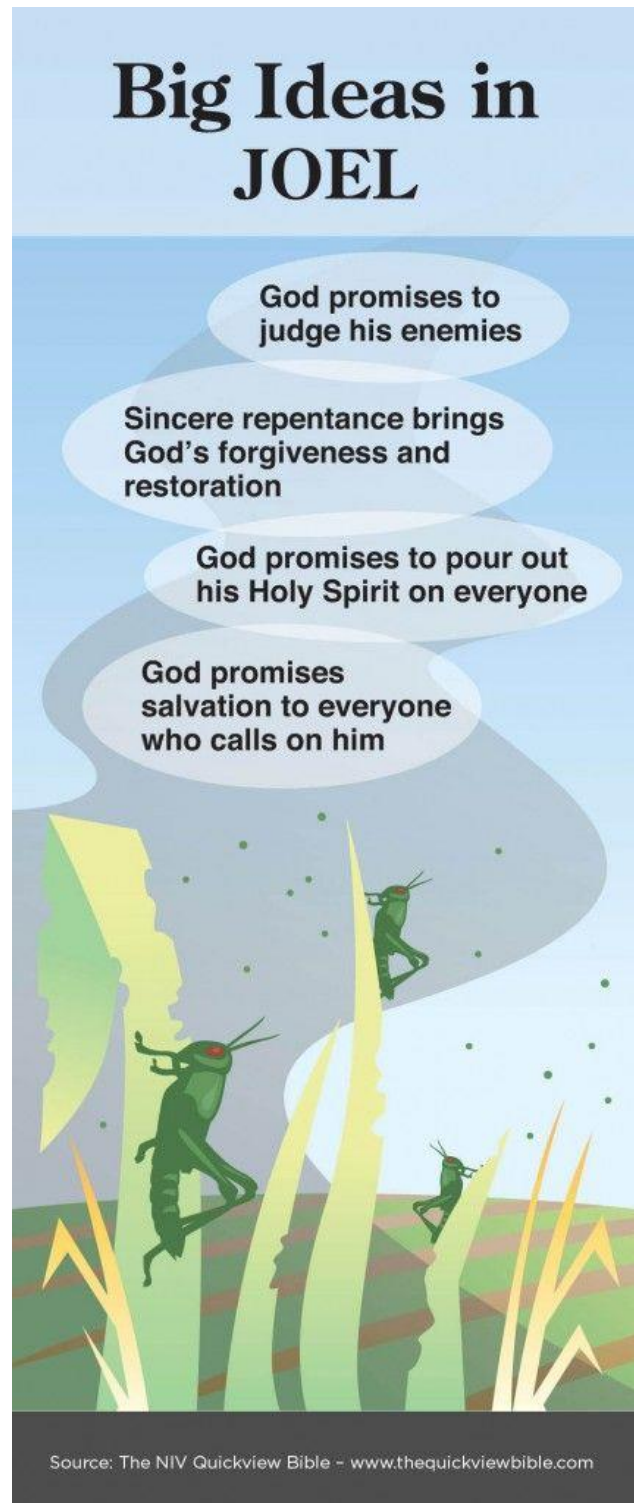
Isa64: Oh that you would rend the heavens! You meet those who do right. We are all the work of your hand. Do not remember our sins forever.

Isa65: I held out my hands to an obstinate people. My servants will eat, but you will go hungry. I will create new heavens and a new earth.

Isa66: Listen! The LORD is repaying his enemies. Rejoice with Jerusalem and be comforted. All flesh will worship before me, says the LORD.

PS 92, 104, 107, 111-118, 120-134-136, 145-150; NE 12-13,
JOEL 1-3, ISA 56-66

Week 38 - 12 Weeks to Go



PS 92, 104, 107, 111-118, 120-134-136, 145-150; NE 12-13,
JOEL 1-3, ISA 56-66

Week 38 - 12 Weeks to Go



Repentance for Revival

19 – 25 JUN 2018

PS 92, 104, 107, 111-118, 120-134-136, 145-150; NE 12-13,
JOEL 1-3, ISA 56-66

Week 38 - 12 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What does the infinite variety of creation say about God?
- How does God provide for you physically? Spiritually? Emotionally?
- What does total dependence on God mean? How does it relate to self-reliance or reliance upon others? Is it possible to benefit from God's care without a total dependence on his provisions?
- What name of God means the most to you? Why?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In PS 104, David praises nature as God created it. What is the ultimate purpose of nature? What is mankind's role? Should Christians take a special role in preserving creation? How?
- What human attitude is emphasized in PS 107? Why is it a prerequisite for being delivered? For change and growth?
- If God always exalts the poor and needy, why are they so dishonored in society? How should the Christian act toward them?
- What behaviors and attitudes characterize trust in God?
- How do ancient and modern day idols differ? How are they alike? What are some modern day "gods" and "lords"? How do they vie for your attention?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- How do you express spiritual joy?
- Do Sunday's help you grow spiritually? If so, how? If not, what is lacking?
- What do you think of religious statues and paintings? Is it wrong to depict Jesus in art? Why do you think the early church departed from the Jewish interpretation of the second commandment?
- What thank offerings can you give to God?

The Hope of a Future Deliverer

26 JUN - 2 JUL 2018

ZEC 9-14; DA 7-12; JN 1; LK 1-2; MT 1-2

Week 39 - 11 Weeks to Go

Zechariah and Daniel spoke the right words at the right time to inspire and encourage God's people. God has a future plan for his people. God is in control of everything, and the future holds no fear when we remain obedient to God. Nothing we do for God is unimportant or meaningless. We move into the New Testament where we are introduced to Jesus as God and Creator – The Word Become Flesh, the long awaited Messiah. We also meet Mary and Elizabeth -- two women who worship God and willingly follow God's plan for their lives. We continue with new chapters in the fulfillment of God's great redemptive plan for His people.

Weekly Reading Plan (pg. 1058-1096)

Day 1: ZEC 9:1-10:12
Day 2: ZEC 11:1-14:21
Day 3: DA 7:1-8:27
Day 4: DA 9:1-27
Day 5: DA 10:1-12:13
Day 6: JN 1:1-18; LK 1:1-80;
MT 1:1-17
Day 7: MT 1:18-25; LK 2:1-38;
MT 2:1-21

Outline

The Apocalyptic Visions of Zechariah [Day 1]
The Vision of the Shepherds [Day 2]
The Last Battle Won [Day 2]
The Apocalyptic Visions Of Daniel [Day 3]
Daniel and Alexander [Day 3]
The Seventy Sevens [Day 4]
Daniel and the Greeks [Day 5]
The Prehistory of Jesus [Day 6]
The Birth of John the Baptist [Day 6]
The Genealogy of Jesus [Day 6]
The Birth of Jesus [Day 7]
Jesus Presented in the Temple [Day 7]

Key Characters

Zechariah	Daniel
Shepherds	Darius
Cyrus	Jesus
John the Baptist	John
Elizabeth	Zechariah
Mary	Joseph
The Magi	Herod

Key Locations

Zion
Judah
Jerusalem
Nazareth
Bethlehem
Egypt

Key Terms

Judgment
Prophecy
Visions
Dreams
The Word
Messiah

Key Verses

Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your name. [DA 9:18-19]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [JN 1: 1]

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. [LK 1:46-47]

EPOCH 6
(586-322 BC)

EPOCH 7
(322-37 BC)

EPOCH 8
(37 BC – A.D. 30)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Zec9: The LORD is against Hadrach, Tyre and Philistia. Rejoice, O Zion! Behold your king, riding on a donkey. The LORD will save his people.

Zec10: Ask the LORD for rain. From Judah will come the cornerstone. "I will save Judah for I am the LORD their God. I will bring them home."

Zec11: The cedar has fallen! The LORD said, "Shepherd the doomed flock." I broke the two staffs. The LORD said, "Woe to the idle shepherd!"

Zec12: The LORD said: "I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. They will look upon me whom they have pierced. And they will mourn alone."

Zec13: "There will be a fountain to cleanse from sin. I will remove prophets from the land. Strike my shepherd and the sheep will scatter."

Zec14: A day is coming when the LORD will go into battle. Jerusalem will dwell in security. All the nations will worship the LORD of hosts.

Da7: Daniel saw visions. I saw four great beasts. The Son of Man was given an everlasting kingdom. The fourth beast shall be destroyed.

Da8: I saw a ram with two horns. A goat with a large horn struck the ram. Gabriel said: "The ram is Media and Persia, the goat is Greece."

Da9: I read the book of Jeremiah. I prayed, "Israel has sinned. O God, forgive." Gabriel said, "Seventy weeks are decreed for atonement."

Da10: As I mourned I saw a man with a face like lightning. He said, "The prince of Persia delayed me. I came to explain the latter days."

Da11: "The king of the south will fight the king of the north. The king of the north will desecrate the temple. He will exalt himself."

Da12: "There will be a time of distress." I said, "How long?" He said, "Time, times and half a time. These words are sealed until the end."

Jn1: The Word of God became flesh and dwelt with us. John the Baptist bore witness to him. Andrew told Simon Peter and they followed Jesus.

The Hope of a Future Deliverer

26 JUN - 2 JUL 2018

ZEC 9-14; DA 7-12; JN 1; LK 1-2; MT 1-2

Week 39 - 11 Weeks to Go

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Lk1: The angel Gabriel foretold the birth of John. He told Mary, "You will have a son named Jesus." Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord!"

Mt1: The record of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham. Mary bore a son by the Holy Spirit. An angel told Joseph to name him Jesus.

Lk2: Mary gave birth in Bethlehem. Angels sent shepherds to see the child. Jesus was presented at the temple. He grew in wisdom and stature.

Mt2: Wise men came from the east to worship the child. King Herod ordered that all the baby boys be killed. An angel warned Joseph to flee.

The 400 Silent Years

The 400 years from 400 BC to the year 0 are called the “400 Silent Years” because nothing is recorded about the events of these 400 years in any of the 66 books of the Bible that we recognize as scripture. However, since several significant events occurred during this period that might increase our understanding of the New Testament, it is helpful to understand the time. The information comes from apocryphal books or from the writings of historians from that period.

The Greek Period

The Greeks, under Alexander the Great, conquered the Persian Empire and established the Greek Empire. The Holy Land was now dominated by the Greeks.

The Greeks began to refer to the Holy Land as Palestine (their version of Philistine, the part of the Holy Land with which they were familiar).

The Greeks pushed Greek culture and language on all of the people of the Greek Empire. This was called Hellenization. The Jews began to speak koine Greek in addition to Aramaic and Hebrew.

The Jews who had not returned to the Holy Land were free to resettle in other regions of the Greek Empire. (By the time Jesus died, there were as many Jews living outside of the Holy Land as there were living in the Holy Land. Paul later visited many of their synagogues.

In about 250 BC, the Greeks commissioned 70 Jewish scholars to translate the Hebrew scripture (the Old Testament) into Greek. This translation is known as the Septuagint (or LXX).

Most of the quotations of Old Testament verses that are found written in the New Testament are from the Greek Septuagint.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

100 Years of Jewish Independence

After the death of Alexander the Great, the Greek Empire was ruled as 5 separate territories. Eventually the Holy Land came under the rule of King Antiochus who tried to stamp out Judaism.

When a Greek official asked a Jewish priest named Mattathias to sacrifice a pig to Zeus, he refused. Mattathias later killed both the Greek official and the priest who performed the sacrifice.

Mattathias and his 5 sons then fled to the hills. Soon, a guerrilla army joined them and a revolt had begun. The year was 167 BC. Their leader was Judas Maccabeus, the 3rd son of Mattathias.

During the Maccabean Revolt, the Greeks defiled and vandalized the Temple. Within 3 years, the Maccabees had regained control of the Temple against much larger Greek forces.

In 164 BC, the Jews rededicated the Temple and relit the golden lampstand. God miraculously made a small amount of holy oil to last the full 8 days necessary to make more holy oil. The Jews commemorate this miracle with a Festival of Lights called Hannukah.

The Jews achieved political freedom (no taxation) and independent rule for 100 years (until 63 BC). This was the Hasmonean Period.



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The Septuagint and Apocrypha

The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures and was used by the early Church. It originated in Alexandria, Egypt and was translated between 300-200 BC. It was widely used among Hellenistic Jews and was produced because many Jews spread throughout the empire and were beginning to lose their Hebrew language. The Septuagint is the Bible used by Jesus and the apostles. It is also called the translation of the seventy because tradition states that the Septuagint was translated by seventy people. In academia, the Septuagint is often abbreviated LXX in honor of this tradition.

The apocrypha are the collection of ancient books found in some editions of Christian Bibles in a separate section between the Old and New Testaments. Some Christian Churches include some or all of the same texts within the body of their version of the Old Testament. Luther was the first to publish these books as a separate intertestamental section. Most of the books of the Protestant Apocrypha are called deuterocanonical by Catholics per the Council of Trent and all of them are called anagignoskomena by the Eastern Orthodox per the Synod of Jerusalem. The Anglican Communion accepts the Apocrypha for instruction in life and manners but not for the establishment of doctrine. The Protestant Apocrypha contains three books (3 Esdras, 4 Esdras and the Prayer of Manasseh) that are accepted by many Eastern Orthodox Churches and Oriental Orthodox Churches as canonical but are regarded as non-canonical by the Catholic Church and are therefore not included in modern Catholic Bibles.

Apocrypha (14 books)	DATE (B.C.)
Tobit	3 rd Century
Judith	Late 2 nd Century
1 Maccabees	Late 2 nd Century
2 Maccabees	Late 2 nd Century
Ecclesiasticus/Sirach (i.e. Wisdom of Jesus ben Sirach)	180
Baruch	1 st Century (A.D.)
Letter of Jeremiah (included as ch. 6 of Baruch)	
Additions to Daniel	
1. Song of the Three (includes Prayer of Azariah and Song of the Three Jews; added as 3:24-90)	100
2. Susanna (added as ch. 13)	1 st Century
3. Bel and the Dragon (added as ch. 14)	100
Additions to Esther (ch. 3, 4, 8, 10)	100
1 Esdras	100
Prayer of Manasseh	1 st Century
Wisdom of Solomon	65
2 Esdras	65 B.C. – 120 A.D.

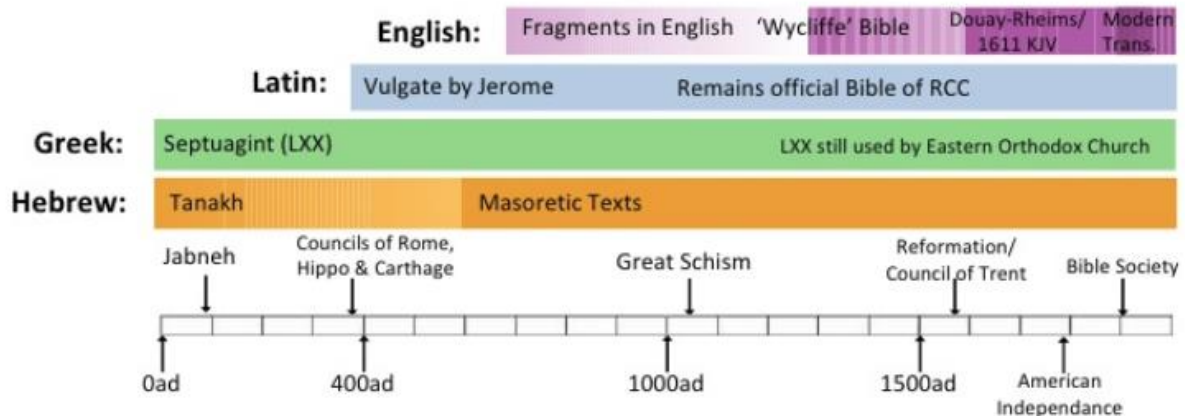
THE APOCRYPHA

The word Apocrypha is from the Greek 'Apokruphos' meaning secret or hidden. It consists of 14 books which were included in the original 1611 King James Bible. It is not included in modern day KJV copies as it was removed in the 19th century.

∞ BOOKS OF THE APOCRYPHA ∞

1 ESDRAS Yoshiyahu revives the Passover and the exiles return to Yerushalayim.	BARUCH Early period of exile to Babylon. Book read to exiles listing punishment & mercy.
2 ESDRAS Yah's anger against Yasara'al, Ezra's dialogue, vision & renewal of Scripture.	LETTER OF JEREMIAH Foretelling to Israel in their land that they will be carried captive to Babylon.
TOBIT Tobit's reverent acts. Tobias journey to Media with Rapha'AL and his marriage.	PRAYER OF AZARIYAH Prayer and hymn of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when cast into the furnace.
JUDITH Selge is laid against Yasara'al. Judith prays and the enemy is delivered to her.	SUSANNA Immediately follows after the book of Daniel. Concerning the elders & Susanna.
ADDITIONS TO ESTHER Six additions that aren't included in the Hebrew text. Expresses spiritual element.	BEL & THE DRAGON Denunciation of idol worship of Persians and Babylonians and Daniel's actions.
WISDOM OF SOLOMON Regarded by early church most important of Apocrypha. Essence, nature of wisdom.	PRAYER OF MANNASEH Prayer ascribing praise, confession of sin asking for pardon, trust in Yah's mercy.
ECCLESIASTICUS Wisdom of the son of Sirach, citizen of Yerushalayim. Wisdom and instructions.	1 & 2 MACCABEES An account of the Maccabean revolt while Yasara'al were captives in Greece.

The Bible in English



- Douay-Rheims Bible (1582-1610), Kings James Version (1611) – included apocrypha
- From 1630, some editions of Geneva Bible bound without apocrypha
- Westminster Assembly (1647 - Calvinist/Puritan) declares the apocrypha non-canonical.
- From 1769, American printers remove apocrypha from the KJV to reduce printing cost and increase market appeal to non-Anglican Protestant readers
- From 1826, the British and Foreign Bible Society stops printing apocrypha
- Revised Version (1881-1894) released in Britain – includes apocrypha

The Roman Period

The Romans gradually conquered the Greek Empire and established the Roman Empire. The Romans took charge of Palestine in 63 B.C.

The Romans embraced Greek culture and the common people of the Roman Empire continued to speak koine Greek. This "universal" language later helped in the spreading of the gospel.

The Romans imposed heavy taxes on the Jews and assigned Roman governors to rule the 4 main geographical divisions of the Holy Land: Galilee, Samaria, Perea, and Judea.

The Jews in Palestine were given religious freedom and some degree of political autonomy but the Jews found Roman domination repugnant. The Jews scoured their scriptures for God's promises concerning the Jewish Messiah. They wanted a political deliverer.

The Romans built a vast network of roads throughout the Roman Empire. These roads later helped in the spreading of the gospel.

The presence of huge Roman armies assured peace throughout the Roman Empire. This widespread peace later helped in the spreading of the gospel.



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Week 39 - 11 Weeks to Go

Herod Remodels the Temple

Herod was an Edomite (a descendant of Israel's brother Esau). The Greek word for Edom was Idumea, therefore, Herod was an Idumean.

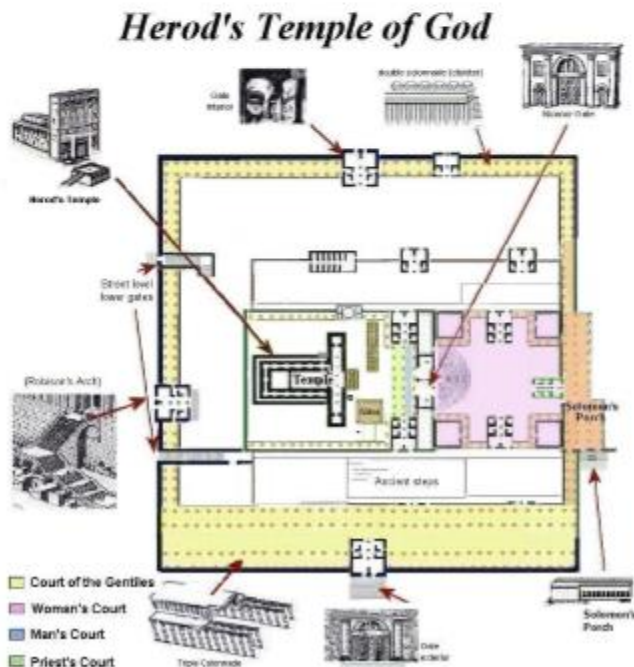
Herod's father had been an advisor to the first Roman official in charge of Palestine. Herod's father secured a political position for Herod and eventually Herod was put in charge of all of Palestine.

Herod ruled from 39 BC to his death in 4 BC. (This is the Herod who ruled Palestine when Jesus was born and who ordered the execution of all male babies born in Bethlehem.

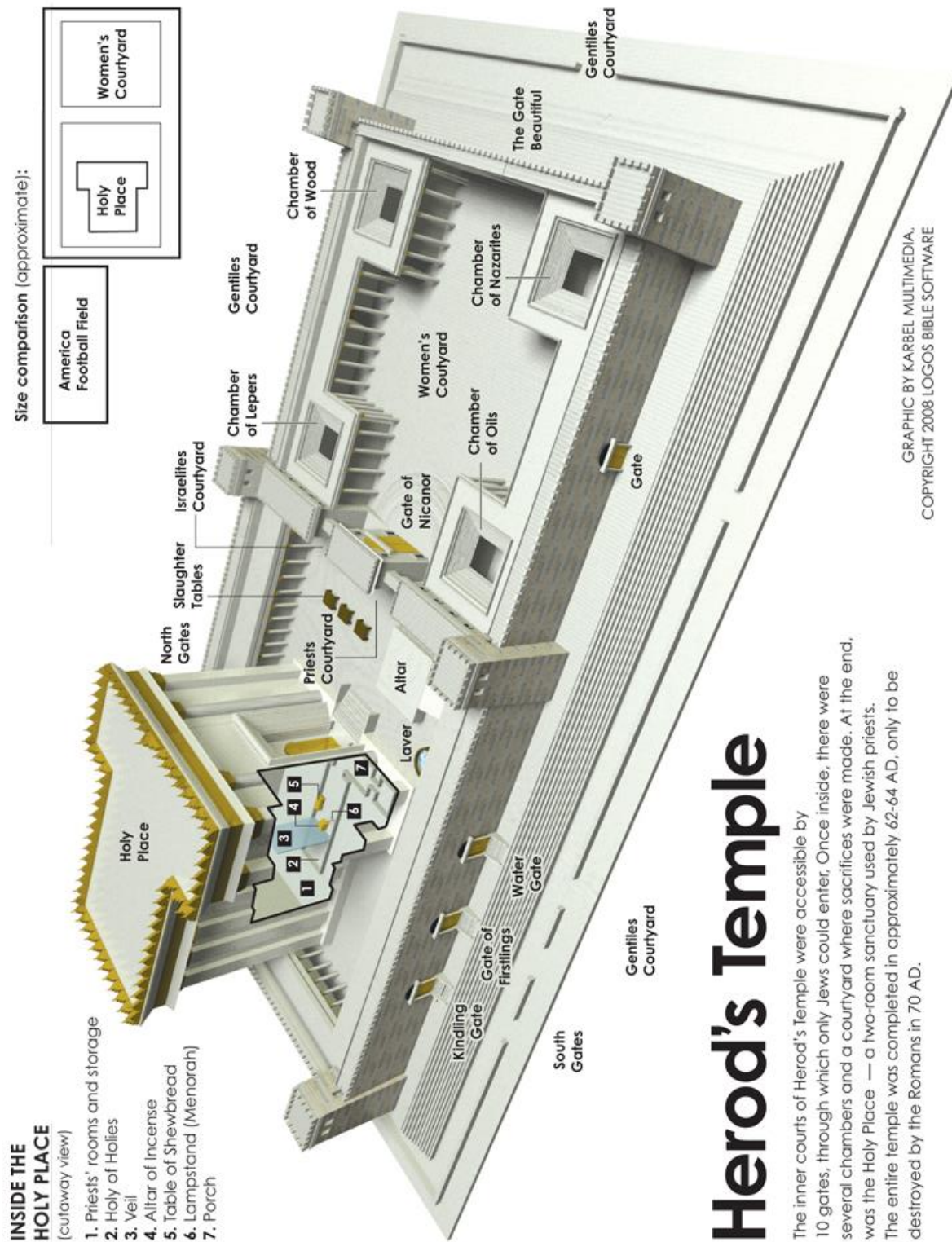
In an effort to conciliate the Jews who hated him for his Edomite heritage, Herod remodeled the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and added a huge courtyard surrounded by patio covers. These "porches" created delightful shady places for Jewish teachers to hold outdoor classes. The Jews continued to hate Herod.

This remodeled and expanded version of Zerubbabel's Temple is called Herod's Temple by Bible historians. This is the Jewish Temple of the entire New Testament period.

This Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. Without the Temple the Jews could no longer perform animal sacrifices.



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Week 39 - 11 Weeks to Go

The Birth and Ministry of Jesus

[The Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John]

God chose to take on a human nature in order to pay for all sins for all time and to establish a New Covenant with all people.

The “incarnation” means the “in-flesh-ation” of God. When Jesus was conceived in Mary’s womb, He became fully human and remained fully God. This is a mystery.

When Jesus took on a human nature, He did so permanently. Jesus still has a human nature today.

Jesus’ ministry began when He was baptized by John the Baptist (His second cousin) in the Jordan River.

Jesus had no rabbinical training yet He taught with authority. He broke the laws of the Jewish religious leaders (but never the laws of God) and drew enormous crowds. He hung out with low lives. The Jewish religious leaders hated Him and eventually plotted to kill Him.

Jesus clearly claimed to be God (the IAM of the Old Testament) and to have the power to forgive sins.

“Blasphemy” was the crime of being disrespectful of God. Claiming to be God was considered to be the ultimate blasphemy.



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Week 39 - 11 Weeks to Go

NEW TESTAMENT CHRONOLOGY

Date	NT Event	NT Book	Roman Emperors/ Event
4 B.C.—AD 30	The Life of Jesus	Matthew	Augustus 30 B.C.—A.D. 14
4 B.C.	Birth of Jesus	Mark	Tiberius A.D. 14-37
A.D. 8	Jesus in the Temple	Luke	
A.D. 26	John the Baptist starts his public ministry. Jesus starts his public ministry	John	Pontius Pilate, Roman procurator (A.D. 26-36)
A.D. 27-28	John the Baptist imprisoned		
A.D. 29	John the Baptist beheaded Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles		
A.D. 30	Jesus is crucified and Rises Again Jesus's ascension The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost		
A.D. 30—A.D. 100	The Early Church	Acts	
A.D. 37	Saul of Tarsus is converted (Paul)		Caligula A.D. 37-41
A.D. 44	James (John's brother) is martyred	James	Claudius A.D. 41-54
A.D. 47-49	Paul's First Missionary Journey		

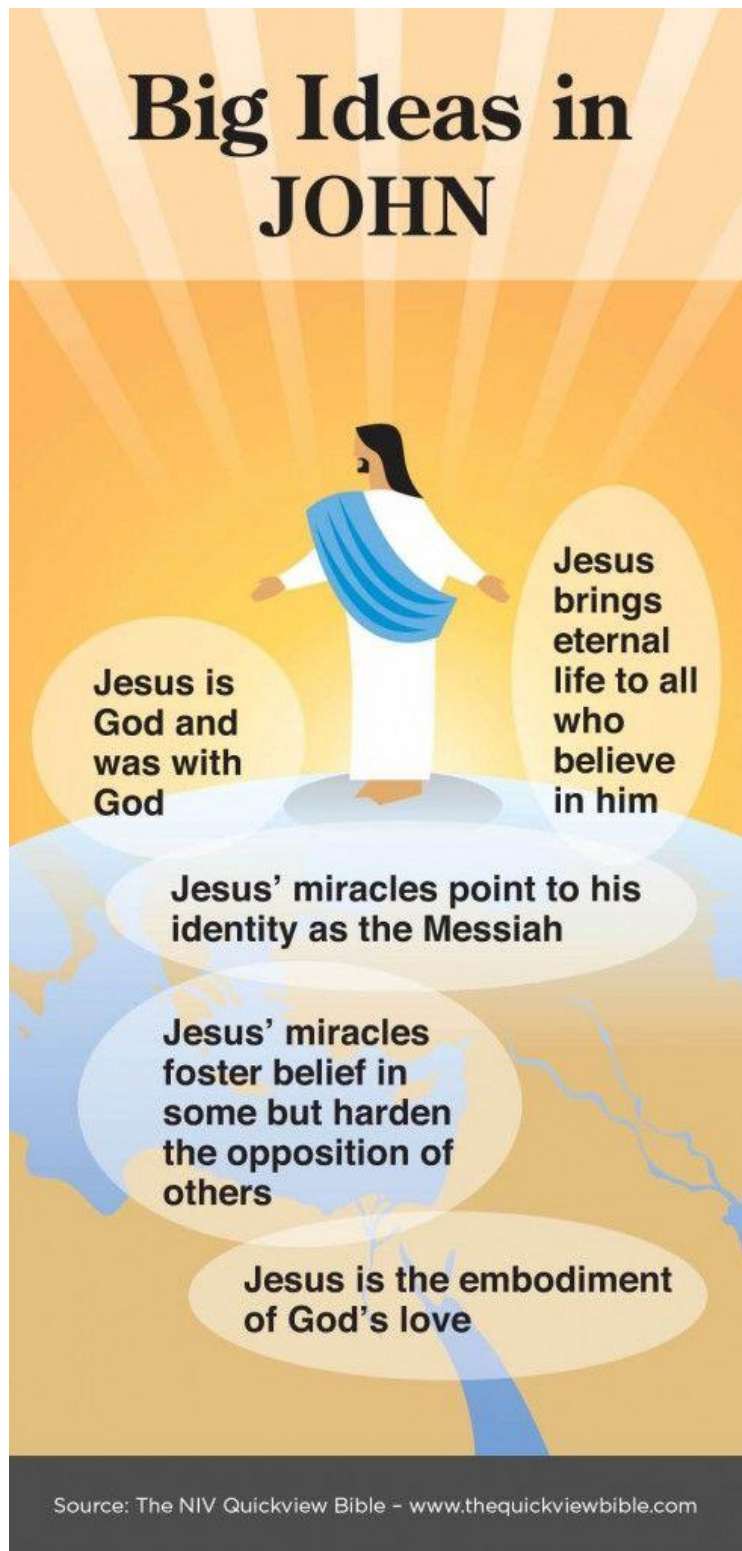
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Week 39 - 11 Weeks to Go

Date	NT Event	NT Book	Roman Emperors/ Event
A.D. 50	The council meets at Jerusalem	Galatians	
A.D. 51-53	Paul's Second Missionary Journey	1 & 2 Thessalonians	
A.D. 54-57	Paul's Third Missionary Journey	Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians	Nero A.D. 54-68
A.D. 58	Paul arrested in Jerusalem		
A.D. 60	Paul appeals to Caesar		
A.D. 61-62	Paul's 2-year house arrest in Rome	Ephesians, Colossians	
~A.D. 62	James (Jesus' brother) martyred	Philemon, Philippians	Nero Burns Rome (A.D. 64)
A.D. 66	Paul's second imprisonment in Rome	1&2 Peter, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Jude	
~A.D. 67-68	Peter and Paul martyred in Rome		Galba, Otho, Vitellius A.D. 69 Vespasian A.D. 69-79
A.D. 70	Jerusalem falls The Temple is destroyed	Hebrews	
A.D. 81-96	Christians persecuted by Domitian		Titus A.D. 79-81
A.D. 90-5	Apostle John exiled on Patmos	1, 2, 3 John, Revelations	Nerva AD. 96-98



JOHN

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

AUTHOR: "THE INCIPLE JESUS LEVITA"
(JN 1:1-2)

JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE?
(JN 1:1-2)

THE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK:
"SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH AND THAT BY BELIEVING, YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME."
(JN 20:31)

7 I AM'S

7 I AM'S	7 I AM'S
THE BREAD OF LIFE (JN 6:35)	THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (JN 1:9)
THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP (JN 10:9)	THE GOOD SHEPHERD (JN 10:11)
THE RESURRECTION (JN 10:18)	THE LAST THING & LIFE (JN 14:19)
THE VINE (JN 15:1)	THE TRUE VINE (JN 15:1)

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7 SIGNS

7 SIGNS	7 SIGNS
CASTING OUT DEMONS (JN 6:7)	HEALING A BLIND MAN (JN 9:1)
HEALING A PARALYZED MAN (JN 4:46)	FEEDING THE 5,000 (JN 6:1-14)
HEALING A BLIND MAN (JN 9:1)	RAISING LAZARUS (JN 11:1-44)
RAISING LAZARUS (JN 11:1-44)	THE TRUE VINE (JN 15:1)

1 INTRODUCTION

1-10 THE BEGINNING AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD

1-10 THE BEGINNING AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD

1-10 THE BEGINNING AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD

2-10 MIRACULOUS SIGNS & CONTROVERSIES

2-10 MIRACULOUS SIGNS & CONTROVERSIES

2-10 MIRACULOUS SIGNS & CONTROVERSIES

13-17 JESUS' FINAL WORDS

13-17 JESUS' FINAL WORDS

13-17 JESUS' FINAL WORDS

21 EPILOGUE

21 EPILOGUE

21 EPILOGUE

18-20 JESUS' DEATH & RESURRECTION

18-20 JESUS' DEATH & RESURRECTION

18-20 JESUS' DEATH & RESURRECTION

21 EPILOGUE

21 EPILOGUE

21 EPILOGUE

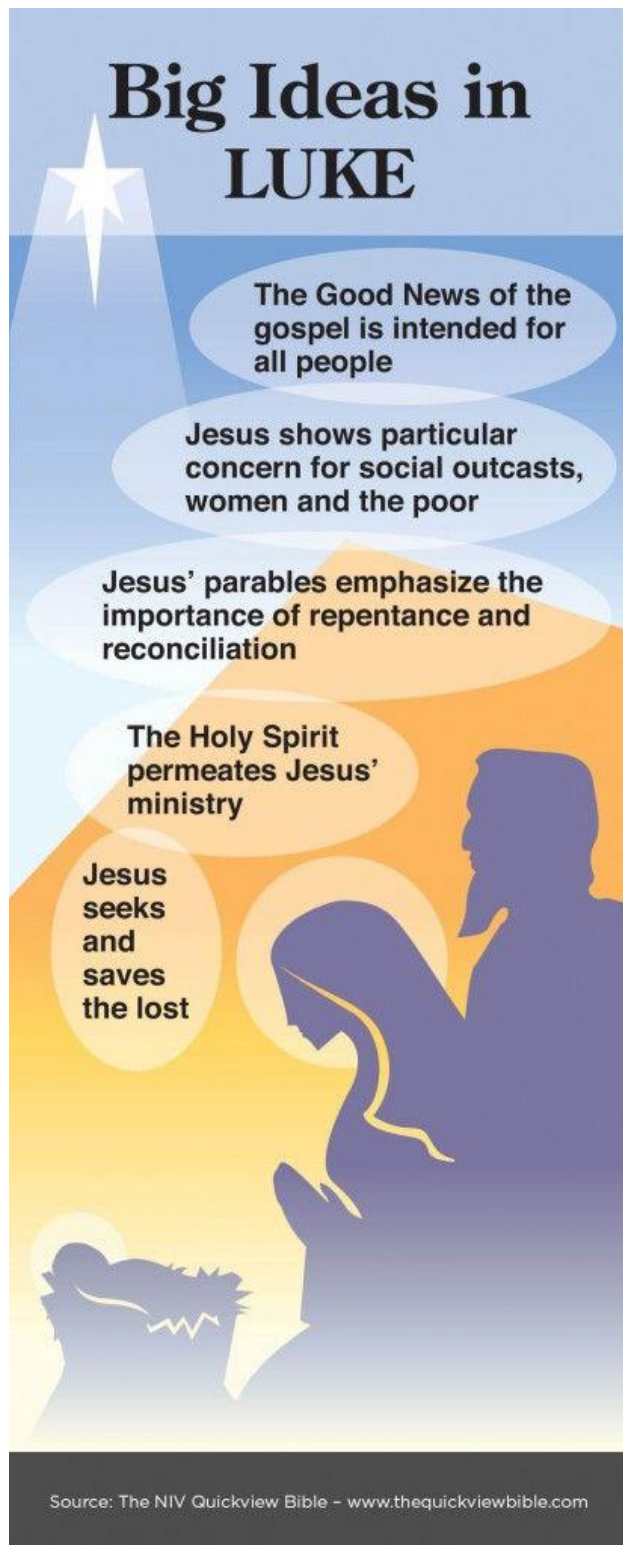
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Week 39 - 11 Weeks to Go

