

## **Bible 30**

### **A Survey of the Bible in 30 Weekly Sessions**



*Joseph Sold by His Brothers (1883), by Zygmunt Sokołowski*

***Learn the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in 30 weekly sessions!***

**Brian R. Gilpin**

---

# **Bible 30**

A Survey of the Bible in 30  
Weekly Sessions

---

Brian R. Gilpin

*Classical Conversations*  
FOUNDATION

Copyright © 2023 by Classical Conversations Foundation

Bible 30, A Survey of the Bible in 30 Weekly Sessions

All rights reserved.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011, by Biblica, Inc.<sup>TM</sup> Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com). The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.<sup>TM</sup>

All images were sourced courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

## Contents

---

Introduction.....	5
About the Bible .....	6
Week 1 – Creation and the Fall .....	7
Week 2 – Noah and the Great Flood .....	8
Week 3 – God Calls Abraham and Makes a Promise to Him .....	9
Week 4 – Joseph Becomes a Leader in Egypt.....	10
Week 5 – Jacob Moves His Family to Egypt .....	11
Week 6 – God Speaks to Moses Through a Burning Bush.....	12
Week 7 – The Passover and Exodus from Egypt .....	13
Week 8 – Manna, the Ten Commandments, and the Tabernacle .....	14
Week 9 – Israelites Wander in the Desert for 40 Years .....	15
Week 10 – Israelites Conquer the Land of Canaan .....	16
Week 11 – Israel is Ruled by Judges .....	17
Week 12 – Israel Demands a King .....	18
Week 13 – David Anointed as King.....	19
Week 14 – Solomon Becomes King .....	20
Week 15 – The Divided Kingdom .....	21
Week 16 – Assyrians Conquer Israel .....	22
Week 17 – Babylonians Destroy Jerusalem.....	23
Week 18 – The Exile .....	24
Week 19 – Return to Jerusalem and Rebuilding the Temple .....	25
Week 20 – Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls of Jerusalem .....	26
Introduction to the New Testament.....	27
Week 21 – Jesus is Born .....	28
Week 22 – Jesus Ministers through Teaching and Healing.....	29
Week 23 – Jesus Enters Jerusalem for Passover .....	30
Week 24 – Last Supper and the Crucifixion.....	31
Week 25 – Resurrection and Ascension .....	32
Week 26 – Pentecost and the Church Age.....	33
Week 27 – Stephen and the Persecuted Church.....	34
Week 28 – The Apostle Paul.....	35
Week 29 – The Letters .....	35
Week 30 – The End Times .....	37

# Introduction

## *Bible 30, A Survey of the Bible in 30 Weekly Sessions*

### Welcome

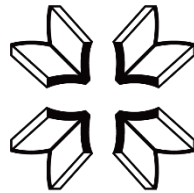
Welcome to *Bible 30, A Survey of the Bible in 30 Weekly Sessions*. This guide serves as a companion to the Bible 30 program, which is a Bible reading plan that covers the major events of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in 30 readings of 20 minutes or less.

The goal of Bible 30 is to provide a clear chronological understanding of the Bible along with a presentation of some of the key events in biblical history. Each session includes a brief introduction to the reading, timeline information, a 20-minute Scripture reading that highlights a major event in biblical history, and discussion questions with answers.

The reading sessions are brief, but they will hopefully lead to a better understanding of the Bible and inspire people of all ages to go deeper in their own Bible reading and studies.

### Join Us for Our Weekly Public Reading of Scripture

From August to April we host a live online reading of the Bible 30 program where we gather for 30 minutes each week over the course of 30 weeks. The reading plan follows the 30-week academic calendar of the Classical Conversations Challenge program.



**Public  
Reading  
of Scripture**

We listen to a dramatized audio version of the Bible provided by the Grace and Mercy Foundation called Public Reading of Scripture. This Bible reading app is free of charge and is located at <https://bible.prsi.org/>.

No one will ever be asked to read or share. Everyone just listens, but there is a five-minute period at the very end where participants are welcome to share any reflections they may have about the reading.

This weekly public reading of Scripture is designed for the entire family. All ages are welcome. Come join us! There's something special about listening to the Bible in the company of others.

Contact us at [HelpDesk@ClassicalConversationsFoundation.org](mailto:HelpDesk@ClassicalConversationsFoundation.org) if you would like to receive the weekly online meeting link or if we can answer any questions you may have. The online meeting link is also available on our website at [ClassicalConversationsFoundation.org](https://ClassicalConversationsFoundation.org).

## About the Bible

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible is God's word and is the most important book in the world. It was written by 40 different people over a period of 1,500 years. The Bible tells us that all Scripture is God-breathed, which means that the hands of men physically wrote the words, but God told them what to write by speaking the words to their hearts. The Bible is divided into 66 different books and has 1,189 chapters. It is the best-selling book of all time.

### What the Bible is about

The central theme of the Bible is Jesus, the one sent by God to be the Savior of all those that put their faith and trust in him.

### The Bible teaches these following important points

- God created the world and everything in it.
- God is in complete control of his creation.
- It tells us how sin entered the world and that sin separates us from God.
- It is important to trust God and honor him with our lives.
- Faith in Jesus for forgiveness of sin brings us into right relationship with God which will allow us to have an eternal relationship with him in heaven.

### Why reading the Bible is important

- It informs our Christian faith.
- It is God's word (2 Timothy 3:16).
- It equips us for serving God (2 Timothy 3:17).
- God tells us to read the Bible (1 Timothy 4:13).
- It gives us wisdom and helps us to discern God's will (Psalm 119:105).
- It provides spiritual nourishment (Jeremiah 15:16).

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

Psalm 119:105

**Don't walk in darkness. Make the Bible a regular part of your life!**

## Week 1 - Creation and the Fall

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*  
Genesis 1:1

Scripture Reading  
Genesis 1-3

*Total Reading Time: 17:27*

Timeline Period  
Before Recorded History

*The Expulsion of Adam and Eve  
from Paradise (1791)*  
by Benjamin West  
National Gallery of Art  
Washington, DC



### Introduction to the Reading

Genesis chapters 1-2 describe the creation of the world including the first man and woman.

Since God created the world he is in charge of the world and can do anything he wants with his creation. That is what is meant when we say that God is sovereign. In other words, God is in control of everything in the world.

Genesis chapter 3 describes the sin of Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This was the first time that Adam and Eve had sinned. This first sin is called Original Sin or the Fall of Man.

The serpent causes Adam and Eve to sin by telling them that God is a liar and that the fruit of the tree will make them like God. And then God confronts Adam and Eve about their wrongdoing, and then he shows us that there are consequences for sin by making them leave the Garden of Eden.

