

READ THE BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Weeks 14-26



Luke Powell

Introduction

This is **part 2** of *Bible in 2 years*. You can find the first 13 weeks [on my website here](#).

Remember!

- The three readings should take you about 15-30 minutes in all each day. Figure out what works best for you: all 3 readings at once, or different reading times throughout the day.
- If you fall behind, remember, you can catch up on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Pray a lot! Pray *before* you read and ask for His guidance and wisdom. Pray *as* you read, involving God in the process. Pray *after* you read and ask God to write His truth on your heart.
- Find someone to do this journey with. Someone who you can read with, or just someone you can talk to about the readings and what you are learning. This will really help you keep going on the days you don't feel like it.
- Feel free to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or comments on the readings.

Blessings as you read and pray, may God speak to you in a powerful way as you do.

Week 14:

Today we begin the challenging book of Leviticus, revealed to Moses after the tabernacle was completed. No other book in the Bible contains as much *direct speech* from God. The theme is holiness and separation – but a careful read will show us that JESUS CHRIST is in the details of these rituals.

We are still in the Psalms, and there are some powerful ones this week!
And we are going further into Matthew's gospel – keeping our eyes on Jesus.
Remember to pray a lot as you read.

Week 14 Mon

Leviticus 1: The first chapters of this book deal with 5 types of offerings the people were to bring to God. The burnt offering is a picture of Christ's self-offering on the Cross. It has been suggested by Peter Pell that the bull represents Jesus the patient worker of God; the sheep represents Jesus the meek and lowly servant; the goat represents Jesus the substitute sacrifice; and the turtledove represents Jesus the heavenly One.

Psalms 63: An absolute favourite of mine! David's great thirst for God is on display. Verse 3 is so powerful, it is certainly one we can hold onto today.

Matthew 2: Does it feel like Christmas to you? How often we read this in December. Notice how much *worship* surrounds the events. Then the joy turns to fear as Joseph and his family flee an evil ruler. Here's an interesting thought: does God still speak to us in dreams today, as he did to Joseph here?

Week 14 Tues

Leviticus 2-3: The grain offering was to thank God for blessings. Leaven and honey were removed from the offering to symbolise holiness. Salt was added to represent the covenant between God and Israel. The fellowship or peace offering celebrated peace between God and his people. Christ has fulfilled this – offering himself in order for us to find peace with God. Read Colossians 1:20 to see the link!

Psalms 64: MacDonald says "Two archery contests emerge in Psalm 64. The preliminary event is between the wicked and the righteous (v 1-6). The main event is between God and the wicked (v 7-10)."

Matthew 3: We fast-forward a few years from Matthew 2 and meet Jesus' cousin John the Baptist. John glorifies Jesus, and then baptises him in the Jordan – an amazing moment where we see Father, Son and Spirit all present.

Week 14 Wed

Leviticus 4: A sin offering was for people seeking forgiveness for unintentional sins. There is another link to Christ here – because in him we have power over wilful sins, but we may not be rid of unintentional sins. We still ask God for forgiveness daily because of these – even if we are living holy lives. And of course, Christ's sacrifice covers our sins and so we need not make a sin offering as described here.

Psalms 65: Some believe this Psalm points to the second coming of Jesus. It's a lovely Psalm of praise and I hope your heart rings as you read it!

Matthew 4: Jesus' testing in the wilderness always gives us pause. How are we dealing with our temptations? Thank God Jesus' perfection. Then Jesus' ministry begins with a message of repentance – a message often left unpreached in our modern churches. Soon Jesus and his chosen disciples are travelling the land, teaching, preaching and healing.

Week 14 Thurs

Leviticus 5: This chapter begins with more information of sin offerings, and then goes onto the guilt or trespass offering. This is still dealing with unintentional sins, but specifically sins against the holy things of God.

Psalms 66: These are powerful words about our God! Read them and be amazed at who He is!

Matthew 5: Jesus' famous "Sermon on the Mount" begins here. You may have read the Beatitudes before – but read them again thoughtfully today. Then we have a string of teachings from Jesus – on salt and light, the law, anger and murder, lust and adultery, divorce, oaths, vengeance, and loving enemies. A lot to take in – but worth it for Jesus' revolutionary ideas!

Week 14 Fri ☐

Leviticus 6: Again this chapter begins with a link to the last, speaking of the trespass offering. Notice how sinning against another person was seen as a sin against God! Then verse 8 begins a new section: the same 5 offering types are repeated, but this time with instructions for the priests, rather than the people.

Psalms 67: This Psalm always reminds me of [this song](#) based on verses 3 and 5. Verse 7 reminds us to take the good news of Jesus *to the ends of the earth*. Perhaps today we can give thanks for the faithful missionaries who live out this calling!

Matthew 6: More teachings from Jesus, on giving to the needy, prayer, fasting, money and possessions, and worry. Again there is a lot to take in here, but these are truths that will change the world if we would live by them.

A deep and rich week of reading His Word. I pray that you are growing in your faith and drawing nearer to Him as you spend this daily time in the Scriptures.

“

Because your love is better
than life, my lips will glorify
you.

I will praise you as long as I
live, and in your name I will lift
up my hands.

Psalm 63:3–4

”

Week 15

We continue with Leviticus. Be patient as you read these tricky sections! Some interesting Psalms await us, and Jesus is in full flow as we continue Matthew's Gospel. Many blessings as you spend time in the Word this week.

Week 15 Mon

Leviticus 7: We are back into the priest's duties regarding the offerings we read of last week. The section ends with a neat summary of the first 7 chapters of Leviticus.