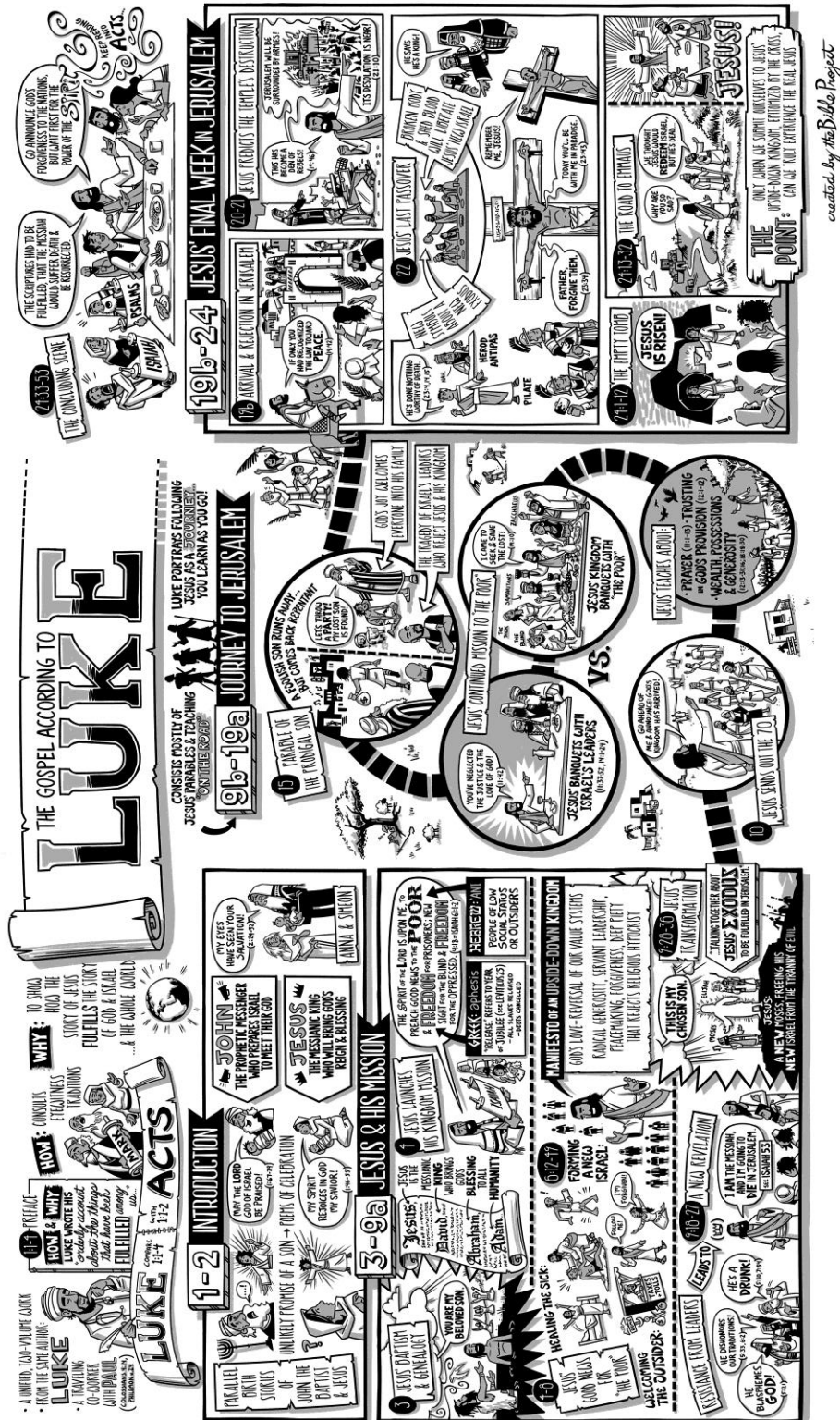


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Week 39 - 11 Weeks to Go



Big Ideas in MATTHEW



Jesus fulfills Old Testament promises of a coming Messiah and King

The kingdom of God operates according to God's values rather than humanity's

Jesus commands his disciples to invest their treasures in God's kingdom rather than in earthly possessions

Believers are salt and light, spreading the Good News throughout the world

The Hope of a Future Deliverer

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ZEC 9-14; DA 7-12; JN 1; LK 1-2; MT 1-2

Week 39 - 11 Weeks to Go

Things to look for

AUTHOR: 30-40 YEARS OF ORAL TRADITION

MATTHEW THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

Matthew 28:1-20

NEW MOSES

1. MESSIAH FROM THE LINE OF DAVID

2. NEW MOSES

3. GOD WITH US

#1 LOOK UP OLD TESTAMENT QUOTATIONS (HERE ARE A LOT)

#2 LOOK CLOSELY AT THE PEOPLE WHO ACCEPT JESUS

RECEIVING UNIMPEDED + FAITH = TRANSFORMATION

BOOKS OF MOSES (TORAH)

1-3 CONNECT JESUS TO OLD TESTAMENT

4-7 ANNOUNCING GOD'S KINGDOM

8-10 JESUS BRINGS KINGDOM INTO PEOPLE'S LIVES

11-13 PARABLES ABOUT THE KINGDOM

14-20 DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE MESSIAH

21-25 CLASH OF KINGDOMS

26-28 PASSOVER MEAL

MOSES > JESUS

JESUS > MOSES

CREATED BY THE BIBLE PROJECT

The Hope of a Future Deliverer

26 JUN - 2 JUL 2018

ZEC 9-14; DA 7-12; JN 1; LK 1-2; MT 1-2

Week 39 - 11 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- In history (c. 333 BC) God used Alexander the Great to deal convincingly with those who opposed his will. Thus was the oracle in Zechariah 9 fulfilled. What lessons does that teach you about God's love and holiness? About the authority of God's word spoken through prophets?
- Where have you seen God active in violent world affairs?
- What about Jesus stands out to you the most? His conception by the Holy Spirit and a virgin? His humanity as a man who can relate to us? His deity as God's only Son? His authority as an eternal King? His mission as savior? Other?
- God appeared to Zechariah, Mary and the shepherds when they were just being themselves. What does that imply about what it means to be "spiritual"? How has God spoken to you in the ordinary flow of life?
- Jesus was called Immanuel (God with Us). How do you feel about viewing Jesus as a role model? Does his divine nature make him feel too different from you or make Him the ultimate role model?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In Daniel 7, we are shown that God doesn't always side with the strong or victorious (athletes, candidates or military) but with the defeated, oppressed and exiled. How might this affect us in our thinking about God? In our daily lives?
- The bottom line for Daniel is that the royal power of the Most High God always triumphs over the kingdoms of men. How is that evident for Daniel personally? For the kings and subjects he treats? For the readers he comforts? For us?
- In John 1, what motivated the disciples of John to follow Jesus? How would these first disciples be accepted into leadership roles in a church today?
- What do the star, the Magi, the gifts, the homage, the hostility and the prophecy teach about the significance of Jesus in Matthew 2:1?
- How did God use prophecy, dreams, faith and circumstances to guide Joseph? What can you learn about faith and obedience from Joseph?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Are you doing any of the things targeted in Zechariah 9's oracle for judgement: hoarding wealth? Victimizing others? Trusting in your own strength? How has God dealt with you in this area? Unlike the Syrians, Phoenicians, Philistines or Jebusites, what can you legitimately take pride in that is of eternal value, knowing that it will never be taken away?
- What aspects of God move you to pray? Why? Who do you pray for most frequently? What prayer agenda does Daniel 9 suggest?
- If an angel today were to reveal God's plan for your life (as with both Elizabeth and Mary), what would you do? Ask a lot of questions? Wonder if you had any say about it? Rejoice that God could use you? Worry about your ability to do it? Run away scared? Gladly obey? Other?
- In Luke 2:34 we are told that Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph. How might God want you to "bless" a person in your life?
- In your journey toward God, how are you like the Magi? Unlike them? Have you had to leave anything to follow Jesus? What is the gold, incense and myrrh in your life?

Jesus, the Son of God and Man

3 - 9 JUL 2018

MT 2-5, 8-9, 12; MK 1-3; LK 2-6; JN 1:35-4:45

Week 40 - 10 Weeks to Go

We read the Good News of the gospel through the eyes of his disciples: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We hear Jesus' teachings, hear about his ministry, miracles, and healings, and see how Jesus relates with people. We see Jesus reaching out to the outcast, serving the undesirable, and turning the understandings of the law by the Pharisees upside down. We see prophecies of the Old Testament fulfilled through the life and works of Jesus. These historical accounts reflect the unique perspective of each apostle. Matthew offers proof of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Mark paints a compelling portrait of Jesus serving others. Luke reflects on Jesus' compassion for those in need of healing and caring. John directs his words to the gentiles and speaks not only of Jesus' divine nature, but also speaks of Jesus' humanity—being hungry, tired, compassionate and sad. Through these Synoptic Gospels we learn about how Jesus lived and are provided a model for living our own lives within God's kingdom.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: MT 2:22-23; LK 2:29-52; MT 3: 1-12;
MK 1:1-8; LK 3:1-18; JN 1:19-28
Day 2: MT 3:13-17; MK 1:9-11; LK 3:21-22;
JN 1:29-34; LK 3:23-38; MT 4:1-11;
MK 1:12-13; LK 4:1-13
Day 3: JN 1:35 – 3:36
Day 4: JN 4:1-45; MT 4:12-22; MK 1:14-20;
LK 4:14-30
Day 5: MK 1:21-28; LK 4:31-37; MT 8:14-17;
MK 1:29-34; LK 4:38-41; MT 4:23-25;
MK 1:35-39; LK 4:42-5:11; MT 8:1-4;
MK 1:40-45; LK 5:12- 16
Day 6: MT 9:1-17; MK 2:1-22; LK 5:17-39;
MT 12:1-14; MK 2:23-3:6; LK 6:1-11
Day 7: MT 12:15-21; MK 3:7-19; LK 6:12-19;
MT 5:1-48; LK 6:20-36

Outline

Return to Nazareth (Day 1)
Jesus Visits the Temple (Day 1)
John the Baptist (Day 1)
Baptism of Jesus (Day 2)
Genealogy of Jesus (Day 2)
Temptation of Jesus (Day 2)
Beginning of Public Ministry (Day 3)
Through Samaria to Galilee (Day 4)
Teaching with Authority (Day 5)
Departing Capernaum (Day 5)
Cleansing the Leper (Day 5)
Events in Capernaum (Day 6)
Lord of the Sabbath (Day 6)
Jesus' Followers (Day 7)
Sermon on the Mount (Day 7)

Jesus, the Son of God and Man

3 - 9 JUL 2018

MT 2-5, 8-9, 12; MK 1-3; LK 2-6; JN 1:35-4:45

Week 40 - 10 Weeks to Go

Key Characters		Key Locations		Key Terms	
Jesus	Herod	Bethlehem	Jerusalem	Kingdom of God	Repent
Magi	Joseph	Egypt	Judea	Baptism	Preaching
Mary	Archelaus	Galilee	Nazareth	Temptation	Disciples
John the Baptist	Holy Spirit	Jordan River	Capernaum	Healing	Beatitudes
The Devil	Peter	Bethsaida	Cana	The Good News	Blessed
Andrew	James	Samaria		Teaching	Prayer
John	Pharisees			Fasting	Sabbath
Levi	Philip			Blessings	Judgment
Bartholomew	Matthew			Love	The Word
Thomas	Thaddaeus			Grace	Truth
Simon Zealot	Judas			Lamb of God	Life
Judas Iscarot	Nathanael			Messiah	Miracles
Simeon	Angels				
Shepherds	Anna				
Pontius Pilate	Nicodemus				

Key Verses

Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near [MT 3:1]

At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.[MT 3:16-17]

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” [MT 4:19]

“Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” [LK 2:10]

I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. [LK 3:16]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. [JN 1:1]

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [JN 1:14]

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. [JN 3:16]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Mt2: Wise men came from the east to worship the child. King Herod ordered that all the baby boys be killed. An angel warned Joseph to flee.

Mt3: John the Baptist was preaching, "Repent, the kingdom is near!" Jesus was baptised by John. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son."

Mt4: Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. He called Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him. He preached and healed the sick.

Mt5: Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart. I have come to fulfil the law. Whoever is angry will be judged. I say, love your enemies."

Mt8: Jesus cleansed a leper. He healed the servant of a centurion who had faith. He calmed a storm at sea and cast demons out of two men.

Mt9: Jesus healed a paralytic. Many sinners came to eat with him. He raised a girl to life and healed two blind men. The crowds marveled.

Mt12: The Pharisees opposed Jesus when he healed on the Sabbath. He said, "A tree is known by its fruit. The sign of Jonah will be given."

Mk1: Jesus was baptised by John. He called Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow him. He preached and cast out demons. He healed a leper.

Mk2: Many gathered at the house. Jesus forgave a paralytic his sins and healed him. He was questioned about fasting and keeping the Sabbath.

Mk3: Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. Great crowds followed him. He appointed twelve apostles. He said, "Whoever obeys God is my family."

Lk2: Mary gave birth in Bethlehem. Angels sent shepherds to see the child. Jesus was presented at the temple. He grew in wisdom and stature.

Lk3: John came from the wilderness preaching repentance. Jesus was baptised. He was son of David, son of Abraham, son of Adam, son of God.

Lk4: Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. In the synagogue he read out, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me." He healed all the sick.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Lk5: Simon, James and John left everything and followed Jesus. Jesus forgave and healed a paralytic. The Pharisees asked him about fasting.

Lk6: Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. He chose twelve apostles. He said, "Blessed are the poor. Love your enemies. Hear and do my words."

Jn1: The Word of God became flesh and dwelt with us. John the Baptist bore witness to him. Andrew told Simon Peter and they followed Jesus.

Jn2: Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding. He drove money-changers from the temple. He said, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it."

Jn3: Jesus told Nicodemus, "Be born again. Whoever believes in the Son will have eternal life." John the Baptist said, "He is above all."

Jn4: Jesus spoke with a Samaritan woman about her husbands. She said, "Can this be the Christ?" Many believed. He healed an official's son.

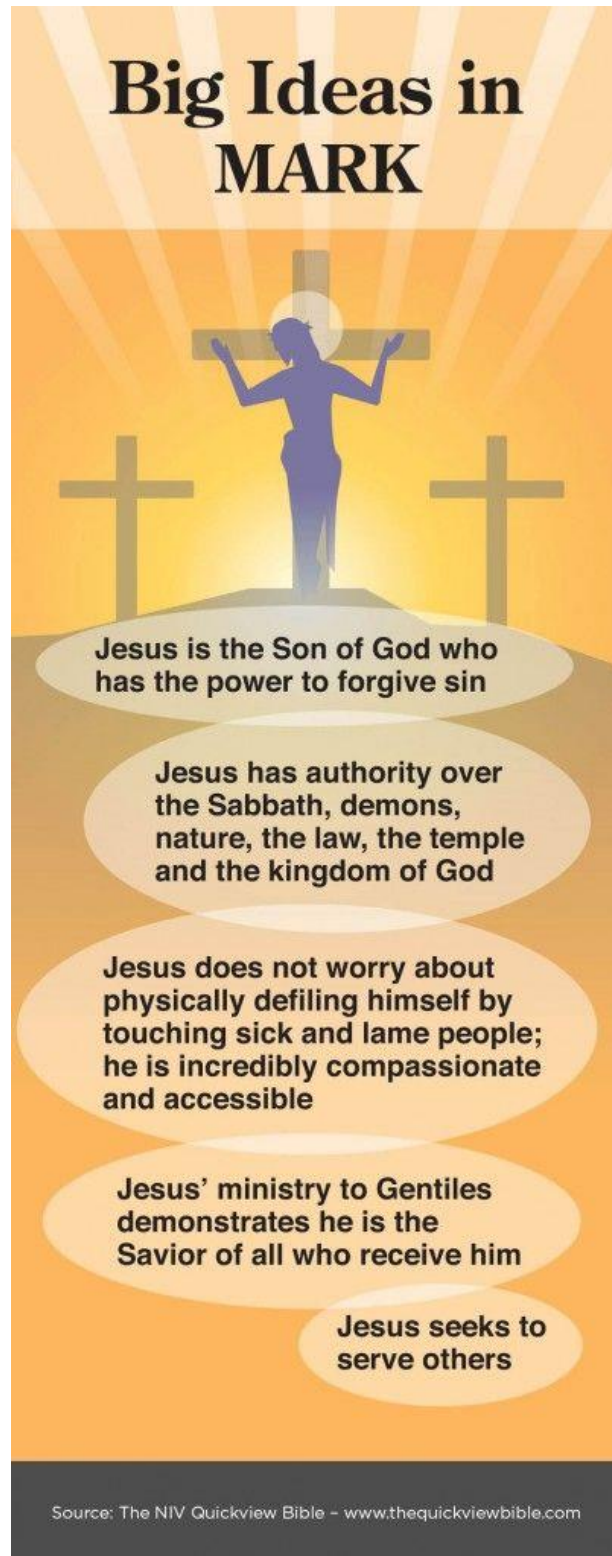
Jesus, the Son of God and Man

3 - 9 JUL 2018

MT 2-5, 8-9, 12; MK 1-3; LK 2-6; JN 1:35-4:45

Week 40 - 10 Weeks to Go

Book (Gospel)	Author	Where Written	When	Why
Matthew	Matthew (Levi)	Judea	c. AD 60	To show Jesus as the Son of David, the kingly Messiah who fulfills prophecy.
Mark	John Mark	Rome	c. AD 50	To show Jesus as the Suffering Son of Man sent to serve and not be served.
Luke	Luke (the physician)	Caesarea	c. AD 60-62	To show Jesus as the Savior of the World who has compassion for all human beings.
John	John (the beloved)	Asia Minor	c. AD 85-95	To show Jesus as the Son of God, the Word made flesh, who provides eternal life for all who believe in him.



Big Ideas in MARK

Jesus is the Son of God who has the power to forgive sin

Jesus has authority over the Sabbath, demons, nature, the law, the temple and the kingdom of God

Jesus does not worry about physically defiling himself by touching sick and lame people; he is incredibly compassionate and accessible

Jesus' ministry to Gentiles demonstrates he is the Savior of all who receive him

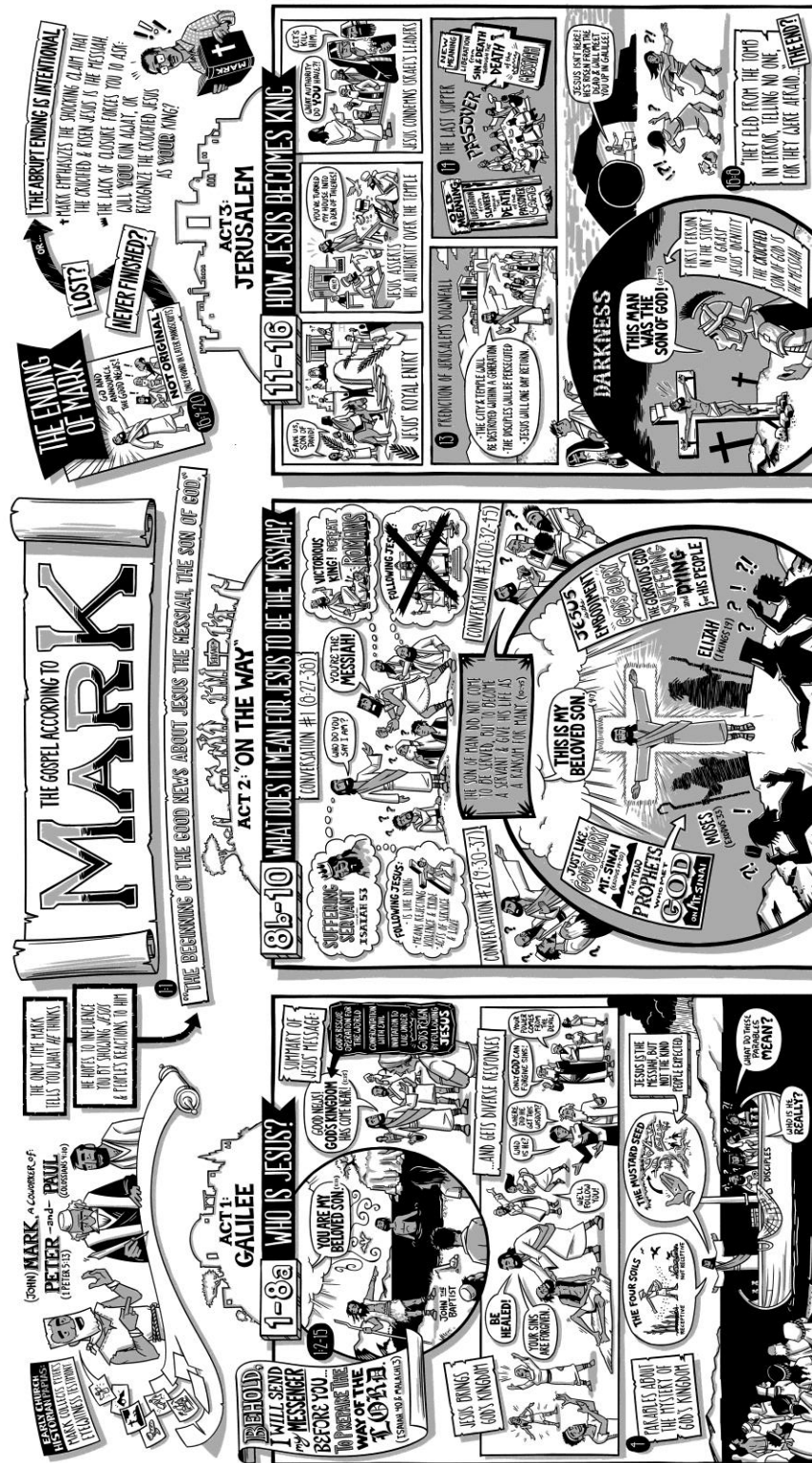
Jesus seeks to serve others

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

3 - 9 JUL 2018

MT 2-5, 8-9, 12; MK 1-3; LK 2-6; JN 1:35-4:45

Week 40 - 10 Weeks to Go



created by the Bible Project

Jesus, the Son of God and Man

3 - 9 JUL 2018

MT 2-5, 8-9, 12; MK 1-3; LK 2-6; JN 1:35-4:45

Week 40 - 10 Weeks to Go



Jesus, the Son of God and Man

3 - 9 JUL 2018

MT 2-5, 8-9, 12; MK 1-3; LK 2-6; JN 1:35-4:45

Week 40 - 10 Weeks to Go

Twelve Disciples of Jesus Christ						
Squad	Duties	Disciples	Order of Call	Call Reference	Apostle Symbol	Known As
First	Performed as counselors and prayer partners for Jesus Christ	Peter	3	John 1:42	Hope	Leader 1st Squad; Primary spokesman; Apostle to the Jews; Brother to Andrew. Rock upon which church is founded.
		Andrew	1	John 1:35-41	Introduction	First called; Brought people to Jesus; Fisherman by trade with John. Brother of Peter.
		John	2	Mt 4:21	Love	Youngest (about seventeen) and beloved by Jesus Christ; Traditional author of fourth Gospel; Also wrote Revelation, and John 1, 2, an 3. Fisherman by trade with Andrew; Zebedee family wealthy. Brother of James.
		James	4	Mt 4:21	Witness	Silent Disciple (no record of ever speaking) and first martyr (beheaded by Herod). Zebedee family wealth shared with his brother John.
Second	Looked after people, affairs and crowds in Deacon fashion	Philip	5	John 1:43	Spiritual Growth	Leader 2nd Squad; Analytical Disciple, always fifth.
		Nathaniel (Barthalomew)	6	John 1:43-49	Spiritual Perception	Sincere and royal background.
		Matthew	7	Mt 9:9-13	Hospitality	Tax Collector; Publican; Oldest. Traditional author of first Gospel. Outrageous sinner; Superior business and political negotiations knowledge; Fluent in Greek.
		Thomas	8	Mt 10:2-4	Faith	Twin and doubter
Third	Managed worldly affairs and money	James the Lesser	9	Mt 10:2-4	Second Place	Leader of 3rd Squad; Smaller stature
		Simon the Zealot	10	Mt 10:2-4	God and Country	Revolutionary; wanted to overthrow Rome
		Judas (Thaddeus, Lebbaeus)	11	Mt 10:2-4	Intimate Christianity	Three Names; later changed name to Jude
		Judas Iscariot	12	Mt 10:2-4	Honor	Betrayer
www.kadammanittapally.com						

Who Is Jesus Christ?

Many people think Jesus Christ was simply a great teacher. But Christians believe he was far more than a mere human being. His death and resurrection radically changed the course of history. Christ's love allows people to enter into a true and meaningful relationship with God the Father.

Jesus Is . . .

FULLY HUMAN

- He was born as a human baby
- He endured the pains and temptations of humanity
- He suffered a physical and humiliating death

Mark 1:12-13; Luke 2:1-21; Phil. 2:5-8

SINLESS

- He did not sin, even when tempted
- He was undeserving of punishment and death

Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 4:15

FULLY DIVINE

- He is the Son of God
- He is God incarnate, the "Word" made flesh, who came to earth to redeem humanity

John 1:1,14; 20:31

THE MESSIAH

- He is the Messiah foretold in Old Testament prophecies
- His kingdom is the kingdom of God, where his followers from all nations are united in love and peace

Isa. 53; Mic. 5:2; Mark 14:61-62; John 4:25-42; 18:36

THE SAVIOR

- Though sinless, he chose to die and receive humanity's punishment for their sin, in order to save them
- Through his resurrection, he conquered death and sin, Satan and hell
- He promises eternal life to those who believe in him

Luke 24:5-7; John 3:16,36; 5:24; 11:25; Heb. 9:14

THE LAST ADAM

- He provides forgiveness and new life, abolishing the sin and death that Adam brought upon humanity

Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:21-22,45-49

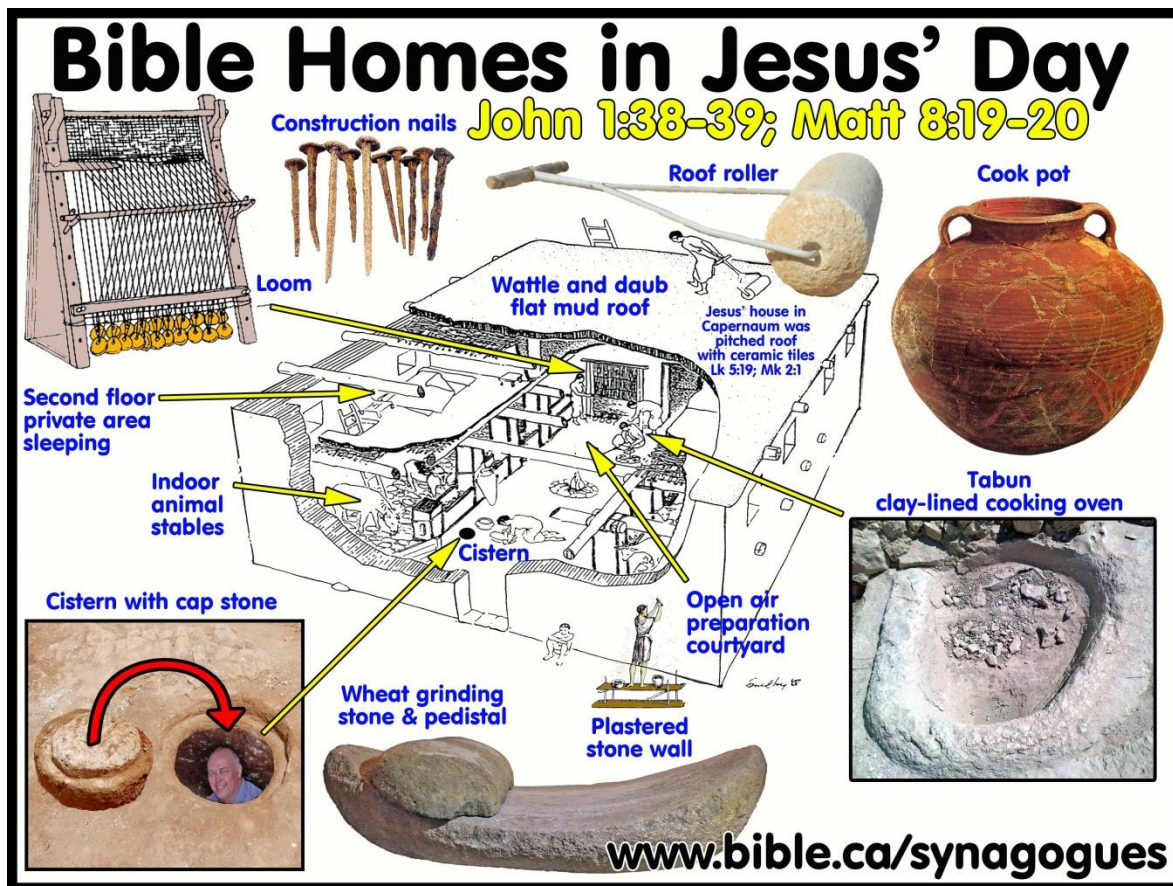
THE HIGH PRIEST

- He directly connects people to God
- He was the perfect, sinless, ultimate sacrifice for sin; no other sacrifice or priest is needed for forgiveness from God

Heb. 3:1; 4:14-15; 7:24-27



<h2>The Sermon on the Mount</h2> <h3>Matthew 5:21—7:23</h3> <h4>Conventional Wisdom vs. Jesus' Wisdom</h4>	
Conventional Wisdom	Jesus' Wisdom
Don't murder	Don't be angry with others 5:21–22
Don't commit adultery	Don't lust 5:27–28
A man who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce	Divorce is only valid in cases of sexual immorality 5:31–32
Don't break oaths	Don't make oaths; yes or no should suffice 5:33–37
Give an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth	Don't resist an evil person; turn the other cheek 5:38–42
Love your neighbor and hate your enemy	Love your enemies 5:43–47
Give to the needy publicly	Give to the needy in secret 6:1–4
Pray wordy prayers in order to gain attention	Pray humbly, in secret 6:5–8
Fast in public	Fast in secret 6:16–18
Store up treasure on earth	Accumulate treasures in heaven 6:19–21
Worry in order to solve problems	Don't worry; seek God's kingdom first 6:25–34
Concentrate on the sins of others	Deal with your own sin before focusing on the sins of others 7:1–5
The majority is always right	The majority won't make it into heaven 7:13–14, 21–23
Believe and teach what you want as long as you love God	Watch out for false prophets and obey God 7:15–23



Jesus, the Son of God and Man

3 - 9 JUL 2018

MT 2-5, 8-9, 12; MK 1-3; LK 2-6; JN 1:35-4:45

Week 40 - 10 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What did John the Baptist mean by calling Jesus the “Lamb of God” and the “Son of God”? Of the various titles for Jesus (the Word, the Light, the Christ, the Lamb of God, the Son of God) which means the most to you? Why?
- Read John 3:16-18. What stands out to you about God? About what he wants to do? About how a person is condemned?
- In John 4:1-45, Jesus talks with the Samaritan woman. What aspects of Jesus’ conversation could you use as a model for your own discussions with searching friends? What are we all constantly “thirsting” for?
- Under what circumstances was Jesus tempted (Luke 4:1-13)? After a spiritual high? At a weak moment? At a new stage in life? In each temptation, what was its appeal? Its price? How does Jesus resist them? How does Satan’s use of Scripture differ from the way Jesus uses it? Why were the temptations directed at Jesus immediately after he was affirmed by God at his baptism?
- Read Luke 4:18-19. What is Jesus’ fivefold mission? If all five areas of Jesus’ mission are to be carried on by the church as a whole, which area of concern do you give priority to and which do you tend to neglect?

What did I learn about human nature?

- When Jesus stayed in the temple it took awhile for Mary and Joseph to realize he had been left behind. What insight do you get from this story about young Jesus? Why do you think Luke included the story in his gospel?
- What is radical about John the Baptist’s message? What does the “root” and the “Fruit” in LK 3:9 signify? Is John advocating social upheaval or inner transformation? Is he preaching or meddling? Why would people want to listen to what John the Baptist was preaching?
- What is significant about the story of Jesus talking to the woman at the well taking place in Samaria? What is significant about Jesus choosing this woman as the first person to whom he revealed himself?
- In Luke 4:14-30, Jesus is rejected in Nazareth. Why did people in Nazareth have a problem accepting Jesus? Why do you think Jesus didn’t perform a miracle in Nazareth?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Who are the Gentiles (Luke 2:32) that God desires you to care for?
- How do you maintain a balance between daily responsibilities and serving God? How do you integrate the two?
- Who in your life has been a “John the Baptist” in leading you to Christ and “making straight the way for the Lord”?
- What does baptism mean to you? What about baptism with the Holy Spirit?
- Which one of the disciples are you most like when it comes to following Jesus? Andrew and Philip by spreading the news? Peter as a new creation? Nathanael who moves from doubt to strong belief?

