

THREE YEAR DISCOVERY GUIDE
THROUGH THE BIBLE
Year 2

From a desire to know,
love and glorify you, God,
and be led by your Spirit
to share your love
and truth with others ...

We, as a church community,
will humbly read through your Word
and seek to apply your truths
to our lives.

If found, please return to:

Grace Point Church, San Diego CA
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Book 2 of our “Three Year Discovery Guide” through the Bible! As a church community we want to be equipped to be more and more fully alive in Christ. One who follows Christ daily submits to God and His Word, continually reflects on the gospel of Jesus, and moves in increasing obedience and Christ-like character through the Holy Spirit. When we do this together as a church community, it is our prayer that God would empower us to further His Kingdom purposes.

As we continue our journey of discovery, may the following verses reflect the desire of our hearts as we seek God and aim to please Him.

***Psalm 143:8** “Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.”*

***Psalm 119:18** “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”*

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

***Romans 12:1-2** “I appeal to you therefore, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

***1 Timothy 3:16-17** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

***Galatians 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

BIBLE DISCOVERY GOALS:

1. To develop the discipline of reading God's Word daily in order to seek His Kingdom, presence, and direction by following this Three Year Discovery Guide.
2. To mature as we turn away from our old ways of living and instead live alive in Christ, according to God's plan and purpose for us.
3. To prepare for and engage in community interactions throughout the day with family, friends, co-workers and others we come in contact with.
4. To live as people who fully acknowledge and accept that we are equipped by the Holy Spirit, through the Bible, to show and share the love of Jesus.
5. To live abiding in Christ (John 15), alert and ready for the Victorious Jesus to return and take us home. To help accomplish this goal we have included a "Christ Connection and Reflection" at the end of each week's reading through the Old Testament portion of this journal. Luke 24:27 says "*beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he (Jesus) interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*" Some verses are direct connections between Old and New Testaments, others give Jesus' teachings regarding the subject being read, some connect prophecies from the Old Testament that He fulfilled, while others connect to our current life in Christ. Maybe you will make some Christ discoveries of your own!

We also want to give a special acknowledgement to the Gospel Project, sponsored by Lifeway. Their material was helpful in writing some of the Christ Connection devotionals.

6. The sixty-six books that comprise our Bible are not set up in chronological order. They are organized by groupings of similar books (e.g. Wisdom, Prophets, Letters, etc). Some books cover the same material from different perspectives (e.g. Kings and Chronicles; the four Gospels), or weave in and out of timelines of other books (e.g. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel). Reading the Bible chronologically can give us a fresh understanding and view of God's Word, but will have us turning back and forth between various books in the Bible. Therefore, we have inserted some chronological notes with the daily reading schedule, where needed, to assist in understanding why we are turning between various books in the Bible.

Know that some books are difficult to place chronologically (e.g. Joel) and our best judgment was used. In these cases, alternative chronological possibilities will be mentioned.

HOW TO GET STARTED

To build a strong and consistent devotional life, you will need a *Prepared Heart, Place, Plan* and some *Paper*:

- **Prepared heart**: The Word of God is most productive when it is received with a prayerful and obedient heart. So humble yourself and worship God for what you know about Him. Let Him know you want to love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. Ask Him for the will and power to obey.
- **Place**: Choose somewhere you can meet with God without being disturbed.
- **Plan**: Choose a time that works. Then, refer to the three year reading schedule included in this discovery guide and follow the Bible Discovery Guide on the next page.

These are suggestions; please feel free to use any plan that best fits your walk with God in His Word and prayer.

- **Paper**: Use a journal or notebook (or something digital) to record what you reflect on for your daily discovery with God.

BIBLE DISCOVERY PLAN:

Read five days a week (Monday - Friday).

Take two days off (Saturday and Sunday) or use them to catch up.

Journal using “Pray, Read, Analyze and Yield” as a guide.

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you as you spend time with Him and His Word.

€ Psalm 119:18 *“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”*

READ: What does the Bible say?

ANALYZE: What specifically is God saying to me through His Word? Write your initial discoveries, questions and applications. In Book 1, we used SPECS as a guide. This year, for some variety, consider asking four questions (4 H’s) as you reflect on His Word:

- € HONOR: How does the passage honor God?
- € HEAD: What does God want me to know?
- € HEART: What does God want me to desire/value?
- € HANDS: What does God want me to do?

YIELD: Pray, “God what would you have me do or thank you for in light of what I have read today? May my head, heart and hands be impacted by your Word so I can honor you. I ask you for the desire and strength to follow your direction.”

€ Luke 22:42b *“...Not my will, but yours, be done.”*

Now as an act of love, trust and obedience ...

If God has prompted you to do or change something specific, follow through with it. If there wasn’t a specific prompting today, continue to do what He has already made clear to you.

€ James 1:22 *“But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*

POSSIBLE “ROADBLOCKS & RESOLUTIONS” TO A STRONG AND CONSISTENT DEVOTIONAL LIFE:

- **Roadblock:** “I have to do this.” “I feel like I am back in school.” “God loves me better because I am keeping up with my journal.” “I am a disappointment because I’m falling behind.”

Resolution: Take a step back; remember this is an ongoing relationship with God. “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” (John Piper, *Desiring God*)

Matthew 22:36-37 *“Teacher (Jesus), which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*

Colossians 2:6-7 *“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”*

- **Roadblock:** “I am frustrated; there is so much I don’t understand!” “I understand everything and can’t wait to tell so and so about this because they need it more than me!”

Resolution: Focus on what is clear to you. We are endeavoring to hear from the Lord, in the moment, from His living and active Word. Remember you are meeting with God each day so that He can transform you into the image of Christ.

John 5:39-40 *Jesus said, “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.”*

John 14:26-27 *Jesus said, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”*

- **Roadblock:** “God and I are good; I don’t need a small group.”
“My religion is personal.” “I have tried sharing with others, but I felt like a fool and will never do that again.”

Resolution: The Bible is to be reflected upon personally and discussed in community. Leaning into a Christ-centered community will accelerate your spiritual growth. What has God taught you today that you can share with and use to encourage others? Be patient; take time to find a small group that you enjoy.

Hebrews 10:24-25 *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

Hebrews 3:13 *“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”*

OPTIONAL RESOURCES FOR DISCOVERY:

For those who desire more understanding on this adventure, we recommend investing in a Study Bible. A Study Bible has notes, historical insights, cross references with other Scriptures, maps, word studies, book summaries, character biographies, etc. Here are a couple of recommendations:

- € ESV, NLT or NIV Study Bible
- € Life Application Study Bible
- € Chronological Life Application Study Bible

We also recommend the following websites :

- € Biblegateway.com
- € Biblestudytools.com
- € Biblehub.com
- € GotQuestions.org

GOD’S STORY: Introduction

The Bible is made up of 66 different books that were written by over 40 authors, over 40 generations...and yet, it is all one story. It is the story of God’s Kingdom and His invitation to you. God existed before the world began. God is revealed throughout Scripture as God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Within this Holy Trinity, we see three Persons who make up one God. He is the almighty, holy, righteous, just, faithful, wise, and loving God.

ACT I: Creation

“In the beginning, God created” is how God’s Word, the Bible, begins. From His love and goodness, God created the heavens and heavenly beings. He made this Earth and everything we can see, the sky, the land, plants, animals, water, sun, moon, and stars. He also created human beings in His image as male and female and gave them dominion over the earth. His desire was that mankind would live with Him and love Him. God said it was all very good!

ACT II: Rebellion Against God – World Becomes a Different Place

The story takes a sudden turn when one of the angels God created became proud. He wanted to be like God and to have the other angels worship him instead of God. Therefore, God cast the disobedient angel (the devil) and the other angels who listened to him out of heaven. One day in the garden, Satan tempted Adam and Eve to eat from the only tree God had forbidden. Instead of trusting and obeying God, they put their own desires above His and ate the fruit from the tree. Disobeying God, Adam and Eve rejected His authority, ruining everything. Where there once was peace, dignity and love, there was now pain, hiding and shame.