### Questions

How did God create the universe and everything in it?  
*He spoke it into existence.*

Why did God send Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden?  
*They ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*



## Week 2 – Noah and the Great Flood

*The Lord then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. . ."*

Genesis 7:1

Scripture Reading  
Genesis 6 - 9

*Total Reading Time: 20:36*

Timeline Period  
Before Recorded History

*Thanksgiving after Leaving  
Noah's Ark (1901)  
Domenico Morelli  
Dorotheum, Vienna*



### Introduction to the Reading

Genesis chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9 describe the story of Noah and the great flood. God decided to destroy all people on the earth when he saw how wicked and evil the human race had become.

However, Noah was a righteous man who pleased God. So God chose Noah to build an ark to save him and his family as well as seven pairs of every kind of clean animal (a male and a female), seven pairs of every kind of bird, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth.

The flood came and covered the entire earth, which destroyed all people and all animals except those that were on the ark. But after the floodwaters receded God promised Noah that he would never again send a flood to destroy everything on earth.

### Questions

Why did God flood the entire earth?

*Because people were corrupt and full of violence.*

Why did God save Noah and his family from the flood?

*Because he was righteous and walked faithfully with God.*

How long did it rain during the flood?

*It rained for 40 days and 40 nights.*



## Week 3 – God Calls Abraham and Makes a Promise to Him

*Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,  
“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. . .”*  
Genesis 17: 3-4

**Scripture Reading**  
Genesis 12, 13, 15, 17

*Total Reading Time: 16:37*

**Timeline Period**  
2100 BC

*Abraham's Journey from Ur  
to Canaan (1850)*  
by József Molnár  
Hungarian National Gallery



### Introduction to the Reading

Genesis chapters 12, 13, 15, and 17 describe the story of God calling Abraham to become the father of the nation of Israel. Abraham obeyed God and left his home and relatives and moved to the land of Canaan.

In fact, God promised to give the entire land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants. Canaan is now modern day Israel. God then commanded Abraham to institute the practice of circumcision, which is a sign of the promise that he made with Abraham and his descendants.

God promised Abraham that he and Sarah would have a son. They were confused by this promise because they didn't have any children and were already very old and past normal childbearing age. However, God was faithful to them and they eventually had a son named Isaac. God is always faithful and always keeps his promises.

### Questions

What land did God promise to Abraham and his descendants?

*God promised him the land of Canaan, which is now the land of modern day Israel.*

What practice did God command as a sign of his promise to Abraham and his descendants?

*God commanded the practice of circumcision as a sign of his promise.*

## Week 4 – Joseph Becomes a Leader in Egypt

*So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."*  
Genesis 41:41

Scripture Reading  
Genesis 37, 39, 41

Total Reading Time: 21:21

Timeline Period  
1900 BC (approx.)

*Joseph Sold by His Brothers (1883)*  
by Zygmunt Sokołowski



### Introduction to the Reading

We learned about the story of Abraham and how God told him that his descendants would become a great nation. Well, Abraham had a son named Isaac and Isaac had a son named Jacob. God changed Jacob's name to Israel. That's why his descendants are called Israelites and the country is called Israel.

Jacob had twelve sons that eventually became the twelve tribes of Israel. His eleventh and most favorite son was Joseph. He was the favorite because he was the son of his wife Rachel.

However, this favoritism made his older brothers so angry they wanted to kill him, but they sold him into slavery instead. But God was with Joseph, and despite his troubles he eventually became the top leader in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh.

### Questions

Who did Joseph first work for when he was taken to Egypt?  
*He worked for Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials.*

Why did Pharaoh take Joseph out of prison?  
*So Joseph could interpret his dream.*

What did Joseph do to prepare for the famine?  
*He collected the food and stored it in the cities.*

## Week 5 – Jacob Moves His Family to Egypt

*And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here,  
because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.*

Genesis 45:5

Scripture Reading  
Genesis 43, 45, 46

Total Reading Time: 18:14

Timeline Period  
1876 BC

*Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers*  
(1816)

by Peter Von Cornelius  
Old National Gallery, Berlin



### Introduction to the Reading

Joseph had become the leader of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. His job was to oversee the storage and distribution of grain so everyone had enough food during the famine. Because of the famine, Jacob sent his sons from their home in Canaan to Egypt to buy food.

It was on this trip to Egypt that Jacob's sons encountered Joseph, although at first they didn't realize that it was him. However, in a very tearful reunion Joseph finally reveals himself to his brothers. Soon afterward, Joseph moved his father Jacob and his brothers and their families from Canaan to Egypt so they would have enough food and be able to live in peace and wellness. It was there in Egypt that they lived the rest of their lives.

Joseph told his brothers that it was God that sent him into Egypt, not them. And just like Joseph and his family, God has a plan and a purpose for our lives as well, so continue to trust in God even when things may not be going well.

### Questions

Why did Joseph's brothers travel from their home in Canaan to Egypt?  
*They traveled to Egypt to buy food.*

How many brothers did Joseph have?  
*He had eleven brothers: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin.*



## Week 6 – God Speaks to Moses through a Burning Bush

*[God told Moses] “So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”*  
Exodus 3:10

Scripture Reading  
Exodus 1-4

*Total Reading Time: 19:51*

Timeline Period  
1447 BC (approx.)

*Burning Bush (17th Century)*  
by Sébastien Bourdon  
Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia



### Introduction to the Reading

Last time we learned that Jacob moved his family to Egypt and settled there since there was a famine in Canaan. Jacob’s descendants, now called Israelites or Hebrews, continued to live in Egypt for more than 400 years.

As a result their numbers had grown greatly. For this reason, the Egyptians felt threatened by their large numbers and as a result oppressed them with harsh treatment.

An Israelite named Moses cared deeply for his people, but had to escape from Egypt to Midian because he killed an Egyptian who was beating a fellow Israelite. While Moses was in the desert tending livestock, God spoke to him from a burning bush and told him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

God called Moses to do a job that seemed too difficult for him, but God promised to help him. God may call us to do a task that seems difficult, but God will be there to help us with what he has called us to do.

### Questions

Why did Moses have to escape from Egypt to Midian?  
*He killed an Egyptian man so Pharaoh wanted to kill him.*

What job did God give Moses to do?  
*He told him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.*

## Week 7 – The Passover and Exodus from Egypt

*"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."*  
Exodus 14:14

Scripture Reading  
Exodus 11, 12, 14

*Total Reading Time: 21:10*

Timeline Period  
1446 BC

*Moses and the Children of Israel  
Crossing the Red Sea (1855)*  
by Henri Frédéric Schopin  
Bristol Museum & Art Gallery  
United Kingdom



### Introduction to the Reading

God commanded Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. So, Moses went to Pharaoh and asked him to let his people go, but he refused. Pharaoh finally let them go after God killed the firstborn of all people and animals in Egypt.