We continue learning about Jesus' ministry and how he proclaims the good news of the kingdom of God. His teachings clarify the law and teach us how to enter into God's kingdom. He ministers to and trains selected people from among the huge numbers of people who respond to him and his work. God's personhood in Jesus gives us personal knowledge of God and fellowship with him that had never been known before. He calls people to be his disciples, asking for complete faith in him for everything. In the readings from this week, we continue to learn of Jesus' preaching, healing, teaching, and miracles. Jesus taught values, he explained the true intent of Old Testament law, he emphasized the personal nature of a relationship with God, he taught about personal priorities and the importance of placing our trust in God, he taught us how to approach God in prayer, and taught about life-building. He was recognized as being different from other teachers – he taught as if he spoke with God's own authority. He was a consummate storyteller and used parables to teach and emphasize his message. The miracles Jesus performed demonstrated his authority over nature, demons, sickness, death and his authority to forgive sin. In all Jesus did and said, he showed himself to have authority. And much of what he had to say turned contemporary thinking of the Pharisees upside-down. His followers are growing but the religious leaders grow increasingly threatened.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: MT 6:1-34; LK 11:1-4; 12:22-34;
MT 7:1-29; LK 6:37-49, 11:5-13
Day 2: MT 8:5-13; LK 7:1-17; JN 4:46-54
Day 3: MT 11:2-19; LK 7:18-50
Day 4: MT 12:22-50; MK 3:20-35;
LK 11:14-36, 8:19-21, MT 13:1-52;
MK 4:1-34; LK 8:1-18; LK 13:18-21
Day 5: MT 8:23-34; MK 4:35-5:20; LK 8:22-39
Day 6: MT 9:18-34; MK 5:21-43; LK 8:40-56;
MT 13:53-58; MK 6:1-6; JN 5:1-47
Day 7: MT 9:35-11:1; MK 6:7-13; LK 9:1-6;
MT 14:1-12; MK 6:14-29;
LK 3:19-20, 9:7-9

Outline

Unassuming Godliness (Day 1)
Doing the Will of God (Day 1)
In Capernaum and Nain (Day 2)
Jesus Allays John's Doubts (Day 3)
Anointing in Galilee (Day 3)
Jesus and Beelzebul (Day 4)
Parables by the Sea (Day 4)
Crossing to the East Shore (Day 5)
Returning to the West Shore (Day 6)
Rejection at Nazareth (Day 6)
Jesus' Second Visit to Jerusalem (Day 6)
Mission of the Twelve (Day 7)
Death of John the Baptist (Day 7)

Key Characters		Key Locations		Key Terms	
Jesus	Pharisees	Capernaum	Nain	Miracles	Faith
Apostles	Sadducees	Galilee	Cana	Prayer	Prophet
Centurion	Simon	Judea	Jerusalem	The Law	Son of Man
John the Baptist	Demons	Gardarenes	Bethesda	Blessed	Holy Spirit
Jesus' family	Legion			Parables	The Sabbath
Jairus	The sick			Kingdom of Heaven	
Harod	Herodias			Kingdom of God	
				Day of Judgment	

Key Verses

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. [MT 12:30]

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. [MK 30: 24-26]

See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. [LK 11:35]

“You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. [MT 8:26]

Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering. [MK 5:34]

A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home. [MK 6:4]

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” [JN 5:24]

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” [MT 9:37]

“The kingdom of heaven has come near.” [MT 10:7]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Mt6: "Do your good deeds in secret. Pray, 'Father, your kingdom come.' You cannot serve God and money. Do not be anxious about your life."

Lk11: Jesus said, "Pray, 'Father, your kingdom come.' Seek and you will find. Only the sign of Jonah will be given. Woe to you Pharisees!"

Lk12: Jesus said, "Even the hairs of your head are numbered. Sell your possessions. Be ready for the Son of Man. I came to bring division."

Mt7: "Do not judge others. Do to others what you would have them do to you. Whoever obeys is like a man who built his house on the rock."

Lk6: Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. He chose twelve apostles. He said, "Blessed are the poor. Love your enemies. Hear and do my words."

Mt8: Jesus cleansed a leper. He healed the servant of a centurion who had faith. He calmed a storm at sea and cast demons out of two men.

Lk7: Jesus healed a centurion's servant and raised a widow's son. John sent messengers to Jesus. A woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears.

Jn4: Jesus spoke with a Samaritan woman about her husbands. She said, "Can this be the Christ?" Many believed. He healed an official's son.

Mt11: John sent word from prison. Jesus said, "John the Baptist is Elijah." Jesus denounced the cities and said, "Come, my burden is light."

Mt12: The Pharisees opposed Jesus when he healed on the Sabbath. He said, "A tree is known by its fruit. The sign of Jonah will be given."

Mk3: Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. Great crowds followed him. He appointed twelve apostles. He said, "Whoever obeys God is my family."

Lk8: Jesus told a parable about a sower. He explained it to his disciples. He calmed a storm, delivered a man and healed Jairus' daughter.

Mt13: Jesus gave a parable about a sower. He told the disciples, "Seeing they do not see." He said, "The kingdom is like hidden treasure."

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Mk4: Jesus taught a parable about a sower and many others. He explained everything to the disciples. In the boat he calmed a great storm.

Lk13: Jesus said, "Repent or you will perish." He healed a woman on the Sabbath. He said, "Seek the narrow door. I must go on to Jerusalem."

Mt9: Jesus healed a paralytic. Many sinners came to eat with him. He raised a girl to life and healed two blind men. The crowds marveled.

Mk5: Jesus delivered a man of many demons. They entered a herd of pigs. He healed a woman with a hemorrhage and raised Jairus' daughter.

Mk6: He sent the twelve out to preach. Herod executed John the Baptist. Jesus fed 5,000 men. He came to the disciples walking on the sea.

Jn5: Jesus healed a man at Bethesda. He said, "The Son only does what he sees the Father doing. My works and the Scriptures bear witness."

Lk9: Jesus sent out the twelve. He fed 5,000 men. Peter said, "You are the Christ." Jesus said, "Take up your cross." He was transfigured.

Mt14: Herod had John the Baptist killed. Jesus fed 5,000 men with five loaves and two fish. Jesus came to the disciples walking on the sea.

Lk3: John came from the wilderness preaching repentance. Jesus was baptised. He was son of David, son of Abraham, son of Adam, son of God.

New Testament Political Rulers

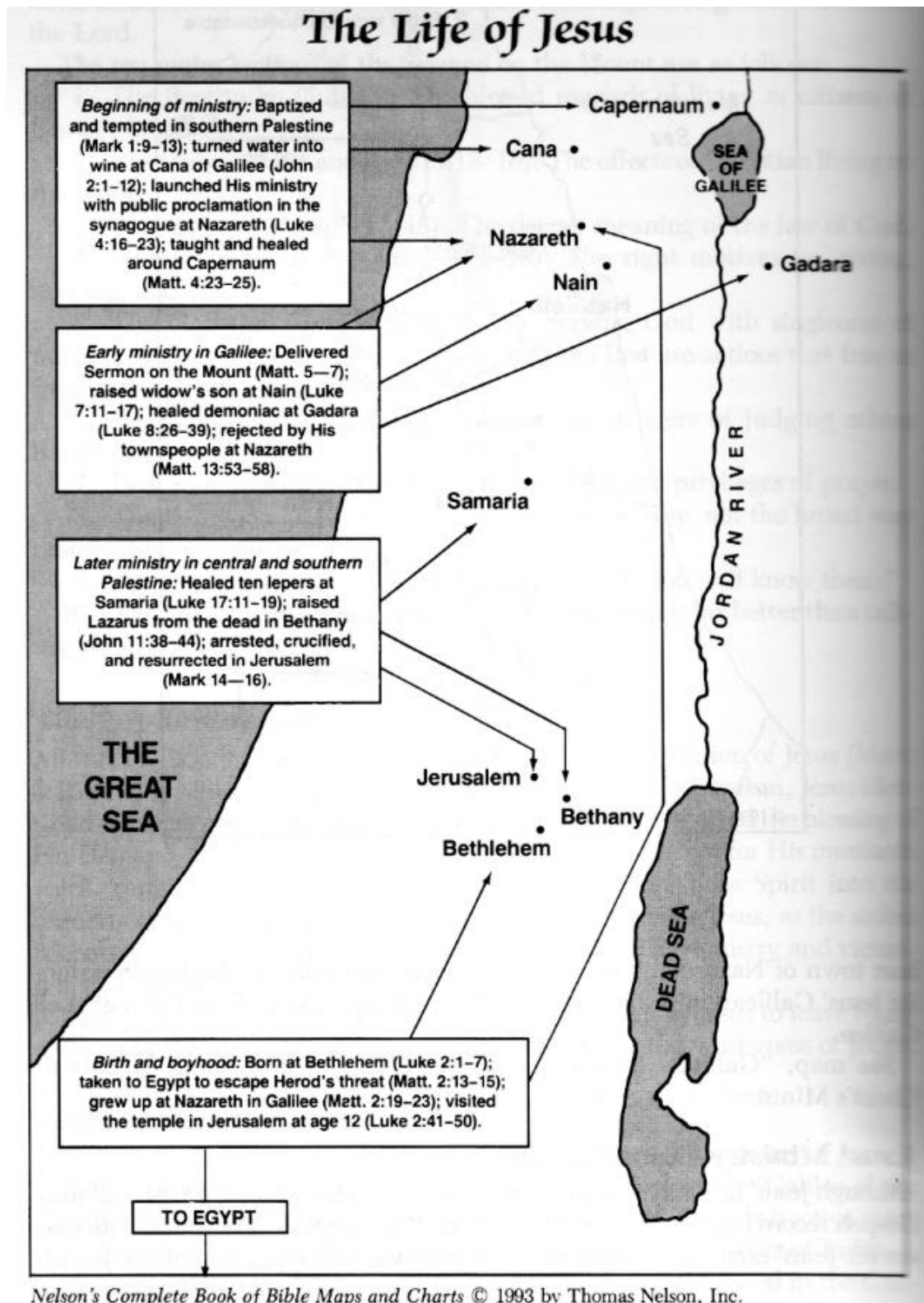
Roman Emperor	Rulers of Palestine		
Augustus Caesar (31 B.C. -A.D. 14)	Herod the Great (37-4 B.C.)		
	Judea	Galilee and Perea	Other Provinces
	Archelaus (4 B.C. -A.D. 6)	Herod Antipas (4 B.C. -A.D. 39)	Herod Philip II (4 B.C. -A.D. 34)
	Coponius (A.D. 6-8)		
	Ambivius (A.D. 9-12)		
	Annius Rufus (A.D. 12-15)		
	Tiberius Caesar (A.D. 14-37)		
	Valerius Gratus (A.D. 15-26)		
	Pontius Pilate (A.D. 26-36)		
	Caligula (A.D. 37-41)	Marcellus (A.D. 37)	
		Herod Agrippa I (A.D. 37-44)	
	Claudius (A.D. 41-54)	Cuspius Fadus (A.D. 44-46)	
		Tiberius Alexander (A.D. 46-48)	
		Ventidius Cumanus (A.D. 48-52)	
		M. Antonius Felix (A.D. 52-60)	Herod Agrippa II (Began to rule in A.D. 34 in other provinces and in A.D. 39 in Galilee and Perea.)
	Porcius Festus (A.D. 60-62)		
	Clodius Albinus (A.D. 62-64)		
	Gessius Florus (A.D. 64-66)		
Nero (A.D. 54-68)			
Galba, Otho, Vitellius (A.D. 68-69)			
Vespasian (A.D. 69-79)	Jewish Revolt (A.D. 66-70)		
Titus (A.D. 79-81)			
Domitian (A.D. 81-96)			

Jesus' Ministry

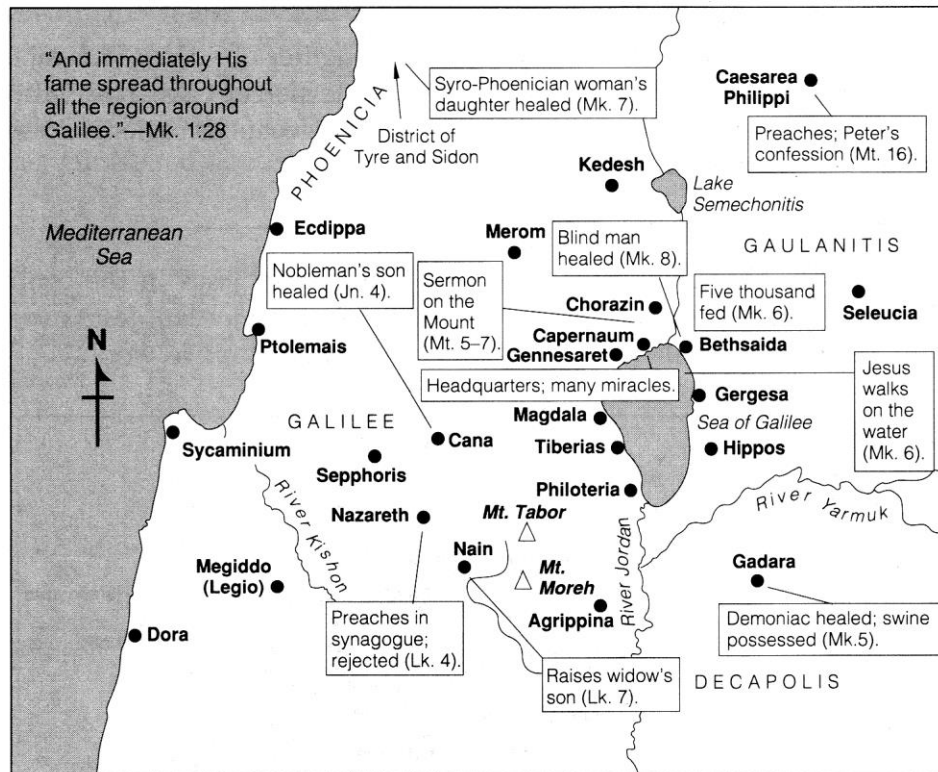
10-16 JUL 2018

MT 6-9, 11-14; MK 3-6; LK 4, 6-9, 11-12, 19-21; JN 4-5

Week 41 - 9 Weeks to Go



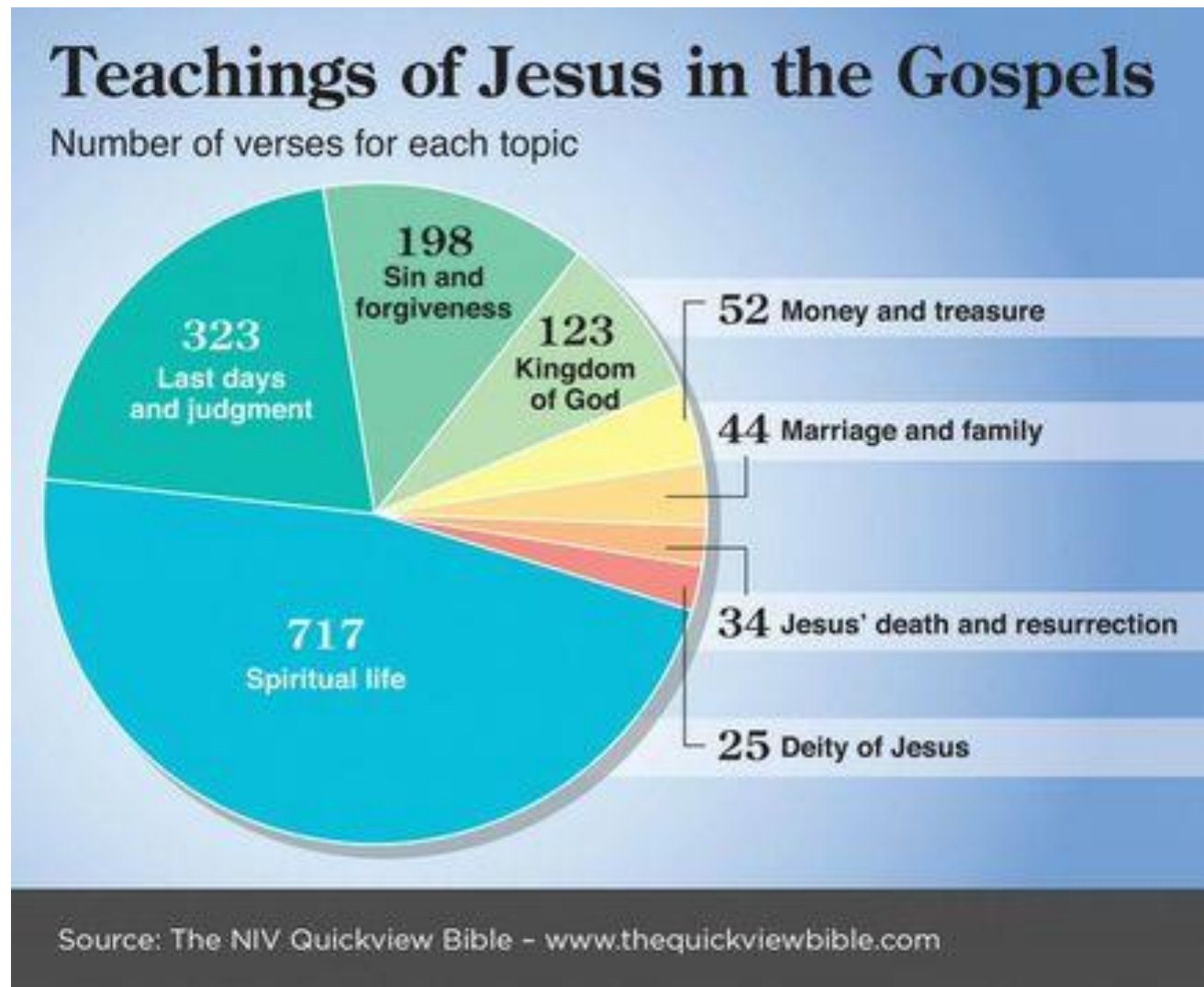
Galilean Ministry



The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4

Jesus' disciples had seen him pray many times. They must have made the connection between Jesus' intense prayer life and the power he showed in every aspect of life. Finally, one disciple asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus gave them a simple, yet powerful, prayer that has come to be known as "The Lord's Prayer." This prayer reveals God's attributes (characteristics) and includes seven petitions. The two main sections of the prayer divide with the words "your" and "us." The first part centers on God. Only by focusing on the patient, loving Father can we find the attitude that puts our own needs in perspective. The second part focuses on our needs – body, soul and spirit – and the needs of others.

	Petition	The Prayer	God's Attribute	Meaning
		Our Father in heaven	Fatherly love	God is a loving, compassionate Father who gives life, provides for, and protects those who trust him.
Your	1	Hallowed by your name	Holiness	To hallow means to make holy. To hallow God's name means to honor it as holy and sacred; real and powerful.
	2	Your kingdom come	Sovereignty	God has supreme power and authority over everything in heaven and earth
	3	Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven	Authority	God's perfect will is always being done in heaven. But on earth, human free will results in evil. We ask that God's will would take place on earth.
Us	4	Give us today our daily bread	Providence	God is able to provide for all our needs. The Greek word for bread represents not just food, but every physical thing we need.
	5	And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors	Mercy	We ask God to forgive the wrong we have done. God will forgive us only as much as we forgive those who have injured us. God is merciful and he expects us to be also.
	6	An lead us not into temptation	Protection	We pray for protection from all the things that trip us up and undo us. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to withstand temptation.
	7	But deliver us from the evil one.	Deliverance	God's deliverance from enemies is a legitimate concern. We can be confident in our prayers for deliverance because we are more than conquerors through Christ.



good news

death and resurrection

salvation through Jesus Christ

biographical truth

deliverance

the Gospels

<p>Jesus as King</p> <p>1 Matthew a tax collector</p> <p>written 2nd A.D. 40-140 written for Jews</p>	<p>Jesus as Servant</p> <p>1 Mark a missionary</p> <p>written 1st A.D. 55-70 written for Romans</p>	<p>Jesus as Man</p> <p>3 Luke a doctor</p> <p>written 3rd A.D. 62 written for Greeks</p>	<p>Jesus as God</p> <p>4 John a fisherman</p> <p>written 4th A.D. 80-90 written for all mankind</p>
<p>42% unique 58% shared</p> <p>not found in the other gospels</p> <p>synoptic</p>	<p>3% unique 93% shared</p> <p>not found in the other gospels</p> <p>synoptic</p>	<p>59% unique 41% shared</p> <p>not found in the other gospels</p> <p>synoptic</p>	<p>92% unique 8% shared</p> <p>not found in the other gospels</p>
<p>60% in red letters</p> <p>Emphasis on Jesus' credentials</p> <p>Traces Jesus back through Abraham</p> <p>Aligns with Old Testament prophets</p> <p>Matthew 9:9</p> <p>"And Jesus passed forth and thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him."</p>	<p>42% in red letters</p> <p>Emphasis on action, miracles and helping</p> <p>Peter influenced Mark's writing</p> <p>Writings documents action, and events of Jesus</p> <p>Mark 12:33</p> <p>"Love the Lord your God will all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself."</p>	<p>50% in red letters</p> <p>Emphasis on the parables</p> <p>Called the most beautiful book ever written</p> <p>Luke gives us a beautiful portrait of our compassionate Savior.</p> <p>Luke 4:18-19,21</p> <p>"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing"</p>	<p>50% in red letters</p> <p>Emphasis on the deity of Jesus - Jesus is God</p> <p>John's gospel introduces Christ, from "the beginning" involved in creation</p> <p>Selects spiritual conversations that show that Jesus is the Messiah</p> <p>John 11:25-26</p> <p>"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"</p>

Sources:
<http://www.gotquestions.org>
 Chuck Swindol Ministries <http://www.insight.org/broadcast/library.html> Gods Masterwork, Vol. 5 (Matthew-Acts)

<div> <div>1st Century Christians</div> <div>THE PARABLES OF JESUS</div> <div>New Testament Church</div> </div> <div>CLASSIFICATION & LESSONS</div>			
■ KINGDOM PARABLES			
• PARABLE OF THE SOWER	Matthew 13	Attitudes toward the kingdom	
• TARES	Matthew 13	Evil in the Kingdom	
• MUSTARD SEED	Matthew 13	Growth of the kingdom	
• LEAVEN	Matthew 13	Influence of the kingdom	
• HIDDEN TREASURE	Matthew 13	Discovering the kingdom	
• PEARL OF GREAT PRICE	Matthew 13	Seeking the kingdom	
• DRAG NET	Matthew 13	Separation in the kingdom	
• LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD	Matthew 21	Service, not seniority	
• TWO SONS	Matthew 21	Possession, not profession	
• WICKED VINEDRESSERS	Matthew 21	The rejected stone	
• GROWING SEED	Mark 4	Unfolding of the kingdom	
• GREAT SUPPER	Luke 14	Gentiles in the kingdom	
■ SINNER PARABLES			
• LOST SHEEP	Luke 15	Love saving	
• LOST COIN	Luke 15	Love seeking	
• PRODIGAL SON	Luke 15	Love receiving	
■ FORGIVENESS PARABLES			
• UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS	Luke 17	Grace, not debt	
• UNMERCIFUL SERVANT	Matthew 18	Forgiving others	
• TWO DEBTORS	Luke 7	Gratitude's expression	
■ PRAYER PARABLES			
• FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT	Luke 11	Persistence in prayer	
• UNJUST JUDGE	Luke 18	Prayer under persecution	
• PHARISEE & PUBLICAN	Luke 18	Attitude in prayer	
■ STEWARDSHIP PARABLES			
• TALENTS	Matthew 25	Use it or lose it	
• POUNDS	Matthew 19	Proportional blessedness	
• RICH FOOL	Luke 12	Insecurity of riches	
■ SERVICE PARABLE			
• GOOD SAMARITAN	Luke 10	Who is my neighbor?	
■ PREPAREDNESS PARABLES			
• BARREN FIG TREE	Luke 13	Coming judgment	
• UNJUST STEWARD	Luke 16	Prepare for future	
• MARRIAGE OF KING'S SON	Matthew 22	Personal preparation	
• TEN VIRGINS	Matthew 25	Constant Preparation	
THEMES ADAPTED FROM VARIOUS BIBLICAL SOURCES FOR NON-DENOMINATIONAL BIBLE STUDY Free, Reproducible Christian Cards: www.flickr.com/photos/4biblestudy			

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What teaching from the Sermon on the Mount has been the most meaningful to you? Most challenging? Most comforting?
- In the parable of the wise and foolish builders (MT 7:24-29), what is Jesus promising those who are willing to live by his words?
- In MK 6:45-53, Jesus walks on water. Who is Jesus revealing himself to be? How do the disciples respond when he walks on water?
- Jesus told the Pharisees that fulfilling human traditions can interfere with obeying the commands of God. What did he mean? What religious traditions might stand in the way of your efforts to obey God?
- Why does Jesus use parables? How are the parables used so that the Apostles can better understand what is happening in their ministry?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In our society, how is success generally measured? From what sources do you feel pressured to meet this standard? What alternatives does Jesus propose with respect to treasures (MT 6:19-21), desires (MT 6:22-23), and masters (MT 6:24)?
- In MT 8, both the leper and the centurion were outcasts from the Jews perspective. Who are the outcasts in our community? How do these stories model the way we might relate to them?
- In MT 9:18-23, the ruler and the woman were desperate. What is the relationship between desperation and faith? What does the story encourage us to do when we face desperate situations?
- In the story of Jesus being anointed by a sinful woman (LK 7:36-50), what is your impression of Simon? Of the woman? What is Jesus' main concern? What is Simon's main concern? What does Jesus see in the woman that Simon does not?
- Read LK 12:22-34 [Do Not Worry] and LK 12:13-21 [Parable of the Rich Fool]. What does Jesus teach here about seeking the kingdom of God?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- In praying, what do you find to be your biggest challenge? What do you do to prepare yourself for prayer? What concerns occupy most of your time in prayer: Praise? Confession? Petition?
- Being totally honest, what is the foundation you most depend on? Your abilities? Your resources? Other people? Faith in Christ?
- What motivates you to seek Jesus? What does it mean to you to be "with him"? To be "sent out" by him?
- In MK 4:35-41, Jesus needs to be awakened in the storm. How do you react to Jesus when he seems to be asleep in your life? How has Jesus helped during storms in your life?
- When, if ever, have you felt tension between obeying religious principles and helping people? What causes that tension? What relieves it? As you follow Jesus, are you more free to love others or becoming more constrained by religious rules?

Miracles, Compassion, and Discipleship

17- 23 JUL 2018

MT 8, 11, 14-17, 11-14; MK 6-9; LK 9-12; JN 6-9

Week 42 - 8 Weeks to Go

The gospels contain many accounts of miracles that Jesus performed. These miracles made it clear that Jesus was a messenger from God. Even more significantly, the healing miracles that Jesus performed had never been done before and the Old Testament identified them as miracles that would be done by the promised Messiah. The miracles of Jesus were evidence of his authority – as God’s spokesman, as Messiah and as God the Son! They showed his power over sickness, demons, and the forces of nature. These miracles aroused the opposition of the Pharisees, who accused Jesus of drawing on Satan’s power. As their opposition to Jesus hardened, the religious leaders challenged him and tried to undermine his appeal to the people.

In addition to miracles we see in these reading how Jesus instructed his disciples. Jesus taught his disciples what it would mean to follow him and spoke of his coming crucifixion. Jesus taught that God loves sinners and searches for them – in stark contrast to the Pharisees who self-righteously hated sinners. He taught compassion and mercy in his interactions with the faithful. We begin to see the call we, as disciples, have to serve others – just as Jesus served.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 1151-1181)

Day 1: MT 14:13-21; MK 6:30-44; LK 9:10-17;
JN 6:1-15; MT 14:22-33; MK 6:45-52;
JN 6:16-21; MT 14:34-36; MK 6:53-56;
JN 6:22-71
Day 2: MT 15:1-20; MK 7:1-23; MT 15:21-31;
MK 7:24-37; MT 15:32-39; MK 8:1-10
Day 3: MT 16:1-12; MK 8:11-26; MT 16:13-28;
MK 8:27-9:1; LK 9:18-27; MT 17:1-13;
MK 9:2-13; LK 9:28-36
Day 4: MT 17:14-23; MK 9:14-32; LK 9:37-45;
MT 17:24-18:9; MK 9:33-50;
LK 9:46-50
Day 5: JN 7:1-8:59
Day 6: JN 9:1-10:21; MT 8:18-22; LK 9:51-62
Day 7: MT 11:20-30; LK 10:1-42; 11:37-12:12

Outline

Feeding the 5,000 (Day 1)
Walking on Water (Day 1)
Popularity at Gennesaret and Capernaum (Day 1)
Controversy over Traditions (Day 2)
Ministry in Gentile Regions (Day 2)
Feeding the 4,000 (Day 2)
Teaching About the Pharisees (Day 3)
The Christ and His Disciples (Day 3)
The Transfiguration (Day 3)
Faithless Generation (Day 4)
Being Christ’s Disciple (Day 4)
Attending the Festival of Tabernacles (Day 5)
Forgiving an Adulteress (Day 5)
Discussions with the Pharisees (Day 5)
Healing the Man Born Blind (Day 6)
Jesus, the Good Shepherd (Day 6)
Through Samaria Toward Jerusalem (Day 6)
Mission of the 72 Disciples (Day 7)
Compassion and Mercy from a Samaritan (Day 7)
Visiting in Bethany (Day 7)
Hypocrisy of the Lawyers and Pharisees (Day 7)

Miracles, Compassion, and Discipleship

17- 23 JUL 2018

MT 8, 11, 14-17, 11-14; MK 6-9; LK 9-12; JN 6-9

Week 42 - 8 Weeks to Go

Key Characters		Key Locations		Key Terms	
Jesus	Apostles	Bethsaida	Sea of Galilee	Disciples	Miracle
Pharisees	Sadducees	Mountain	Gennesaret	Signs	Prophet
Crowds	Nicodemus	Capernaum	Tiberias	Faith	Healing
Disciples	Martha	Tyre	Sidon	Eternal life	Bread of life
Mary		Decapolis	Dalmanutha	Messiah	Prayer
		Cesarea	Galilee	Transfiguration	Son of Man
		Jerusalem	Judea	Kingdom of God	Demons
		Mt of Olives	Pool of Siloam	Light	Darkness
		Samaria	Chorazin	Parable	Hypocrisy
		Bethany			

Key Verses

Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid (MK 6:50)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day...No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. (JN 6:44-48)

"Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it." (MK 8:12)

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (MT 16:18-19)

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (MT 16:23)

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? (MK 8:35-36)

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" (MT 17:5)

Everything is possible for one who believes (MK 9:23)

"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (MT 18:3)

"Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is the least among you all who is the greatest. (LK 9:48)

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (JN 8:12)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Mt14: Herod had John the Baptist killed. Jesus fed 5,000 men with five loaves and two fish. Jesus came to the disciples walking on the sea.

Mk6: He sent the twelve out to preach. Herod executed John the Baptist. Jesus fed 5,000 men. He came to the disciples walking on the sea.

Lk9: Jesus sent out the twelve. He fed 5,000 men. Peter said, "You are the Christ." Jesus said, "Take up your cross." He was transfigured.

Jn6: Jesus fed 5,000 men and walked across the sea. He said, "I am the bread of life. My flesh is true food." Many disciples turned back.

Mt15: Jesus challenged the Pharisees about tradition. He healed a Canaanite woman's daughter. He taught on the mountain and fed 4,000 men.

Mk7: The Pharisees questioned Jesus about tradition. He said, "Evil comes from within." He delivered a Gentile girl and healed a deaf man.

Mk8: Jesus fed 4,000 people and healed a blind man. Peter said, "You are the Christ." Jesus told them that he must be killed and rise again.

Mt16: Peter said, "You are the Christ." Jesus told them that he must be killed and be raised. He said, "Take up your cross and follow me."

Mt17: Jesus took Peter, James and John and was transfigured. A voice said, "This is my son." Jesus healed an epileptic. Peter paid the tax.

Mk9: Jesus took Peter, James and John and was transfigured. He healed an epileptic. The disciples argued about which of them was greatest.

Jn7: Jesus went to the feast. The people said, "Is this the Christ?" The chief priests tried to arrest him. He called out, "Come and drink."

Jn8: Jesus did not condemn a woman caught in adultery. The Pharisees questioned him. He said, "If God were your Father you would love me."

Jn9: Jesus healed a blind man on the Sabbath. The Pharisees called the man and threw him out. Jesus said, "I came that the blind may see."

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Jn10: Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I give my life for the sheep." They asked, "Are you the Christ?" He said, "My sheep follow me."

Mt8: Jesus cleansed a leper. He healed the servant of a centurion who had faith. He calmed a storm at sea and cast demons out of two men.

Mt11: John sent word from prison. Jesus said, "John the Baptist is Elijah." Jesus denounced the cities and said, "

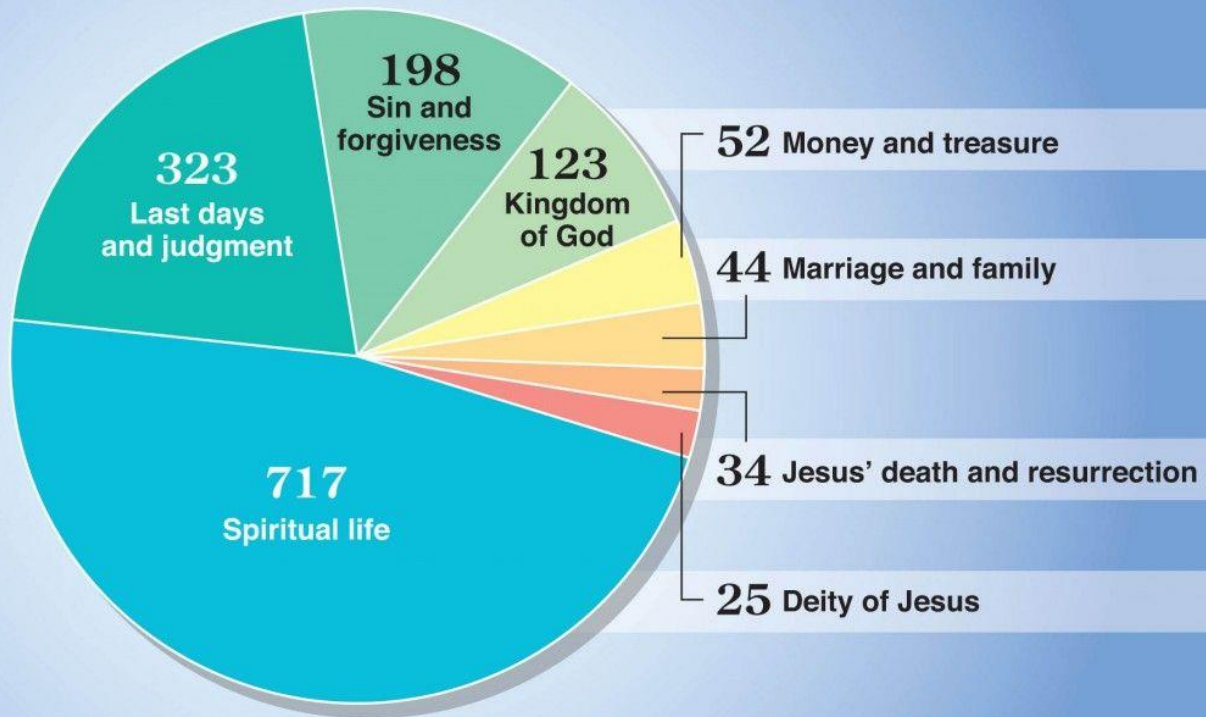
Lk10: Jesus sent out the seventy-two. A lawyer asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus said, "A man was robbed. He was helped by a Samaritan. "Come, my burden is light."