The stories that follow keep revealing mankind's broken relationship with God. We see time and time again how God desired and worked to bring people back into a loving relationship with Himself. He provided laws and sacrifices for them to follow and keep but their hearts did not change toward God. Repeatedly they chose other things such as idols, earthly kings, land, and possessions. People relied on their own understanding and trusted themselves more than God. In every generation there were those who were not perfect, but who sought after God. This was reflected in their decisions, prayers, and relationships. As a whole, however, mankind was lost and rebellious. Prophets were sent by God to declare and demonstrate His Truth, but people still ignored the voice of God through them, which brought 400 years of silence from God. During these 400 years, the majority became either religiously ritualistic or distant, but a few trusted God's words and longed and looked for the Savior to come. Then ...

ACT III: Redemption is Completely Provided in Jesus Alone By Grace and Faith

God took it completely upon Himself to make a way for mankind to be reconciled to Him. Grace all the way! The almighty God humbled Himself and came to earth as a man, Jesus. Jesus lived perfectly and then chose to become a sacrifice by dying on the cross to pay the sin debt of mankind. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus rose from death to offer mankind eternal life and ascended back to heaven. The plan for the saving of mankind was accomplished! Now, all authority in Heaven and on earth belongs to Jesus. Salvation comes in Christ alone and is a gift for all who, by faith, believe that Jesus is God, trust that Jesus' death covers their sins, and repent of living selfishly and choose instead to trust the love and authority of God.

ACT IV: Kingdom Restoration, the Church and a Journey with the Holy Spirit to Glory

Many believed and had faith in Jesus and were, therefore, filled with God's Holy Spirit. They became the Church, sharing and showing the love of God with the world and inviting others to follow Christ. The Holy Spirit's actions through ordinary people, who chose to trust in Christ, fill the pages of the New Testament. Obeying Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Church grew in love, and the good news of Jesus was proclaimed boldly in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the rest of the earth. God's Kingdom was advancing once again. It is quite encouraging and thanks to Jesus it is all filled with grace.

ETERNITY: Glory with God

Finally, throughout the Bible, there are hopeful and exciting prophecies of Jesus' return, about a new heaven and a new earth that God is preparing for those who trust Him. It is described as an eternal life with God, where there is no more sin, hiding, shame, darkness, crying or pain. It is the promised land and a place of rest that God, since the beginning, has been leading people toward. It is home for those who have faith in Christ! We will be the people of God and He, in all His glory, will dwell with us.

NOW: How then will you live?

This is not just a story for information; this is an invitation. How will you respond? Will you join the story? You join the story by becoming a member of God's family. You become a child of God by believing that the Lord Jesus rescues, restores and reigns, through His life, death and resurrection. You ask Him to be your Savior from your sins and your Lord to lead you into a new life. The Bible is full of ordinary people who were obedient through faith. Will you be obedient? The Holy Spirit of God will mature you as you adventure with God. Welcome to the story ... come walk with us in God's Kingdom.

Acts 3:18-21 "What God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer; he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

Revelation 22:20 "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen."

CHRONOLOGICAL READING SCHEDULE and Weekly Christ Connections

| ✓ | Week 1 | Passages |
|---|--------|-------------------------------------|
| | Day 1 | 2 Chronicles 1:1; 1 Kings 2:13-46 |
| | Day 2 | 1 Kings 3; 2 Chronicles 1:2-13 |
| | Day 3 | 1 Kings 5; 2 Chronicles 2 |
| | Day 4 | 1 Kings 6; 2 Chronicles 3:1-14 |
| | Day 5 | 1 Kings 7; 2 Chronicles 3:15 - 4:22 |

Week 1: Christ Connection (from 1 Kings 3)

The Books of 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, and 1 & 2 Chronicles (Historical Books) overlap each other, covering a timeframe of over 400 years (approximately 960 BC – 538 BC). They tell the history of Israel from the end of the period of the judges to the return from Babylonian Exile and are not written completely in chronological order. The overlapping details from different books tell the history from different perspectives, and each book gives unique details of Israel’s history.

Solomon reigned with great wisdom and insight, and he foreshadows the coming of a greater king – Jesus, in whom is hidden “*all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*” (Colossians 2:3). God calls us to depend on Him for wisdom from above, and to live wisely before others as a testimony to our all-wise God.

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

James 3: 17-18

| √ | Week 2 | Passages |
|---|--------|---------------------------------------|
| | Day 1 | 1 Kings 8.1-11; 2 Chronicles 5 |
| | Day 2 | 1 Kings 8.12-21; 2 Chronicles 6.1-11 |
| | Day 3 | 1 Kings 8.22-53; 2 Chronicles 6.12-42 |
| | Day 4 | 1 Kings 8.54-66; 2 Chronicles 7.1-10 |
| | Day 5 | 1 Kings 9.1-14; 2 Chronicles 7.11-22 |

Week 2: Christ Connection (from 1 Kings 8)

The temple was to be a place where the name of God would be upheld and the presence of God would be experienced so that the nations would know that the Lord is God. Jesus spoke of Himself as God’s temple, and in His life, death, and resurrection, He upheld God’s name, embodied God’s presence, and extended God’s mission.

God calls us to be devoted to Him in obedience so that the original purpose of the temple can be fulfilled – the people of the earth will know our God is King.

“For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:18-22

| √ | Week 3 | Passages |
|---|--------|--|
| | Day 1 | 1 Kings 9.15-28; 2 Chronicles 8 |
| | Day 2 | 1 Kings 10.1-13; 2 Chronicles 9:1-12 |
| | Day 3 | 1 Kings 10.14-29; 2 Chronicles 9:13-28 |
| | Day 4 | 1 Kings 4; 2 Chronicles 1:14-17 |
| | Day 5 | Psalms 72, 127 |

Week 3: Christ Connection (from 1 Kings 10)

The Book of Psalms (Wisdom/Poetry Book) is a collection of hymns, poetry, praises and laments written by various authors from the time of Moses (1400 BC) to the return from the Babylonian Exile (538 BC). The Psalms were collected in no chronological or discernable pattern. Psalm 27 and 127 were authored by King Solomon, so are inserted here during the time of Solomon's reign.

Solomon was a king whose reign was marked by prosperity and peace. Unfortunately, at the end of his reign, Solomon's sinful compromise led to the division of the kingdom. During His earthly ministry, Jesus spoke of Himself when He claimed "*something greater than Solomon is here*" (Luke 11:31). Whereas sinful choices divided Solomon's kingdom, Christ's righteous submission to God established a new unity for God's people. God calls us to proclaim the foolishness of relying on our own wisdom for salvation, and to lift up Jesus as the only hope.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."
John 15:5

| √ | Week 4 | Passages |
|---|--------|--------------|
| | Day 1 | Proverbs 1-2 |
| | Day 2 | Proverbs 3-4 |
| | Day 3 | Proverbs 5-6 |
| | Day 4 | Proverbs 7-8 |
| | Day 5 | Proverbs 9 |

Week 4: Christ Connection (from Proverbs 9)

There is a difference between worldly wisdom and Biblical wisdom. Although people in our society may have some level of wisdom, according to the world, Solomon would make a distinction between the world’s wisdom and true God-given wisdom. Biblical wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord, which does not mean we cower in fear before Him but that we learn to revere Him and regard Him above all things. No one is more valuable, no person or pursuit more precious to us than the Lord. In Jesus, we see that wisdom is not merely information or insight; wisdom is a Person. Jesus is God’s wisdom on full display. And this Person did something that looks like foolishness in the eyes of the world – He laid down His life for us. Now, because of His death and resurrection, we can know and follow this Jesus. We can honor Him. We can put all our faith in Him. As we do, He makes us wise people who reflect His name and announce His gospel in the world.

In Jesus, we see a life that embodies the wisdom and power of God. (See 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:16 for further insight.)