However, God saved the Israelites from death with the Passover. He told them to put blood from a lamb on the doorposts of their homes. When God saw the blood on a family's doorpost, he passed over them and they lived.

After Pharaoh let the Israelites leave, he changed his mind and pursued them with his army. The Israelites were very frightened. However, God parted the Red Sea and the Israelites walked to the other side on dry ground. But when the Egyptian army pursued them into the sea, God brought the waters back onto them, and they were all destroyed.

The Passover is a wonderful symbol of the blood of Jesus that would come nearly 1,500 years later. When we put our faith and trust in him, his blood covers us and prevents us from being punished for our sins. The blood of Jesus gives us eternal life instead of eternal death and separation from God.

### Questions

What happened to the Egyptian army when they followed the Israelites into the Red Sea after it had been parted by God?

*God made the waters return, and it covered the Egyptian army and they all died.*

How long did the Israelites live in Egypt before they left?

*They lived in Egypt for 430 years.*

## Week 8 – Manna, the Ten Commandments, and the Tabernacle

*And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them."*

Deuteronomy 5:1

### Scripture Reading

Exodus 16, 40

Deuteronomy 5

*Total Reading Time: 21:24*

### Timeline Period

1446 BC

*Moses with the Tables of the Law (1624)*

by Guido Reni

Galleria Borghese, Rome



### Introduction to the Reading

Around 2.5 million Israelites escaped the Egyptian army when God parted the Red Sea. Once they were in the desert they started complaining that they would die of hunger. However, God provided them with wafers of bread in the morning that was called manna, and he provided them with quail in the evening so they would have meat to eat.

God then gave Moses the Ten Commandments and wrote them on two stone tablets. God then instructed the Israelites to build a tabernacle, which was also called the tent of meeting. This was a portable temple that could be taken down and reassembled whenever they traveled to a new place in the desert.

God provides for all of our needs, but he also wants us to worship him and honor him with the way that we live our lives.

### Questions

Moses told the Israelites that when they gathered manna not to keep any of it until the next morning. What would happen if they kept any of it until the next morning?

*Every day, except for the Sabbath day, the manna would breed worms and stink if it was kept for more than a day.*

A cloud of the Lord rested above the tabernacle during the day and a cloud of fire rested above it during the night. When is the only time that the cloud would rise up and leave the tabernacle?

*The cloud would rise and leave the tabernacle when God wanted the Israelites to pack up and move to a new place in the desert.*



## Week 9 – The Israelites Wander in the Desert for 40 Years

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage;  
do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*  
Joshua 1:9

### Scripture Reading

Numbers 13, 14  
Joshua 1, 3

*Total Reading Time: 22:06*

### Timeline Period

1445 BC - 1406 BC

*The passage of the Jordan River  
with the Ark of the Covenant (1667)  
by Juan Montero de Rojas  
Museum of Zamora, Spain*



### Introduction to the Reading

Soon after they dedicated the tabernacle, God told the Israelites to send twelve spies to explore the land of Canaan, which was the land that God had promised to give them.

When the spies returned, all of them except Joshua and Caleb said that the people of Canaan were too strong and would be too hard to conquer. Therefore, God condemned the Israelites to wandering in the desert for forty years, and the generation that was afraid would not be allowed to enter the promised land (Canaan). Only Joshua and Caleb would be allowed to enter because they trusted God.

At the end of the forty years, Moses died and Joshua became the leader of the Israelites. Then God commanded Joshua to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River into the promised land. God caused the waters in the Jordan River to pile up and all of the Israelites crossed over on dry ground.

God loved the Israelites and he loves us. But just like the what the Israelites experienced, there are consequences when we don't believe God or trust him with our lives.

### Questions

Why did God make the Israelites wander in the desert for forty years?

*That was their punishment for not trusting God even though he had brought them out of Egypt and provided for all of their needs.*

Who was the leader of the Israelites after Moses died?

*Joshua became the leader after Moses died.*

## Week 10 – Israelites Conquer the Land of Canaan

*So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had said to Moses;  
and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes.*

*Then the land rested from war.*

Joshua 11:23

### Scripture Reading

Joshua 6, 7, 11

*Total Reading Time: 18:33*

### Timeline Period

1406 BC – 1375 BC

*The Priests Go Around Jericho  
with the Ark of the Covenant  
(18th Century)*

Author Unknown



### Introduction to the Reading

Joshua led the Israelites across the Jordan River into the land of Canaan, which was the land that God had promised to Abraham and his descendants many years ago. The Israelites arrived in the promised land, but now they had to conquer their enemies and drive them out of their new homeland. The first city that the Israelites conquered was Jericho.

Before the Israelites even went into battle, God told them that he had given Jericho and its king into their hands. The Israelites followed God's instructions and everything happened just as God said that it would. The city walls fell down on their own. As a result the Israelites were able to completely destroy the city of Jericho.

Over the years Joshua was able to subdue the land of Canaan because God fought for Israel. Joshua then divided the land of Canaan among the twelve tribes of Israel and then the land rested from war. God fights for his people, and he will fight for you, but only if you follow God and honor him with your life.

### Questions

What river did the Israelites cross to get to the land of Canaan?

*The Jordan River*

Only one family in Jericho was allowed to live. Who was it?

*Rahab and her family.*

## Week 11 – Israel is Ruled by Judges

*"Blessed be he of the Lord, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!"*  
Ruth 2:20

Scripture Reading  
Ruth 1-4

*Total Reading Time: 17:48*

Timeline Period  
1375 BC – 1050 BC

*Ruth and Boaz* (1835)  
by George Frederic Watts  
National Gallery, London



### Introduction to the Reading

The story of Ruth happens during time of the judges, which takes place after the death of Joshua when the Israelites are settling in the land of Canaan. Judges were primarily military leaders that were raised up by God to rescue the Israelites from their enemies. The most well-known judges from the Bible include Deborah, Gideon, and Samson. Samuel, who we learn about later in the Bible, was Israel's last judge.

The period of the judges is a dark time in Israel's history because the people worshiped other gods. As a result, God allowed them to be defeated by their enemies who oppressed them. But God always forgave them when they repented and then delivered them from their enemies.

The story of Ruth is a picture of God's faithfulness, love, and providential care. Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi were both widowed. They had no one to protect and provide for them. But God watched over them and blessed them. Restoration and blessings are available to everyone who follows after God and his ways.