Lk11: Jesus said, "Pray, 'Father, your kingdom come.' Seek and you will find. Only the sign of Jonah will be given. Woe to you Pharisees!"

Lk12: Jesus said, "Even the hairs of your head are numbered. Sell your possessions. Be ready for the Son of Man. I came to bring division."

Teachings of Jesus in the Gospels

Number of verses for each topic



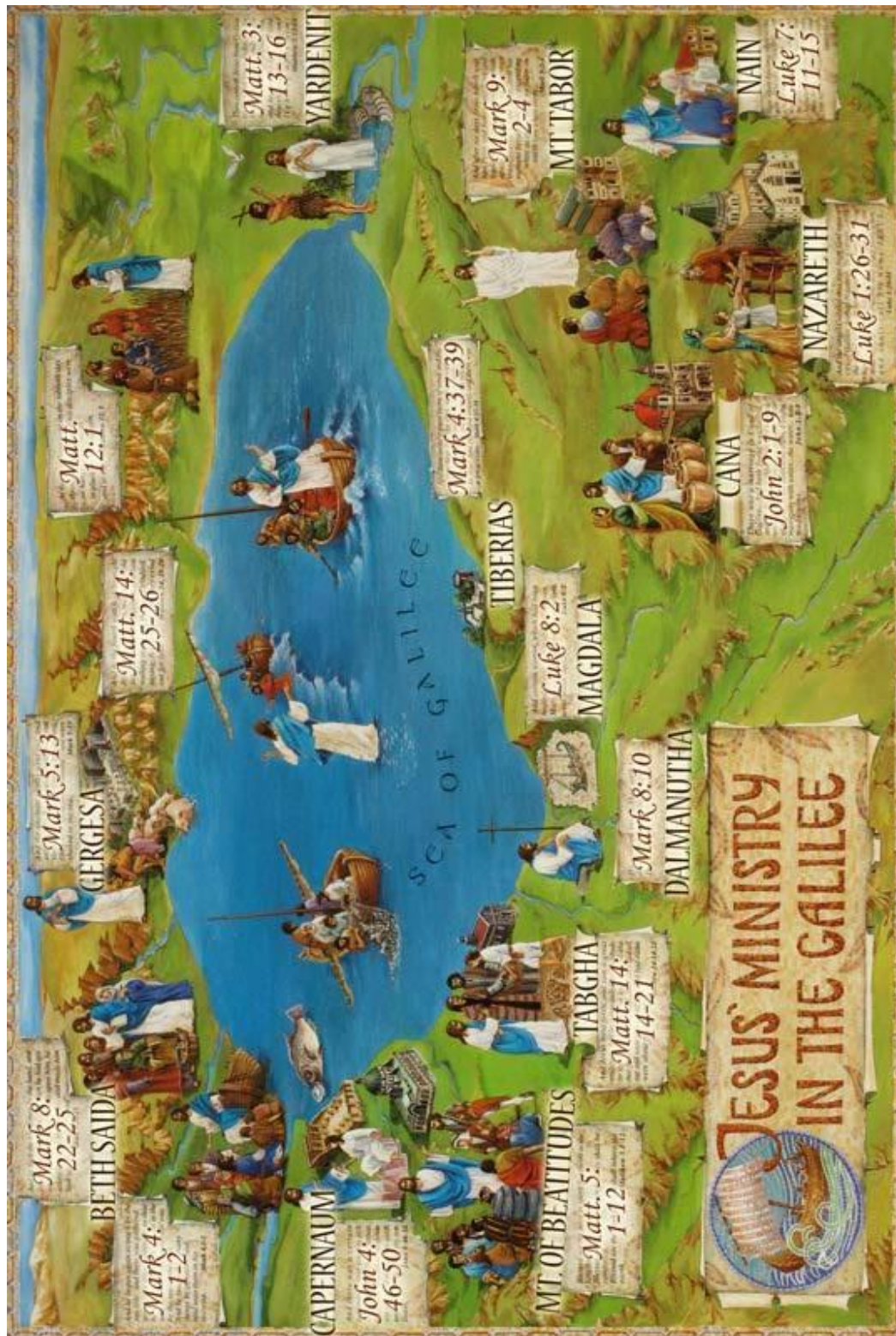
Source: The NIV Quickview Bible – www.thequickviewbible.com

Miracles, Compassion, and Discipleship

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MT 8, 11, 14-17, 11-14; MK 6-9; LK 9-12; JN 6-9

Week 42 - 8 Weeks to Go



The Seven “I AM” Statements of Jesus

John 6–15



1. I AM the bread of life
6:35, 48



2. I AM the light of the
world 8:12; 9:5



3. I AM the gate 10:7



4. I AM the good
shepherd 10:11, 14



5. I AM the resurrection
and the life 11:25



6. I AM the way and the
truth and the life 14:6



7. I AM the true vine
15:1, 5

THE 7 PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

"Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given" (Matthew 13:11).

THE SOWER AND THE SEED (Mt. 13:3-9, 18-23)

The Illustration:
The Sower scatters good seed upon four different kinds of soil: "by the wayside, upon stony ground, among thorns, and into good ground." Only one kind of ground bears fruit.

The Explanation:
The Lord Jesus sows "His Word" into the hearts of men. The world, the flesh, and the devil do what they can to thwart the work of God in men's hearts. In hearts that are receptive to the "seed," fruit will be borne unto everlasting life.

The Emphasis:
This parable is not to show the character of the kingdom, but to expose the causes that hinder the growth of the Word.

The Application:
Be unceasing. The Lord has called His people to sow with Him. Sow only the Word. Expect results, but not everywhere.



THE WHEAT AND THE TARES (Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43)

The Illustration:
Good seed is sown in the field, but while men slept, the enemy sowed tares, and went his way. The master forbade his servants from uprooting the tares until the harvest.

The Explanation:
Here the Lord Jesus does not sow His Word, but rather people into the world. The work of Satan is to sow "counterfeits" that would be hard to distinguish from the wheat. The angels will gather and sort them at the end.

The Emphasis:
As the time for the harvest approaches, the difference between the "tares" and the "wheat" becomes more apparent.

The Application:
Be alert. Where there is Christian witness, there will be antagonism. Don't uproot it; just grow on for God. The end is coming!



THE MUSTARD TREE (Mt. 13:31-32)

The Illustration:
A man sows a mustard seed in his field. Though only an herb, it eventually grows into a tree in which the birds of the air lodge.

The Explanation:
Those who give assent to the King have grown from a small seed into a tree of monstrous proportions. The work of false teachers finds protection in it.

The Emphasis:
Lodging in Christendom are agents of "the ruler of the darkness of this age." This sensational expansion fits the description of Babylon (Rev. 17:18), the final form of organized religion, which becomes the habitation of demons and false teachers.

The Application:
Be humble. Watch out for sensational growth that, like the mustard, tickles the palate but hides false teachers in its branches.



THE LEAVEN (Mt. 13:33)

The Illustration:
A woman hides leaven in three measures of meal, until the whole is affected.

The Explanation:
Leaven represents the corrupting work of evil (Mt. 8:15; Mt. 16:6; 1 Cor. 5:6-8; Gal. 5:9). Introduced into the meal (3 measures = 1 ephah, the meal offering), it has a permeating effect in the whole lump. The woman may be suggesting Satan's imitation of the Bride of Christ.

The Emphasis:
The evil scheme of the enemy here seems to be the corrupting of the doctrine of Christ. His person, offices, and work.

The Application:
Be holy. Wrong doctrine, especially about Christ, always corrupts morals. "Therefore let us keep the feast...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor. 5:6-8).



THE TREASURE IN THE FIELD (Mt. 13:44)

The Illustration:
A man finds a treasure buried in a field; he hides it again, sells all that he has, and purchases the field with the treasure in it.

The Explanation:
The treasure hidden is Israel (Ex. 19:5), and the field is the world. The work of Christ for Israel purchased the field, and awaits the day when He shall come to be recognized by the remnant as Israel's true Messiah.

The Emphasis:
The treasure still remains hidden in the field until the "fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Rom. 11:25). Christ will return to claim His treasure; Israel, no longer set aside, will be the head of the nations.

The Application:
Be not resolute. The Lord is right on schedule. His promises to Abraham and David will be fulfilled.



THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE (Mt. 13:45-46)

The Illustration:
A merchantman is seeking good pearls. On finding one pearl of great price, he sells all that he has and purchases it.

The Explanation:
The Merchantman from heaven, the Lord Jesus, found a pearl (the Church) in the sea (the nations). He sold all that He had in order to purchase it and deliver it from the depths in which it lay.

The Emphasis:
We learn of the work of Christ for the Church. He went "seeking" goodly pearls. He had to descend into the depths (see Phil. 2:6-8) and "sold all that He had" for us (2 Cor. 8:9).

The Application:
Be thankful. Although the kingdom was offered to Israel and refused, the Lord graciously turned to Jew and Gentile to fashion for Himself a Bride.



THE DRAGONET (Mt. 13:47-50)

The Illustration:
A net cast into the sea drew in various species of fish. When it was full, it was drawn to shore where the good fish were saved and the bad cast away.

The Explanation:
The "gospel net" is descriptive of the work of the believers in "preaching the gospel to every creature" (Mt. 16:15). The angels are sent to separate the good from the bad in preparation for the final judgment of God.

The Emphasis:
Casting the net draws the multitude of fish. The Lord said He would draw all men unto Him. All thus drawn are not saved. But in the end, He will do right and be seen to do so.

The Application:
Be consistent. Let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.



The last three parables were given privately to His disciples. The Church has been "built upon the foundation of the apostles." (Eph. 2:20). These parables show the Lord redeeming His people. They show how the operation of the purpose of God will ultimately triumph.

The seven parables of Matthew 13 are divided into two groups. The first four were spoken publicly to the multitude. He "left the house and sat by the seaside." Symbolically the Lord turns from Israel (the house) because they rejected Him, and offers Himself to the nations (the sea). These parables describe how Satan is working to destroy the work of the King in the present age.

Miracles, Compassion, and Discipleship

17- 23 JUL 2018

MT 8, 11, 14-17, 11-14; MK 6-9; LK 9-12; JN 6-9

Week 42 - 8 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What insights about Jesus does the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand give you? How have you seen Jesus stretch your resources beyond what could be imagined?
- What helps stimulate your memory of God's mercy? How helpful is it for you to hear the stories of where God has worked in the lives of other Christians? Why?
- How does the way Jesus treats the woman caught in adultery (John 7:53-8:11) exemplify "grace and truth?" How does the way Jesus treated this woman help you face your sins? Jesus accepts you "as is." Does that free you to change or does it support your bad behavior? How so? What can you learn from Jesus about helping a friend who has fallen?
- How does it make you feel to think of God caring for you as the Good Shepherd?
- In Luke 10: 22, Jesus says: "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." What does this verse tell you about those who claim to know God without Christ?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In the story of feeding the 5,000, how do you account for the differences in the way Jesus and the disciples view the crowd? What did the disciples fail to see in the feeding of the 5,000 that could have helped them when they saw Jesus walking on the water?
- In John 6:60-71, we are told that many of Jesus' disciples leave and no longer follow him. What teaching do the followers find unacceptable (John 6:54-56)? Why do you think Peter and the others decided to stay?
- Why did the religious leaders want to kill Jesus?
- When have you seen religious principles put ahead of love?
- What do you feel about the harvest where you live? Are people ripe for the Gospel? What would it take for you to be more involved in the harvest?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Where might God be leading you to step out of your comfort zone and walk in faith with him? How are you stepping out of the boat and taking risks?
- How would you have reacted if you saw Jesus walking on the water?
- How does Jesus reveal himself to you today? Are you ever upset by what he says? Why? What words of Jesus do you find hard for you to accept?
- The three disciples who witnessed the transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36) told no one at the time what they had seen. When have you experienced God in an unusual way? What happened? Are you comfortable sharing your story?
- Have you ever been helped by a stranger? Who has been a Good Samaritan in your life? How can you be a Good Samaritan to someone in need? Why do you think Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan in response to the lawyer's question "who is my neighbor"?

As the controversy over Jesus grew, Christ began to teach in parables. He constructed his teaching in such a way that those who had believed would understand and those who had rejected, even though they heard, would not understand. The parables concerned the secrets of the kingdom of heaven and described how God exercises his authority in our world. What Jesus revealed in his parables were teachings that had not been specifically revealed in the Old Testament. The Old Testament prophets pictured a visible kingdom of God on earth. Because Israel rejected her Messiah King, God instead introduced an unexpected form of his kingdom, which will exist until the Savior returns to earth. Jesus expects disciples to do God's will, even when that means denying something they would rather do. The life that the disciple finds is the new life that Jesus gives to his followers – a life of love, joy and fulfillment – that lasts eternally. Jesus taught his disciples to choose God's will, to love each other and to serve others. He taught that love for him would produce obedience and that disciples who obey him will live fruitful, productive lives. The private instruction Jesus gave his disciples is recorded in Scripture to guide Jesus' followers today.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 1182-1209)

Day 1: LK 12:13-21, 12:35-59, 13:1-17;
LK 13:22-14:1-24
Day 2: LK 14:25-35; MT 18:10-14; LK 15:1-32;
LK 16:1-31
Day 3: MT 18:15-35; LK 17:1-18:14
Day 4: MT 19:1-15; MK 10:1-16; LK 18:15-17;
MT 19:16-30; MK 10:17-31; LK 18:18-30
Day 5: MT 20:1-16; JN 10:22-42; JN 11:1-57
Day 6: MT 20:17-28; MK 10:32-45;
LK 18:31-34; MT 20:29-34;
MK 10:46-52; LK 18:35-19:27;
JN 12:1-11
Day 7: MT 21:1-11; MK 11:1-11; LK 19:28-44;
JN 12:12-19; MT 21:12-17; MK 11:12-19;
LK 19:45-48

Outline

Earthly or Heavenly Treasure (Day 1)
Be Watchful for the Son of Man (Day 1)
Necessity of Repentance (Day 1)
Restoring a Deformed Body (Day 1)
Entry into the Kingdom (Day 1)
Meal with a Pharisee (Day 1)
Calling for Commitment (Day 2)
Parables of the Lost (Day 2)
Parables on Wealth (Day 2)
Guidelines for Disciples (Day 3)
Passing Through Samaria and Galilee (Day 3)
The Coming of the Kingdom (Day 3)
Parables on Prayer (Day 3)
Marriage, Divorce and Children (Day 4)
Riches and Discipleship (Day 4)
The Laborers in the Vineyard (Day 5)
At the Festival of Dedication (Day 5)
The Raising of Lazarus (Day 5)
Greatness and Discipleship (Day 6)
Through Jericho Toward Jerusalem (Day 6)
Returning to Bethany Before Passover (Day 6)
Sunday: The Triumphal Entry (Day 7)
Monday: Cleansing the Temple (Day 7)

Parables and Teachings

24 - 30 JUL 2018

MT 18-21; MK 10-11; LK 12-19; JN 10-12

Week 43 - 7 Weeks to Go

Key Characters		Key Locations		Key Terms	
Jesus	Apostles	Galilee	Jerusalem	Son of Man	Faith
The crowds	Pilate	Samaria	The Jordan	Repentance	Healing
Pharisees	Lazarus	Bethany	Judea	Sabbath	Hypocrisy
Tax Collector	Children	Jericho	Bethphage	Kingdom of God	Disciple
Martha	Mary			Good news	Prayer
Sanhedrin	Caiaphas			Divorce	Messiah
Gentiles	Bartimaeus			Hosanna	Temple
Zacchaeus				Son of David	

Key Verses

Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last. [LK 13:30]

Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear. [LK 14:35]

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

Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven [MT 18:18]

The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, “Here it is,” or “There it is,” because the kingdom of God is in your midst. [LK 17:20-21]

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. [MK 10:15]

All things are possible with God [MK 10:27]

“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” [JN 12:13]

“My house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it ‘a den of robbers’” [LK 19:46]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Lk12: Jesus said, "Even the hairs of your head are numbered. Sell your possessions. Be ready for the Son of Man. I came to bring division."

Lk13: Jesus said, "Repent or you will perish." He healed a woman on the Sabbath. He said, "Seek the narrow door. I must go on to Jerusalem."

Lk14: Jesus said, "Choose the lowest place. A man gave a banquet but his guests made excuses. To be my disciple you must carry your cross."

Mt18: Jesus said, "Become like children to enter the kingdom. A shepherd searches for the lost sheep. Forgive seventy times seven times."

Lk15: Jesus said, "Heaven rejoices when a sinner repents. A son squandered his father's wealth. He returned and his father called a feast."

Lk16: "A shrewd manager reduced his master's bills before he was fired. Abraham would not send Lazarus to comfort a rich man in Hades."

Lk17: Jesus said, "If your brother repents, forgive him." He healed ten lepers. He said, "In his day the Son of Man will light up the sky."

Lk18: Jesus gave parables about prayer. He told a rich man to sell everything. He said, "The Son of Man will be killed but he will rise."

Mt19: Jesus was asked about divorce. He said, "Do not separate what God has joined." He told a rich man, "Sell everything and follow me."

Mk10: Jesus was questioned about divorce. He told a rich man to sell everything. He said, "The first must be last." He healed Bartimaeus.

Mt20: "The kingdom is like a master paying wages." Jesus told the disciples, "The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jn10: Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I give my life for the sheep." They asked, "Are you the Christ?" He said, "My sheep follow me."

Jn11: Lazarus died. Jesus went to the tomb and said, "Lazarus, come out." Lazarus came out. The chief priests plotted to put Jesus to death.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

[Lk19](#): Jesus ate with Zacchaeus. He told a parable about servants in the kingdom. He rode into Jerusalem on a colt and wept over the city.

[Jn12](#): Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The crowd shouted, "Hosanna!" He said, "The Son of Man must be lifted up. I have come to save the world."

[Mt21](#): Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. He healed and taught in the temple. "A man sent his son to his tenants, but they killed him."

[Mk11](#): Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. He drove the money-changers from the temple. The elders asked, "Who gave you this authority?"

good news

death and resurrection

the salvation through Jesus Christ

the Gospels

biographical truth deliverance

<p>Jesus as King</p> <p>2nd matthew a tax collector written A.D. 40-140 written for Jews</p>	<p>Jesus as Servant</p> <p>1st mark a missionary written A.D. 55-70 written for Romans</p>	<p>Jesus as Man</p> <p>3rd luke a doctor written A.D. 62 written for Greeks</p>	<p>Jesus as God</p> <p>4th john a fisherman written A.D. 80-90 written for all mankind</p>
<p>60% in red letters</p> <p>Emphasis on Jesus' credentials</p> <p>Traces Jesus back through Abraham</p> <p>Aligns with Old Testament prophets</p> <p>Matthew 9:9 "And Jesus passed forth and thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him."</p>	<p>42% in red letters</p> <p>Emphasis on action, miracles and helping</p> <p>Peter influenced Mark's writing</p> <p>Writings documents action, and events of Jesus</p> <p>Mark 12:33 "Love the Lord your God will all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself."</p>	<p>50% in red letters</p> <p>Emphasis on the parables</p> <p>Called the most beautiful book ever written</p> <p>Luke gives us a beautiful portrait of our compassionate Savior.</p> <p>Luke 4:18-19,21 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing"</p>	<p>50% in red letters</p> <p>Emphasis on the deity of Jesus - Jesus is God</p> <p>John's gospel introduces Christ, from "the beginning" involved in creation</p> <p>Selects spiritual conversations that show that Jesus is the Messiah</p> <p>John 1:25-26 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"</p>

Sources:
http://www.gotquestions.org.
Chuck Swindol Ministries: http://www.insight.org/broadcast/library.html Gods Masterwork, Vol. 5 (Matthew-Acts)

Map L

TUESDAY Jesus' Last Week

Mt.21:18-25:46; Mk.11:20-13:37; Lk.20:1-21:36

1. Jesus leaves Bethany on Tuesday morning.
2. The disciples realize the tree Jesus cursed the day before has withered. (Mk.11:20)
3. Jesus arrives at the temple.
4. Priests question Jesus concerning his authority to behave the way he had the day before when he cleared the temple. (Mt.21:23; Mk.11:27; Lk.20:1)
5. Jesus teaches in the temple - Parable of the two sons (Mt.21:28), Parable of the Tenants (Mt.21:33), Parable of the Wedding Banquet. (Mt.22:1).
6. Pharisees & Herodians try to trap Jesus with a tax question. (Mt.22:15)
7. Sadducees try to trap Jesus concerning the resurrection. (Mt.22:23)
8. Pharisees try to trap Jesus concerning the commandments. (Mt.22:34)
9. Jesus traps them all when he asks "Whose son is the Christ? (Mt.22:41)
10. Jesus pronounces the seven woes on the religious leaders. (Mt.23)
11. Jesus watches the widow put in the two coins. (Mk.12:41; Lk.21:1-4)
12. Jesus is leaving the temple when the disciples draw his attention to the stones (Mt.24:1). Jesus says the temple will be destroyed. (Mt.24:2)
13. While Jesus is sitting on the Mount of Olives (X) the disciples come to him for more details about the temple destruction, his return and the end. (Mt.24:3) Jesus answers in Matt. 23 & 24, Mark 11 & Luke 20 & 21.

Parables and Teachings

24 - 30 JUL 2018

MT 18-21; MK 10-11; LK 12-19; JN 10-12

Week 43 - 7 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- According to Jesus, who will make it through the narrow door and who won't [LK 13:30]? If God loves people, why isn't the door wider? Who are the ones outside? In the end, do you think only a few or many or all people will be saved? Why?
- How does the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant [MT 18:23-35] extend Jesus' teaching on forgiveness? In refusing to be merciful to others, what do we deny ourselves? What have you found helpful in forgiving those who have wronged you? How has God's forgiveness affected your life and your willingness to forgive?
- Why do you think Jesus didn't go immediately to help Lazarus when he was sick? He was afraid he would be killed if he returned to Judea? He didn't always do what people wanted? He was waiting for the go-ahead from the Father? God would receive more glory if Jesus waited until Lazarus died? Other?
- What specific ways can you serve people using Jesus as your model? Jesus was always saying or doing the unexpected. What has he told you that was unexpected?
- In MT 21:12-17 Jesus visits the temple and overturned the tables of the sellers. Review Isaiah 56:6-7. What upset Jesus so much about what he saw in the temple? Although the merchants once performed a useful service for out-of-towners, how was it corrupted?

What did I learn about human nature?

- How pervasive is the attitude, "Take life easy: eat, drink and be merry" in our society? How can this attitude affect our relationship with God?
- Why do you think all but one of the lepers failed to come back and thank Jesus? What was significant about the leper who did return to thank Jesus? As a despised Samaritan he was more grateful? The others received physical healing, but only he received salvation? His being a Samaritan shows that Jesus came for all people? He provides an example for our attitude toward Jesus?
- From an employee's viewpoint, how would you react to the landowner's wage practices in the parable of the workers in the vineyard [MT 20:1-16]? What does this parable say to you about God and His kingdom?
- Read JN 10:22-42. Given the meaning of the Feast of Hanukkah (when Jews remember their deliverance during the Maccabean revolt (168-165 BC)), what feelings about Rome's authority might surface among the crowds? How would Roman authorities prepare for this feast? What might be the real intent of the Pharisees' question in verse 24?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- What has God entrusted to you as his manager? If you knew that in 30 days God was going to be inspecting your work, what would you do to get things ready for inspection?
- What fruit do you want to be producing by this time next year?
- How do you express your gratitude to Jesus?
- In the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector, how would you have prayed? What accounts for the different responses each has? Do you see your prayers more as those of the Pharisee or the tax collector? How are you humble before God?
- What has convinced you that Jesus is the Messiah? What difference does it make that Jesus is God and not just a man? Would the promise of JN 10:28 mean much otherwise?

The Suffering Servant

31 JUL – 6 AUG 2018

MT 21-26; MK 11-14; LK 20-22; JN 12-18

Week 44 - 6 Weeks to Go

During the last week of his life, Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. He entered the city to wild acclaim, but within a few days he was arrested. In fulfillment of Zechariah's prophesy that Israel's king would enter Jerusalem gentle and riding a donkey, the week begins with Jesus entering Jerusalem on what we today call "Palm Sunday". The temple leadership, afraid of Jesus' teaching, try to trap him, resulting in Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees and Sadducees. But Jesus privately instructs his disciples about what to expect in the future. They share a meal with Jesus (the Last Supper), even as Judas prepares to betray Jesus. Jesus prays in Gethsemane – an olive grove that grew on a hill across the Kedron Valley from Jerusalem – praying for restoration to full fellowship with his Father out of the spiritual death into which he would enter to fully pay for the sin of sinners. Judas led a mob sent by the High Priest to arrest Jesus. We see through these Gospel stories the life-changing message that God loves his people and offers the gift of salvation to all. A gift provided by Jesus – the suffering servant.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 1209-1240)

Day 1: MT 21:18-22; MK 11:20-26;
MT 21:23-32; MK 11:27-33; LK 20:1-8;
MT 21:33-22:14; MK 12:1-12; LK 20:9-19

Day 2: MT 22:15-22; MK 12:13-17;
LK 20:20-26; MT 22:23-33;
MK 12:18-27; LK 20:27-40;
MT 22:34-46; MK 12:28-37; LK 20:41-44

Day 3: MT 23:1-39; MK 12:38-44;
LK 20:45-21:4; MT 24:1-35; MK 13:1-31;
LK 21:5-33

Day 4: MT 24:36-25:46; MK 13:32-37;
LK 21:34-38; JN 12:20-50; MT 26:1-16;
MK 14:1-11; LK 22:1-6

Day 5: MT 26:17-29; MK 14:12-25; LK 22:7-30;
JN 13:18-30; JN 13:1-17; 13:31-35

Day 6: MT 26:30-35; MK 14:26-31; LK 22:31-38;
JN 13:36-38; JN 14:1-16:33

Day 7: JN 17:1-26; MT 26:36-56; MK 14:32-52;
LK 22:39-53; JN 18:1-11

Outline

Tuesday: Faith and Forgiveness (Day 1)
Answering by Parables (Day 1)
Questioned by Pharisees and Herodians (Day 2)
Questioned by Sadducees (Day 2)
Questioned by a Scribe (Day 2)
Beware of the Teachers of the Law (Day 3)
Discourse on Mount of Olives (Day 3)
Parables from Mount of Olives (Day 4)
Discourse on His Own Death (Day 4)
Plot, Anointing, Betrayal (Day 4)
Thursday: Preparation for Last Supper (Day 5)
Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet (Day 5)
Warnings about Denial (Day 6)
Farewell Discourses with Disciples (Day 6)
Help from the Holy Spirit (Day 6)
Jesus' High Priestly Prayer (Day 7)
Prayer and Arrest in Gethsemane (Day 7)

Key Characters

Jesus	Disciples
Chief Priests	Pharisees
Herodians	Sadducees
Caiaphas	Simon

Key Locations

The Temple	Jerusalem
Mount of Olives	Bethany
Gethsemane	

Key Terms

Kingdom of God	Good News
Authority	Parables
Hypocrisy	Passover
Son of Man	Holy Spirit

Key Verses

If you believe you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. [MT 21:22]

Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. [LK 20:25]

"What is the greatest commandment in the law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." [MT 12:29-31]

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. [MT 23: 27-28]

Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. [MT 25:45]

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. [JN 12:23]

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. [MK 14:22-23]

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. [JN 13:12-17]

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. [JN 14:27]

Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. [JN 15:12-13]

Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. [JN 17:1]

My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done. [MT 26:42]

Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. [MK 14:37-38]

The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard. [MK 14:44]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Mt21: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. He healed and taught in the temple. "A man sent his son to his tenants, but they killed him."

Mk11: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. He drove the money-changers from the temple. The elders asked, "Who gave you this authority?"

Lk20: The elders questioned Jesus' authority. Jesus said, "A man's tenants killed his son." So they asked about taxes and the resurrection.

Mt22: Jesus said, "The kingdom is like a wedding." The Pharisees questioned him about the law. He said, "Love God and love your neighbor."

Mk12: Jesus said, "A man's tenants killed his son." The Pharisees questioned him about the law. He said, "Love God and love your neighbor."

Mt23: Jesus said, "The Pharisees preach but do not practice. You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel. You kill and crucify the prophets."

Lk21: Jesus said, "The temple will be thrown down. Jerusalem will be trampled. The Son of Man will come in glory. Stay awake at all times."

Mt24: Jesus said, "In the end there will be tribulation. Let those in Judea flee. The Son of Man will come in glory. No one knows the day."

Mk13: Jesus said, "In the end you will be hated by all. Let those in Judea flee. The Son of Man will come in glory. No one knows the day."

Mt25: "The kingdom is like virgins awaiting the bridegroom. A man entrusted talents to his servants. The Son of Man will judge the nations."

Jn12: Jesus rode into Jerusalem. The crowd shouted, "Hosanna!" He said, "The Son of Man must be lifted up. I have come to save the world."

Mt26: Jesus took Passover with his disciples. He prayed in agony in Gethsemane. Judas betrayed Jesus to the chief priests. Peter denied him.

Mk14: Jesus took Passover with his disciples. He prayed in agony in Gethsemane. Judas betrayed him to the chief priests. Peter denied him.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Lk22: Jesus took Passover with the disciples. He prayed at the Mount of Olives. Judas betrayed him to the chief priests. Peter denied him.

Jn13: Jesus washed the disciples' feet. He said, "One of you will betray me." Judas left. Jesus said, "Love each other as I have loved you."

Jn14: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. I am in the Father and the Father in me. He will give you the Holy Spirit. Do not be afraid."

Jn15: "I am the vine, you are the branches. You are my friends if you do what I command. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you."

Jn16: "The Spirit will convict the world of sin. He will guide you into all truth. Your sorrow will turn to joy. I am going to the Father."

Jn17: Jesus said, "Father, I have revealed your name to those you gave me. Sanctify them in the truth. May all who believe in me be one."

Jn18: Judas betrayed Jesus to the chief priests. Peter denied him. He was sent before Pilate. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world."

The Suffering Servant

31 JUL – 6 AUG 2018

MT 21-26; MK 11-14; LK 20-22; JN 12-18

Week 44 - 6 Weeks to Go

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus [The Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John]

Jesus' last meal with His disciples was a Passover Seder. During that meal Judas left to tell the Jewish religious leaders where they could arrest Jesus later. After Judas left the room, Jesus performed the first communion ceremony and announced His impending death which He said would fulfill His part of a New Covenant.

Jesus was arrested for the crime of claiming to be God. The Jewish religious leaders held an illegal trial and passed the death sentence.

Under Roman domination, the Jewish religious leaders did not have the authority to carry out a death sentence, therefore, an appeal was made to the Roman governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate.

Pilate questioned Jesus, declared Jesus to be innocent, but ordered that Jesus be crucified to placate the Jewish religious leaders.

Jesus was crucified but died prematurely as a result of the crushing weight of the world's sin that He took upon himself. At the moment of His death the curtain in the Temple tore open from top to bottom.

Jesus' resurrection proved that Jesus was God. Jesus walked the earth in His resurrection body for 40 days. Over 500 people saw Him.

Covenant #5: The New Covenant

Jesus promised right standing before God and eternal life to all who believe that He was God in the flesh and that He died to pay the price for all sins.