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”
Proverbs 9:10

“... we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”
1 Corinthians 1:23-24

| √ | Week 5 | Passages |
|---|--------|---------------------|
| | Day 1 | Proverbs 10-11 |
| | Day 2 | Proverbs 12-13 |
| | Day 3 | Proverbs 14-16 |
| | Day 4 | Proverbs 17-19 |
| | Day 5 | Proverbs 20 - 22:16 |

Week 5: Christ Connection (from Proverbs 10 - 22)

Proverbs gives its reader a choice between two paths: the path of wisdom and the path of folly. A similar choice is given to us as a consequence of the gospel: the choice between the wisdom of God now revealed in Jesus Christ and the folly offered by the world. Raymond Dillard and Tremper Longman stated: “Thus, as Christians read the book of Proverbs in the light of the continued revelation of the New Testament, they are confronted with the same questions as the ancient Israelites, but with a different nuance. Will we dine with wisdom or with folly? The wisdom who beckons us is none other than Jesus Christ, while the folly that attempts to seduce us is any created thing that we put in place of our Creator.” (see Romans 1:22-23).

“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” *1 Corinthians 2: 6 – 8*

| √ | Week 6 | Passages |
|---|--------|---------------------|
| | Day 1 | Proverbs 22:17 - 23 |
| | Day 2 | Proverbs 24 - 25 |
| | Day 3 | Proverbs 26 - 27 |
| | Day 4 | Proverbs 28 - 29 |
| | Day 5 | Proverbs 30 - 31 |

Week 6: Christ Connection (from Proverbs 22:17-21)

Wisdom is the skill of living faithfully in God's world, even though all of us have and will continue to fall short of God's standards. Wisdom shows us how to live but cannot save us. For this reason, Jesus became God-given wisdom for us so that through His death and resurrection (which appear foolish to the world) we might be saved according to the wise plan of God.

God calls us to follow the path of the wise and, like the Wisdom character in Proverbs, to call others to faithful and wise living through Jesus.

“And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’”

1 Corinthians 1:30

| √ | Week 7 | Passages |
|---|--------|----------------------|
| | Day 1 | Ecclesiastes 1 - 2 |
| | Day 2 | Ecclesiastes 3 - 4 |
| | Day 3 | Ecclesiastes 5 - 7 |
| | Day 4 | Ecclesiastes 8 - 9 |
| | Day 5 | Ecclesiastes 10 - 12 |

Week 7: Christ Connection **(from Ecclesiastes 1 - 12)**

The Book of Ecclesiastes (Wisdom/Poetry Book) is believed to have been written by King Solomon, so is inserted here during the time of Solomon's reign.

Ecclesiastes raises questions about life that can be answered only in Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul declared that apart from the resurrection of Jesus, our faith is meaningless and there is no forgiveness of sins.

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”
1 Corinthians 15:17

But because the resurrection is true, our life has purpose.

“Therefore, my beloved brothers (and sisters), be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”
1 Corinthians 15:58

| √ | Week 8 | Passages |
|---|--------|----------------------------------|
| | Day 1 | Song of Solomon 1 - 2 |
| | Day 2 | Song of Solomon 3 - 4 |
| | Day 3 | Song of Solomon 5 - 6 |
| | Day 4 | Song of Solomon 7 - 8 |
| | Day 5 | 1 Kings 11; 2 Chronicles 9:29-31 |

Week 8: Christ Connection (from Song of Solomon 1 - 8)

The Book of Song of Solomon (Wisdom/Poetry Book) is authored by King Solomon, so is inserted here during the time of Solomon's reign.

Song of Solomon is a song of praise to the joys of married life. Its essence is to be found in its tender and devoted expressions of the intimate delights of married love, as it is God who created marriage (Genesis 2:24). On a deeper level, we can look at the Song of Solomon as a song of Christ and the church. In the New Testament, the church is called the bride of Christ.

"The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete."

John 3:29

"Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready."

Revelation 19:7

"Amen! Come Lord Jesus!"

Revelation 22:20b

| √ | Week 9 | Passages |
|---|--------|--|
| | Day 1 | 1 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 10 - 11.17 |
| | Day 2 | 1 Kings 13 - 14; 2 Chronicles 11.18 - 12 |
| | Day 3 | 1 Kings 15.1-15; 2 Chronicles 13 - 14.8 |
| | Day 4 | 1 Kings 15.16-34; 2 Chronicles 14.9 - 16 |
| | Day 5 | 1 Kings 16; 2 Chronicles 17 |

Week 9: Christ Connection (from 1 Kings 11 - 12)

After Solomon's death, the kingdom was divided. Ten tribes formed the northern kingdom and took the name "Israel" with them. The two remaining tribes, Judah and Benjamin, formed the southern kingdom, calling themselves "Judah." The secession of the ten tribes was of God (1 Kings 11: 11-13, 31-33; 12:15), both as punishment for the apostasy of Solomon and as a lesson to Judah. God's presence turned away from those who had turned away from Him.

In the New Testament, God turns away from Jesus on the cross as judgment against those who have turned away from Him (Romans 3:10-12; Matthew 27: 45-46). We need to rely on God's strength and the encouragement of each other to keep from turning away from the path of life. What are you doing to guard against turning away from God?

"Take care, brothers (and sisters), lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

Hebrews 3:12-13

| √ | Week 10 | Passages |
|---|---------|--|
| | Day 1 | 1 Kings 17 - 18 |
| | Day 2 | 1 Kings 19 - 20 |
| | Day 3 | 1 Kings 21 - 22; 2 Chronicles 18 |
| | Day 4 | 2 Chronicles 19 - 20; 2 Kings 1, 3 |
| | Day 5 | 2 Kings 8.16-22; 2 Chronicles 21.1-17 |

Week 10: Christ Connection (from 1 Kings 18)

The prophets of Baal danced and slashed themselves before the altar, thinking they must bleed and hurt themselves to express their devotion. But the true God is different than false gods like Baal. The true God expressed His devotion to us by sending His Son – Jesus Christ – who bled and died for us so that we could receive His grace through faith.

False gods demand strenuous effort and sacrifice, but the true God is known by His grace and power.

“Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Romans 5:2

| √ | Week 11 | Passages |
|---|---------|---|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 2 |
| | Day 2 | 2 Kings 4 |
| | Day 3 | 2 Kings 5 |
| | Day 4 | 2 Kings 6 - 7:2 |
| | Day 5 | 2 Kings 7.3 - 8.15, 23-29; 2 Chronicles 21.18 - 22.7 |

Week 11: Christ Connection (from 2 Kings 5)

Naaman was sick with a skin problem and his disease went away only after he obeyed God's instruction to wash in the river. All people are sick with a sin problem and in need of cleansing and healing.

God calls us to humbly repent and believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior so that our sin can be washed away. Like the servant girl described in 2 Kings 5, we are to point others to the place where their sins can be washed away.

“Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”
James 4:6

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”
1 John 1:7

| √ | Week 12 | Passages |
|---|---------|---------------------------------------|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 9 - 10 2 Chronicles 22:8-9 |
| | Day 2 | 2 Kings 11 - 12:16 |
| | Day 3 | 2 Chronicles 22:10 - 24 |
| | Day 4 | 2 Kings 12:17 - 13:25 |
| | Day 5 | 2 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 25 |

Week 12: Christ Connection (from 2 Kings 11, 2 Chronicles 22-23)

In this section of scripture, we see that under the leadership of the good priest Jehoiada, Athaliah was overthrown, Joash was put on the throne, and the people of Judah experienced reform. Whereas an evil person like Athaliah caused much harm to God’s people, one godly person, Jehoiada was able to bring reform.

Who we make alliances with and follow matters! Jesus is Lord and invites us, *“Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”* (Matthew 4:19). Pray that God will raise up Christ followers who are “Jehoiadas” in our day.