### Questions

Who ruled Israel during the story of Ruth?  
*Judges ruled Israel during this time.*

How did Ruth get food for herself and Naomi when they were in Bethlehem?  
*She picked up leftover grain from the fields during harvest.*

Ruth was the great grandmother of a famous king. Who was that famous king?  
*She was the great grandmother of King David.*



## Week 12 – Israel Demands a King

*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice . . .*  
*1 Samuel 15:22*

**Scripture Reading**  
1 Samuel 8, 10, 15

*Total Reading Time: 17:51*

**Timeline Period**  
1052 BC – 1010 BC

*Saul Reproved by Samuel (1798)*  
by John Singleton Copley  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



### Introduction to the Reading

Samuel was a well-respected judge in Israel and had also appointed his sons as judges. However, his sons were corrupt and perverted justice. As a result, the Israelites went to Samuel to demand a king to judge them like all the other nations. God told Samuel to go along with the idea because the Israelites were rejecting God and not Samuel.

When Samuel saw Saul, God told him that he was the one that would reign over his people. Saul was very handsome and taller than any of the people. Samuel then declared Saul the king of Israel in front of all of the tribes of Israel. Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel for forty-two years.

However, God would eventually regret making Saul the king of Israel because Saul did not follow God and obey his commandments. We learn from Saul's life that sacrifice is meaningless unless we first follow God and obey his commandments.

### Questions

Why did Israel demand to have a king to judge them?  
*Because they wanted to be like other nations.*

Why did God regret making Saul king?  
*Because Saul disobeyed God.*

## Week 13 – David Anointed as King

*For the Lord does not see as man sees;  
for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*  
1 Samuel 16:7

### Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 16, 17  
Psalm 23

*Total Reading Time: 17:41*

### Timeline Period

1010 BC – 970 BC

*The Shepherd David (1895)*  
by Elizabeth Jane Gardner  
National Museum of Women in the Arts  
Washington, DC



### Introduction to the Reading

God had rejected Saul as king of Israel and told Samuel to anoint David, a young shepherd, as the next king. He would become the leader of Israel about fifteen years later when Saul died.

One of David's first tests was to face Goliath, a giant from the army of the Philistines, in a one-on-one battle. He killed Goliath with just a slingshot and the giant's own sword.

David experienced many challenges in his life, including the consequences of his own sin. However, he always trusted God and honored him in every way. David's devotion to God is displayed in the many Psalms that he wrote praising God for his faithfulness. One of the most popular is Psalm 23 that begins with, "The Lord is my shepherd."

Just like David, know that the Lord is indeed your shepherd. He is always there to guide, protect, and provide.

### Questions

What was David's job at the time when he was anointed as king of Israel?  
*He was a shepherd.*

How did David kill Goliath?  
*He killed him with a slingshot and Goliath's own sword.*

## Week 14 – Solomon Becomes King

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*  
Proverbs 3:5-6

### Scripture Reading

1 Kings 3, 6  
Proverbs 3

*Total Reading Time: 17:54*

### Timeline Period

970 BC – 931 BC

*The Judgment of Solomon (1649)*  
by Nicolas Poussin  
Louvre Museum, Paris



### Introduction to the Reading

David chose his son Solomon to be the next king of Israel. God asked Solomon what he wanted, and he said that he wanted an understanding heart. This greatly pleased God and as a result he blessed Solomon with great wealth and honor as well as wisdom.

When David was still alive he wanted to build the temple, but God said that Solomon would be the one to build it because he (David) had shed much blood during his life. So David gave Solomon the plans for the temple, and Solomon completed it soon after becoming king.

Unfortunately, Solomon's life ended on a sad note because he turned his heart from the Lord. As a result, God declared that after Solomon died he would tear the kingdom away from his family and give it to one of his officers, but God would leave only one tribe for Solomon's family to rule.

Solomon is also known for writing most of the book of Proverbs, which emphasizes the importance of choosing wisdom and following God's ways. A well-known proverb tells us to trust God with all our heart, and not our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6).

### Questions

What did Solomon ask God for?

*He asked for wisdom so he would have an understanding heart to judge between good and evil.*

What great building did Solomon build?

*Solomon built the temple.*



## Week 15 – The Divided Kingdom

*I will not tear away all the kingdom from him, but I will leave him one tribe to rule.  
I will do this because of David, my servant, and because of Jerusalem, the city I have chosen.*

1 Kings 11:13

### Scripture Reading

1 Kings 11, 12  
2 Chronicles 12

*Total Reading Time: 20:22*

### Timeline Period

931 BC

*Idolatry of Solomon (1750)*  
by Sebastiano Conca  
Prado Museum, Madrid



### Introduction to the Reading

Solomon had great wealth and honor, but he disobeyed God. As a result God said that when Solomon died, he would take the kingdom from Solomon's family, except for one tribe (and give it to one of his servants). As God foretold, when Solomon died, the people rejected his son Rehoboam because of the harsh way that he spoke to the people. So ten tribes broke away and became the Northern Kingdom, which was called Israel. They were led by Jeroboam. The Southern Kingdom was called Judah and they were led by Rehoboam in Jerusalem.

A prophet had told Jeroboam that he would one day rule ten tribes of Israel. God also promised him that if he obeyed his laws and commands that he would make his family a lasting family of kings, just like he did for David. However, Jeroboam doubted God's promise and led Israel into great sin by giving them idols and false gods to worship. We can always believe what God says. He will always be with us if we follow him and honor him with our life.

### Questions

Why was God angry with Solomon?

*He married women from other nations and worshiped other gods.*

Why did the nation of Israel reject Rehoboam as their king?

*Because he spoke harshly to the people, and because God caused it to happen.*

## Week 16 – Assyrians Conquer Israel

*Seek good and not evil, That you may live . . .*  
Amos 5:14

### Scripture Reading

Amos 5, 6  
2 Kings 17

*Total Reading Time: 17:53*

### Timeline Period

722 BC

*Amos (1896-1902)*

*By James Tissot*

Jewish Museum of New York



### Introduction to the Reading

Amos was a shepherd who was called by God to be a prophet to Israel -- the Northern Kingdom. He warned them of God's coming judgment if they did not turn from their evil ways. Unfortunately, they ignored him and the Assyrians besieged Samaria and conquered them (722 BC).

The Assyrians then deported many of the Israelites to far reaching areas of their empire, which included locations in modern day Iran and Iraq. In addition, the Assyrians repopulated the land of Israel with their own people.

The Israelites who had not been deported intermarried with the Assyrian people. They also adopted their idol worship and combined it with Judaism. These people became known as the Samaritans and would later become despised by those in the southern kingdom of Judah.

Today, the ten tribes of Israel have vanished and are now known as the lost tribes of Israel. They likely assimilated into the countries where they were taken and never regained their national Jewish identity. We all need to heed the message that was given to the Israelites more than two thousand years ago: Come to the Lord and live!