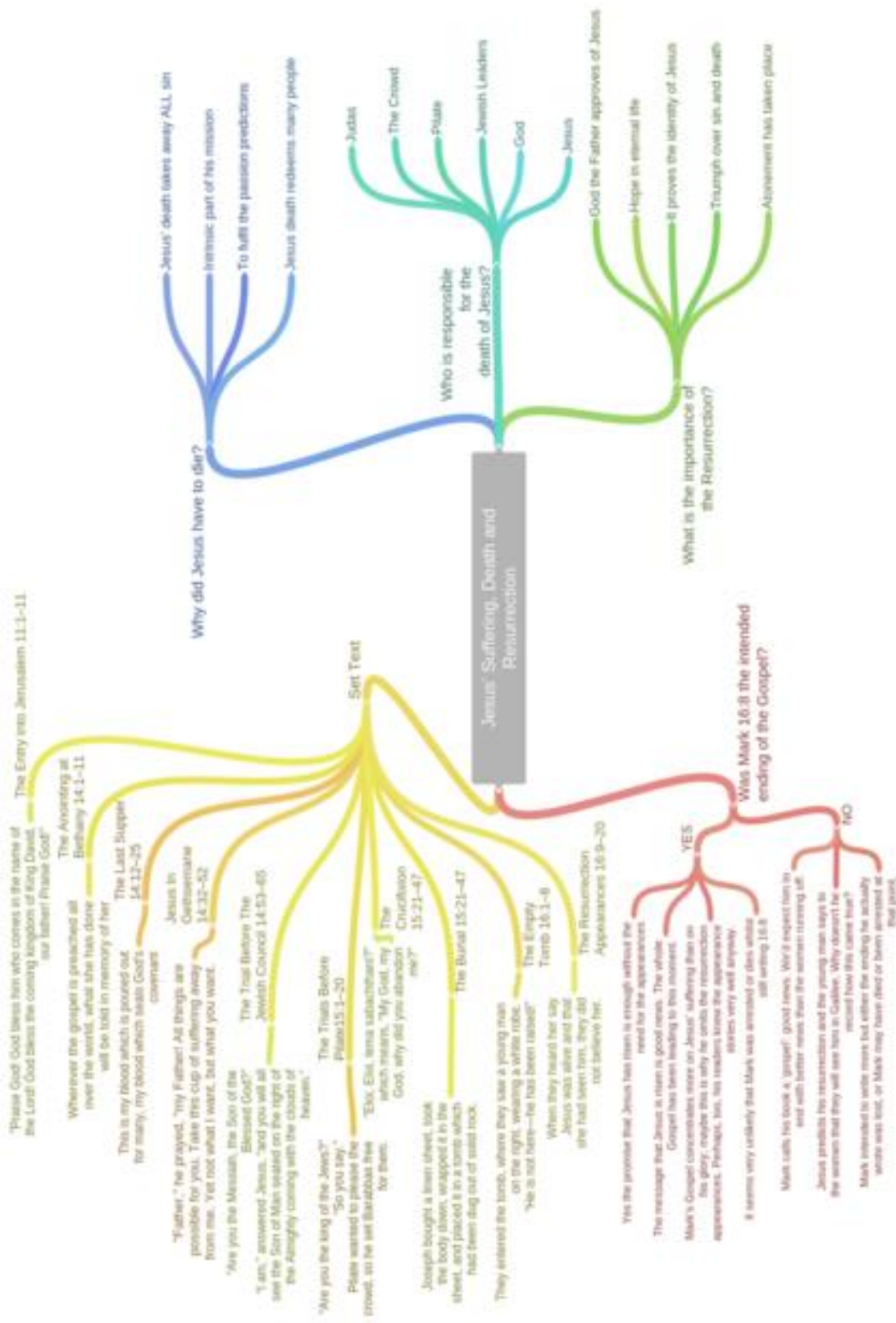
Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

The Suffering Servant

31 JUL – 6 AUG 2018

MT 21-26; MK 11-14; LK 20-22; JN 12-18

Week 44 - 6 Weeks to Go

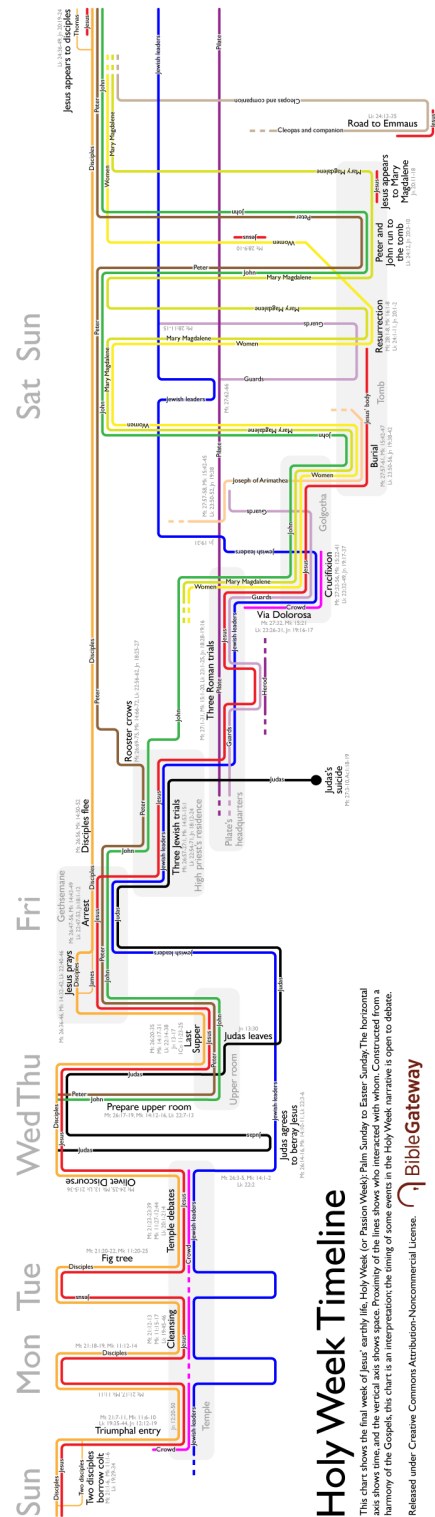


The Suffering Servant

31 JUL – 6 AUG 2018

MT 21-26; MK 11-14; LK 20-22; JN 12-18

Week 44 - 6 Weeks to Go



Holy Week Timeline

This chart shows the final week of Jesus' earthly life, Holy Week (or Passion Week). Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. The horizontal axis shows time, and the vertical axis shows space. Proximity of the lines shows who interacted with whom. Constructed from a harmony of the Gospels, this chart is an interpretation; the timing of some events in the Holy Week narrative is open to debate. Released under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License.



The Suffering Servant

31 JUL – 6 AUG 2018

MT 21-26; MK 11-14; LK 20-22; JN 12-18

Week 44 - 6 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- In MT 21:18-22, we are told “if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” What does God mean by this? Could this promise be abused? How does the promise encourage you in prayer?
- What is so insightful about Jesus’ response to the question about paying taxes to Caesar? If Jesus had just said pay taxes how would the crowd react? If Jesus had said don’t pay taxes, how would the rulers have responded? What do you give to Caesar? What do you give to God?
- In LK 21:36, we are told “Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.” What does this mean? How well does your life reflect this verse?
- Why was it important to Jesus to have the “last supper” with his disciples? Why is the Lord’s Supper important to believers?
- As Jesus prays in the garden and is arrested, how would you compare Jesus’ attitudes and actions with those of his disciples? His enemies? What impresses you most about Jesus?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Why were the religious leaders in Jerusalem questioning Jesus’ authority? Why doesn’t Jesus answer their questions directly? How does he cause the leaders’ trickery to backfire?
- How does the parable of the tenants (MK 12:1-12) answer the question about Jesus’ authority? How do you see people (and yourself) working in God’s vineyard?
- Jesus accused the Pharisees as being hypocrites. How do people use religion to make themselves look good?
- What do you think motivated the widow to give all she had (MK 12:41-44)? What was Jesus trying to teach the disciples? What does this parable say about what pleases God?
- In JN 15:17-33, John talks about how difficult it is to change and transition. Both Jesus and the world offer a form of peace, joy, and love. How have you experienced each of these? What is different between the peace, joy and love of the world and of God?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- When have you been a bold witness for Christ? What happened? How did God give you insight and wisdom?
- In MK 12:25, Jesus says to forgive others when you are praying so the Father may forgive you. Why is it so hard to forgive others? Why must you forgive before God forgives your sins?
- Jesus says the greatest commandment is to Love the Lord Our God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. In the three possibilities of love relationships (with God, neighbors and self) where are you the strongest? The weakest? How do you show your love for God?
- What does sharing in Communion mean to you?
- Jesus came as one who serves, calling us to follow his example. In what area do you find it hardest to be a servant? In LK 22:27, Jesus says, “For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.” What does it mean to apply Jesus’ words about service in your family life? Work or school relationship? Use of money? Why apply this principle in those areas? Why not?

Within just a few days of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus will face death. The Jewish leaders plot to kill him, but only Roman courts had the authority to impose a death sentence. Charges of political crimes were made and, while Pilate saw through the subterfuge, he finally gave in and had Jesus crucified. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus' death on the cross was always an essential element in God's plan. The crucifixion was prophesied in the Old Testament and Jesus informed his disciples beforehand of what would happen. The gospels give a detailed account of the last days, as well as accounts of his resurrection. His resurrection can be seen as God's powerful and ultimate declaration that Jesus truly was and is the Son of God. The first key to understanding Acts and the New Testament is that when Jesus returned to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to provide power for Christian living and Christian witness. The book of Acts is the story of the works of the Holy Spirit in and through believers in Jesus.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 1240-1271)

Day 1: MT 26:57-75; MK 14:53-72;
LK 22:54-71; JN 18:12-27
Day 2: MT 27:1-26; MK 15:1-15; LK 23:1-25;
JN 18:28-40
Day 3: MT 27:27-31; MK 15:16-20; JN 19:1-16;
MT 27:32-56; MK 15:21-41;
LK 23:26-49; JN 19:17-37
Day 4: MT 27:57-66; MK 15:42-47; LK 23:50-
56; JN 19:38-42; MT 28:1-8; MK 16:1-8;
LK 24:1—12; JN 20:1-13; MT 28:9-15;
MK 16:9-11; JN 20:14-18
Day 5: MK 16:12, 13; LK 24:13-49; JN 20:19-31;
MT 28:16-20; MK 16:14-18; JN 21:1-25;
MK 16:19, 20; LK 24:50-53
Day 6: AC 1:1-2:47
Day 7: AC 3:1-5:42

Outline

Jesus' Trial Before the Sanhedrin (Day 1)
Friday : Before Pilate the Governor (Day 2)
Sentenced to Crucifixion (Day 3)
Crucifixion at Golgotha (Day 3)
Burial of Jesus (Day 4)
Sunday: Morning at the Tomb (Day 4)
Early Resurrection Appearances (Day 4)
Appearances in Judea (Day 5)
Later Appearances in Galilee (Day 5)
Jesus Ascends from Mount of Olives (Day 5)
The Ascension (Day 6)
Pentecost (Day 6)
The Early Christians in Jerusalem (Day 7)

Key Characters

Jesus	Caiaphas
The Apostles	Sanhedrin
High Priests	Guards
Annas	Pilate
Pilate's wife	Barabbas
Soldiers	Simon
Mary Magdalene	Mary
Centurion	Joseph
Nicodemus	Cleopas
Disciples	Justus
Mattias	Ananias
Sapphira	Gamaliel

Key Locations

Jerusalem
Golgotha
Galilee
Bethany
Road to Emmaus
Mount of Olives

Key Terms

Messiah
Denial
Crucifixion
Holy Spirit
Ascension
Fellowship
Baptism
Discipleship
Evangelism
Persecution

Key Verse

Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three time. [MT 26:75]

They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me. [MT 27:9-10]

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children." [MT 27:23-26]

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." [JN 18:36]

We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. [JN 19:15]

"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?") [MT 27 46]

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." [LK 23:33]

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." [LK 23:46]

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples." [MT 28:5-7]

"Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." [LK 24:38-39]

"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." [JN 20:29]

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. [JN 20:30-31]

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age." [MT 28:19-20]

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with "the Holy Spirit." [ACTS 1:4-5]

It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. [ACTS 1:7]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Mt26: Jesus took Passover with his disciples. He prayed in agony in Gethsemane. Judas betrayed Jesus to the chief priests. Peter denied him.

Mk14: Jesus took Passover with his disciples. He prayed in agony in Gethsemane. Judas betrayed him to the chief priests. Peter denied him.

Lk22: Jesus took Passover with the disciples. He prayed at the Mount of Olives. Judas betrayed him to the chief priests. Peter denied him.

Jn18: Judas betrayed Jesus to the chief priests. Peter denied him. He was sent before Pilate. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world."

Mt27: Jesus was handed over to Pilate. The crowd said, "Crucify him!" He was mocked and crucified. Darkness fell and he gave up his spirit.

Mk15: Jesus was handed over to Pilate. The crowd cried, "Crucify him!" He was mocked and crucified. Darkness fell and he breathed his last.

Lk23: Jesus was taken to Pilate. The crowd said, "Crucify him!" He was crucified with two criminals. Darkness fell and he breathed his last.

Jn19: The soldiers took Jesus and crucified him. He said, "It is finished." He gave up his spirit. A soldier pierced his side with a spear.

Mt28: The women went to the tomb. An angel said, "He has risen!" Jesus met them. He came to the eleven and said, "Go and make disciples."

Mk16: The women went to the tomb. A man in white said, "He has risen!" Jesus appeared to the disciples. He said, "Go and preach the gospel."

Lk24: The women found the tomb empty. Jesus met two on the road to Emmaus. He appeared to the disciples and opened the Scriptures to them.

Jn20: Mary went to the tomb and found it empty. Jesus met her. He came and stood among the disciples. Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!"

Jn21: Jesus appeared as the disciples were fishing. He said to Peter, "Do you love me? Feed my sheep." The beloved disciple has testified.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Acts1: Jesus said, "You will receive the Spirit and be my witnesses." He was taken up in a cloud. The believers cast lots to replace Judas.

Acts2: At Pentecost they were filled with the Spirit. Peter told the crowd, "You crucified Jesus but God has made him Lord." 3,000 believed.

Acts3: Peter and John healed a lame man at the temple. Peter told the people, "Faith in Jesus has healed this man. Repent of your sins."

Acts4: They were taken before the rulers. Peter and John said, "We cannot stop speaking about Jesus." The believers prayed for boldness.

Acts5: Ananias and Sapphira told a lie and fell dead. An angel released the apostles from prison. Gamaliel advised, "Leave these men alone."

PROPHECY FULFILLED

TIMELINE OF THE WEEK OF MESSIAH'S DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Messiah fulfills the Passover Matthew 5:17	Yeshua enters Jerusalem Matthew 21:1-11 Mark 11:1-10 Luke 19:29-40	Chief Priests, Scribes & Elders question Yeshua Matthew 21:23-27 Luke 20:1-8, 19-26 Pharisees & Sadducees question Yeshua Matthew 15:22-40	Yeshua anointed at Simon the leper's house Matthew 26:23-27 Luke 20:1-8, 19-26	Judas plots to betray Yeshua Matthew 26:14-16 Mark 14:10-11 Luke 22:1-6	The last supper Yeshua with his disciples Matthew 26:26-30 Mark 14:12-26 Luke 22:1-20	High Sabbath Mark 16:42	Mary & Mary purchase spices to anoint Yeshua's body Mark 16:1 Luke 23:55a	Weekly Sabbath Mark 16:1 Luke 23:55b Resurrection Matthew 16:21 Mark 10:34 Luke 24:7	Empty tomb discovered Yeshua already risen Matthew 28:16 Mark 16:2-6 Luke 24:1-2 John 20:12
The first Passover Exodus 12	Passover lambs are taken into each household Exodus 12:3	Must be a male lamb without blemish Lambs were to be kept until the 14th of the month Exodus 12:5-6			Passover lambs are killed Exodus 12:8	Feast of Unleavened Bread Exodus 12:18	Feast of Unleavened Bread Exodus 12:18	Feast of Unleavened Bread Exodus 12:18	Feast of First Fruits Exodus 23:16
	10th DAY OF THE MONTH	11th DAY OF THE MONTH	12th DAY OF THE MONTH	13th DAY OF THE MONTH	14th DAY OF THE MONTH	15th DAY OF THE MONTH	16th DAY OF THE MONTH	17th DAY OF THE MONTH	18th DAY OF THE MONTH

On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.
Exodus 12:3

Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.
Exodus 12:6

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
Matthew 12:40

Grace TORAH FAITH

Yeshua was born on Tabernacles, crucified on Passover, buried on feast of unleavened bread, resurrected on Firstfruits and sent the Holy Spirit on Pentacost.

Secular Day
Midnight to Midnight

Hebrew Day
Sundown to Sundown

Who's Who?

The Gospels list many religious and political leaders; this cheat sheet will help you keep them straight

Caesar Augustus



Description: Roman emperor originally named Gaius Octavius
Reign: 31 BC–AD 14
Luke 2:1

Herod the Great



Description: Appointed king by Roman Senate
Reign: 37–4 BC
Matt. 2:3; *Luke* 3:1

Herod Archelaus



Description: Herod the Great's son; ruler of Judea
Reign: 4 BC–AD 6
Matt. 2:22

Tiberius Caesar



Description: Augustus's stepson and successor
Reign: AD 14–37
Luke 3:1

Pontius Pilate



Description: Appointed governor of Judea by Tiberius Caesar
Reign: AD 26–36
Matt. 27:2; *Luke* 3:1

Herod Philip II



Description: Herod the Great's son; tetrarch of Iturea
Reign: 4 BC–AD 34
Luke 3:1

Herod Antipas



Description: Herod the Great's son; tetrarch of Galilee
Reign: 4 BC–AD 39
Luke 9:9; 23:7

Lysanias



Description: Tetrarch of Abilene
Reign: AD 27–?
Luke 3:1

Quirinius



Description: Governor of Syria
Reign: 7 BC–AD 21
Luke 2:2

Annas



Description: High priest, appointed by Quirinius
Reign: AD 6–15
Luke 3:2; *John* 18:13

Caiaphas



Description: High priest presiding over the Sanhedrin
Reign: AD 18–36
Luke 3:2; *John* 18:24

Peter: A Complicated Character

Most readers can relate to Peter because of his numerous successes and failures during his journey with Jesus

SUCCESESSES

Chosen as one of Jesus' apostles
Matt. 10:2

Walks to Jesus on the water
Matt. 14:29

Confesses that Jesus is the Messiah, which is the foundation of the church *Matt. 16:15–19*

Witnesses the transfiguration
Matt. 17:1–8

Vows never to fall away and to die with Jesus if necessary *Matt. 26:33,35*

Shares intimate moment with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
Matt. 26:36–38

Follows Jesus after his arrest while the other disciples flee *Matt. 26:58*

Witnesses the risen Lord separately
Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5

Reinstated by Jesus after his denial
John 21:15–19

Gives the first sermon and 3,000 people believe *Acts 2:14–41*

Heals and raises the dead
Acts 3:1–10; 5:12–16; 9:34,39–40

Proclaims Christ even after being imprisoned for preaching
Acts 4:1–11, 19–20

Assists Samaritans in receiving the Holy Spirit *Acts 8:14–17*

Preaches to Gentiles, and they receive the Holy Spirit *Acts 10:27–28,34–35,44*

Acknowledges that both Jews and Gentiles are saved by grace *Acts 15:5–11*

Writes two epistles: 1 and 2 Peter

FAILURES

Loses faith while walking on the water and almost drowns *Matt. 14:30*

Rebukes Jesus when he predicts his death *Matt. 16:21–23*

Initially refuses to let Jesus wash his feet *John 13:8*

Falls asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane *Matt. 26:40–41*

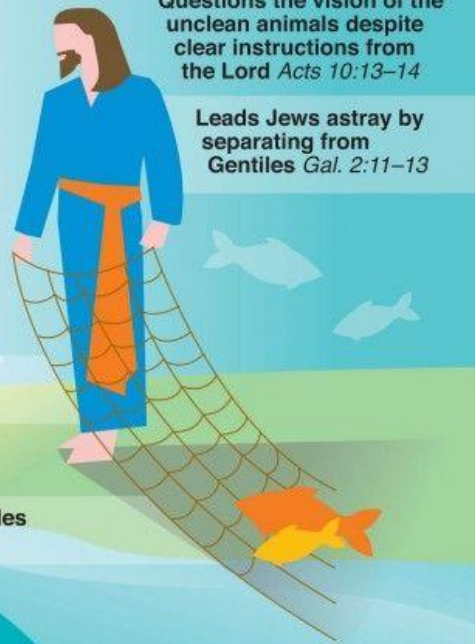
Tries to protect Jesus and cuts off Malchus's ear
Luke 22:50–51; John 18:10

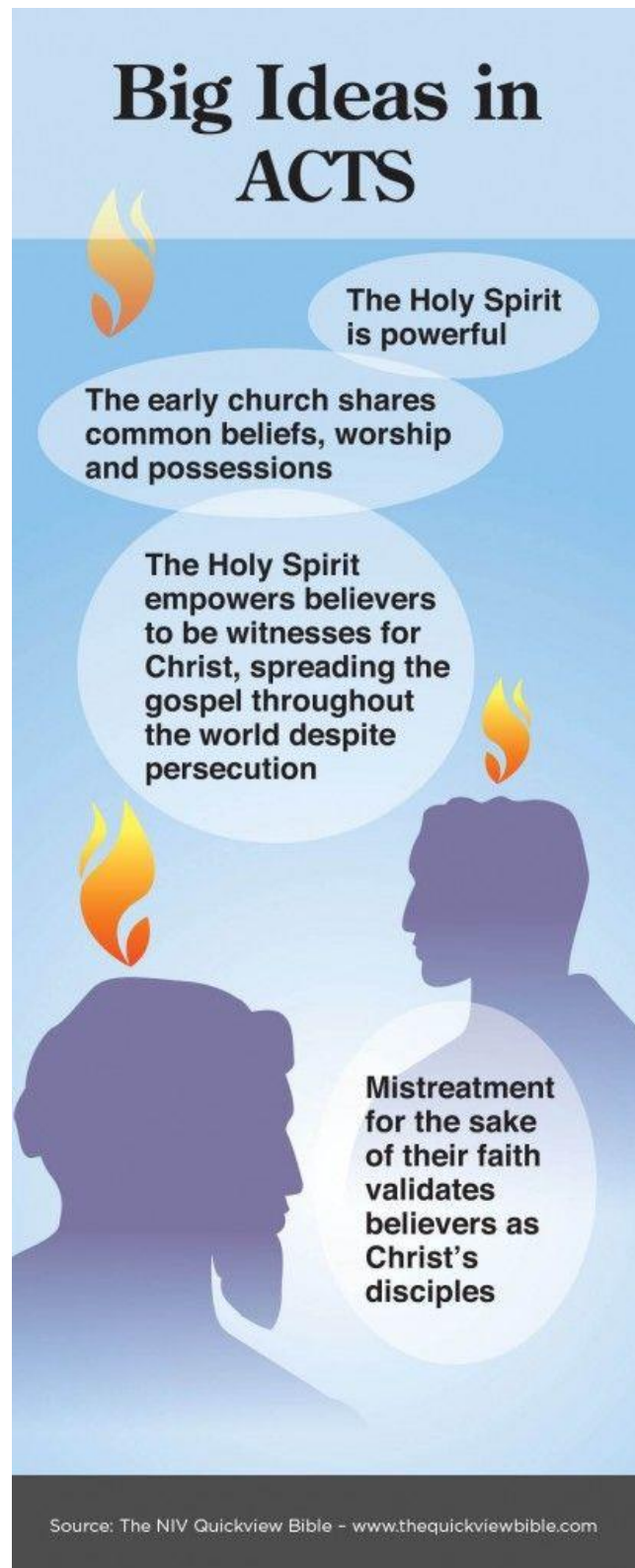
Denies Jesus three times
Matt. 26:69–75

Doesn't immediately believe when he sees the empty tomb
Luke 24:11–12; John 20:6–7,9

Questions the vision of the unclean animals despite clear instructions from the Lord *Acts 10:13–14*

Leads Jews astray by separating from Gentiles *Gal. 2:11–13*





created by the Bible Project

Birth of the Christian Church

[The Book of Acts]

Pentecost was the annual Harvest Festival celebrated 50 days after the Passover. Jews from all over the Roman Empire came to the Temple in Jerusalem for Passover and for Pentecost.

On that 1st Pentecost after Jesus' death, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples like tongues of fire. The disciples began preaching and each Jew heard the disciples speaking in their own language.

3000 people were baptized that day and the Christian church (the body of people who believe in Christ as Lord) was born. These converts took the good news back to their hometowns.

The first Christians experienced much persecution. Saul, a Jew who persecuted the first Christians, met Jesus Himself on the road to Damascus and became His biggest fan. Saul became known as Paul.

Several years after Jesus' death and resurrection, the first church council met in Jerusalem to decide such matters as whether or not Gentiles must be circumcised in order to be saved.

Following Jesus' death, 4 different men were inspired by God to write (in koine Greek) an account of the life and death of Jesus Christ.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

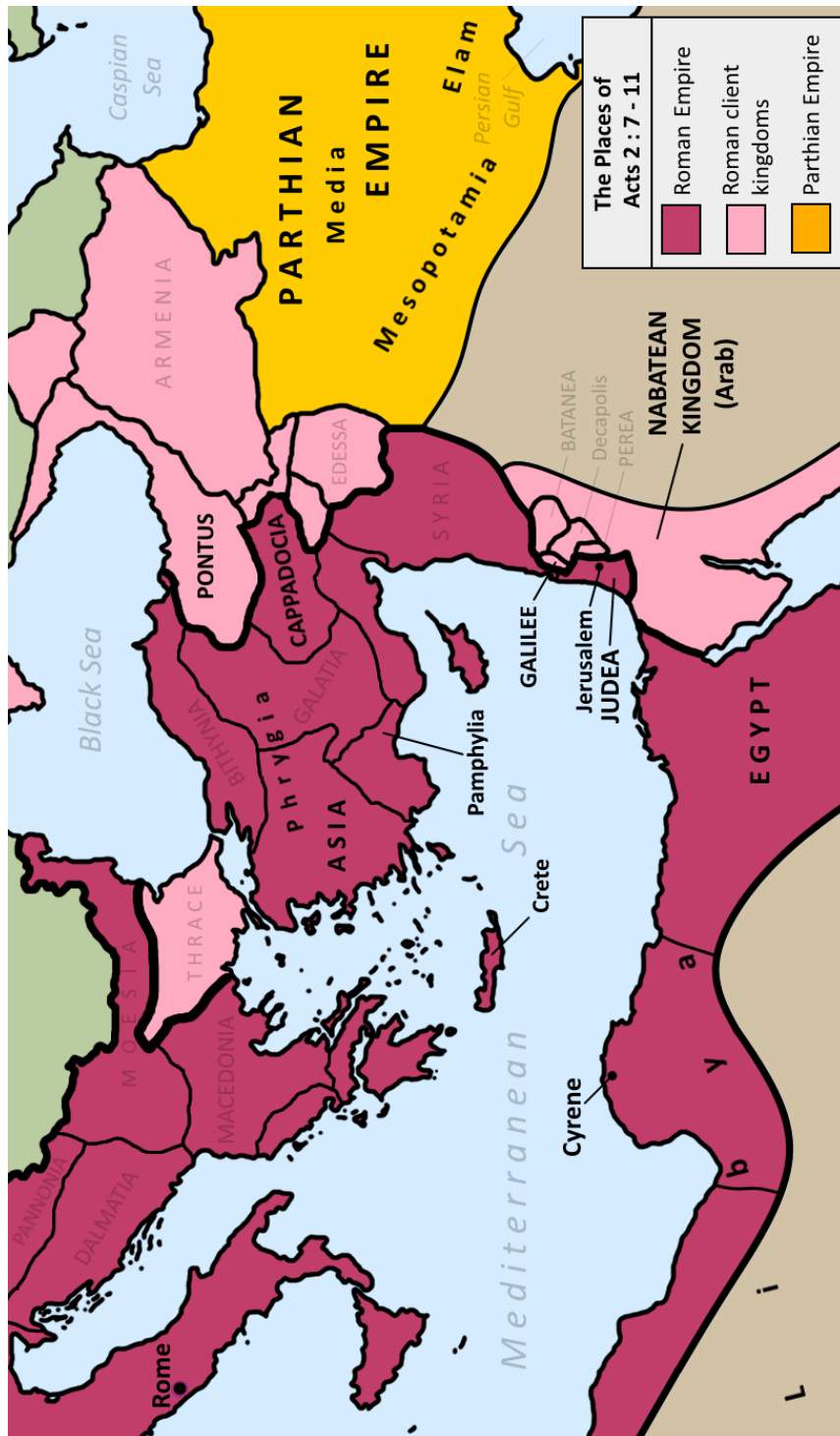


Jesus Christ, Our Savior

7 – 13 AUG 2018

MT 26-28; MK 14-16; LK 22-24; JN 18-21; AC 1-5

Week 45 - 5 Weeks to Go



God's Festivals in the New Testament

Biblical Observance	Commanded in the Old Testament	Observed by Jesus Christ, the apostles or the Church in the New Testament
Passover	Leviticus 23:5	Matthew 26:2, 17-19; Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:13, 23; 22:1, 7-20; John 2:13, 23; 6:4; 13:1-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29
Feast of Unleavened Bread	Leviticus 23:6-8	Matthew 26:17; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:1, 7; Acts 20:6; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
Feast of Pentecost	Leviticus 23:15-22	Acts 2:1-21; 20:16; 1 Corinthians 16:8
Feast of Trumpets*	Leviticus 23:23-25	Matthew 24:30-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 11:15
Day of Atonement	Leviticus 23:26-32	Acts 27:9
Feast of Tabernacles	Leviticus 23:33-43	John 7:1-2, 8, 10, 14; Acts 18:21
Last Great Day	Leviticus 23:36	John chapters 7-9

*Although the Feast of Trumpets is not mentioned by name in the New Testament, the theme of the day—the sounding of trumpets announcing Jesus Christ's return—is mentioned by several New Testament authors as noted in the references.

Jesus Christ, Our Savior

7 – 13 AUG 2018

MT 26-28; MK 14-16; LK 22-24; JN 18-21; AC 1-5

Week 45 - 5 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- If Jesus came today, who would “crucify” him? What would be the charges against him? Where would you be?
- How do you explain the necessity of Jesus’ death to a nonbeliever? Is Jesus’ death for you more a dispassionate fact or an emotional experience? Why?
- Why did God pour out the gift of the Holy Spirit on the followers of Jesus? How would you describe your experience with the Holy Spirit? When are you most aware of the Holy Spirit?
- Why do you think God’s punishment of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) so severe? Are you ever tempted to “hold back” from God?
- The disciples were persecuted for following Jesus. How do you explain why God sometimes delivers you out of hardships, but at other times he allows you to go through them?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Why did Peter deny he knew Jesus? What must Peter have felt like after he denied Jesus, just as Jesus predicted? How do people typically react when they experience failure? What are some effective ways to deal with failure?
- When Jesus stands before Pilate, is Pilate more concerned during the trial about whether Jesus is the Messiah? Hearing out Jesus? Exchanging prisoners? Doing justice? Appeasement? How concerned was Pilate that Jesus was innocent? Is Pilate more concerned about the crowd? His wife? His conscience? Why?
- Why did the chief priests and elders want to spread the rumor that Jesus’ disciples came and stole his body?
- What made the early church so appealing to others? If you had been invited to be part of this community, what would have been your reaction?
- What does Peter’s use of the OT (Acts 3:11-26) say about its benefits to faith in Christ?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Review what Jesus tells the high priests when before the Sanhedrin (MT 26:57-68). Why do you think that Jesus, for the most part, remains silent? How do you know when to keep silent and when to talk about your faith?
- As you read the passages on the conviction, torture and mocking of Jesus leading to his death, we must be careful not to look on at a distance at those mentioned in the story. How are we ever like the people who played a part in Jesus’ crucifixion? Are we at times like the chief priests and scribes? Pilate? The soldiers? Simon of Cyrene? The Two bandits? Are there ways in which we have mocked, contributed to suffering or been a mere bystander in the way of Jesus and in our relationship with those whom Christ loves and comes to save?
- In Acts 1:8, Jesus says “you will be my witnesses.” Where do you feel called to be Christ’s witness?
- How have you made Jesus king in your life? How have you tried to guard against God “breaking through “ in your life? Why?
- How do you think you would feel if you were sent to jail for what you believe? How would your family feel? What would this do for your faith?

The Growth of the Church

14-20 AUG 2018

AC 6-15; GAL 1-6; JAS 1-5

Week 46 - 4 Weeks to Go

Acts describes the early Church as a close and loving fellowship of believers. The disciples public witness met with widespread acceptance in Jerusalem and Christian following increased rapidly. A number of Pharisees and even a considerable body of priests were won over. But opposition, largely by the Pharisees and Saducees, continued and we begin this week with the story of Stephen, the first martyr. After the stoning of Stephen, the Christians in Jerusalem were persecuted and most were forced to leave the city. But as the new believers traveled, they shared the Gospel with others. Soon, the message spread to Judea and even to Samaria, where many Samaritans accepted Christ as Savior. God speaks to Peter through visions to reach out to the Gentiles. The great surprise for the early Jewish Christians took place when a retired Roman centurion, Cornelius, was converted and they began to understand more fully that the message of salvation was for all people, not just for God's covenant people, the Jews.

We also read about the conversion of Saul, and read about Paul's missionary journeys to major cities of the Roman Empire. Paul and his companions established churches in these population centers. The new Christians then spread the Gospel to the surrounding villages and countryside. What drove Paul and other early Christians was the conviction that people everywhere needed to hear about the gift of forgiveness of sins that God offers to all who simply trust in his Son.

The success of setting up Christian churches in major cities led to some theological disputes. In Galatians Paul reminds believers to depend on Christ alone for their salvation. He talks about the practical implications of living by grace and living under control of the Holy Spirit. James provides practical guidelines in how to put Christian belief into action through both word and deed in order for Christians to separate themselves from more worldly habits.

These readings about the early church remind us that we, too, are a part of the story of the church. As we live as Christians amid our families and communities, as we show compassion to those around us, as we share the truths of the Good News, we participate in the history of the church, a continuing story of God's love poured out on the world.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: AC 6:1 - 8:3;
Day 2: AC 8:4-40; AC 9:1-43
Day 3: AC 10:1-12:25
Day 4: AC 13:1 – 14:28
Day 5: AC 15:1-35; GAL 1:1-24
Day 6: GAL 2:1 – 6:18
Day 7: JAS 1:1 – 5:20

Outline

Stephen, the First Martyr (Day 1)
Philip and the Samaritan Pentecost (Day 2)
Spreading Beyond Judea and Samaria (Day 2)
Peter's Missionary Work (Day 3)
Paul's First Missionary Journey (Day 4)
Conference in Jerusalem (Day 5)
Letter to the Galatians (Day 5)
Paul Corrects Peter (Day 6)
Letter of James (Day 7)

The Growth of the Church

14-20 AUG 2018

AC 6-15; GAL 1-6; JAS 1-5

Week 46 - 4 Weeks to Go

Key Characters		Key Locations		Key Terms	
Stephen	Sanhedrin	Jerusalem	Samaria	Holy Spirit	Disciples
Saul/Paul	Philip	Gaza	Azotus	Messiah	Signs
Simon	Simon/Peter	Caesarea	Damascus	Believers	Apostles
John	Ethiopian	Judea	Galilee	Baptism	Clean/pure
Ananias	Barnabas	Lydda	Sharon	Gentile	Circumcised
Aeneas	Dorcas/Tabitha	Joppa	Antioch	Faith	The law
Cornelius	Agabus	Tarsus	Cyprus	Works	Child of God
Herod	James	Seleucia	Salamis	Freedom	Fruit of Spirit
Mary	John/Mark	Paphos	Perga	New Creation	Favoritism
Rhoda	Simeon	Pamphylia	Iconium	Wisdom	Submission
Bar-Jesus	Sergius Paulus	Lystra	Derbe	Patience	Prayer
Elymas	Judas	Pisidia	Attalia	Heaven	
Silas	Titus	Cilicia	Galatia		
Cephas					

Key Verses

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. [AC 4:31-33]

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace, and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. [AC 9:31]

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. [AC 11:26]

What God promised our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. [AC 13:32]

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ [GAL 1:3]

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. [GAL 5:22-25]

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does. [JAS 1:22-25]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Acts6: The disciples chose seven men to distribute food. Some from the synagogue disputed with Stephen. They took him before the council.

Acts7: Stephen said, "Brothers, God called Abraham and appeared to Moses. You killed the Righteous One." They were enraged and stoned him.

Acts8: Philip proclaimed Christ in Samaria. A magician offered money for the gift of the Spirit. Philip baptized an Ethiopian official.

Acts9: Saul went to arrest the believers. Jesus said, "Why do you persecute me?" Saul was baptized and began preaching. Peter raised Dorcas.

Acts10: Cornelius sent for Peter. The Lord said to Peter, "Do not call them unclean." Peter preached to the Gentiles and the Spirit fell.

Acts11: Some in Jerusalem criticized Peter. He said, "The Spirit told me to go." Many in Antioch believed. Barnabas and Saul taught there.

Acts12: Herod killed James and arrested Peter. The church prayed earnestly. An angel led Peter out of prison. An angel struck Herod down.

Acts13: Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the word. Paul said, "God has sent a Savior, Jesus, as he promised." The Jews stirred up persecution.

Acts14: Many believed at Iconium. The crowd at Lystra wanted to worship Paul, then they stoned him. Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch.

Acts15: Some men taught circumcision for the Gentiles. Peter said, "God gave the Spirit with no distinction." Paul and Barnabas separated.