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

| √ | Week 13 | Passages |
|---|---------|---|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 15.1-5; 2 Chronicles 26.1-21 |
| | Day 2 | Jonah 1 |
| | Day 3 | Jonah 2 |
| | Day 4 | Jonah 3 |
| | Day 5 | Jonah 4 |

Week 13: Christ Connection (from Book of Jonah)

The prophet Jonah is believed to have prophesied approximately between 770 BC – 750 BC, during the reign of King Jeroboam II in the northern kingdom of Israel and King Uzziah in the southern kingdom of Judah, so the prophetic Book of Jonah is inserted here during their reigns.

God goes to great lengths to pursue people, even when they have no interest in being found. God pursues sinners of all kinds to bring them to Himself. Jonah was a prophet who rejected God’s call and ran away from his enemies. Unlike Jonah, Jesus heard God’s call and ran toward His enemies. While we were still sinners, Jesus died for us (Romans 5:8). Now He calls us to put aside our tribal attitudes and break down walls, as we share the news that forgiveness is available and possible to all through repentance and faith in Jesus.

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”
Matthew 28:18-20

| √ | Week 14 | Passages |
|---|---------|------------|
| | Day 1 | Amos 1 - 2 |
| | Day 2 | Amos 3 - 4 |
| | Day 3 | Amos 5 - 6 |
| | Day 4 | Amos 7 - 8 |
| | Day 5 | Amos 9 |

Week 14: Christ Connection (from the Book of Amos)

The prophet Amos states that *“He received this message in visions two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam II, the son of Joash, was king of Israel.”* (Amos 1:1). Accordingly, the Book of Amos (written approximately 790 BC – 775 BC) is inserted here during their reigns.

While the northern tribe of Israel was enjoying a time of great economic success, they were living lives of increasing inner moral decay. Amos speaks with brutal frankness in denouncing Israel’s fall into depravity, greed, complacency, and poor treatment of one another. He boldly collided with the false religious leaders of his day and was not intimidated by priest or king.

Many of the conditions in Israel during Amos’ time were evident in Jesus’ time. In contrast to the northern tribe of Israel, Jesus lived a life of compassion, mercy, and justice. As we are called to Christ-likeness, our behavior should communicate truth about God’s compassion, mercy, and justice.

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Matthew 9:35-36

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left...” To those on His right Jesus said: *“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me.’”*... And to those on His left Jesus said: *“Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”* Matthew 25:31-45

| √ | Week 15 | Passages |
|---|---------|--|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 14:28-29, 2 Kings 15:6-38; 2 Chronicles 26:22 - 27:9 |
| | Day 2 | Isaiah 1 - 2 |
| | Day 3 | Isaiah 3 - 4 |
| | Day 4 | Isaiah 5 - 6 |
| | Day 5 | Isaiah 7 - 8 |

Week 15: Christ Connection (from Isaiah 1 - 8)

Isaiah served as a prophet to four kings in the southern kingdom of Judah: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Isaiah's ministry likely extended over 50 years. The Book of Isaiah, written approximately 739 BC – 686 BC, weaves in and out of the Books of Kings and Chronicles during these reigns. Isaiah's contemporaries are the prophets Micah and Hosea.

God points out the sins of Judah and the devastation it has caused them. They go through the motions of religion, but God takes no pleasure in it. In their season of rebelling and wandering, He no longer listens to their prayers. He calls them to holiness through obedience, but they would not obey. In contrast to their stubbornness a new day will dawn, when the Gentiles will seek the Lord and follow Him.

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, ‘God with us’).”

Matthew 1:22-23

| √ | Week 16 | Passages |
|---|---------|-------------|
| | Day 1 | Micah 1 |
| | Day 2 | Micah 2 - 3 |
| | Day 3 | Micah 4 - 5 |
| | Day 4 | Micah 6 |
| | Day 5 | Micah 7 |

Week 16: Christ Connection (from Micah 5-7)

Micah prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in the southern kingdom of Judah. The Book of Micah, written approximately between 750 BC – 686 BC, is inserted during their reigns. Micah’s contemporaries are the prophets Isaiah and Hosea.

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
Micah 6:8

Most of the leaders of Judah and Israel took advantage of the people and led them astray. They loved evil and hated good. So God became silent and the prophets had no more visions from God. God turned away from his people for a time and spoke of a day when there would be a new ruler and the surrounding nations would come and worship.

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.”

Micah 5:2

“He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.”
Micah 7:19-20

| √ | Week 17 | Passages |
|---|---------|--|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 16:1-18 |
| | Day 2 | 2 Kings 17 - 18:12 |
| | Day 3 | 2 Chronicles 28:1-25; 2 Chronicles 29:1-2 |
| | Day 4 | Isaiah 9 - 10 |
| | Day 5 | Isaiah 11 - 12 |

Week 17: Christ Connection (from Isaiah 9)

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7

Israel forgot the things of God and became caught up in the customs of the surrounding nations. They stubbornly refused the warnings and were taken captive because of their sins. Rather than turning to God, Israel and Judah formed alliances with other nations to use against one another and the result was disastrous. God addresses this local conflict, but reminds them of the bigger picture. One day he will appear in their midst. Would they be ready?

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life.” John 5:39-40

| √ | Week 18 | Passages |
|---|---------|---------------|
| | Day 1 | Hosea 1 - 3 |
| | Day 2 | Hosea 4 - 6 |
| | Day 3 | Hosea 7 - 9 |
| | Day 4 | Hosea 10 - 12 |
| | Day 5 | Hosea 13 - 14 |

Week 18: Christ Connection (from Hosea 6)

Hosea prophesied for about 40 years in the northern kingdom of Israel during, and for a period of time after the reign of Jeroboam II. The Book of Hosea was written from approximately 760BC – 722BC.

Hosea’s contemporaries are the prophets Isaiah, Amos, and Micah.
“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”
Hosea 6:6

God illustrates his love for His unfaithful people by having His spokesman, Hosea, marry an unfaithful woman. When she strays He redeems her, and cares for her, and loves her. Israel, on the other hand, continues in idolatry and will face the consequences. In James 4, James reminds us that loving the things of this world is a kind of spiritual adultery. Even so, the great love God has for his people continues despite their sins.

“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
James 4:4

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”
1 John 4:10-11

| √ | Week 19 | Passages |
|---|---------|--|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 16:19-20; 2 Chronicles 28.26-27; Isaiah 13 |
| | Day 2 | Isaiah 14 - 15 |
| | Day 3 | Isaiah 16 - 17 |
| | Day 4 | 2 Chronicles 29:3-36 |
| | Day 5 | 2 Chronicles 30 - 31 |

Week 19: Christ Connection (from Isaiah 13, 16)

“I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.”
Isaiah 13:11

“Then a throne will be established in steadfast love, and on it will sit in faithfulness in the tent of David one who judges and seeks justice and is swift to do righteousness.”
Isaiah 16:5

These verses contrast the pride of Israel and the surrounding nations with the few who humbled themselves and worshipped God as He desired.

The sin of Lucifer, the angel, is recounted when he said, *“I will be like the Most High.”* It was pride that brought down Satan and led to the fall of man. Satan said, *“You will be like God”*. (Genesis 3:5) It takes humility to put God first and worship him. *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”* (James 4:6)

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
Romans 12:2

| √ | Week 20 | Passages |
|---|---------|----------------------|
| | Day 1 | Psalms 42 - 44 |
| | Day 2 | Psalms 45 - 47 |
| | Day 3 | Psalms 48 - 49 |
| | Day 4 | Psalms 84 - 85, 87 |
| | Day 5 | Psalms 1 - 2, 10, 57 |

Week 20: Christ Connection (from Psalm 42)

The following four weeks of Psalms appear during the reign of King Hezekiah because it is likely that during his reign many Psalms, attributed to the sons of Korah or anonymously authored, were composed or rediscovered as part of his revival. Note that some Psalms may have been written during the exile or post-exile, and were later added to King Hezekiah's collection. The Psalms attributed to King David or written during his reign were studied along with the life of David in year one of our 3YD journey.

“Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.”