### Questions

What was the name of the prophet that warned Israel that they would be punished for their sins unless they repented?

*Amos was the prophet that warned them.*

Why did God allow the Assyrians to conquer Israel, the Northern Kingdom?

*Because they sinned against God and did not repent.*

## Week 17 – Babylonians Destroy Jerusalem

*For because of the anger of the Lord this happened in Jerusalem and Judah,  
that He finally cast them out from His presence.*

2 Kings 24:20

### Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 25

2 Kings 24, 25

*Total Reading Time: 18:22*

### Timeline Period

605 BC – 586 BC

*Jeremiah on the Ruins of Jerusalem (1844)*

by Horace Vernet  
Amsterdam Museum



### Introduction to the Reading

We learned that God used the Assyrians to destroy Israel (the Northern Kingdom) because of their refusal to turn from their evil and wicked ways. More than a hundred years later, Judah (the Southern Kingdom) was warned by Jeremiah and other prophets that they would suffer a similar fate if they didn't turn back to God and honor him with their lives.

The people of Judah didn't listen, and God used the Babylonians to punish them. The total defeat and destruction of Jerusalem was a slow process that occurred over many years. It started in 605 BC when the Babylonians took control of Jerusalem simply by threatening harm with their powerful army. They forced Jerusalem to pay them money for not attacking them.

But Judah's kings rebelled against Babylon and stopped paying them. As a result Babylon attacked them in 597 BC and then in 586 BC they attacked them again and completely destroyed the city. They burned the temple and royal palaces and tore down the city's walls. They took the remaining people as captives to Babylon leaving only a few of the poorest people to farm the land. The destruction of Jerusalem should be a sobering reminder that God punishes sin.

### Questions

What was the name of the prophet that warned Judah to turn back to God or suffer the consequences of punishment their sin?

*Jeremiah was the prophet that continually urged Judah to turn back to God.*

Why did God allow the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem?

*God allowed the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem because the Jews continued to sin against God.*

## Week 18 – The Exile

*My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me . . .  
Daniel 6:22*

Scripture Reading  
Daniel 1, 3, 6

*Total Reading Time: 19:03*

Timeline Period  
605 BC – 539 BC

*Answer to the King (1890)*  
by Briton Rivière  
Manchester Art Gallery  
England



### Introduction to the Reading

We learned that in 605 BC Babylon threatened Judah with their mighty army and forced them to pay them money for not attacking them. Also at this time, they took the first captives back to Babylon, which included Daniel and other young men from prominent families of Judah.

Babylon took more captives when they attacked Jerusalem in 597 BC and then they took nearly all of the survivors captive when they attacked and destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC. This time period is called the exile because the people from Jerusalem had to live as captives in Babylon for many years.

Many of the captives faced trials, especially when it came to honoring and worshiping God. For example, Daniel was thrown in the lion's den because he was caught praying to God. However, God protected him and the lions didn't touch him.

God protected Daniel and honored him for his faithfulness. Just like Daniel, if we honor God with our lives, he will protect us and honor us.

### Questions

Why were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego thrown into the fiery furnace?  
*Because they refused to bow down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had made.*

Why was Daniel put in the lion's den?  
*Because he was caught praying to God.*



## Week 19 – Return to Jerusalem and Rebuilding the Temple

*Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, which is in Jerusalem.*

Ezra 1:3

### Scripture Reading

Ezra 1, 3, 5, 6

*Total Reading Time: 15:54*

### Timeline Period

539 BC – 516 BC

*Return from the Babylonian Captivity (1698)*

by Jan Luyken

Amsterdam Museum



### Introduction to the Reading

Last time we learned that most of the survivors from Judah (the Southern Kingdom) were taken prisoner to Babylon where they lived as captives between 605 BC and 539 BC. However, Persia conquered Babylon in 539 BC and soon after King Cyrus issued a decree that the Jews were free to leave and that they should rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. He also returned all of the items that King Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple when he conquered Jerusalem.

Large groups of Jews left Babylon at different times. However, many survivors never left but instead decided to remain in Babylon. The Jews that returned to their homeland from captivity in Babylon are often referred to as the remnant.

The Jews encountered opposition from local Persian officials while trying to rebuild the temple, which delayed them for several years. However, King Darius found the original decree from King Cyrus and ordered that the temple be rebuilt. The prophets Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the Jews to continue in their work. The rebuilding of the temple was finally completed in 516 BC, which was a happy and joyous occasion.

### Questions

Who was the king that let the Jews leave Babylon and return to their homeland?

*King Cyrus let the Jews return to their homeland.*

What building was rebuilt when the Jews returned from captivity in Babylon?

*The temple was rebuilt.*

## Week 20 – Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls of Jerusalem

*“You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.”*

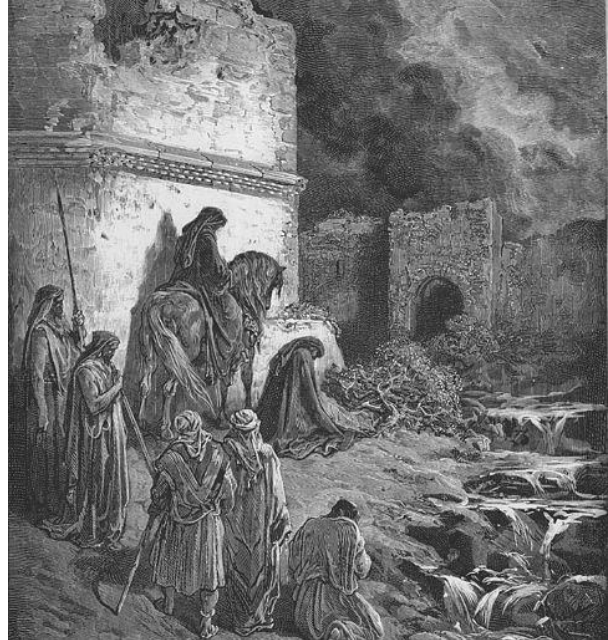
Nehemiah 2:17

Scripture Reading  
Nehemiah 1, 2, 4-6

Total Reading Time: 20:04

Timeline Period  
445 BC – 433 BC

*Nehemiah Views the Ruins  
of Jerusalem's Walls (1866)*  
by Gustave Dore  
Dore's English Bible



### Introduction to the Reading

We learned that the temple in Jerusalem was rebuilt in 516 BC. However, nearly seventy years later the walls of Jerusalem still lay in ruin from when King Nebuchadnezzar tore them down when he destroyed the city in 586 BC.