Gal1: Paul, to the churches of Galatia. You are already turning to a different gospel! The gospel I preached came by revelation from Christ.

Gal2: I went up to Jerusalem and saw the leaders. I opposed Cephas about circumcision. We are justified by faith in Christ and not by works.

Gal3: Those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law. In Christ you are all sons of God.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

[Gal4:](#) God sent his Son for us to receive adoption. How can you turn back to worthless principles? You, like Isaac, are children of promise.

[Gal5:](#) Christ has set us free. Circumcision counts for nothing. Use your freedom to love one another. Walk by the Spirit and not the flesh.

[Gal6:](#) Restore anyone caught in sin. Sow to the Spirit and reap eternal life. Let us not give up doing good. What counts is the new creation.

[Jas1:](#) James, to the tribes. Many trials produce perseverance. Riches will fade. Every good gift comes from the Father. Be doers of the word.

[Jas2:](#) If you show partiality to the rich you are committing sin. Act as those who are under the law of liberty. Faith without works is dead.

[Jas3:](#) No one can tame the tongue. With it we bless our Father and with it we curse others. The wisdom from above is pure and peace-loving.

[Jas4:](#) Your worldly desires cause conflict. Resist the devil, draw near to God. Who are you to judge your neighbor? You boast in arrogance.

[Jas5:](#) You rich have fattened yourselves for slaughter. Brothers, be patient until the Lord comes. The prayer of faith will save the sick.

Birth of the Christian Church

[The Book of Acts]

Pentecost was the annual Harvest Festival celebrated 50 days after the Passover. Jews from all over the Roman Empire came to the Temple in Jerusalem for Passover and for Pentecost.

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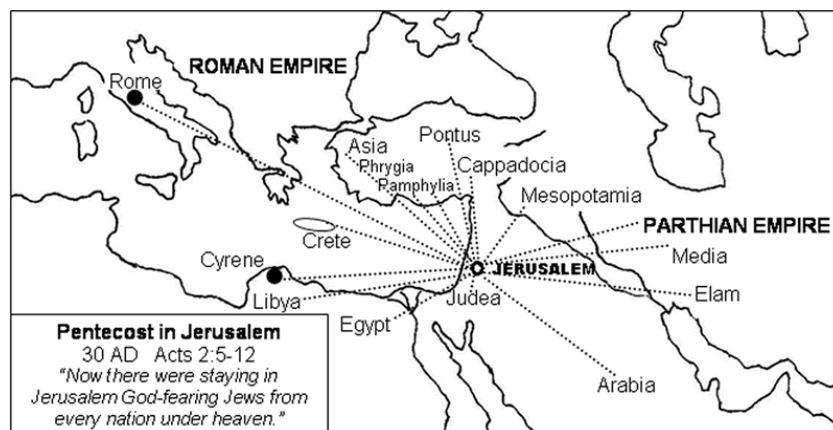
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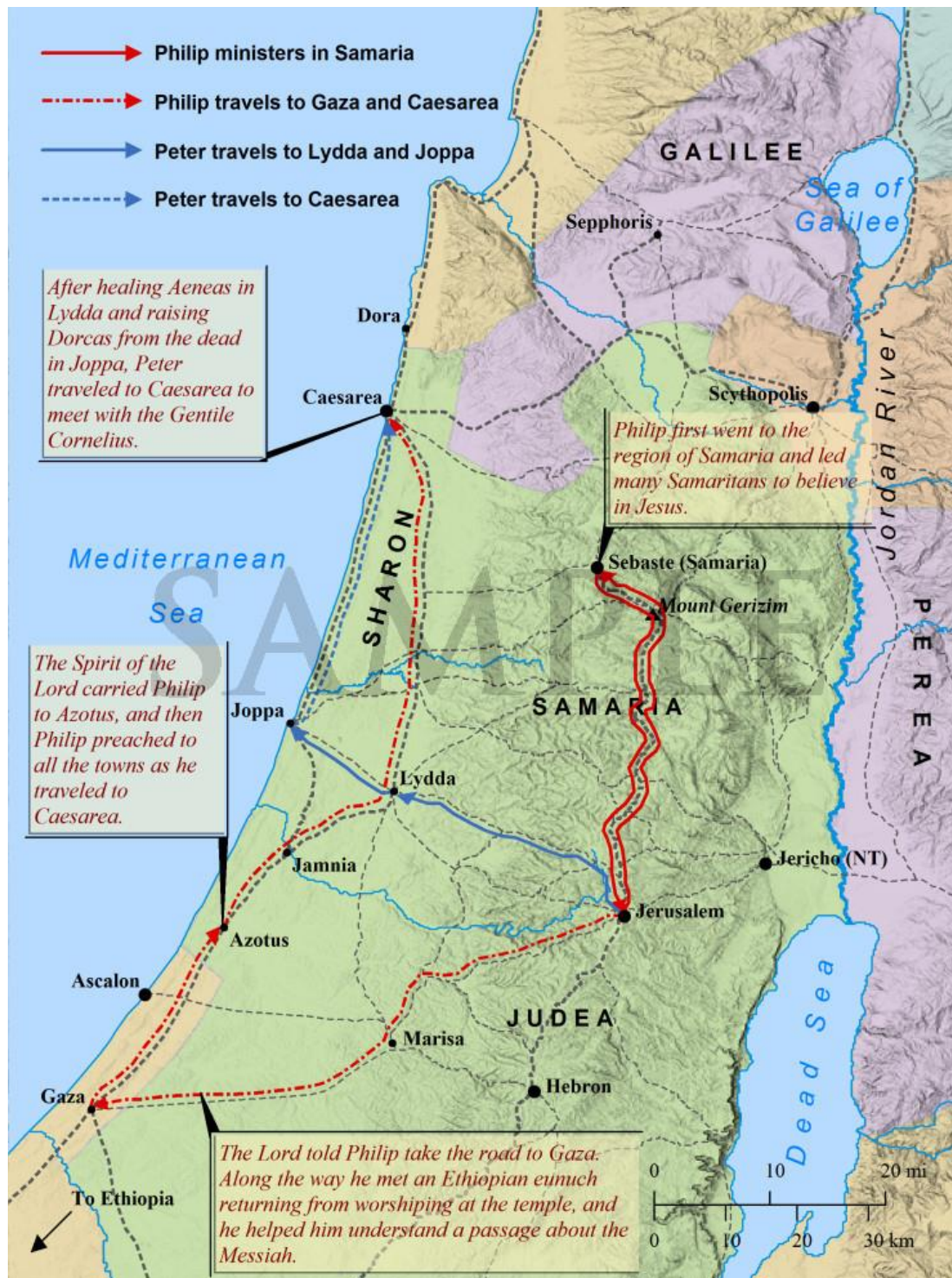
Countries of People Mentioned at Pentacost

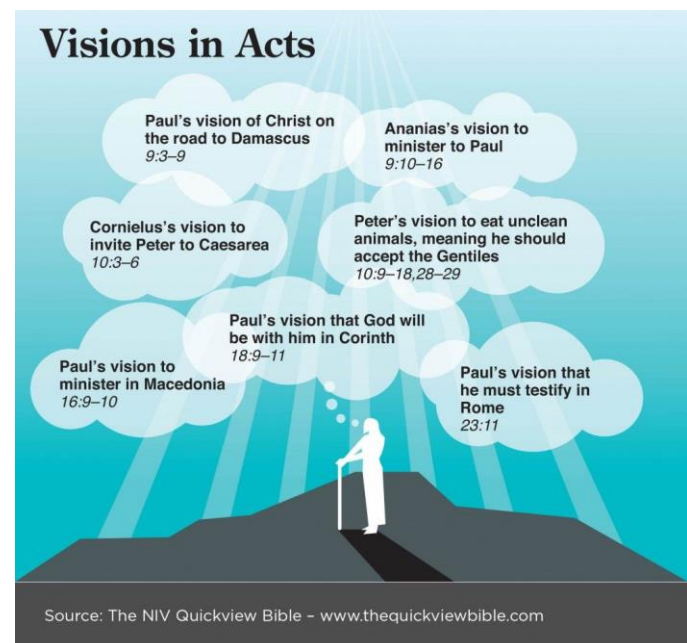
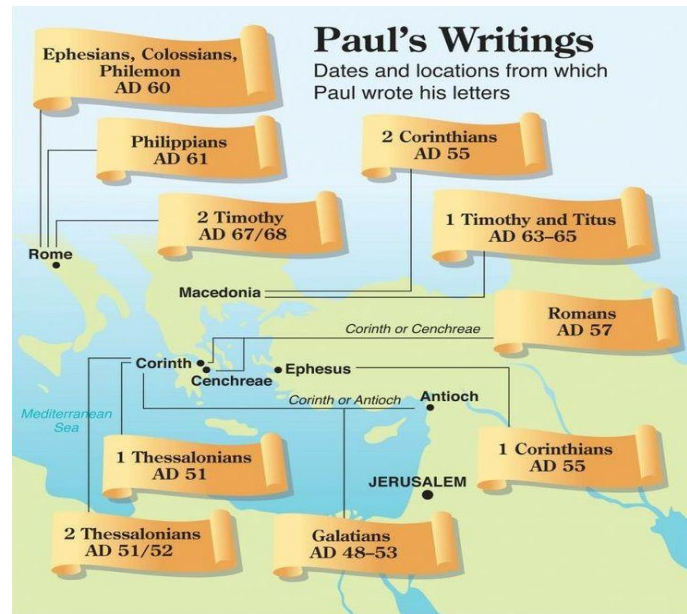
The Growth of the Church

14-20 AUG 2018

AC 6-15; GAL 1-6; JAS 1-5

Week 46 - 4 Weeks to Go



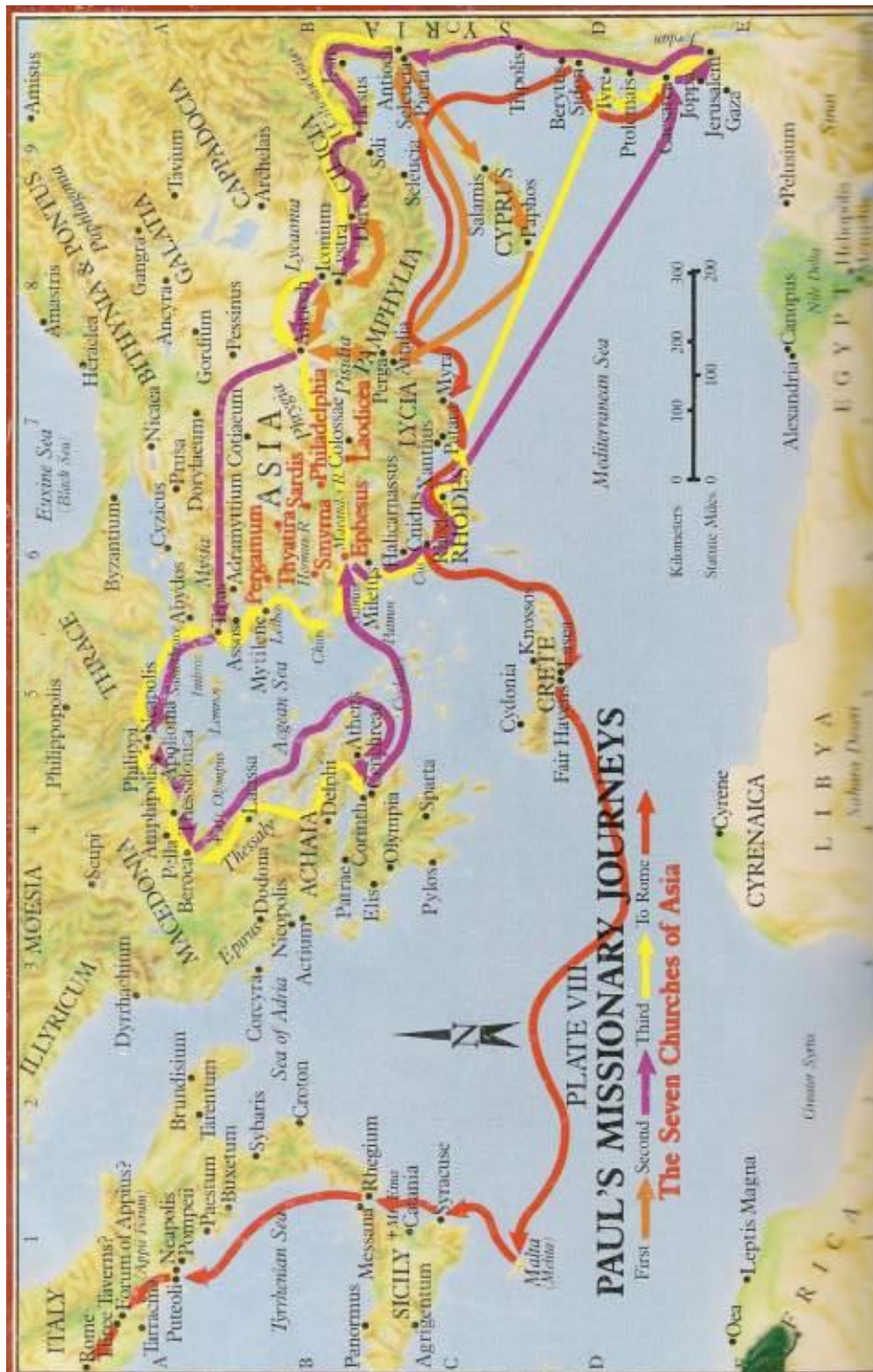


The Growth of the Church

14-20 AUG 2018

AC 6-15; GAL 1-6; JAS 1-5

Week 46 - 4 Weeks to Go



The Growth of the Church

14-20 AUG 2018

AC 6-15; GAL 1-6; JAS 1-5

Week 46 - 4 Weeks to Go

Sermons in the Book of Acts

SPEAKER	AUDIENCE	REFERENCE	THEME
Peter	Crowds at Pentecost	Acts 2:14-14	Jesus Christ is the Son of God; Repent & be baptized for remission of sins
Peter	Crowds in the Temple area	Acts 3:12-26	Jewish people should repent for Crucifying the Messiah
Peter	The Sanhedrin	Acts 4:5-12	The power of Jesus healed the crippled man
Stephen	The Sanhedrin	Acts 7	Review of Jewish history & Jews Killed the Messiah
Peter	Cornelius & household (Gentiles)	Acts 10:28-47	Gentiles can also be saved like the Jews
Peter	The church in Jerusalem	Acts 11:4-18	Defends his ministry & Gentiles can now be saved
Paul	Jews at Antioch of Pisidia	Acts 13:16-41	Jesus was the Messiah & Old Testament is fulfilled
Peter	Jerusalem Council	Acts 15:7-11	Salvation by the grace of God is available to all
James	Jerusalem Council	Acts 15:13-21	Circumcision is not required of Gentile converts
Paul	People at Athens	Acts 17:22-31	God will hold all people accountable for their response to His Son
Paul	Ephesian elders & Miletus	Acts 20:17-35	Remain faithful in spite of false teachers and various persecutions
Paul	Crowd at Jerusalem	Acts 22:1-21	Recounts his conversion and his ministry & mission to the Gentiles
Paul	The Sanhedrin	Acts 23:1-6	Paul's defense, declares himself a Pharisee and a Roman citizen
Paul	Felix & Drusilla	Acts 24:	Righteousness, self-control, and judgment to come
Paul	King Agrippa, Bernice, & Festus	Acts 26:2-23	Recounts his conversion and zeal for the gospel of Christ

Big Ideas in GALATIANS

God's grace is for people
of every nation; all are
justified by faith

Faith in Christ saves,
not following the law

Jesus died to set the
people free from lives of
sin and bondage

The Spirit, rather than the
law, empowers believers
to live holy lives

Those who are filled with
the Spirit live for God
rather than themselves



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Love And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5 (NLT)

Peace May the Lord show favor toward you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:26 (NLT)

Faithfulness Great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:23b (NASB)

My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. Psalm 28:7 (NIV)

Goodness Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6 (KJV)

Gentleness Pursue a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11b (NLT)

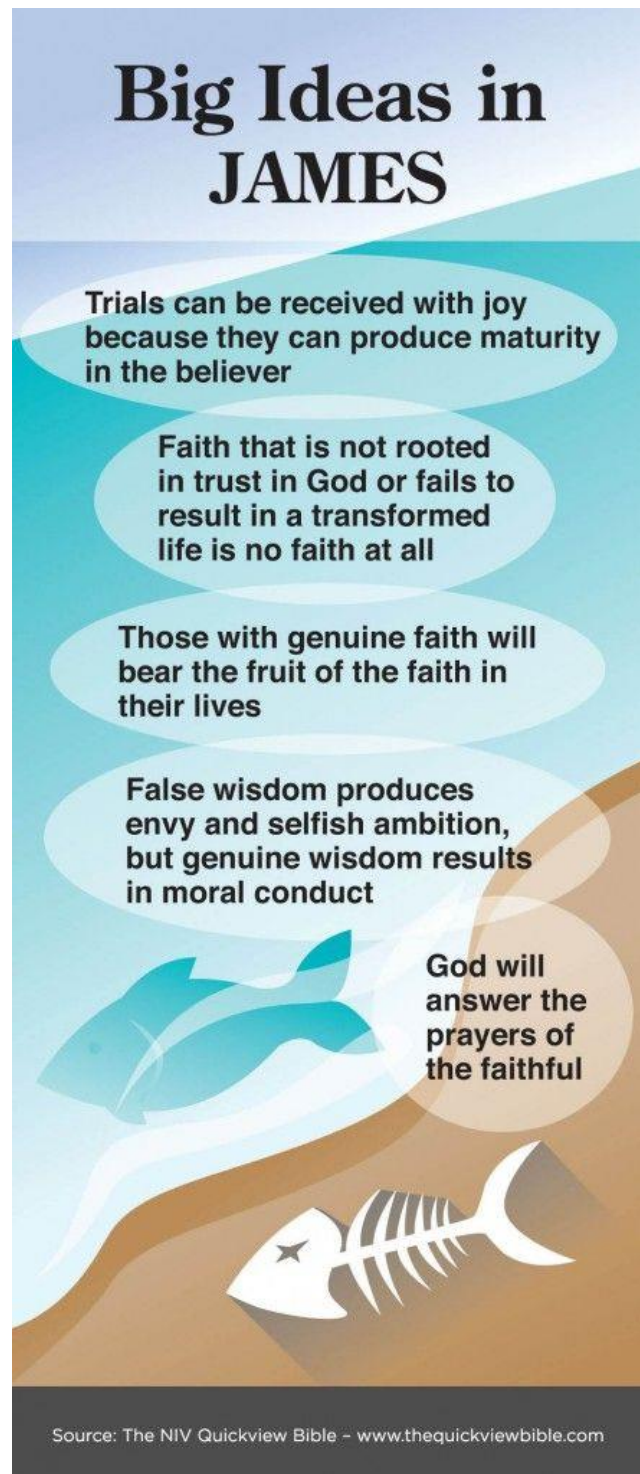
Meanwhile, the saints stand passionately patient, keeping God's commands, staying faithful to Jesus. Revelation 14:12 (The Message)

Self-Control A person without self-control is like a house with its doors and windows knocked out. Proverbs 25:28 (The Message)

Kindness But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23a (NIV)

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Fruits of the Spirit





The Growth of the Church

14-20 AUG 2018

AC 6-15; GAL 1-6; JAS 1-5

Week 46 - 4 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- Does the story of Saul's conversion change your thinking about who is part of God's kingdom? Are there any people you think might be beyond God's reach?
- What was the revelation that Paul received from Jesus Christ in GAL 1? How did the revelation change Paul's life? How does your past affect your present life? What do you need to put behind you and know that you are forgiven?
- How would you explain GAL 2:16 to a non-Christian, particularly one with high moral standards? [*know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not be observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.*]
- In JAS 5, we are taught to pray at all times. How is confession and prayer a part of the healing process? What is the connection between the physical and spiritual areas of our life?
- According to GAL 2:21, if you can be in right standing with God through your own efforts (e.g., being a good person), what did Christ die for? How does this impact you and your faith?

What did I learn about human nature?

- How do people hold on to religious rituals and heroes today, while missing the whole point of what those ceremonies and people represent?
- In Acts 12, Peter miraculously escapes from prison. Who truly has power in this story: Herod or God? What does this story tell you about how Christians ought to deal with opposition and persecution? What worldly forces today seem all powerful to you?
- How do you think Paul would respond to a modern-day skeptic who felt Jesus was a noble but misguided martyr? What role would the Old Testament play in Paul's answer? How does knowing the Old Testament help you to better understand and share your faith?
- Paul speaks of unity in Christ in GAL 3:26-4:7. What are some social and cultural barriers to the unity of Christians in our time? How can we help bring down these barriers in our own lives?
- In JAS 3:8 [*but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison*], what hope do we have in relation to controlling our tongues?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Did Stephen's review of Old Testament history in AC 7 encouraged you? Challenged you? Confused you? How does the speech show the importance of the Old Testament to the early Christians?
- Over time, has there been something in which your views have changed radically? How do you relate this experience to Saul's conversion experience?
- If you are a self-made person who likes to see everyone pay their own way, how does this Gospel of undeserved grace (GAL 2) strike you?
- In what ways do people tamper with the Gospel to make it less offensive to others? Have you been tempted to do so? How?
- How far into the future have you planned your life? According to JAS 4:13-17, what attitude should we have toward our plans? How often do you pray about your plans and decisions before making them?

Paul's missionary team traveled from city to city spreading the Gospel. In each city, a young church was established. Paul and his companions would spend a few months or even a year with most congregations, teaching the basic truths of the Gospel. The missionaries would then move on to another city and repeat the process. Even though Paul and his team revisited the newly established churches whenever possible, the young believers often had unanswered questions. When Paul heard about questions or problems in one of the churches he founded, he often sat down to write to them.

The believers in Thessalonica (in Macedonia) faced ridicule and persecution from their pagan neighbors, yet remained faithful. As we face our own unknown futures, we can gain assurance from Paul's word to the Thessalonians. Christ will return one day. But, until he does, there is work to do and a way to live that is pleasing to God. We must do what God gives us to do for as long as God gives us time on earth, with hearts that long for Christ's coming and lives that reflect diligence, responsibility and faith. Paul's instructions are as applicable today as when he wrote them almost two thousand years ago.

Corinth was an influential trading port that was filled with vile practices and loose living. In his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul reminds believers that the wisdom that comes from God is in direct contradiction to the ways of the world. He provides a pastoral guide that helps us even today maintain a Christian lifestyle in a sinful society. He teaches us to depend on God in every situation.

Weekly Reading Plan (Pgs. 1300-1343)

Day 1: AC 15:36-18:11

Day 2: 1 TH 1:1-5:28

Day 3: 2 TH 1:1 - 3:18; AC 18:12 - 19:22;
1 CO 1:1 - 4:21

Day 4: 1 CO 5:1 - 6:20

Day 5: 1 CO 7:1 - 15:58

Day 6: 1 CO 16:1-24; AC 19:23 - 20:1;
2 CO 1:1-7:16

Day 7: 2 CO 8:1-13:14; AC 20:2- 3a

Outline

Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Day 1)

First Letter to the Thessalonians (Day 2)

Good News from Thessalonica (Day 2)

2nd Letter to the Thessalonians (Day 3)

Paul before Gallio (Day 3)

Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey (Day 3)

1st Letter to the Corinthians (Day 3)

Paul's Authority and Letter (Day 4)

Questions from the Corinthians (Day 5)

Paul's Future Plans (Day 6)

Commotion in Ephesus (Day 6)

2nd Letter to the Corinthians (Day 6)

The Offering for Jerusalem's Christians (Day 7)

Paul's Third Visit to Corinth (Day 7)

Paul's Trip through Macedonia (Day 7)

Paul the Missionary

21-27 AUG 2018

AC 15-20; 1 TH 1-5; 2 TH 1-3; 1 CO 1-8; 2 CO 1-13

Week 47 - 3 Weeks to Go

Key Characters		Key Locations		Key Terms	
Paul	Barnabas	Pamphylia	Cyprus	Word of the Lord	Churches
John Mark	Silas	Syria	Cilici	Faith	Holy Spirit
Timothy	Lydia	Lystra	Iconium	Most High God	Baptism
Magistrates	Jailors	Jerusalem	Galatia	Salvation	Messiah
Jason	Greeks	Mysia	Macedonia	Good News	Apostle
Dionysius	Damaris	Philippi	Thyatira	Wisdom	Immorality
Aquila	Priscilla	Thessalonica	Berea	Believers	Freedom
Titius Justus	Crispus	Athens	Corinth	Self-Discipline	Unity
Gallio	Apollos	Achaia	Cenchreae	Spiritual gifts	Diversity
Erastus	Sosthenes	Ephesus	Caesarea	Lord's Supper	Love
Chloe	Cephas	Antioch	Phrygia	Resurrection	Order
Demetrius	Ephesians			Forgiveness	Comfort
Titus	Corinthians			New Covenant	New Body
				Reconciliation	Generosity

Key Verses

For in him [God] we live and move and have our being. [AC 17:28]

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. [TH 1:2]

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. [1 TH 4:11-12]

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. [1 TH 5: 16-18]

We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy, they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right. [2 TH 3:11-13]

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. [1 CO 3:19]

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love [1 CO 13:13]

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. [2 CO 4:16-18]

Finally brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. [2 CO 13:11]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Acts15: Some men taught circumcision for the Gentiles. Peter said, "God gave the Spirit with no distinction." Paul and Barnabas separated.

Acts16: Paul took Timothy with him. We baptized Lydia in Philippi. Paul was imprisoned and there was an earthquake. The jailer was baptized.

Acts17: They taught in Thessalonica and Berea. In Athens Paul said, "I proclaim the God who gives life to all. He will judge the world."

Acts18: Paul taught in Corinth for a year and a half. He went to Ephesus with Priscilla and Aquila. Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos.

1Th1: Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Thessalonians. We give thanks for you. Our gospel came in power. Your faith is an example to all.

1Th2: We shared the gospel with you and also our lives. You suffered like the churches in Judea. We tried to see you. Are you not our crown?

1Th3: We sent Timothy to strengthen you. We warned you that persecution would come. We are encouraged by your faith. May you grow in love.

1Th4: Live to please God. Avoid immorality. Love one another more and more. We do not grieve without hope, for the dead in Christ will rise.

1Th5: The day of the Lord will come like a thief. Let us keep awake. Honour those who lead you. Do not quench the Spirit. Grace be with you.

2Th1: Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Thessalonians. We boast of your faith through persecution. The Lord Jesus will appear in vengeance.

2Th2: Do not be alarmed about the day of the Lord. First the lawless one will appear, whom Jesus will destroy. Hold fast to our traditions.

2Th3: Finally, pray for us. The Lord will guard you against the evil one. Keep away from anyone who walks in idleness. The Lord be with you.

Acts18: Paul taught in Corinth for a year and a half. He went to Ephesus with Priscilla and Aquila. Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Acts19: Paul laid his hands on the disciples at Ephesus to receive the Holy Spirit. Demetrius, a silversmith, started a riot in the city.

1Cor1: Paul, to the church in Corinth. Let there be no divisions. The cross is folly to those perishing, but to us it is the power of God.

1Cor2: I knew nothing among you except Christ crucified. We speak the wisdom of God. Through the Spirit we know what God has freely given.

1Cor3: You are still infants. One follows Paul, another Apollos. We are co-workers with God. Christ is the foundation. You are God's temple.

1Cor4: Think of us as stewards of the mysteries of God. You are kings already? We are fools for Christ. I admonish you as my dear children.

1Cor5: You boast about the sexual immorality among you. You should deliver that man to Satan. But I am not judging those outside the church.

1Cor6: Do you take one another to court? Why not rather be wronged? Your body is not for sexual immorality, it is a temple of the Spirit.

1Cor7: It is good to stay unmarried, but better to marry than to burn with lust. Each should live as God has called. I want you to be free.

1Cor8: About food offered to idols: An idol is nothing. There is only one God. But if food makes my brother stumble I will never eat meat.

1Cor9: You are the seal of my apostleship. Do we not have the right to material support? But I made myself a servant to all for the gospel.

1Cor10: Do not desire evil as our fathers did. God will make you able to endure temptation. Flee from idolatry. Do all to the glory of God.

1Cor11: The head of a woman is her husband. I hear that some go hungry when you meet! With the bread and cup you proclaim the Lord's death.

1Cor12: Now there are various spiritual gifts, but one Spirit. If the whole body were an eye, how would it hear? You are the body of Christ.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Cor13: Without love I am nothing. Love is patient, does not boast, endures all things. Tongues will cease, but faith, hope and love remain.

1Cor14: Tongues edifies the speaker, prophecy edifies the church. Each of you brings a hymn, a lesson or a tongue. Let all be done in order.

1Cor15: Christ was raised from the dead. If not then your faith is futile. But he is the firstfruits. At the trumpet we will all be changed.

1Cor16: Put aside an offering for the saints. I will come to you. The churches of Asia greet you. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Acts19: Paul laid his hands on the disciples at Ephesus to receive the Holy Spirit. Demetrius, a silversmith, started a riot in the city.

Acts20: We sailed to Troas. Paul raised Eutychus after he fell from the window. Paul encouraged the Ephesian elders to care for the flock.

2Cor1: Paul, to the church in Corinth. We share in Christ's sufferings and comfort. My yes is not no, but to spare you I did not visit you.

2Cor2: I wrote to you as I did in much anguish. You should forgive the one who caused you pain. Through us God spreads the aroma of Christ.

2Cor3: God has made us ministers of a new covenant. When anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is lifted. We are being transformed into glory.

2Cor4: God has given us the light of the glory of Christ. We have this treasure in clay jars. Through affliction we look to what is eternal.

2Cor5: What is mortal will be clothed with life. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. We implore you, be reconciled to God!

2Cor6: Now is the day of salvation. We commend ourselves as servants. Do not be yoked with unbelievers. We are the temple of the living God.

2Cor7: I take great pride in you. I do not regret my letter, for godly grief produces repentance. Our boasts about you to Titus proved true.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Cor8: The churches of Macedonia have given generously for the saints. See that you excel in this grace too. Titus was eager to go to you.

2Cor9: I boast to the Macedonians about the gift you promised. God loves a cheerful giver. Your generosity will overflow in thanksgivings.

2Cor10: Our weapons destroy arguments against God. What we say by letter we do in person. We only boast within the sphere God has given us.

2Cor11: I am jealous for you against these false apostles. I speak as a fool. Do they boast? I have greater labours, beatings and dangers.

2Cor12: I will boast of a man who saw paradise. I was given a thorn to keep me from pride. This is foolish! I will gladly be spent for you.

2Cor13: This will be my third visit. Christ is powerful among you. Test that you are in the faith. Be mature. The grace of God be with you.

Acts20: We sailed to Troas. Paul raised Eutychus after he fell from the window. Paul encouraged the Ephesian elders to care for the flock.

Paul the Missionary

21-27 AUG 2018

AC 15-20; 1 TH 1-5; 2 TH 1-3; 1 CO 1-8; 2 CO 1-13

Week 47 - 3 Weeks to Go

PAUL'S LETTERS AND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS				
YEAR A.D.	MAJOR EVENTS	ACTS	PERIOD	LETTERS
34	Conversion, Damascus, Arabia	9	3 years - Arabia	
37	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia			
46-47	Antioch, Jerusalem	11	1 year - Antioch	
48-49	First Missionary Journey and Antioch	13-14		Galatians
50	Jerusalem Council and Antioch	15		
51-53	Second Missionary Journey	16-18	18 months - Corinth	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians
53-54	Antioch			
54-57	Third Missionary Journey	19-21	3 years - Ephesus	1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans
57	Jerusalem Arrest	22-23		
57-59	Caesarea Prisoner	24-26	2 years	
59-60	Journey to Rome	27-28		
60-67 circa	Rome House Arrest	28	5-7 years circa	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy

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Big Ideas in 1 THESSALONIANS



God calls believers to stand firm and remain faithful

Believers can expect to suffer for their faith

Believers who have died will rise first when Christ returns

Christ's return will be unexpected, like a thief in the night

Believers can wait expectantly for Christ's return while living holy lives



Big Ideas in 2 THESSALONIANS

**Paul corrects the assumption
of some believers that Christ
has already returned**

**Christ's coming will be
preceded by the arrival
of the antichrist**

**Paul warns believers to keep
their distance from the lazy,
the disruptive and those who
claim to be Christians but
don't follow Christ**

**God calls believers, his
chosen ones, to stand
firm until Christ's return**

2 THESSALONIANS

THINGS IN THESSALONICA
HAVE GOTTEN WORSE!

PERSECUTION

CONFUSION
ABOUT JESUS' RETURN
ACT 17: 27-29

NOT SPECULATION
ABOUT THINGS
YOU DON'T KNOW

INSTINCTIVE HATE &
FAITHFULNESS FOR
PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

BELIEF IN JESUS' RETURN & HOPE FOR FINAL JUSTICE
WHAT YOU HOPE FOR SHAPES WHAT YOU LIVE FOR

1 HOPE DESPITE PERSECUTION

1 TH 1-3

THANKS GOD FOR YOUR FAITH, LOVE, & ENDURANCE

PERSECUTION HAS INTENSIFIED

1 TH 1-2

SUFFERING - PARTICIPATION IN GOD'S KINGDOM

JESUS FOLLOWERS SHOW THEIR VICTORY THROUGH NON-VIOLENCE & ENDURANCE

2 THE DAY OF THE LORD

PAUL SAYS: THE DAY OF THE LORD IS ALREADY UPON US!

GOD'S FINAL JUSTICE ON EVIL

AND JESUS COME LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT! (1 TH 5:2)

THE REBEL

THE WORLD WILL BE BURNED & DESTROYED. ONLY THE FAITHFUL WILL REMAIN.

THE WORLD WILL BE BURNED & DESTROYED. ONLY THE FAITHFUL WILL REMAIN.

3 CHALLENGE TO THE IDLE

IMPOSSIBLE:

IT'S ONLY GOD WHO CAN DO THIS!

MORE LIKELY:

PEOPLE ARE BEING SAVED BY THE ROMAN PATRONAGE

PEOPLE ARE BEING SAVED BY THE ROMAN PATRONAGE

2 TH 1-3

THE EVENTS LEADING TO JESUS' RETURN WILL BE OBVIOUS! YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SCARED!