Psalm 42:11

Great is the Lord and He is to be praised. When you feel forgotten in a world that has forgotten God, hope in God and praise him. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. (Ephesians 5:9) Remember the great things God has done and be thankful. Do not envy those around you who live for wealth and abundance. How does that compare with being a child of God with an eternal inheritance? You came into this world with nothing and will exit with the same. Place your hope in things that will last.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

1 Peter 1:3-5

| √ | Week 21 | Passages |
|---|---------|------------------------|
| | Day 1 | Psalms 33; 66 - 67; 71 |
| | Day 2 | Psalms 91 - 93 |
| | Day 3 | Psalms 94 - 96 |
| | Day 4 | Psalms 97 - 99 |
| | Day 5 | Psalms 100, 102, 104 |

**Week 21: Christ Connection
(from Psalm 95, 98)**

“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”

Psalm 95:1-2

The Lord reigns over all. It is good to give thanks and praise him with musical instruments and singing. He has made everything. He is full of strength and splendor and glory and majesty. All people should worship him. He has done great things for us. He has revealed to us the Savior of the whole world.

“The Lord has made known his salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.”

Psalm 98:2-3

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was revealed in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

1 Timothy 3:16

| √ | Week 22 | Passages |
|---|---------|---------------------|
| | Day 1 | Psalms 105 - 107 |
| | Day 2 | Psalms 111 - 114 |
| | Day 3 | Psalms 115 - 118 |
| | Day 4 | Psalms 119:1-88 |
| | Day 5 | Psalms 119:89 - 176 |

Week 22: Christ Connection (from Psalm 118)

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 118:1

Remember all the great things that the Lord has done! When things go well, it is easy to forget. Israel forgot the many miracles performed by God and how He had delivered them time and time again. They angered God by adopting the practices of the false religions around them. Troubles came upon them and they were humbled. Then they cried out to God and He saved them. Even David at times admitted that he only tended to call upon the Lord when things went badly.

Let us be thankful and remember the Lord always.

“In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’”

1 Corinthians 11:25

| √ | Week 23 | Passages |
|---|---------|-------------------------------|
| | Day 1 | Psalms 120 - 121; 123; 125 |
| | Day 2 | Psalms 128 - 130; 132 |
| | Day 3 | Psalms 134 - 136 |
| | Day 4 | Psalms 146, 148 |
| | Day 5 | Psalms 149 - 150 |

Week 23: Christ Connection (from Psalm 136)

“Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever.” *Psalm 136:26*

Many of these Psalms are called Songs of Ascent. As you read them, notice that they speak of looking upward, lifting your eyes, and looking toward the Lord. They speak of the hills around Jerusalem and His dwelling place on Mount Zion. Our hope is in heaven and the New Jerusalem. Even though He made the heaven of heavens, He desires to dwell with His people. Our hope is in the Lord. In the midst of the cares and troubles of this life, look upwards toward God’s temple as the source of comfort and help.

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.” *John 14:1-3*

| √ | Week 24 | Passages |
|---|---------|----------------|
| | Day 1 | Isaiah 18 - 19 |
| | Day 2 | Isaiah 20 - 21 |
| | Day 3 | Isaiah 22 - 23 |
| | Day 4 | Isaiah 24 |
| | Day 5 | Isaiah 25 |

Week 24: Christ Connection (from Isaiah 21, 22, 25)

As in much of the book of Isaiah, these prophesies speak of local events, but also of another future fulfillment in the end times. Some of these verses are quoted in the Book of Revelation, such as *“Babylon is fallen, is fallen.”* (Isaiah 21:9; Revelation 14:8) In near history, the Assyrian invasion would sweep south all the way into Egypt and the Medio-Persian Empire would destroy the Babylonians. In far history, the world will be judged and Christ will reign over all. In near history, Shebna was an unfaithful steward of the Lord’s house, but Eliakim was faithful and resembles the character of Christ.

“And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and He shall shut, and none shall open.” (Isaiah 22:22, see also Revelation 3:7).

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if anyone hears My voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will eat with him, and he with Me.”
Revelation 3:20

“He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.”
Isaiah 25:8

| √ | Week 25 | Passages |
|---|---------|----------------|
| | Day 1 | Isaiah 26 - 27 |
| | Day 2 | Isaiah 28 - 29 |
| | Day 3 | Isaiah 30 - 31 |
| | Day 4 | Isaiah 32 - 33 |
| | Day 5 | Isaiah 34 - 35 |

Week 25: Christ Connection (from Isaiah 26, 35)

“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”
Isaiah 26:3

Peace with God is obtained by placing one’s faith in Him. Israel, on the other hand, remained spiritually blind, lacking discernment. They became drunkards and scoffers, giving God lip-service because their hearts were far from Him. As the Assyrians prepared to invade, rather than looking to the Lord, Israel chose to rely on Egypt. When troubles come our way do we look to the Lord or to the world for help? God continued to remind Israel of the day when He will suddenly visit them.

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.”
Isaiah 35:5

“Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations.”
Ephesians 2:13-14

| √ | Week 26 | Passages |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 18:13 - 19 |
| | Day 2 | 2 Kings 20 |
| | Day 3 | 2 Chronicles 32 |
| | Day 4 | Isaiah 36 - 37 |
| | Day 5 | Isaiah 38 - 39 |

Week 26: Christ Connection (from 2 Kings 19-20)

During the Assyrian invasion, Israel trusted in Egypt rather than God to help them. So Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, brought Israel into captivity and laid siege against Jerusalem. Sennacherib sent out messengers to ridicule God. Hezekiah, the king of Judah prayed, and God sent an angel to deliver Israel. Hezekiah got sick and prayed, and the Lord delivered him. When things become difficult, the lesson is to pray and trust in God for deliverance.

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 1:6-7

“Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:7

“I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

| √ | Week 27 | Passages |
|---|---------|----------------|
| | Day 1 | Isaiah 40 - 41 |
| | Day 2 | Isaiah 42 - 43 |
| | Day 3 | Isaiah 44 - 45 |
| | Day 4 | Isaiah 46 - 47 |
| | Day 5 | Isaiah 48 |

Week 27: Christ Connection (from Isaiah 40, 46)

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned...”
Isaiah 40:1-2

God contends with Israel about their idolatry. Israel did not listen and would be carried off to Assyria. Judah would be exiled to Babylon. A remnant would return during the reign of Cyrus king of Persia. As Isaiah spans centuries into the future, he speaks of a time when God would be revealed. He would be a great shepherd who would care for his people. The deaf would hear and the blind would see. A herald would go before him preparing the way. God’s plans always come to pass whether his people are ready or not. (Isaiah 46:10)

Zechariah prophesies about his son, John the Baptist, in Luke 1.

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
Luke 1:76-79

| √ | Week 29 | Passages |
|---|---------|-------------------|
| | Day 1 | Isaiah 60 |
| | Day 2 | Isaiah 61 |
| | Day 3 | Isaiah 62 - 63:14 |
| | Day 4 | Isaiah 63:15 - 64 |
| | Day 5 | Isaiah 65 - 66 |

Week 29: Christ Connection (from Isaiah 60)

God speaks words of comfort to a people who are oppressed, whom He would redeem. Caravans of camels, carrying gold and frankincense, would come bringing good news and praise for the Lord. Other nations would flock to the Holy One of Israel and would worship. Those who mourned and were persecuted would be blessed, because their Savior and Redeemer is coming.

Early in his ministry, Jesus had this to say about himself ...

“And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’ And He rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’”

Luke 4:17-21

| ✓ | Week 30 | Passages |
|---|---------|-------------------------|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 21 - 23:28 |
| | Day 2 | 2 Chronicles 33 - 35:19 |
| | Day 3 | Jeremiah 1 - 3:5 |
| | Day 4 | Jeremiah 3:6 - 4 |
| | Day 5 | Jeremiah 5 - 6 |

Week 30: Christ Connection **(from 2 Kings 23, 2 Chronicles 34)**

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied about forty-five years from “*the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah*” (Jeremiah 1:2) to the Babylonian Exile. The Book of Jeremiah, written approximately between 627 BC – 582 BC, weaves in and out of the Books of Kings and Chronicles during this time. Jeremiah’s contemporaries are the prophets Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, and Ezekiel.