Nehemiah lived in Susa, the capital of Persia, where he worked as a cupbearer to King Artaxerxes. The ancient city of Susa is located in the western part of modern-day Iran, and a cupbearer was someone who made sure that the king's wine did not contain poison.

Nehemiah learned that the walls of Jerusalem were still broken down. Around 445 BC, King Artaxerxes appointed Nehemiah to be governor of Judah and let him leave to go rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, which he accomplished in just 52 days. This was a great achievement, especially considering that the Israelites had encountered constant opposition and threats of being attacked.

Nehemiah sought God's help and was faithful in his work. As a result God protected them and helped them succeed. And just like Nehemiah, God will help us if we pray and faithfully honor him in the work that he gives us to do.

### Questions

What job did Nehemiah have when he was working for King Artaxerxes?

*He was a cupbearer, which was someone who made sure the king's wine did not contain poison.*

How long did it take Nehemiah and his team of workers to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem?

*They finished rebuilding the wall in 52 days.*



# Introduction to the New Testament

## The 400 Silent Years

Timeline Period  
430 BC – 5 BC

*The Victory of Alexander  
over Porus (1738)*  
by Charles-André van Loo  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art



### The 400 Silent Years

The rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem by Nehemiah in 445 BC was the last major historical event recorded in the Old Testament. And the messages from Malachi were the last prophetic words, which were given around 430 BC.

More than 400 years passed before the birth of Jesus. This period of time is sometimes referred to as the 400 silent years. Although the Bible was silent during this time, it was not a quiet time in world history. During this time Alexander the Great led the Greeks in conquering Persia and the Middle East and eventually took control of Israel around 331 BC. God predicted this Greek dominance in a vision given to Daniel (Daniel 8 and 11).

The Greek conquest was devastating to Israel, but it brought new languages and roads to the area. These changes along with close access to shipping ports made Jerusalem and the surrounding area an international location. It was the perfect place for God to send his son Jesus so the entire world could learn about him. It was perfect because it was all part of God's plan.

### The Good News

The New Testament begins with the life of Jesus, which is covered in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books are called the Gospel books. The word gospel means good news. The good news is the message that Jesus was sent to be the Savior of the world for all those that believe in him for the forgiveness of sins.

## Week 21 – Jesus is Born

*“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*

Matthew 1:21

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 1 - 3

Luke 4

*Total Reading Time: 18:08*

### Timeline Period

5 BC\* – AD 30

*The Nativity (1665-1670)*  
by Bartolome Esteban Murillo  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston



### Introduction to the Reading

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, which is located about six miles south of Jerusalem. King Herod ruled Judea at that time (which was a large region in Israel around Jerusalem). Herod learned from wise men that the King of the Jews had been born.

King Herod was troubled by this and attempted to get rid of Jesus by having all baby boys in Bethlehem and the surrounding area killed. This event is known as the Massacre of the Innocents. Mary and Joseph saved Jesus by escaping to Egypt and stayed there until after King Herod had died.

Mary and Joseph eventually settled in the town of Nazareth where Jesus grew up. When Jesus was he got baptized by John the Baptist and then went into the wilderness where he was tested and tempted by the devil.

### Questions

Where was Jesus born?

*Jesus was born in Bethlehem.*

What were the names of Jesus's parents?

*Jesus's parents were Joseph and Mary.*

*\*The birth of Jesus is commonly listed as sometime between 6 and 5 BC, which may seem odd since BC refers to the period of time before Christ. This is due to the fact that a small miscalculation was made in determining the year that Jesus was born when the BC and AD designations were first created some 1,500 years ago.*

## Week 22 – Jesus Ministers Through Teaching and Healing

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life,  
but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.*  
John 3:36

### Scripture Reading

John 3, 4  
Matthew 14

*Total Reading Time: 17:29*

### Timeline Period

AD 27 – AD 30

*Walking on Water (1890s)*  
by Ivan Aivazovsky  
Private Collection



### Introduction to the Reading

We learned that Jesus started his public ministry soon after he returned from the wilderness where he had been tempted and tested by the devil for forty days. He was about thirty years of age when he started his public ministry.

Jesus traveled with his disciples throughout the land of Israel healing people and telling people that he was the Messiah, the one chosen by God to be the Savior of the world.

Jesus interacted with men and women as well as people that were rich and those that were poor. He did incredible miracles such as healing the son of a royal official who lay sick more than 20 miles away. He also fed more than five thousand people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. And he walked on water.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Messiah. He also showed us by his many miracles that he is indeed the Messiah. So, if we want eternal life, we must believe in Jesus that he is the Messiah (the Christ), the one sent by God to be the Savior of the world.

### Questions

What did Jesus tell Nicodemus he had to do in order to see the kingdom of God?

*He told him that he had to be born again. Being born again means that you are born of the spirit, which is what happens when you believe in Jesus for eternal life.*

Who must we believe in to have eternal life?

*We must believe in Jesus to have eternal life.*

## Week 23 – Jesus Enters Jerusalem for Passover

*When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. He said to them, “It is written, my house will be a house of prayer”; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”*

Luke 19:45-46

### Scripture Reading

John 11

Luke 19, 21

*Total Reading Time: 19:33*

### Timeline Period

AD 33

*Christ Expelling the Money Changers  
from the Temple (1660-1669)  
by Salvator Rosa  
Attingham Park, England*



### Introduction to the Reading

Jesus spent about three years traveling around the land of Israel with his disciples teaching and healing. Toward the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus performed his most dramatic healing miracle by raising his friend Lazarus from the dead.

The miracles Jesus performed caused many people to believe in him as the Messiah, which made the Pharisees very upset. They thought that this would cause the Romans to take away their temple and their country, so they started plotting to kill Jesus.

Jesus arrived with his disciples in Jerusalem about a week before Passover. He entered Jerusalem on a Sunday riding on a donkey with large crowds greeting him. The next day Jesus went to the temple area where he drove out the money changers and all who were buying and selling there. Most days that week Jesus taught at the temple. During this time, the chief priests and other Jewish leaders were trying to find a way to kill him.

This week is commonly referred to as Passion Week. The word passion comes from the Latin word *passio*, which means suffering. So when people say, Jesus's passion, they refer to his suffering.

### Questions

Who did Jesus raise from the dead?

*Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.*

Why did the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders want to kill Jesus?