PEACE

THE LORD GIVE YOU COMFORT & STRENGTH

2 TH 1-2

THE LORD GIVE YOU COMFORT & STRENGTH

THE LORD GIVE YOU COMFORT & STRENGTH

created by the Bible Project

Big Ideas in 1 CORINTHIANS

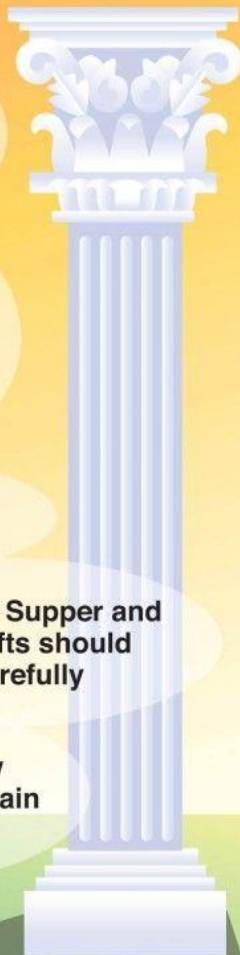
Follow
Christ first,
not Christian
leaders

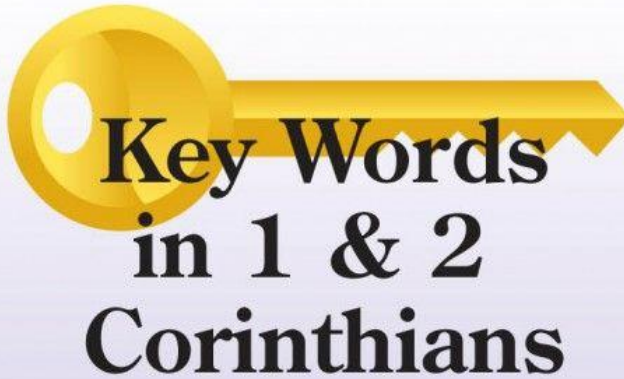
God uses
ordinary people
to cause change
in those who
are wise and
strong

Illicit sex can
devastate lives

The Lord's Supper and
spiritual gifts should
be used carefully

Those who follow
Jesus will rise again
as Jesus did





Key Words in 1 & 2 Corinthians

The number of times these words appear in these books

Body/Bodies

62

Spirit

60

Love(s)

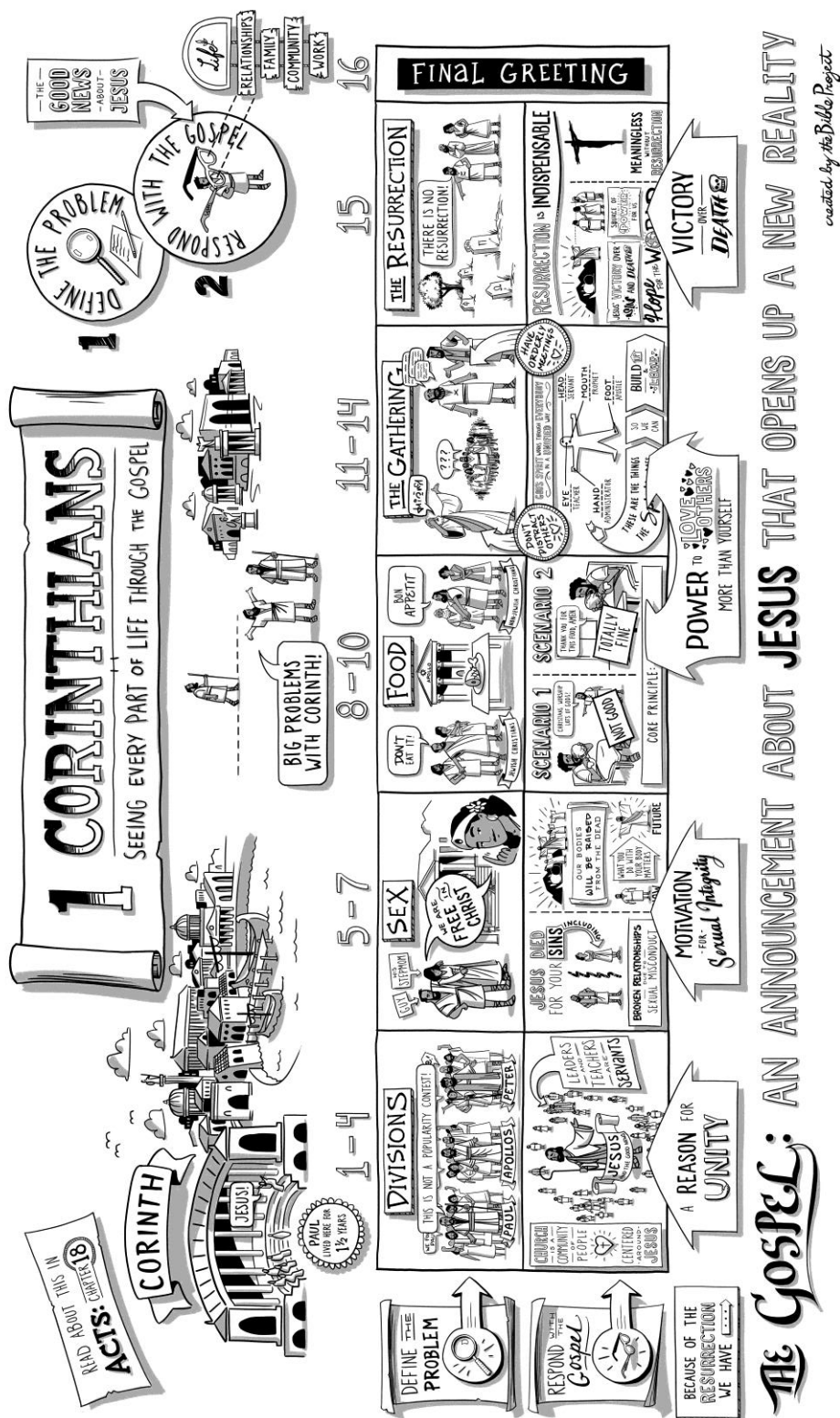
31

Another

29

Eat(s)/Ate

25



21-27 AUG 2018

Week 47 - 3 Weeks to Go

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Paul the Missionary

21-27 AUG 2018

AC 15-20; 1 TH 1-5; 2 TH 1-3; 1 CO 1-8; 2 CO 1-13

Week 47 - 3 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- How did the Lord open your heart to respond to the Gospel? Who did he use as part of the process? What first opened your heart to God?
- If asked, “What must I do to be saved?” how would you answer?
- What is the role of miracles in God’s purposes today? What miracles are you aware of?
- In 1 TH 5:12-22 we are given commands for living a godly life. Which do you feel you are already practicing? Which one do you most want to work on? What encouragement, sanctification and grace do you receive from God to fulfill these commands?
- Read 1 CO 15:58. What motivates you to obey God: fear of judgment? God’s anger? Love from God? Love for God? Hope of being with God? How does v. 58 encourage and motivate you?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In Acts 15, the early Church leaders deal with what Gentiles must do to become Christians. From the debate, the resulting letter and the way in which the decision was delivered, what do you learn about the ways to solve disagreements among Christians? What conflicts are there in the Christian church today and are these conflicts being handled as the first churches handled them?
- In ACTS 16, Paul and Silas are imprisoned. What do you think caused their jailer to want to be saved.
- What began in Ephesus as Artemis worship became Artemis business. How can Christians fall into the same trap and make Jesus worship into Jesus business?
- 1 TH 4 talks about living to please God. What do you say to someone who believes you can do anything you want, as long as you mind your own business (1 TH 4:11) and no one gets hurt (1 TH 4:6)?
- The Corinthians were measuring truth and success by how powerful, influential and articulate someone was. What pictures come to mind when you think of powerful, successful people? How do these images sometimes conflict with knowing Christ? How do people today confuse the world’s power with God’s power?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Is there some area of your faith where you feel like Peter – going back and forth because you are not sure of what is right? How could ACTS 15:11 [No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.] relate to this concern?
- Lydia’s place of prayer was by a river. What is your favorite place to meet God?
- Whether Jesus or Caesar was Lord became a real issue for Christians. When has your faith in Christ led to conflict with other authorities claiming your loyalty?
- How will you exercise faith and love this week in a specific way or relationship?
- Paul found that intense pressures led him to depend on God all the more (2 CO 1:9). How do you respond to intense pressures? Do they deepen your walk with God or drive you away from him? Who do you know who is under intense pressure? How would Paul have you pray for them?

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

Acts ends with Paul in a Roman prison awaiting trial. For two years, Paul lived there under guard in a rented house, and because he was free to receive visitors, he was able to keep in close touch with Christianity throughout the empire and even to send letters of instruction to churches he had founded.

One of the early heresies that confused early Christians is discussed in Colossians. Some people argued that all matter was evil; only the “spiritual” and immaterial can be “good.” What follows in this heresy is that Christ would never assume human form and what Christians do in their daily lives has nothing to do with spirituality, for daily life is conducted in the material world. Paul’s letter to the Colossians confronts this idea and presents Jesus Christ as God come in the flesh. Paul presents a powerful portrait of Jesus and his work on our behalf and offers an appealing description of the life by which Christians can honor him. Paul provides insight into how we can grow spiritually – something we are all called to do.

When Paul and his missionary team reached Ephesus, it was the leading city in Asia Minor, made rich by the pilgrims who flocked to the city to visit the magnificent temple of Diana (Artemis). The population of the city was spiritually hungry and deeply involved in dark occult practices. Paul’s presentation of the Gospel was so effective that it literally threatened the livelihood of citizens who depended on the sales of religious medals and on feeding and housing visitors. Christianity is a relational faith – the “church” is not a building, but people who know God, who express his love in the way they live with one another, and who display his character in the holiness of their daily lives.

In addition to letters to churches, Paul also wrote to individuals, such as Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. Timothy and Titus’ ministry was to correct false teaching and set local congregations on the path of godly living. These letters are filled with practical advice that still apply today. We also read letters of other early church leaders, such as Peter and Jude that further contribute to our understanding of Christian faith and life.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 1373-1408)

Day 1: AC 27:1 -15; AC 28:16-31; PHM 1:1-25
Day 2: COL 1:1-4:18
Day 3: EPH 1:1-6:24
Day 4: 1 TI 1:1-6:21
Day 5: TITUS 1:1-3:15; 2 TI 1:1-4:22
Day 6: 1 PE 1:1-5:14
Day 7: JUDE 1:1-25; 2 PE 1:1-3:18

Outline

The Voyage to Rome (Day 1)
Imprisonment in Rome (Day 1)
Letter to Philemon (Day 1)
Letter to the Colossians (Day 2)
Letter to the Ephesians (Day 3)
First Letter to Timothy (Day 4)
Letter to Titus (Day 5)
2nd Letter to Timothy (Day 5)
1st Letter of Peter (Day 6)
Letter of Jude (Day 7)
2nd Letter of Peter (Day 7)

Letters of the Apostles

11 – 17 SEP 2018

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

Key Characters	Key Locations	Key Terms
Paul	Sidon	Kingdom of God
Aristarchus	Lasea	Faith
Timothy	Crete	Reconciliation
Onesimus	Rome	Chosen people
Aristarchus	Laodicea	Redemption
Titus	Macedonia	Holy Spirit
Silas		Holy
James		Maturity
		Submission
		Eternal Life
		Purity
		Loyalty
		Salvation
		Love
		Freedom
		Grace
		Predestined
		Gentile
		Peace
		Truth
		Prayer
		Worship
		Hope
		Suffering

Key Verses:

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. [PHM 1:4-6]

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins. [COL 2:13]

In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. [EPH 1:5-8]

Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. [1 TI 4:12]

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. [TITUS 3:3-5]

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. [2 TI 1:8-9]

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you. [1 PE 1:3-4]

Dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt. [JUDE 20-22]

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. [2 PE 1:3-40]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Acts27: We set sail for Rome. A storm struck and all hope was lost. Paul said, "Take heart, we must run aground." Everyone reached land.

Acts28: On Malta Paul healed all who had diseases. We came to Rome. Paul lived under house arrest. He proclaimed the kingdom of God to all.

Phm1: Paul, a prisoner, to Philemon. I ask that you receive Onesimus back, not as a slave, but as a brother. Put his wrongs on my account.

Col1: Paul, to the saints in Colossae. May you be filled with wisdom. The Son is the image of the invisible God. I make known the mystery.

Col2: Let no one deceive you. You were buried with Christ and also raised with him. Why do you follow rules that do not restrain the flesh?

Col3: Seek the things above. Your life is hidden with Christ in God. So put to death your worldliness. Do everything in the name of Jesus.

Col4: Devote yourselves to prayer. Let your speech be gracious. Tychicus will tell you our news. Aristarchus, Mark and Epaphras greet you.

Eph1: Paul, to the saints in Ephesus. Praise the God who predestined us for adoption in Christ. May you know the riches of his inheritance.

Eph2: When we were dead in sin God made us alive with Christ. Gentiles are now fellow citizens. You are being built together into a temple.

Eph3: I preach the mystery of Christ. The wisdom of God is made known through the church. I pray that you may know the depth of his love.

Eph4: Therefore walk worthy of your calling. Christ gave each of us gifts to build up the body. Put off your old self and put on the new.

Eph5: Walk in love as Christ loved us. Walk as children of light. Expose the darkness. Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church.

Eph6: Children, obey your parents. Slaves, obey your masters. Put on the whole armour of God to stand against the devil. Peace and grace.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Tim1: Paul, to Timothy my son. Stay in Ephesus to correct false teachers. Christ came into the world to save sinners. Glory to God forever!

1Tim2: Let prayers be made for all those in authority. God wants everyone to come to the knowledge of the truth. Let women learn in silence.

1Tim3: An overseer must be respectable and manage his family well. Deacons must be dignified and not greedy. Godliness is a great mystery.

1Tim4: In later times some will depart from the faith. Have nothing to do with godless myths. Devote yourself to Scripture and to teaching.

1Tim5: Put widows over sixty on the list. Younger widows should marry. Elders who rule well are worthy of double honour. Keep yourself pure.

1Tim6: Those who contradict the teaching of Christ understand nothing. The love of money is a root of evil. Fight the good fight of faith.

Tit1: Paul, a servant of God, to Titus. I left you in Crete to appoint elders. Deceivers must be silenced. To the impure nothing is pure.

Tit2: Teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. Men are to be steadfast, women reverent. The grace of God trains us to live godly lives.

Tit3: Show consideration to all. We were once slaves but God saved us. Believers should maintain good works. Everyone here sends greetings.

2Tim1: Paul, to Timothy my son. Fan into flame the gift of God. Share in suffering for the gospel. Hold to the standard of sound teaching.

2Tim2: No soldier gets entangled with civilian affairs. Present yourself to God as an approved worker. Cleanse yourself for honorable use.

2Tim3: In the last days people will be proud and unholy. As for you, continue in what you have learned. All Scripture is inspired by God.

2Tim4: Preach the word in and out of season. I have finished my race. Come to me soon with Mark. Beware of Alexander. The Lord be with you.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Pet1: Peter, to the diaspora. God has given us new birth through Christ. The prophets told of this grace. So be holy in all your conduct.

1Pet2: You are being built up to be a royal priesthood. Submit to human authority. Live as servants of God. Follow Christ in his suffering.

1Pet3: Wives, submit to your husbands. Husbands, honour your wives. Repay evil with blessing. Christ suffered for sins to bring us to God.

1Pet4: Do not live for human desires but for the will of God. The end is near. Love each other deeply. Do not be surprised when trials come.

1Pet5: Elders should be examples to the flock. Clothe yourselves with humility. Resist the devil. God will strengthen you. Peace to you all.

Jude1: Jude, to the elect. Ungodly people pervert grace into sensuality. They are judged as twice dead trees. Build yourselves up in faith.

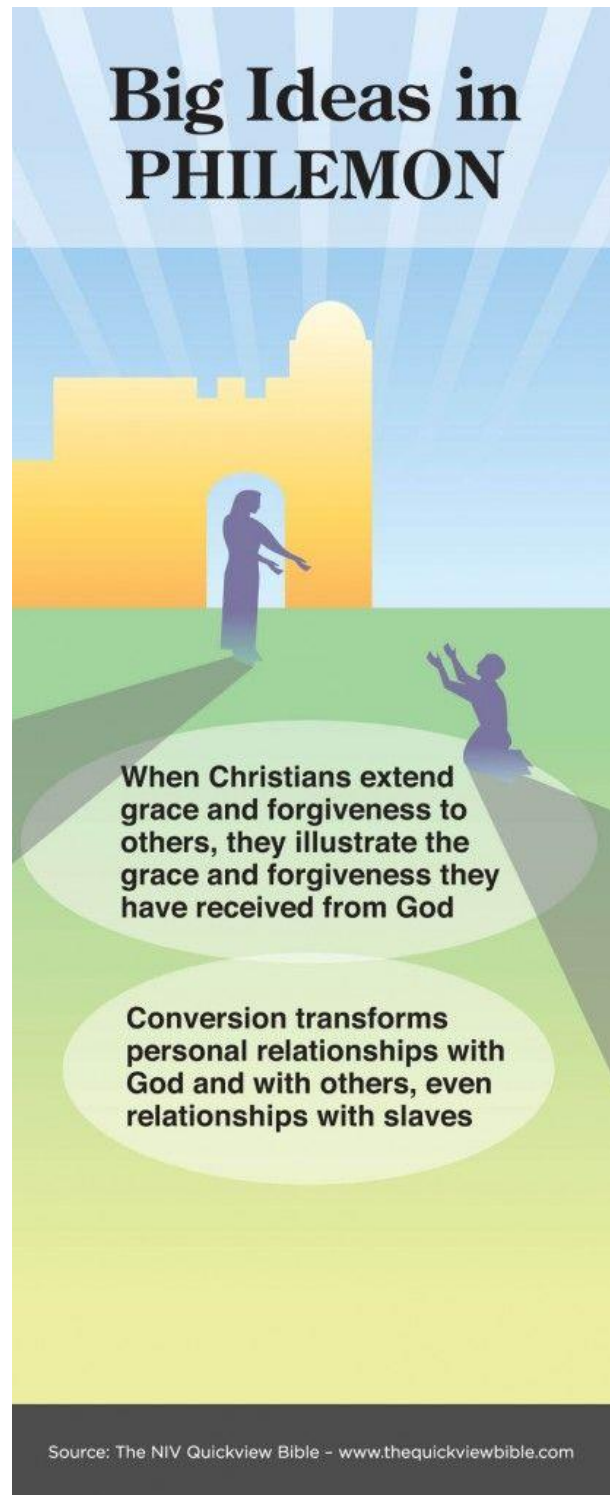
2Pet1: Peter, to those of faith. God has given us great promises. So supplement faith with virtue and love. We were eyewitnesses of Christ.

2Pet2: False teachers will arise. If God did not spare angels then he knows how to punish the unrighteous. They are slaves of corruption.

2Pet3: Scoffers will say, "Where is his return?" The Lord is not slow, but patient. Untaught people twist the Scriptures. Grow in Christ.

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5, JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go



AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

PAUL'S LETTER TO PHILEMON

THE MISSION:
 GET PHILEMON TO FORGIVE ONEPHEMUS AND EMBRACE HIM AS A BROTHER.

THE BAKSTORY:
 PHILEMON BECOMES A CHRISTIAN. SEE V. 7.

THE ONLY LETTER WHERE PAUL DOESN'T TALK ABOUT JESUS' DEATH & RESURRECTION. BECAUSE HE'S ACTING IT OUT!

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOOD NEWS ARE PERSONAL. YOU NEVER KNOW: JESUS COULD BE A NEW HUMANITY OF EQUAL PARTNERS.

AND SHARE TOGETHER IN GOD'S HEALING MERCY.

THE BAKSTORY: PHILEMON BECOMES A CHRISTIAN. SEE V. 7.

WRITTEN FROM PRISON

PAUL'S LETTER

EXPLOSIVE!

THE BAKSTORY: PHILEMON BECOMES A CHRISTIAN. SEE V. 7.

PAUL'S LETTER

EXPLOSIVE!

THE BAKSTORY: PHILEMON BECOMES A CHRISTIAN. SEE V. 7.

vv1-7 OPENING PRAYER

PHILEMON, I THANK GOD FOR YOUR LOVE & FRIENDLINESS. (vv1-5)

"I FEEL THAT THE PARTNERSHIP THAT SPRINGS FROM YOUR FAITH THAT EFFECTIVELY LEAD YOU TO RECONCILE ALL THE GOOD THINGS AT LAUREN IN US, LEADING US INTO THE RESURE."

GREEK: KOINONIA = SHARING, MUTUAL PARTICIPATION

ALL OF WHO SHARE IN THE GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE & LOVE.

JESUS FOLLOWERS ARE EQUAL PARTNERS WHO SHARE IN THE GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE & LOVE.

FOR KOINONIA IS NOT JUST AN IDEA.

PAUL IS NOT JUST AN IDEA.

vv8-20 PAUL'S REQUEST

THE BOLD REQUEST:

"RECEIVE ONEPHEMUS BACK, NO LONGER AS A SLAVE, BUT AS A BELOVED BROTHER IN THE LORD."

WHY SHOULD PHILEMON DO THIS?

IF YOU ARE TRULY A PARTNER (SEE KOINONIA) WITH ME, THEN WELCOME ONEPHEMUS AS IF HE WERE ME. IF HE'S AWONDED YOU OR DARES YOU ANYTHING, CHARGE IT TO ME - I'LL REAP IT. (vv17-19)

1 RECONCILIATION:

GOD WAS RECONCILING THE WORLD.

"NOT COUNTING PEOPLE'S SINS AGAINST THEM."

2 KOINONIA:

THEY ARE EQUAL BEFORE GOD, SHARING IN THE SAME NEED FOR FORGIVENESS.

SLAVE OR FREE.

"IN GOD'S NEW FAMILY, PEOPLE ARE NOT GREED OR JEALOUS, ENCOMPASSED OR UNCOMPASSED."

BROTHERS IN THE MESSIAH

created by the Bible Project

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go


Big Ideas in COLOSSIANS

Teaching the wrong things about
Christ can destroy a church

Christ is God
and Creator

Christ is superior to the
angels and is the head
of the church

The Christian's union with
Christ results in holy living



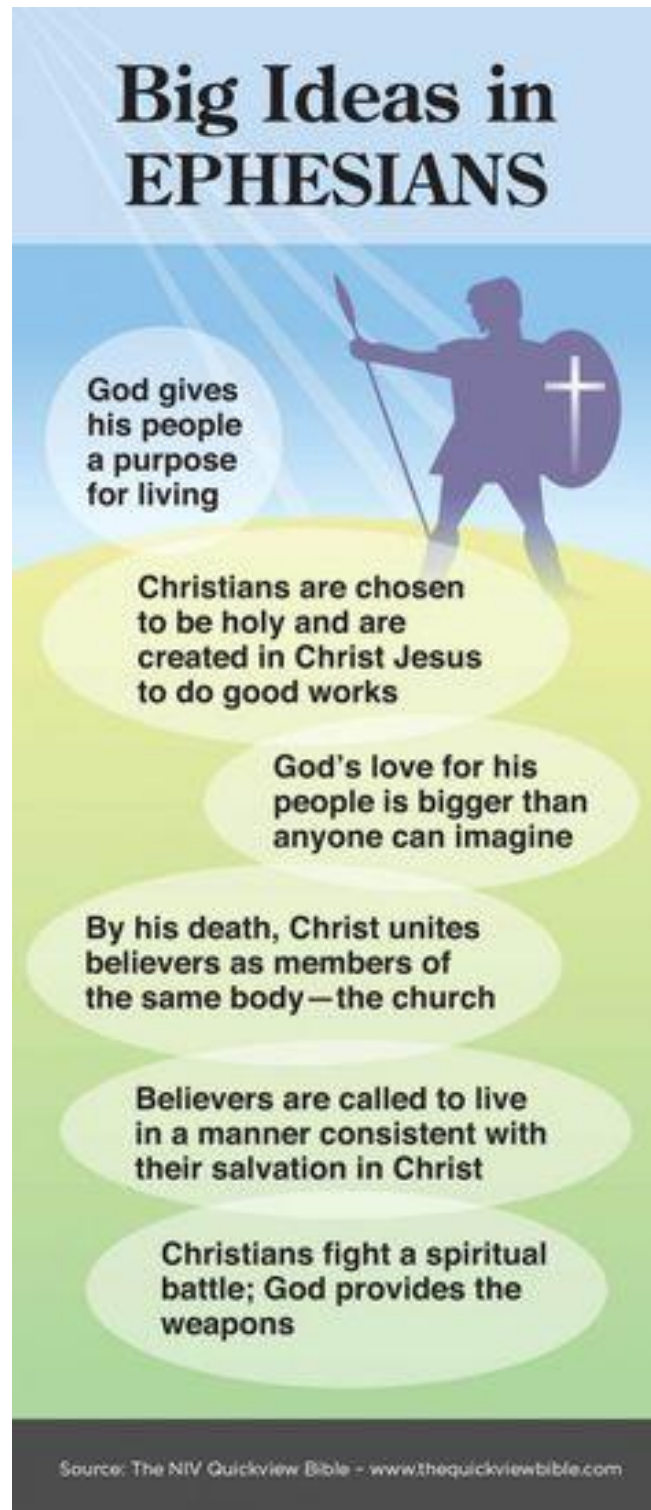
Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

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AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5, JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go



AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5, JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go



THE CITY OF EPHESUS

ACTS CHAPTER 19

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE

EPHESIANS

PAUL SUMMARIZES THE GOSPEL STORY & HOW IT SHOULD RESHAPE EVERY PART OF OUR STORY.

1-3 THE GOSPEL STORY

13-14 OPENING TOUGH

15-17 PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE'S DONE

18-20 IN CHRIST

21-22 WE GENTILES

23-24 GRACE

25-26 UNIFORMITY

27-28 THE MESSAGE

29-30 A NEW, MULTI-ETHNIC FAMILY

31-32 PEACE

33-34 NO SELF, DEFECTION, NO SELFISHNESS

4-6 OUR STORY

4-6 OLD

7-9 NEW

10-12 TAKE OFF

13-15 LIES

16-18 ANGER

19-21 THEFT

22-24 GOSPEL

25-27 PUNISHMENT

28-30 DRUNK

31-33 GOD SPIRIT

34-36 THE WORK OF GOD

37-39 SPIRITUAL EVIL

40-42 TRUTH

43-45 FAITH

46-48 SALVATION

49-51 CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLD

52-54 CHURCH = JESUS

55-57 SINGING TOGETHER

58-60 SINGING ALONE

61-63 TRIMMING THANKS

64-66 ELEVATING OTHERS

"THEREFORE"

67-69 UNITY

70-72 MANY GIFTS

73-75 APOSTLE

76-78 PROPHET

79-81 TEACHER

82-84 EVANGELIST

85-87 TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH

88-90 THE HEAD

91-93 THE BODY

94-96 NEW TEMPLES

97-99 MAY YOU BE STRENGTHENED BY GOD'S SPIRIT & GRASP THE LOVE OF CHRIST

100-102 PAUL'S INVITE ROLE AS MESSENGER IN NON-IGUS

created by the Bible Project

Big Ideas in 1 TIMOTHY

**Oppose false teachers;
reinforce those who
teach sound doctrine**

**Living above reproach can
affect the success of efforts
to spread the gospel**

**Church leaders are
held to a higher
standard than others**

**Keep fighting the good
fight of faith; don't give up**

**Godliness with contentment
is the measure of true riches**

11 – 17 SEP 2018

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

[illegible]

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

Big Ideas in TITUS

Church leaders are called to
be above reproach and to
serve as examples to others

Immoral Christians discredit
the truth of the very gospel
they proclaim

The young, the old and
slaves are to have
self-control and be
treated with respect

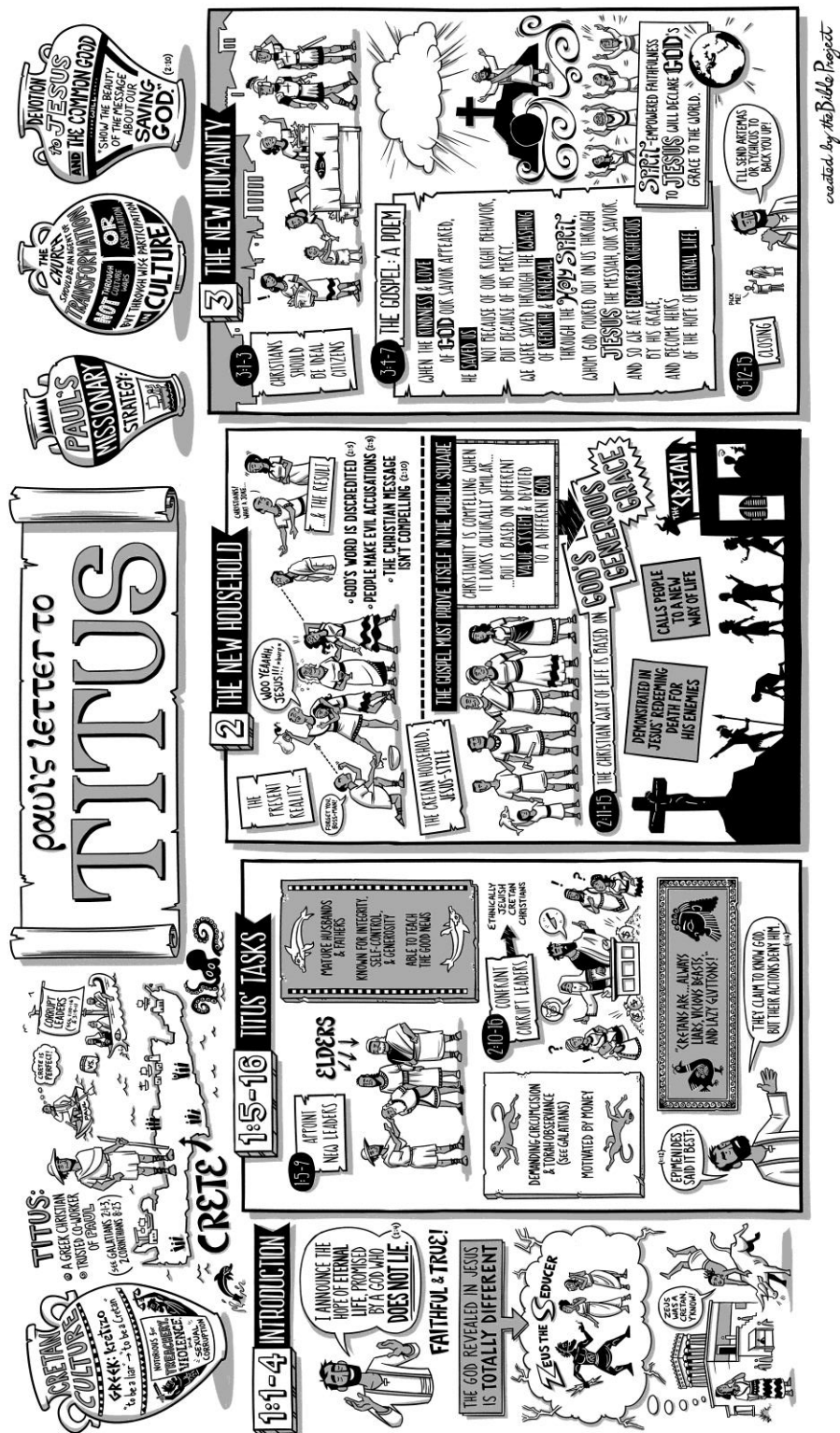
False teachers
threaten the church



Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

11 – 17 SEP 2018

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go



AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

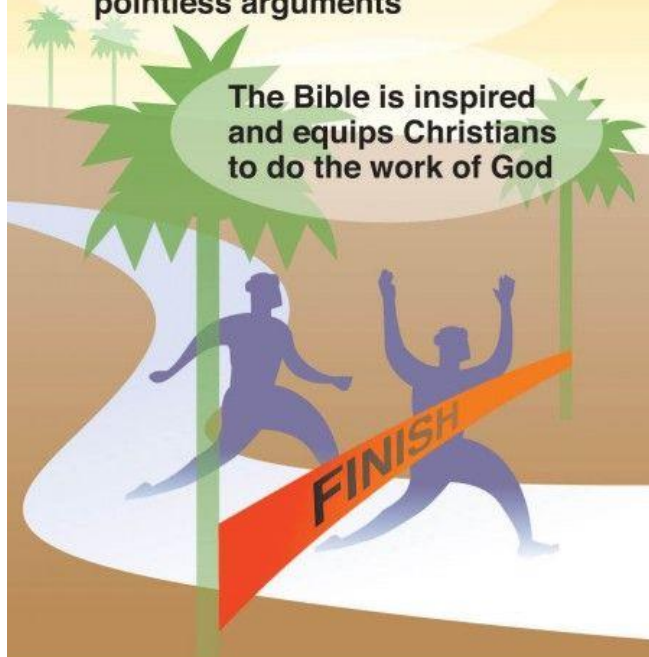
Big Ideas in 2 TIMOTHY

Believers are called to follow
the good examples of those
who have held on to faith

Believers can rely on the
authority of Scripture and
need to handle it correctly

Paul calls believers to follow
sound doctrine but avoid
pointless arguments

The Bible is inspired
and equips Christians
to do the work of God



Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

2 TIMOTHY

FOLLOWING JESUS INVOLVES RISK & TENSION

IN DARK & DIFFICULT MOMENTS
JESUS' LOVE & FAITHFULNESS
BECOME TANGIBLE & REAL

THIS IS NOT A SIGN
OF JESUS' ABSENCE

4:6-22 CONCLUSION

THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS
NEAR – COME BEFORE JIMMY

BRING MY HEAVY COAT
(IT'S GETTING COLD)

BRING MY SCROLLS &
OTHER DOCUMENTS

WATCH OUT FOR
ALEXANDER →
(HE'S AN IMMODERATE)

ALMOST EVERYONE HAS ABANDONED ME,
EXCEPT JESUS WHO STANDS WITH ME.

2:14-4:5 ... & DEAL WITH CORRUPT TEACHERS

THE RESURRECTION HAS
ALREADY TAKEN PLACE!

THE SCRIPTURES ARE ABLE TO GIVE YOU
ANSWERS THAT LEAD TO SALVATION
THROUGH FAITH IN THE MESSIAH JESUS.
ALL SCRIPTURE IS DIVINELY BREATHED...

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ALL SCRIPTURE IS DIVINELY BREATHED...

SCRIPTURE'S PURPOSE

GOING SPIRIT GUIDED THE AUTHORS,
SO WHAT THEY WROTE
IS WHAT GOD WANTS
PEOPLE TO HEAR.

1:1-2:13 ACCEPT YOUR CALLING...

PHILEAS &
HERMOGENES (1:15)

DON'T BE ASHAMED OF
THE GOSPEL OR MY CHAINS
COMES SEE ME PLEASE!

NEGATIVE STIGMA

BIG RISK!

I THINK
GOD FOR
YOU &
LOIS &
EUNICE

JESUS' GRACE IS A
SOURCE OF POWER (2:1)
TO BECOME LIKE...