King Josiah, in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, is described as a godly king (one of only eight of the thirty-eight kings that followed God while governing the people of Israel and Judah). He led them to put away their idols and return back to worshipping and walking with the true God. His actions resembled the heart Jesus had regarding following God. During his earthly ministry, Jesus calls the leaders and people of Israel back to worshipping and walking with God by cleansing the temple of practices that were not honoring to God. Jesus’ first cleaning of the temple is described in John 2:13-17 and the second time three years later is described in Matthew 21:12-13.

“In the temple He (Jesus) found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons and the money-changers were there. ... He told them, ‘Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.’ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’”
John 2:14-17

| √ | Week 31 | Passages |
|---|---------|----------------|
| | Day 1 | Nahum 1 - 3 |
| | Day 2 | Habakkuk 1 - 3 |
| | Day 3 | Zephaniah 1 |
| | Day 4 | Zephaniah 2 |
| | Day 5 | Zephaniah 3 |

Week 31: Christ Connection (from Habakkuk 3)

Nahum began prophesying sometime before the fall of Assyria, under the kings of Manasseh, Amon, and Josiah of the southern kingdom of Judah. The Book of Nahum, written approximately between 663 BC – 612 BC, is inserted in our 3YD reading plan during their reigns. Nahum’s contemporaries are the prophets Jeremiah, Zephaniah and Habakkuk.

Habakkuk began prophesying toward the end of King Josiah’s reign of the southern kingdom of Judah. The Book of Habakkuk, written approximately between 612 BC – 589 BC, is inserted during his reign. Habakkuk’s contemporaries are the prophets Jeremiah, Zephaniah and Nahum.

Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of King Josiah in the southern kingdom of Judah. The Book of Zephaniah, written approximately between 640 BC – 621 BC, is inserted during his reign. Zephaniah’s contemporaries are the prophets Jeremiah, Nahum and Habakkuk.

In Habakkuk 3, this prophet describes the hope they can have in a season of struggle and loss. After describing a growing list of difficulties, he says, *“Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength, he makes my feet like the deer’s; he makes me tread on my high places.” Habakkuk 3:17-19*

Toward the end of Jesus’ ministry, he talks more about heaven and the ultimate reunion we can have with our heavenly Father in the ultimate ‘high place’. *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms. ... If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.” John 14:1-3*

| √ | Week 32 | Passages |
|---|---------|--|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 23:29 - 24:4; 2 Chronicles 35:20 - 36:5 |
| | Day 2 | Jeremiah 47 - 48; 22:1-23 |
| | Day 3 | Jeremiah 25 - 26; 36 |
| | Day 4 | Jeremiah 45 - 46; 19 - 20 |
| | Day 5 | Daniel 1 - 3 |

Week 32: Christ Connection (from Daniel 3)

Daniel's ministry began during the reign of King Jehoiakim and extended into the Babylonian Exile, covering a period of about 69 years. The Book of Daniel, written approximately between 605 BC – 536 BC, weaves in and out with the Books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Daniel's contemporaries are the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Daniel stayed faithful during the time of the exile when most of the people of Israel were taken from their land to Babylon. Daniel stayed true to his identity, obeyed God, and was a testimony to God's grace. His example points forward to the Son of God, who willingly embraced a sinful world without ever defiling Himself, and through His death and resurrection became the greatest picture of God's grace the world has ever known.

(See Hebrews 4:15, 1 Corinthians 1:30, and Colossians 2:3)

“And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him. ... ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. ... ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”

Luke 2:40, 47, 52

| √ | Week 33 | Passages |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| | Day 1 | Jeremiah 7 - 8:3 |
| | Day 2 | Jeremiah 8:4 - 9:2 |
| | Day 3 | Jeremiah 9:3-26 |
| | Day 4 | Jeremiah 10 |
| | Day 5 | Jeremiah 11 - 12 |

Week 33: Christ Connection (from Jeremiah 8-9)

Jeremiah's love for his people was so great that he often delivered God's message in tears, to the point that he is known as the *"weeping prophet."* (Jeremiah 8:18; 9:1)

In Jeremiah's grief, we see a picture of the tender heart of God. This tender heart is most fully expressed in Jesus' weeping for the people of Jerusalem who would not repent.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see Me again, until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'"
Matthew 23:37-39

| √ | Week 34 | Passages |
|---|---------|------------------|
| | Day 1 | Jeremiah 13 - 14 |
| | Day 2 | Jeremiah 15 -16 |
| | Day 3 | Jeremiah 17 - 18 |
| | Day 4 | Jeremiah 35 |
| | Day 5 | Jeremiah 49:1-33 |

Week 34: Christ Connection (from Jeremiah 17)

The problem in Jeremiah’s day was that the people had God’s law but were unwilling and unable to obey Him due to the sinfulness of their hearts (Jeremiah 17:1-10). Jeremiah prophesied about a coming day when God would forgive sin and write His law on the hearts of His people (Jeremiah 31:31-34). This prophecy is fulfilled in the gospel. Through Jesus, God offers us forgiveness. Through the Holy Spirit, God enables us to have the power and desire to obey His commands.

New Covenant in Christ

“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”
1 John 5:11-12

Spirit of God in our hearts

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you.” John 16:7-14

| √ | Week 35 | Passages |
|---|---------|--|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 24:5-20a; 2 Chronicles 36:6-14; Jeremiah 52:1-3a |
| | Day 2 | Jeremiah 22:24 - 24 |
| | Day 3 | Jeremiah 29 - 31, 49:34-39 |
| | Day 4 | Jeremiah 50 - 51:58 |
| | Day 5 | Jeremiah 37 - 38 |

Week 35: Christ Connection (from 2 Chronicles 36)

As described in the fall of Jerusalem, God patiently pursues sinners, but His patience will one day come to an end. Throughout the Bible, we see that spiritual downfall begins with hardened hearts. One example of this is in 2 Chronicles 36:11-14 where Zedekiah chose to be filled with pride and *'stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord'*.

Symptoms of spiritual downfall includes not trusting God's Word as seen in how Zedekiah responded to the prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 38:24-28. A season of resisting God's call to trust and obey Him ultimately leads to judgement from God as seen in the 2 Chronicles 36:15-16.

God righteously punished His people for their sin, but He remained faithful to them and kept the promise He made to David to preserve a remnant and provide a king. Ultimately, God punished our sin through His Son, Jesus, and made Him our King forever.

"But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

2 Peter 3:8-13

| √ | Week 36 | Passages |
|---|---------|----------------------------|
| | Day 1 | Ezekiel 1 |
| | Day 2 | Ezekiel 2 - 3:15 |
| | Day 3 | Ezekiel 3:16 - 27 |
| | Day 4 | Ezekiel 4 |
| | Day 5 | Jeremiah 27 - 28; 51:59-64 |

Week 36: Christ Connection (from Ezekiel 1)

Ezekiel prophesied for about 22 years to the Israelites captive in Babylon. The Book of Ezekiel, written approximately between 593 BC – 571 BC, weaves in and out with the Books of Daniel and Jeremiah. Ezekiel’s contemporaries are Jeremiah and Daniel.

In Ezekiel 1:26-28, Ezekiel’s vision of the glory of God caused him to humble himself and fall on his face. When able to see a glimpse of the holiness of God, we see how unworthy we are to be in His presence. This leads us to being grateful for His amazing grace. John had a similar response to the vision of the resurrected Christ.

“Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands One like a Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. The hairs of His head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, ‘Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living One. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.’ ”

Revelation 1:12-18

| √ | Week 37 | Passages |
|---|---------|-----------------|
| | Day 1 | Ezekiel 5 |
| | Day 2 | Ezekiel 6 |
| | Day 3 | Ezekiel 7 |
| | Day 4 | Ezekiel 8 - 9 |
| | Day 5 | Ezekiel 10 - 11 |

Week 37: Christ Connection **(from Ezekiel 7)**

In Ezekiel 7, Ezekiel describes the judgment that is coming to the people of Israel because of their stubborn hearts. God continually called them to walk with Him and experience the fulfillment that comes from being His people. When they refused over and over, the consequence was ultimately God allowing judgment to fall on them. Although full of mercy, our God is also a God of justice who does not allow for sin to be ignored. As we see the seriousness of sin in Scripture, we also see the mercy and grace of God who offers us forgiveness, restoration and eternal life with Him.

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

John 3:36

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” *2 Corinthians 5:21*

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

| √ | Week 38 | Passages |
|---|---------|-----------------|
| | Day 1 | Ezekiel 12 - 14 |
| | Day 2 | Ezekiel 15 - 16 |
| | Day 3 | Ezekiel 17 - 19 |
| | Day 4 | Ezekiel 20 - 21 |
| | Day 5 | Ezekiel 22 - 23 |

Week 38: Christ Connection (from Ezekiel 21)

In God's economy, the proud are brought low and the humble are exalted. Ezekiel tells the people of Israel that a time of humbling is coming.

"Thus says the Lord God ... Things will not remain as they are. Exalt that which is low, and bring low that which is exalted." Ezekiel 21:36

In the Bible we read that God exalts the humble and opposes the proud.

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you." 1 Peter 5:5-6.

Exalting the humble is most clearly seen in Jesus Christ.

"[Jesus] who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name ..." Philipians 2:6-9

| ✓ | Week 39 | Passages |
|---|---------|---|
| | Day 1 | 2 Kings 24:20b - 25:21; Jeremiah 39 - 40:6 |
| | Day 2 | Jeremiah 52:3b-27; 2 Chronicles 36:15-21 |
| | Day 3 | Ezekiel 24 - 25 |
| | Day 4 | Jeremiah 34, 21 |
| | Day 5 | Ezekiel 29:1-16; 30:20-26 |

Week 39: Christ Connection
(from Ezekiel 24:1-2, 15, 25; 25:1; 29:2, 18; 30:21)

To Daniel, the description ‘son of man’ is used only once (Daniel 8:17) while the prophet Ezekiel is called ‘son of man’ ninety-three times. Because of the upstanding character of Daniel and Ezekiel, the title ‘son of man’ was seen as a title of dignity to the people of Israel. When the ‘son of man’ expression was heard by alert Hebrews, they thought of a faithful and responsive servant of God. This was reason enough for Jesus to use this title for Himself as he identifies Himself as God’s promised Messiah to offer forgiveness of sin.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” *Mark 10:45*

Ezekiel was, more than others, God’s prophet to a people of captivity. Jesus was God’s servant on behalf of a larger family bound in captivity to the laws of sin and death. The life of Jesus makes apparent that as a servant, He kept and fulfilled every aspect of God’s will for Him.

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but of Him who sent Me.” *John 6:38*

| √ | Week 40 | Passages |
|---|---------|------------------|
| | Day 1 | Ezekiel 31 |
| | Day 2 | Jeremiah 32 - 33 |
| | Day 3 | Ezekiel 26 |
| | Day 4 | Ezekiel 27 |
| | Day 5 | Ezekiel 28 |

Week 40: Christ Connection (from Jeremiah 33)

In Jeremiah 33:22, God reaffirms His covenant to multiply the offspring of David so that (figuratively) they cannot be numbered. Jesus is from the lineage of David and believers in Jesus are adopted into God's family through Christ.

Matthew 1:1-17 describes the lineage from David to Jesus:

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” *Matthew 1:1*

“So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the time of Christ fourteen generations.” *Matthew 1:17*

The vision Jesus gives John in the Book of Revelation describes the fulfillment of God's promise to Jeremiah that is described above.

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.” *Revelation 7:9*

| √ | Week 41 | Passages |
|---|---------|---|
| | Day 1 | Lamentations 1 - 2 |
| | Day 2 | Lamentations 3 - 4 |
| | Day 3 | Lamentations 5, Obadiah 1 |
| | Day 4 | 2 Kings 25.22-26; Jeremiah 40.7 – 41 |
| | Day 5 | Jeremiah 42 - 44 |

Week 41: Christ Connection (from Lamentations 1-4)

The prophetic book of Lamentations was written by the prophet Jeremiah in 586 BC as he grieves over the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, and is inserted here during the timeframe after Jerusalem's destruction.

The prophetic book of Obadiah is a book that has an uncertain chronological placement. It is either placed around 845 BC, during the reign of King Jehoram, or sometime after 586 BC, following Jerusalem's fall to Babylon. Placed here, after Jerusalem's fall to Babylon, Obadiah's contemporaries would be the prophets Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel.

God's loving compassion and faithfulness are present even during the cataclysmic destruction of Jerusalem. The faithful presence of the Spirit of Christ comforts us in our times of trouble.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22-23

| √ | Week 42 | Passages |
|---|---------|---------------------------------|
| | Day 1 | Ezekiel 32 - 33 |
| | Day 2 | Ezekiel 34 - 35 |
| | Day 3 | Ezekiel 36 - 37 |
| | Day 4 | Ezekiel 38 - 39 |
| | Day 5 | Jeremiah 52:28-30; Psalm 137 |

Week 42: Christ Connection (from Ezekiel 37)

In Ezekiel 37, the people of Israel are described as dried up and dead and scattered into exile. After Israel is described, God is described as faithful and powerful enough to bring life out of death and restore the people of Israel back to Himself and the land God promised them.

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones reminds us what we are like in our sinful condition. God gave Ezekiel a vision of the power of God bringing life out of death, a power on display most fully seen in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same thing, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”
Hebrews 2:14-15

Because of Christ's death and resurrection, along with forgiveness from sin, God's power through His Holy Spirit is able to give us the desire and power we need for abundant living.

“For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”
Philippians 2:13

| √ | Week 43 | Passages |
|---|---------|----------------------|
| | Day 1 | Daniel 4; Ezekiel 40 |
| | Day 2 | Ezekiel 41 - 42 |
| | Day 3 | Ezekiel 43 - 44 |
| | Day 4 | Ezekiel 45 - 46 |
| | Day 5 | Ezekiel 47 - 48 |

Week 43: Christ Connection (from Ezekiel 43)

The last nine chapters contain Ezekiel’s vision of a glorious new Temple. In Ezekiel 43, the glory of the Lord fills the temple. The completion of this vision of the temple has not been fulfilled yet. It is the vision of the coming of Jesus to fulfill, replace and annul the temple by offering Himself as a perfect sacrifice offered once, for all time and for all people. It is also a vision of the second coming of Christ where, similar to John’s vision in Revelation 21, sin will be vanquished and God will dwell with His people.

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.’ ”

Revelation 21:3

“For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:18-22

| √ | Week 44 | Passages |
|---|---------|--|
| | Day 1 | Ezekiel 29:17-21, 30:1-19; 2 Kings 25:27-30; Jeremiah 52:31-34 |
| | Day 2 | Daniel 5 |
| | Day 3 | Daniel 6 |
| | Day 4 | Daniel 7 - 8 |
| | Day 5 | Daniel 9 |

Week 44: Christ Connection (from Daniel 6)

God showed His power to rescue Daniel from death. In the fullness of time, God showed His power to save His people from their sins and give them eternal life through the death and resurrection of His Son. God glorifies Himself through the rescue of those who trust Him. More than hungry lions, God ultimately rescued us from a much bigger problem—sin and death—through His Son, Jesus.

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

John 3:36

“He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1 John 2:2

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all man because all sinned.