*With Jesus becoming so popular, they were afraid that the Romans would take their temple and their country away from them.*



## Week 24 – Last Supper and the Crucifixion

*Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again.  
But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"*

Luke 23:20-21

### Scripture Reading

Luke 22, 23

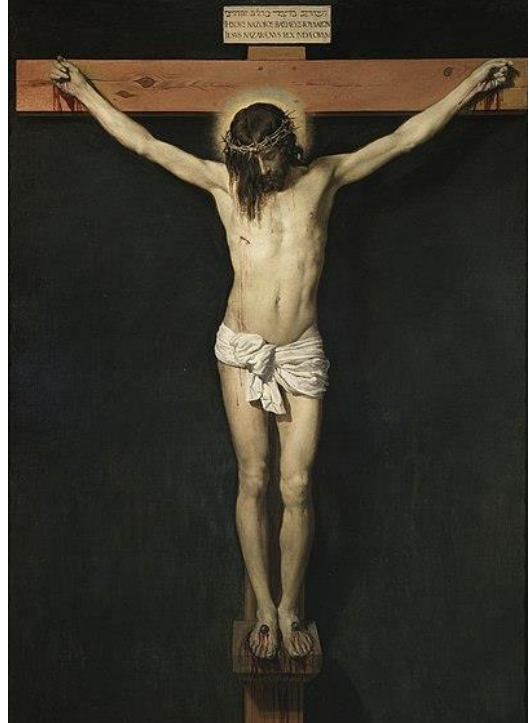
*Total Reading Time: 20:59*

### Timeline Period

AD 33

*Christ Crucified (1632)*

by Diego Velazquez  
Prado Museum, Madrid



### Introduction to the Reading

During the week leading up to Passover, Jesus would go to the temple area where he would teach. Friday was Passover, which started on Thursday at sundown (during Bible times, days began and ended at sundown).

On Thursday evening Jesus and his disciples gathered together for the traditional Passover meal. This Passover meal is called the Last Supper as Jesus would die the next day. During the Last Supper Jesus instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion. He gave the disciples bread and wine and told them that the bread represented his body and the wine represented his blood.

Later that night Jesus was arrested and taken to the Jewish leaders who said he should die for claiming to be the Messiah. The Jewish leaders took him to Pilate, the Roman governor, since only the Romans were allowed to put people to death.

Pilate told the crowd three times that Jesus had not committed a crime. However, he eventually gave in to the crowd which kept shouting to crucify him. The Roman guards then crucified Jesus along with two criminals. He died and his body was placed in a burial tomb that day before sundown.

### Questions

How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus?

*Peter denied knowing Jesus three times.*

How many other people were crucified with Jesus?

*Two other men, both criminals, were crucified alongside Jesus. One was on his right, and one was on his left.*

## Week 25 – Resurrection and Ascension

*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.*

John 20:31

### Scripture Reading

John 20-21

Acts 1

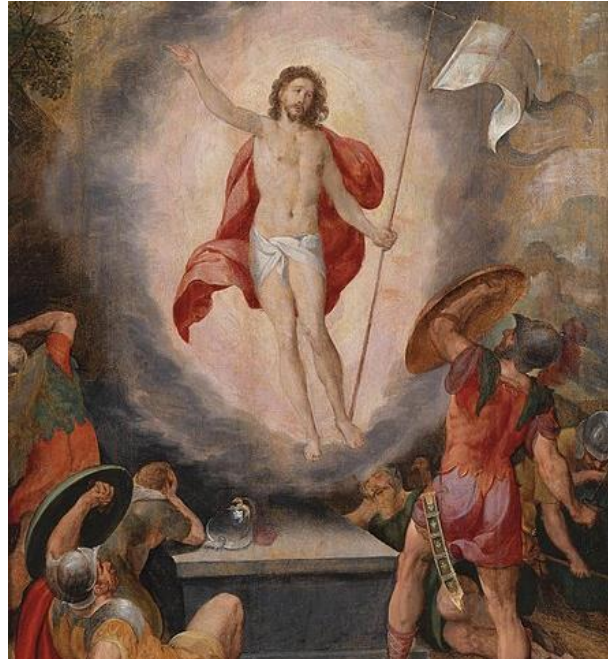
*Total Reading Time: 15:20*

### Timeline Period

AD 33

*Resurrection of Christ (16th century)*

by Christoph Schwarz  
Dorotheum, Vienna



### Introduction to the Reading

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early Sunday morning and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. She saw that Jesus was not there and ran to tell Peter and John, who ran to the tomb and went inside and saw that the body of Jesus was not there. Only the strips of linen that had been wrapped around his body remained. Peter and John then left the tomb.

Mary Magdalene was very upset and stayed behind. She stood outside the tomb crying when Jesus appeared to her and told her to go and tell the disciples. Jesus then appeared to the disciples that evening. Jesus later appeared to the disciples again, this time by the Sea of Galilee. It was during this time that Jesus told Peter to feed his sheep, which meant that Jesus was directing him to serve those that believe in Jesus.

Jesus appeared to the disciples over a period of forty days after his resurrection. He told them that they would be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and to the ends of the earth. Soon after he ascended to heaven right before their eyes from the Mount of Olives.

### Questions

Who did Jesus appear to first after his resurrection?

*Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene.*

How long did Jesus stay on earth after his resurrection?

*Jesus stayed on earth for forty days after his resurrection before ascending to heaven.*



## Week 26 – Pentecost and the Church Age

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 2:38

### Scripture Reading

Acts 2-4

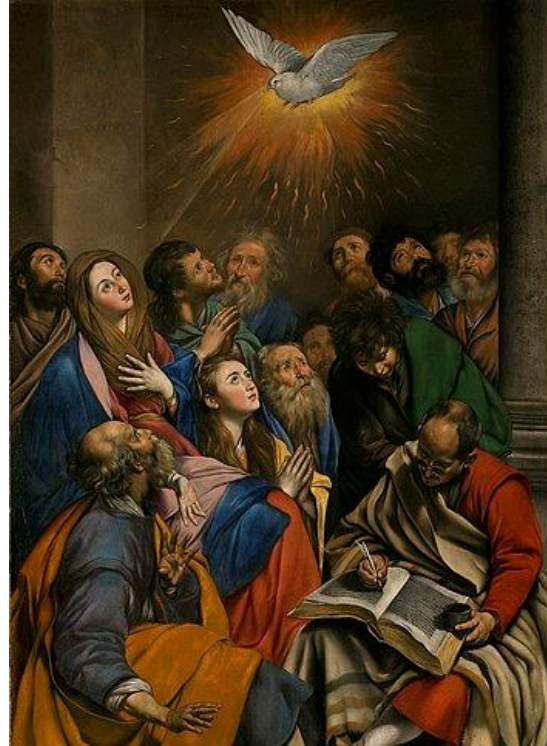
*Total Reading Time: 17:29*

### Timeline Period

AD 33

*The Pentecost (Between 1612 and 1614)*

by Juan Bautista Maino  
Prado Museum, Madrid



### Introduction to the Reading

After Jesus ascended to heaven his followers gathered together on the day of Pentecost, which was also called the Feast of Weeks. The Feast of Weeks occurred fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits (which occurred during Passover week). The celebration was called Pentecost because it was the Greek word for fiftieth. Today, Christians celebrate Pentecost as the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church age.