**FAITHFULNESS TO JESUS
COMES WITH A COST.**

COMMITTED TO SOMETHING
BETTER THAN THEMSELVES

WILLING TO SACRIFICE &
ENDURE FOR A GREATER GOAL

created by the Bible Project

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

Big Ideas in 1 PETER

The infographic features a central illustration of a person in a purple silhouette falling backwards from a dark grey cross-shaped stone. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow, with several light yellow ovals containing text. The overall theme is the challenges and rewards of Christian faith as described in the First Epistle of Peter.

- Peter encourages Christians to endure persecution
- Christians can rejoice in the middle of suffering because of the new life God has given them
- Suffering tests the genuineness of one's faith
- God's people are called to live as a royal priesthood and holy nation who give praise to God for rescuing them
- Christians are called to strive daily to live holy lives
- People who reject Jesus, the cornerstone, will stumble and fall

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

1 PETER

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

- GOD'S PEOPLE ARE A MISUNDERSTOOD MINORITY, LIVING UNDER THE RULE OF A DIFFERENT KING
- PERSECUTION OFFERS A CHANCE TO SHOW OTHERS THE GENEROUS LOVE OF JESUS.

1:1-2 GREETING

HELLO, GOD'S PEOPLE WHO ARE CHOSEN & EXILED (OLD TESTAMENT DESCRIPTIONS OF ABRAHAM & ISRAEL)

GENTILES WHO WERE BELONGING TO THE FAMILY OF ABRAHAM

1:3-12 SONG OF PRAISE

THANKS GOD WHO CAUSED US TO BE BORN AGAIN INTO A LIVING HOPE

NEW HOPE
NEW IDENTITY
NEW FAMILY

SUFFERING IS A PURIFYING FIRE THAT CAN DESEEN OUR HEARTS

1:13-2:10 A NEW FAMILY IDENTITY

OLD TESTAMENT IMAGES

GENTILE CHRISTIANS

THE NEW TEMPLE

THE NEW COVENANT PEOPLE

THE NEW EXODUS & PASSOVER

THE NEW KINGDOM OF PRECIOUS

2:11-4:11 SUFFERING AS A WITNESS TO JESUS

THE PROBLEM: HOUSEHOLDS EXPECTED TO OBLIVIOUSLY IGNORE THE PHARMACIES GODS

THE RESPONSE: CHRISTIANS ARE LIBERATED TO LOVE THEIR ENEMIES

THEIR FORCE VINDICATION

PERSECUTED & MURDERED

VINDICATED & EXALTED

4:12-5:9 SUFFERING & FUTURE HOPE

REJOICE WHEN PEOPLE PERSECUTE YOU BECAUSE OF ME

THE REAL ENEMY

"RESIST EVIL WITH FIRM FAITHFULNESS"

THE REAL ENEMY

THE REAL ENEMY

5:10-14 CLOSING

GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH IN BABYLON

MAY GOD STRENGTHEN YOU!

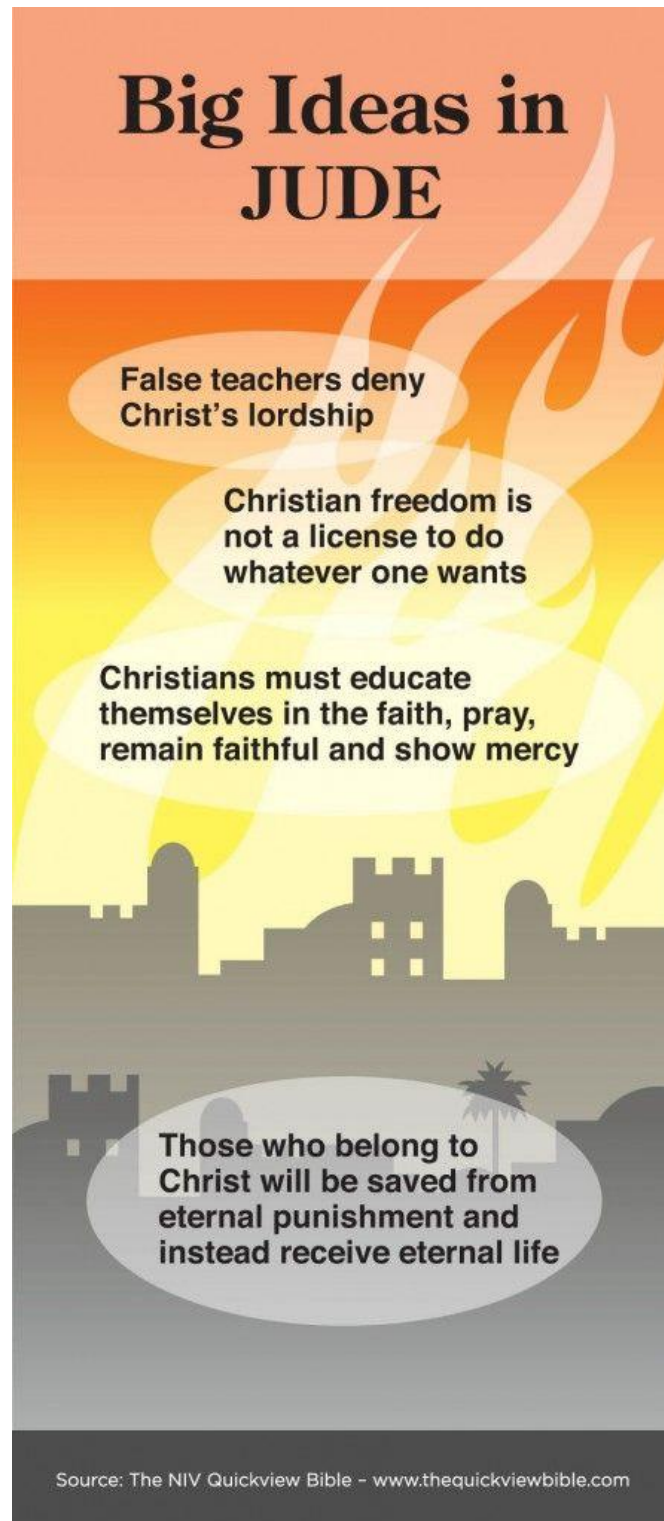
REMEMBER FOR COMFORT

THE REAL ENEMY

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AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go



AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

THE LETTER OF JUDE

A.K.A. **JUDAH**
GREEK: ΙΟΥΔΑΣ
HEBREW: יְהוּדָה

AFTER THE RESURRECTION, THEY BECAME DISCIPLES, LEADERS AND PASTORS (1 CORINTHIANS 15)

JESUS BROTHERS
(JACOB, JOSEPH, SIMON, JUDAS, JAMES, JONAS, JESUS)
JUDAH (JACOB)

JUDAH DOESN'T FOCUS ON THEOLOGICAL, BUT ON PRACTICAL CHOICES
- LOVING JESUS - IMITATING JESUS (SEE JOHN 13:15)

GOD'S GRACE
DEMANDS A WHOLE-LIFE RESPONSE

vv1-4 CONTEST FOR THE FAITH

AND THIS WAS MORE URGENT

AND THIS WAS PLANNED

BECAUSE OF THE CORRUPT TEACHERS

WE ARE FREE IN CHRIST!

EVERYTHING IS NOW ALLOWABLE!

UNBORN

THEY DISTORT GOD'S GRACE AS A LICENSE TO SIN...

...O REJECT THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS.

vv5-19 ACCUSATION OF CORRUPT LEADERS

3 OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES:

- 1. CAIN (GENESIS 4) - KILLED HIS BROTHER ABEL
- 2. BALAAM (NUMBERS 31) - LUST FOR MONEY
- 3. KORAH (NUMBERS 16) - REBELLED AGAINST MOSES

3 NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES:

- 1. JESUS (MATTHEW 23:1-12) - HYPOCRISY
- 2. JESUS (MATTHEW 23:1-12) - HYPOCRISY
- 3. JESUS (MATTHEW 23:1-12) - HYPOCRISY

vv20-25 CLOSING CHARGE

20-21 CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

METAPHOR: COMMUNITY OF JESUS = GOD'S NEW TEMPLE

STAYING ALERT

THE MOST = THE GOOD NEWS

THE ONLY GOD WHO CAN KEEP YOU FROM SINNING

created by the Bible Project

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go



AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go



Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

High priest

Immanuel, God with us (Matt. 1:23)

(Heb. 3:1)

Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4)

Son of Man (Luke 19:10)

(John 6:35)

He

19:16)

ds (Re

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107 S.

of king

King

M

Lamb of God

Bread of life
Savior

Savior (Titus 1:4)

Light of the world *(John 9:5)*

Alpha and Omega (Rev. 21:6)

Last Ad Go

Prophet (Acts 3:22)

(Heb. 3:1)

Apostle
Great Shenhe

Lion of Judah (Rev. 5:5)

Great Shepherd of the sheep (Heb. 13:20)

Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20)

Word *(John 1:1)*

Messiah (Matt. 1:1)

Firstborn from among the dead (Col. 1:18)

Root of David (Rev. 5:5)

Mediator between God and mankind (1 Tim. 2:5)

Letters of the Apostles

11 – 17 SEP 2018

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

AC 27; PHM; COL 1-4; EPH 1-6; 1 TI 1-6; TITUS; 2 TI 1-4; 1 PE 1-5,
JUDE, 2 PE 1-3

Week 49 - 1 Week to Go

What did I learn about God?

- Has God ever used a disaster in your life for ministry? What have you learned from this?
- At times, have certain people (or forces) seemed to be more powerful than Jesus in your life? Why? How do you respond to the fact that even these are under Christ's authority?
- In EPH 2:1-10 Paul talks about being made alive in Christ. What in your life is due only to God's presence and goodness?
- How do you picture God? What does it mean to you to have God's spirit in your inner being?
- How has your understanding of God changed as you have grown in your faith?

What did I learn about human nature?

- What bothers your non-Christian friends about the faith? How can you help them overcome those barriers?
- If a person knew only rejection and pain in their relationship, how can this person come to understand the love of God in a personal way? What insight does EPH 3:14-21 shed on this?
- How would you compare moral standards today with the moral standards in Paul's day, based on his writings to the churches?
- What does it mean to put off your old self [EPH 4:22] and to put on the new self [EPH 4:24]? What should characterize the lives of those living as children of light [EPH 5:8]?
- Read 1 TI 5:1-25. How would you compare this ancient system of dealing with older people to our modern system? What should be the Christian's / Church's responses to the welfare issue?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- In ACTS 27:13-44, Paul faces a storm. What is the greatest pressure situation you are facing now? How can Paul's example and the principles you've learned from his experience help you? What is your part and what is God's part in the resolution of your storm?
- How does ACTS 28:31 [Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.], set the stage for the way your life could become a continuation of Acts 28? What do you need to build into your life now, so that your faith in Christ will be what people remember about you at death?
- For whom might you serve as a Paul in bringing about reconciliation?
- In COL 2:6-23, Paul talks about freedom from human regulations through life with Christ. Where are you still susceptible to getting caught up in rule keeping?
- Of the qualities listed in EPH 4:2 [Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.], which did you demonstrate the best today?

Persecution was a real threat to the Jewish Christians of the first century. Many are torn between their new-found faith in Christ and their Old Testament way of life. Many question whether or not they are blessed in following Jesus. In Hebrews, the superiority of Christ to all of the Old Testament rituals and sacrifices is proclaimed. The early believers are counseled to stay true to the gospel of Jesus Christ. With many references to the Old Testament, Hebrews reads like a sequel to the Book of Leviticus. Old habits are comfortable, but settling for second best is not God's plan for the Jews of the early church or for believers today. Jesus removes our sin, guarantees our access to God and promises always to be with us. Persevere in our faith because Jesus is all you need!

The apostle John also addresses believers' doubts about Jesus in his letter to early Christians (1 John) and gives encouragement and praise to faithful followers in 2 and 3 John. John uses vivid images that contrast light and dark, truth and error, life and death, and love and hate to reassure believers that God will powerfully overcome sin. The spiritual teachings are profound in their very simplicity. Applying them to our lives will affect our interaction with God and with others. The best way for us to keep on target spiritually is to follow John's call to truth, love and obedience. He encourages us to do what's right, even in the face of adversity and opposition.

Though scholars differ on the exact interpretation and timetable of events in John's vision, the book of Revelation provides a powerful promise of Jesus Christ as glorified King and Lord. The object of apocalyptic writing, common in the 1st century AD, was to square the righteousness of God with the suffering condition of His servants on earth. John's vision in the Book of Revelation, written as a letter to seven churches, affirms that sin and evil will not last forever. God, who holds the future firmly in his hands, promises that good will triumph.

The final book of the Bible proclaims that God wins the cosmic battle of good versus evil.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 1409-1449)

Day 1: HEB 1:1-8:13

Day 2: HEB 9:1-13:25

Day 3: 1 JN 1:1-5:21; 2 JN 1:1-13; 3 JN 1:1-14

Day 4: REV 1:1-5:14

Day 5: REV 6:1-16:21

Day 6: REV 17:1-19:21

Day 7: REV 20:1-22:21

Outline

Letter to the Hebrews (Days 1 and 2)

Letters of John (Day 3)

Revelation to John (Day 4)

The Sevenfold Plagues (Day 5)

The Sinful City and the Antichrist (Day 6)

The Millennium (Day 7)

A New Heaven and a New Earth (Day 7)

Key Characters		Key Locations		Key Terms	
Jesus	Angels	Ephesus	Smyrna	People of God	Sabbath
Moses	Melchizedek	Pergamum	Thyatira	God's Promise	Worship
Gaius	John	Sardis	Philadelphia	New Covenant	Sacrifice
		Laodicea	Babylon	Atonement	Faith
				Perseverance	Discipline
				Love	Hatred
				Lightness	Darkness
				Sin	Forgiveness
				Son of God	Churches
				Scrolls	Seals
				Trumpets	Beasts
				Lamb	Angels
				Millennium	Judgment

Key Verses

Let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are -- yet was without sin. 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 4:14-16]

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. [1 JN 3:16-18]

I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. [2 JN:5-6]

“Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.” [3 JN 11]

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” [REV 1:8]

“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” [REV 21:2-4]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Heb1: In these last days God has spoken by his Son. Of the Son he says, "Let the angels worship him." And, "Your throne, O God, is forever."

Heb2: We must pay closer attention. The author of salvation tasted death for everyone. He was made like us to make atonement for our sins.

Heb3: Jesus has more honor than Moses. He is the Son over God's house. Therefore, "Do not harden your hearts as they did in the rebellion."

Heb4: Let us fear lest anyone fails to reach the promised rest. The word of God judges the heart. So we boldly approach the throne of grace.

Heb5: Every high priest from among men is subject to weakness. Christ is a high priest in the order of Melchizedek. You still need teaching.

Heb6: Let us press on to maturity. It is impossible to restore those who fall away. The promise of God is a steadfast anchor for the soul.

Heb7: Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek, who had no end. Our Lord became a priest through indestructible life. He is always able to save.

Heb8: We have a high priest who ministers in the true tent. He mediates a better covenant. He says, "I will write my laws on their hearts."

Heb9: The high priest enters the Most Holy Place once a year with blood. Christ entered the true holy place once for all by his own blood.

Heb10: The law is but a shadow. Animal blood cannot take away sins. Christ offered one sacrifice forever. So let us hold fast to our hope.

Heb11: Faith is the proof of hope. By faith the world was made. By faith Abraham obeyed. By faith Moses left Egypt. In faith some suffered.

Heb12: Let us run the race, looking to Jesus. God is disciplining you as sons. See that no one falls short of grace. Let us worship in awe.

Heb13: Let love continue. Marriage should be honored. Let us bear the reproach Christ endured. Submit to your leaders. Grace be with you.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Jn1: We have seen and proclaim to you the Word of life. God is light. If we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

1Jn2: We know Christ if we keep his commands. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light. Do not love the world. Children, abide in him.

1Jn3: We are God's children. Those born of God do not sin. We should love one another. We know love because he laid down his life for us.

1Jn4: Any spirit that confesses Christ is of God. God is love. He sent his Son as a sacrifice for sins. If we live in love, God lives in us.

1Jn5: Anyone born of God overcomes the world. The Spirit, water and blood all testify. God gave us eternal life in his Son. Keep from idols.

2Jn1: The elder, to the elect lady. Let us love one another as the Father commands. Do not welcome false teachers. I hope to come to you.

3Jn1: The elder, to beloved Gaius. I was overjoyed to hear of your faithfulness. Diotrephes spreads false charges. I hope to see you soon.

Rev1: The revelation of Jesus Christ to John. A voice said, "Write to the churches." I saw one like a son of man, his face was like the sun.

Rev2: "Ephesus, renew your first love. Smyrna, be faithful until death. Pergamum, some hold false teaching. Thyatira, you tolerate Jezebel."

Rev3: "Sardis, you are not alive but dead. Philadelphia, you have endured in my word. Laodicea, you are lukewarm so I will spit you out."

Rev4: I saw one seated on the throne in heaven. The four living creatures say, "Holy, holy, holy." The elders say, "You created all things."

Rev5: A Lamb standing as though slain took the scroll with seven seals. The creatures, elders and myriad angels sang, "Worthy is the Lamb!"

Rev6: The Lamb opened four seals and the horsemen went out to destroy. With the fifth seal I saw the martyrs. With the sixth the stars fell.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Rev7: The 144,000 were sealed from the tribes. A multitude cried, "Salvation belongs to our God." An elder said, "God will wipe every tear."

Rev8: With the seventh seal there was silence. I saw seven angels. Four angels blew their trumpets and a third of the earth was destroyed.

Rev9: At the fifth trumpet, locusts from the pit tormented the earth. At the sixth trumpet, four angels killed a third of mankind with fire.

Rev10: I saw an angel with a scroll. He cried out and seven thunders sounded. A voice said, "Eat the scroll." It was sweet and then bitter.

Rev11: The two witnesses will prophesy until the beast kills them. At the seventh trumpet, loud voices said, "Our God shall reign forever."

Rev12: A woman giving birth and a great dragon appeared. Michael and his angels fought the dragon. The dragon was thrown down to the earth.

Rev13: I saw a beast rising out of the sea. It spoke blasphemy against God. Another beast rose and gave everyone a mark. Its number is 666.

Rev14: I saw the Lamb in Zion with the 144,000. Angels said, "The hour of judgement has come." The earth was reaped with a sharp sickle.

Rev15: I saw angels with seven plagues. Those who conquered sang, "Just are your ways, Lord!" The angels were given seven bowls of wrath.

Rev16: The bowls of wrath were poured out. The seas turned to blood, darkness fell, the kings gathered at Armageddon and the earth quaked.

Rev17: I saw a prostitute on a beast with seven heads and ten horns. An angel said, "The heads and horns are kings. The Lamb will conquer."

Rev18: An angel cried, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon!" The kings and merchants will weep. An angel said, "The great city will be thrown down."

Rev19: A multitude cried, "Hallelujah! The Lord reigns." The Word of God led the armies of heaven. The beast was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev20: Satan was bound and the martyrs reigned with Christ for 1,000 years. Then Satan was cast into the lake of fire. The dead were judged.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Rev21: I saw a new heaven and earth. A voice said, "God dwells with his people." An angel showed me the new Jerusalem. Its lamp is the Lamb.

Rev22: The river of life flows from the throne of God. "Behold, I am coming soon. I am the beginning and the end." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Big Ideas in HEBREWS

Christ is superior to prophets,
angels, Moses, Joshua, high
priests and the sacrificial system

Believers can expect
to be tested in this life

Faith pleases God

God uses hardship to
discipline his children

The writer calls Christians
to be hospitable and
sexually moral, to beware of
the love of money, to obey
leaders and to pray

Big Ideas in 1 JOHN

**False teachers deny that
Christ came in the flesh**

**Christians can enjoy
fellowship with God
and each other**

**Christ calls believers
to love one another in
words and in actions**

**Believers can be sure of
eternal life through Christ**

God answers prayers

Big Ideas in 2 & 3 JOHN

Watch out for false
teachings

Truth matters

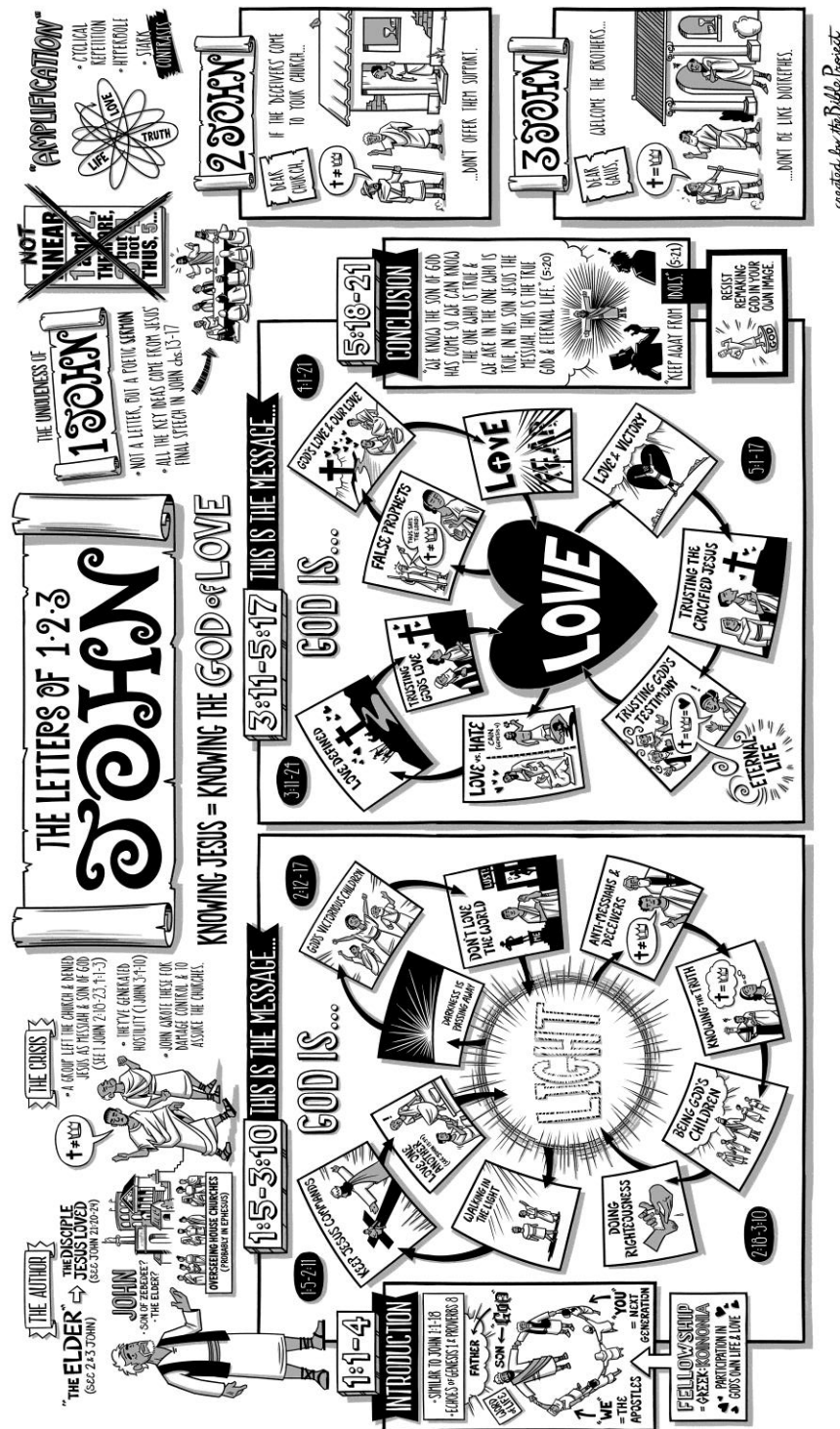
Loving
others
proves
allegiance
to Christ

Hospitality among
Christians is vital

18-24 SEP 2018

HEB, 1 JN, 2 JN, 3 JN, REV

Week 50 - 0 Weeks to Go





18-24 SEP 2018

HEB, 1 JN, 2 JN, 3 JN, REV

Week 50 - 0 Weeks to Go



created by the Bible Project

God Reveals Future Events to John

[The Book of Revelation]

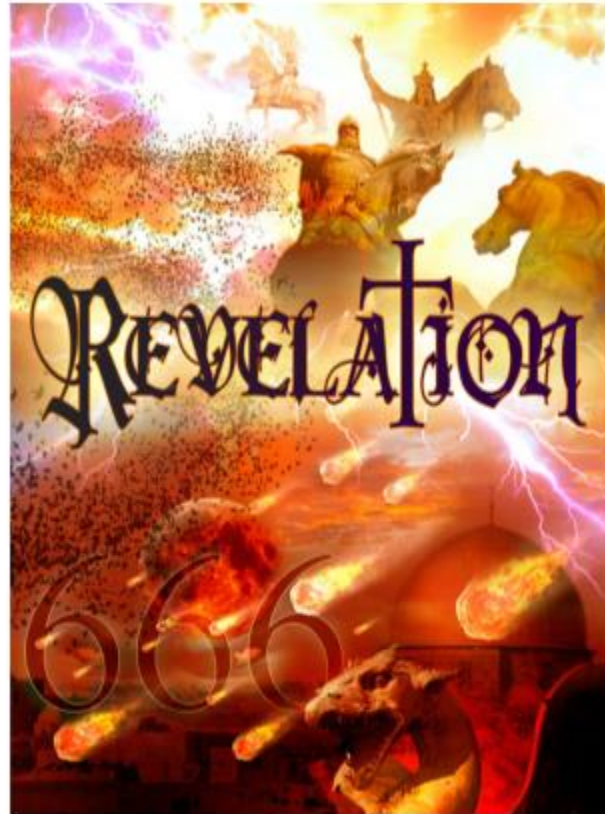
The early Christians experienced much persecution and lived in eager anticipation of Christ's promised return

By 90-95 AD, the Apostle John had been exiled to the island of Patmos for testifying about Christ and had received a vision from God assuring him that God was in control, no matter how things looked.

John recorded his vision as The Book of Revelation. The writing style that John used was poetic and symbolic — a style called apocalyptic. The symbols in this vision would have communicated much hope to those who first heard the words of this circular letter to the churches, but would have meant little to the suspicious Roman authorities.

Revelation is not meant as a logical timetable of future events. It is a symbolic look at a glorious future for all believers. It was meant to reassure believers that God is in control and Christ will return.

Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

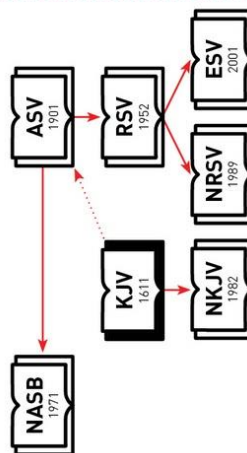


COMPARISON OF ENGLISH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

By Mark Barry © 2010 AFES www.afes.org.au (Adapted from *How to Choose a Translation for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee & Mark L. Strauss) Please do not republish without permission, but feel free to copy for personal use.

FORMAL EQUIVALENCE
WORD FOR WORD

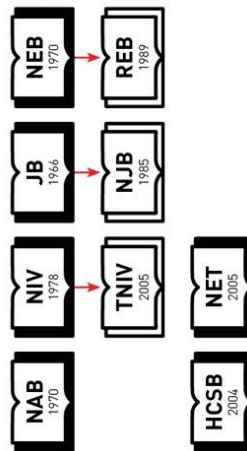
- **theory:** "literal" or *word-for-word*
- **aim:** to retain the *form*, i.e. the words and structure, of the original text as much as possible
- **result:** an English translation that is primarily accurate, yet also comprehensible



ASV	= American Standard Version
ESV	= English Standard Version
KJV	= King James Version
NASB	= New American Standard Bible
NKJV	= New King James Version
NRSV	= New Revised Standard Version
RSV	= Revised Standard Version

INTERMEDIATE

- **theory:** mediating between 'literal' and 'idiomatic'
- **aim:** to retain the *form* of the original text where possible, without compromising its *function*, i.e. to convey meaning
- **result:** an English translation that is both accurate and clear.



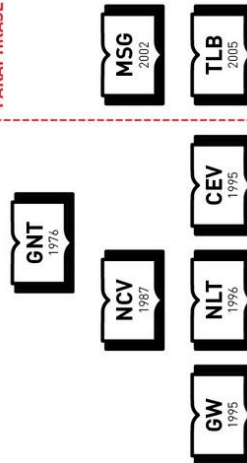
HSCB	= Holman Christian Standard Bible
JB	= Jerusalem Bible (Roman Catholic)
NAB	= New American Bible (Roman Catholic)
NEB	= New English Bible
NET	= New English Translation (online translation)
NIV	= New International Version
NJB	= New Jerusalem Bible (Roman Catholic)
NIV	= Today's New International Version
PER	= Revised English Bible

FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE
MEANING FOR MEANING

- **theory:** "idiomatic" or *meaning-for-meaning*
- **aim:** to retain the *function* of the original text, i.e. to convey meaning, as much as possible
- **result:** to produce an English translation that is primarily natural and easy to understand

Paraphrase = re-wording a text in the same language, rather than translating it from one language to another.

PARAPHRASE

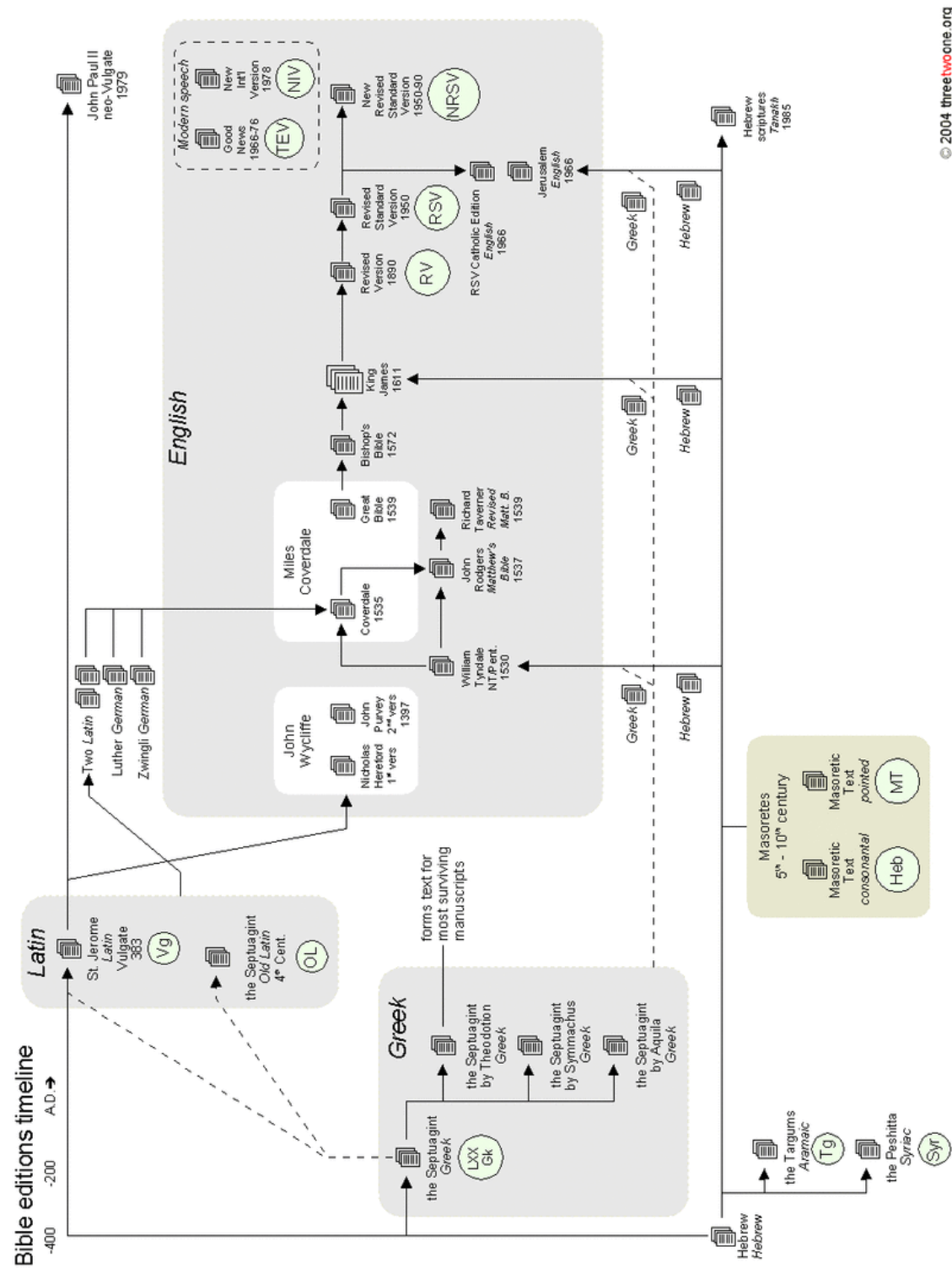


CEV	= Contemporary English Version
GNT	= Good News Translation (Good News Bible)
GW	= God's Word
MSG	= The Message
NCV	= New Century Version
NLT	= New Living Translation
TLB	= The Living Bible

18-24 SEP 2018

HEB, 1 JN, 2 JN, 3 JN, REV

Week 50 - 0 Weeks to Go



Jesus is the Victor! (GOD WINS!)

18-24 SEP 2018

HEB, 1 JN, 2 JN, 3 JN, REV

Week 50 - 0 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- When did Jesus become more than just a name to you? Of all the qualities of Jesus mentioned in HEB 1:2-4, which ones are you beginning to appreciate more and more?
- Why is it hard for many people to trust the love of God? How would you explain the meaning of the priesthood of Jesus [HEB 5] to a non-Christian or to someone who didn't understand the Old Testament sacrificial system?
- What does 1 JN 3:1-3 tell us about God? What does this mean for our self-image? How have you experienced God's lavish love this week?
- What do you believe about Jesus' nature? What difference does it make whether he was truly divine? Truly human?
- What great and mighty deeds has God done in your life for which you will praise him today? How appropriate is the song in REV 15:3-4 to your experience with God?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In telling others that Christ died to take away their sins, what responses do you get? Indifference? Gratitude? Devotion? What would help your message have more impact?
- What cultural influences distract you from your relationship with Christ? How subtle are these influences in your life? How direct?
- In REV 3, what is the contrast between reputation and reality in Sardis? What dangers exist for Christians who rely on an image instead of nurturing a genuine spiritual life?
- How can we discern false religion and governments?
- What was the function of the temple in the old Jerusalem? Why is there no need for a temple in the New Jerusalem?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- When, if ever, did you drift away from the faith? Why? What were some of the most rebellious times in your spiritual life? What resulted from it? Who (or what) helped bring you back?
- Do you live your life as if you were being made holy [HE 10:14]? Why or why not? In what way is God calling you to practice greater holiness?
- How has your life changed as a result of your faith in God? What has your faith cost you? How has your faith affected your neighbors?
- In what areas of your life does love for the world compete with love for God? In your use of money? Time? Priorities? Relationships?
- How has your interest in worshiping God increased or decreased in the last year? Why?