Romans 5:12

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

| √ | Week 45 | Passages |
|---|---------|-------------------------------|
| | Day 1 | 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1 |
| | Day 2 | Ezra 2; Psalms 126, 147 |
| | Day 3 | Ezra 3 - 4:5 |
| | Day 4 | Daniel 10 - 11:1 |
| | Day 5 | Daniel 11:2 - 12 |

Week 45: Christ Connection (from Ezra 1-2)

The Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther are historical books that tell of Israel’s history post-exile (approximately 539 BC – 400 BC). These books overlap one another in their timeframes. Ezra and Nehemiah were contemporaries of the prophets Zechariah and Haggai.

God kept His promise to bring His people out of exile in Babylon and restore their freedom to worship Him. Since Adam and Eve sinned, all humans have been in exile from the garden and are in need of deliverance. Jesus came to end this exile, bring His people home, and restore our freedom to worship.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

| √ | Week 46 | Passages |
|---|---------|---|
| | Day 1 | Ezra 4:24 - 5:2; Zechariah 1:1-6; Haggai 1 - 2 |
| | Day 2 | Zechariah 1:7 - 3 |
| | Day 3 | Zechariah 4 - 5 |
| | Day 4 | Zechariah 6; Ezra 5:3-17, 6:1-14a |
| | Day 5 | Zechariah 7 - 8 |

Week 46: Christ Connection (from Zechariah 7-8)

Zechariah and Haggai prophesied during the reign of King Darius of Persia, post-exile. The Books of Zechariah (written approximately 520 BC – 518 BC) and Haggai (written approximately 520 BC) overlap in timeframe with the Book of Ezra. Zechariah and Haggai were contemporaries of the prophets Ezra and Nehemiah. Just as God’s people faced opposition as they sought to worship God with their obedience, Jesus faced temptation and opposition as He obeyed His Father in all things. Through Jesus’ endurance in ministry, we are empowered to obey God no matter what circumstances or trials we face.

Suffering for Righteousness' Sake

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled.”

1 Peter 3:8-14

| √ | Week 47 | Passages |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| | Day 1 | Zechariah 9 |
| | Day 2 | Zechariah 10 -11 |
| | Day 3 | Zechariah 12 |
| | Day 4 | Zechariah 13 - 14 |
| | Day 5 | Ezra 6:14b-22, 4:6 |

Week 47: Christ Connection (from Zechariah 9)

Zechariah 9:9-10 says, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and He shall speak peace to the nations; His rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

In verse 9, we have one of the Old Testament’s prophecies of Christ's first coming. In verse 10, we find an equally powerful prediction of his return. In the New Testament, all four gospel writers describe Jesus’ humble entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:1-10, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-38, and John 12:12-15) and Matthew (21:5) and John (12:15) actually quote portions of the passage in Zechariah 9. Jesus first coming was predicted and clearly part of God’s plan to offer forgiveness and restoration to mankind.

Between v9 and v10, we have a gulf of at least two thousands years!

Zechariah 9:9 describes Jesus’ first coming in humility as he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. In v10, Jesus’ second coming is described in which he will not be on a lowly donkey but be clearly seen as King of Kings. Jesus provided peace through the cross during his first coming and at his return Christ will put an end to war, and usher in world peace. Efforts to bring peace on earth are commendable, but true and lasting peace will only be achieved by the arrival of the Prince of Peace.

| √ | Week 48 | Passages |
|---|---------|---------------|
| | Day 1 | Esther 1 - 2 |
| | Day 2 | Esther 3 - 4 |
| | Day 3 | Esther 5 - 6 |
| | Day 4 | Esther 7 - 8 |
| | Day 5 | Esther 9 - 10 |

Week 48: Christ Connection **(from Esther 4:14)**

“... And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this...”

Esther 4:14

The command to kill all the Jews threatened the fulfillment of God’s promise of a Messiah-King who would bring the blessing of Abraham to the world. Even though God’s involvement in the story of Esther seems hidden, He was at work, creating and implementing a plan to rescue His people and set the stage for the coming of His Son.

“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’”

Luke 2:10-11

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

Romans 8:28-30

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10

| √ | Week 49 | Passages |
|---|---------|-------------|
| | Day 1 | Ezra 4:7-23 |
| | Day 2 | Ezra 7 |
| | Day 3 | Ezra 8 |
| | Day 4 | Ezra 9 |
| | Day 5 | Ezra 10 |

Week 49: Christ Connection (Ezra 4 - 10)

God brings the exiles back to Jerusalem and directs that His temple be rebuilt. Through Christ, God is building a living temple. Let us join God's construction crew.

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”
Ephesians 2:19-22

“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.”
1 Corinthians 3:10-17

| √ | Week 50 | Passages |
|---|---------|------------------|
| | Day 1 | Nehemiah 1 - 3 |
| | Day 2 | Nehemiah 4 - 5 |
| | Day 3 | Nehemiah 6 - 8 |
| | Day 4 | Nehemiah 9 - 11 |
| | Day 5 | Nehemiah 12 - 13 |

Week 50: Christ Connection (from Nehemiah 1)

Nehemiah's prayer is motivated by concern for God's glory and care for God's people. Nehemiah believed God would keep His promise to bring His people back home. His trust in God is why he prayed and took action the way he did. As Christians, we believe God will keep His promise to restore the world as a home for His people. Jesus is the One who prays to the Father on our behalf, and because of His sinless sacrifice on the cross and his glorious resurrection from the dead, He is the only way to salvation.

Jesus' prayer for God's glory and God's people is found in John 17: *"When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ... ²⁵O righteous Father, even though the world does not know You, I know You, and these know that You have sent Me. ²⁶I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

John 17:1-26

| √ | Week 51 | Passages |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| | Day 1 | 1 Chronicles 1 - 3 |
| | Day 2 | 1 Chronicles 4 - 9 |
| | Day 3 | Joel 1 |
| | Day 4 | Joel 2 |
| | Day 5 | Joel 3 |

Week 51: Christ Connection (from Joel 1 - 3)

The prophetic Book of Joel is a book that has an uncertain chronological placement. It is either placed around 835 BC, during the time Joash was king in the southern kingdom of Judah, or around 440 BC, during the post-exile period (the time the nation of Israel was allowed to return to the land promised them). Placed here, during the post-exile period, Joel's contemporary would be the prophet Malachi.

The "Day of the Lord" is a common phrase in the Old Testament and in the book of Joel (see 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14). It always refers to some extraordinary happening, whether a present event (like a locust plague described in this book), an event in the near future (like the destruction of Jerusalem or the defeat of enemy nations), or the final period of history when God will defeat all the forces of evil. In this prophetic book, Joel not only delivers God's message in a time of disaster but also laments in prayer before God, seeking relief for God's people (Joel 1:15-20). Similarly, Jesus laments over Jerusalem in Luke 19. He looks beyond their current circumstances and cries out to God to move in their hearts to return to the Lord. *"And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it, saying, 'Would that you had known on this day the things that make for peace!'" Luke 19:41*

Throughout Jesus' ministry, he prayed the people would look beyond their present circumstances and return to their shepherd and asked God to raise up His people to share with others about God's love. *"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'" Matthew 9:36*

| √ | Week 52 | Passages |
|---|---------|-----------------|
| | Day 1 | Malachi 1 |
| | Day 2 | Malachi 2:1-9 |
| | Day 3 | Malachi 2:10-17 |
| | Day 4 | Malachi 3 |
| | Day 5 | Malachi 4 |

Week 52: Christ Connection (from Malachi 1 - 4)

The Book of Malachi is believed to have taken place around 435 BC – 430 BC, post-exile after the rebuilding of the Temple. Malachi is the last of the Old Testament Prophets. His contemporary would be the prophet Joel.

After Malachi, the prophetic word of God went silent for 400 years. But Malachi prophesied about a messenger who would prepare the way for the Messiah to bring God’s kingdom. Centuries later, John the Baptist arrived as the messenger who prepared the way for Jesus.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.”
John 1:6-7

The last word of the Old Testament is “curse” or “destruction”, a reminder of the consequences of our sin. But in the New Testament, one of the first words we hear from Jesus is “blessing.” The One who bears our curse is the One who brings us blessing.

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’ ”
John 8:12

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