The followers of Jesus had gathered together and were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. As a result a crowd gathered to hear them speak about the wonders of God and could understand them in their own languages. Peter then got up and spoke to the crowd about following Jesus. He told them to be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. About three thousand people accepted Peter's message and were baptized that day.

Peter and John then went out and began to teach people about Jesus and many believed. This angered the Jewish leaders who put in jail. They were released, but they continued to boldly preach about Jesus.

### Questions

What does the Christian celebration of Pentecost commemorate?

*Pentecost commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church age.*

How many days after Easter does Pentecost occur?

*Pentecost occurs fifty days after Easter.*

## Week 27 – Stephen and the Persecuted Church

*On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.*

*Acts 8:1*

### Scripture Reading

Acts 6-8

*Total Reading Time: 18:32*

### Timeline Period

AD 33

*The Stoning of St. Stephen (1783)*  
by Franz Anton Maulbertsch  
Belvedere, Vienna



### Introduction to the Reading

The preaching and teaching about Jesus angered the Jewish leaders. Even though Peter and John were put in jail for a short while, they continued to boldly preach about Jesus and the number of followers in Jerusalem increased rapidly.

Stephen was a believer that was gifted with a powerful spirit who did miraculous signs among the people. However, some Jewish leaders didn't like what he was doing. They stirred up opposition against him and produced false witnesses who said that he spoke against the teachings of Moses and God.

Stephen defended himself by reminding the Jewish leaders of their history of persecuting the prophets and the fact that they had betrayed and murdered Jesus. This made them very angry and as a result they dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

On that day a great persecution started against the church in Jerusalem. A man named Saul was one of the leaders of this persecution. He went from house to house and put people in prison. All the believers except for the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria, but those that were scattered preached the word wherever they went.

### Questions

How was Stephen killed?

*He was stoned to death.*

What did Saul do to the believers in Jerusalem?

*He put them in prison.*

## Week 28 – The Apostle Paul

*As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.*

*“This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said.*

Acts 17:2-3

### Scripture Reading

Acts 9, 15, 17

*Total Reading Time: 20:18*

### Timeline Period

AD 33 – AD 61

*St. Paul Preaching at Athens (1515)  
by Raphael  
Victoria and Albert Museum,  
London*



### Introduction to the Reading

The Apostle Paul led the spread of Christianity from the Jews in Jerusalem to the Gentiles throughout the Roman Empire. An apostle was someone who was sent out to be a messenger of Jesus Christ. Paul was also known by his Jewish name, Saul, as Paul was his Latin name. It was common during this time for Jews to have a Hebrew name and a Latin or Greek name that they would use when interacting with Gentiles (non-Jewish people).

Before becoming an evangelist for Jesus, Paul actually persecuted Christians. He thought that belief in Jesus was wrong for Jews. However, he had a very dramatic conversion experience where Jesus temporarily blinded him with a bright light as he traveled to Damascus to hunt down and arrest followers of Jesus. As a result he became a devout believer, and the other apostles eventually accepted him. He went on many journeys throughout the Roman Empire starting churches and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A major turning point in bringing the gospel to the Gentiles was the Jerusalem Council, where the leaders of the church in Jerusalem said that Gentiles weren't required to follow Jewish customs such as circumcision in order to be saved. But rather they affirmed that people are saved by placing their faith in Jesus.

### Questions

What is a Gentile?

*A Gentile is a non-Jewish person.*

What was Paul's Jewish name?

*Paul was also known by the name Saul, which was his Jewish name. Paul was his Latin name, which was used more frequently when he spoke to Gentiles.*

## Week 29 – The Letters

*And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.  
If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.  
1 John 4:14-15*

### Scripture Reading

Romans 4, 8  
Ephesians 4  
1 John 4

*Total Reading Time: 17:25*

### Timeline Period

605 BC – 539 BC

*Saint Paul Writing His Epistles  
(1620)*

By Valentin de Boulogne  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston



### Introduction to the Reading

There are 27 books in the New Testament with 21 of those books being letters that were sent to churches and individuals as Christianity was spreading from Jerusalem to the greater Roman Empire. The letters provide instruction and encouragement related to the Christian faith. These letters are commonly referred to as the Epistles. The word epistle comes from the Greek word which means “letter” or “message.”

The letters were written over a 50 year period from about AD 45, with the letter from James to AD 95, with the letters from John. The Apostle Paul was the most prolific writer. He penned 13 of the 21 letters.

Some of the major themes in the letters include the following:

- God sent his Son Jesus to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14).
- Christians receive forgiveness of sins and are saved for eternal life by placing their faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9).
- Christians are called to a life of holiness as God’s people in the midst of a sinful world (Romans 12:2).
- Watch out for false teachers that distort the Gospel of Jesus Christ (1 John 4:1).

### Questions

What’s the difference between an epistle and an apostle?

*An epistle is a letter or a message. The word apostle means messenger.*

Who wrote the most letters in the Bible?

*The Apostle Paul wrote the most letters. He wrote 13 of the 21 letters in the Bible.*



## Week 30 – Revelation of the End Times

*He will wipe away 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.*

Revelation 21:4

**Scripture Reading**  
Revelation 1, 4, 20-22

*Total Reading Time: 18:08*

**Timeline Period**  
AD 90 – AD 95

*Saint John the Evangelist  
on Patmos (1642)*  
By Jacopo Vignali  
San Gaetano, Florence



### Introduction to the Reading

Revelation is the last book in the Bible and tells about events that will take place when the world comes to an end. It was given in a vision to John while he was on the island of Patmos. It is believed that John was exiled there by the Romans because he continued to tell people about Jesus.

John was told to write down what he saw in the vision and send it to seven specific churches. We are told that Satan will eventually be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur where he will be punished day and night forever. In addition, anyone whose name is not found written in the book of life will also be thrown into the lake of fire.

John saw a new heaven and a new earth. He saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem where God will dwell with his people. John wrote that God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain, because all the old ways will be gone. We are told that nothing impure will enter the holy city, only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

### Questions

Will there be a temple in the new Jerusalem?

*No, there won't be a temple in the new Jerusalem because God and Jesus are the temple.*

What will eventually happen to the devil?

*He will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur where he will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

*Classical Conversations*  

---

FOUNDATION

255 Air Tool Drive  
Southern Pines, NC 27376  
[ClassicalConversationsFoundation.org](http://ClassicalConversationsFoundation.org)