Psalms 68: A wonderful Psalm of praise! Notice how God is described as *both* a God of might and of mercy.

Matthew 7: Jesus is still giving his brilliant teaching in this chapter. The ending pulls it all together – if we aren't building our lives on his words and teachings, we will come crashing down when the storms come.

Week 15 Tue

Leviticus 8-9: Chapter 8 is the consecration and ordination of the priests. Now, *all* of us can be consecrated to God for his service. The priests then perform their duties for the first time in ch9 – and just see the response of the people at the end of the chapter! I don't think we "fall facedown" enough anymore.

Psalms 69:1-18: Perhaps you can relate to the first few verses. Life can be tough. The disciples remembered verse 9 of this Psalm when Jesus cleared the temple in John 2. Verses 13-18 make for good prayer – perhaps we should be praying them rather than just reading them today.

Matthew 8: Three healing stories begin this chapter. What power Jesus possesses. Jesus then speaks of the high cost of discipleship – which I think we often water down today to make his teaching more attractive. Then two more stories of his power end the chapter. Are we still amazed at him as the disciples were in verse 27?

Week 15 Wed

Leviticus 10: A careless attitude in worship costs Aaron's sons their lives. What "strange fire" were they offering? It's hard to tell, although verses 8-9 suggest they may have been drunk. Whatever it was, we must remember to worship carefully and respectfully.

Psalms 69:19-36: Verse 27-28 are harsh! Jesus taught us to pray for and bless our enemies instead. Notes verse 30-31 – God is more interested in our hearts than in ritual offerings.

Matthew 9: A fascinating account in the first 9 verses. Watch Jesus carefully! Then note his words in 12-13, and ask if we have the same attitude. Jesus' next teaching, on new and old wineskins, is worth thinking about in light of our Old Testament studies at the moment. Then two more powerful stories of healing. Again, let us be "amazed" like the people in verse 33.

Week 15 Thu

Leviticus 11: Clean and unclean food is dealt with here. It might be that God was protecting his people's health here, getting them to avoid foods that might make them sick in days before refrigeration and so on. However, Jesus in Mark 7 declared all food to be clean. As one commentary says, "all ceremonial pollutions were to come to an end by the death of Christ". Of course, we must still eat in a God-glorifying way today as far as we can.

Psalms 70: I really like verse 4! Let us "always" say that God is great.

Matthew 10: Jesus calls and sends out his disciples. Verse 8 always makes me think of [this song](#). Jesus then tells of the persecutions that believers face. Verse 25 causes us to think – am I really following in his footsteps? Then Jesus' words of comfort in v29-31 can give us hope today, but then his words in v34 onwards challenge us!

Week 15 Fri

Leviticus 12: A difficult passage for us in today's times, but these words from my IVP commentary seemed to make sense: "*Not all forms of uncleanness were due to sin or a matter of moral blame. There is nothing inherently sinful about the animals that were declared unclean in ch11. Nor is there anything morally sinful*"

about menstruation or ulcers. However, in the priestly thinking, discharges from the body, particularly involving blood, were a form of unwholeness. Blood was life, and so loss of it in any form was a rupture of normal health and potentially a cause of death. Such discharges, therefore, made a person temporarily unfit to participate in sanctuary worship in the presence of holy things and people.”

Psalm 71: Lots of praise and worship in this Psalm, as the writer looks back over his life. Do you relate to verse 20? Then pay attention to verses 21-24 too!

Matthew 11: John has changed his tune since the beginning of the gospel! How often we too go up and down in our faith. But Jesus still lauds his faith. Then come some difficult “woes” from Jesus – balanced, in a sense, by his words of comfort in verse 28-30.

As always, our week in God’s Word has been a mix of comfort and challenge! God is always doing both of those in our lives. I pray that you are still finding HIM in all of this reading.

“

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 11:28–29

”

Week 16:

Our slow walk through the difficult Leviticus continues. Persevere! And see Christ in the details. The Psalms are still giving expression to our worship, and more words and actions from Jesus amaze us. A great week in the Word ahead!!

Week 16 Mon

Leviticus 13: Here we read of the priest diagnosing leprosy and other skin diseases. How harshly these people were treated, since their health problems were so contagious. Note that sin is often likened to leprosy – for the way it spreads and separates. Thank God that Jesus is our healer.

Psalms 72: A Psalm of Solomon, David's son! He asks God for many blessings on himself and his ministry, but then vitally he turns the attention to God at the end.

Matthew 12: Jesus explains that he is Lord of the Sabbath – interesting in light of the repeated calls to keep the Sabbath which we read in Exodus. A prophecy from Isaiah reminds us that Jesus is from God, and then Jesus responds to claims that he gets his power from Satan. He then talks of good and bad fruit, and says some harsh words for his own generation, before stating that all who do God's will are part of His family.

Week 16 Tues

Leviticus 14: It is thought that the application of blood to the leper's ear, hand, and foot in v14 speaks of *hearing* God's Word, *doing* God's will, and *walking* in God's ways.

Psalms 73: How easy it is for us to envy those who are rich and successful in the world! Asaph the Psalmist did this, but then remembers the truth. Verses 25-26 should be the prayer of our hearts.

Matthew 13: A series of parables from Jesus in this chapter, all illustrating that the kingdom of God is not what we expect it to be! Verses 40-43 really give us pause. How seriously Jesus takes sin. The chapter ends with Jesus heading back to his hometown but getting a less-than-welcoming ovation. Might verse 58 be true of our time?

Week 16 Wed

Leviticus 15: It might be tempting for us to view sex as evil as we read these verses. But notice, the people needed physical cleansing but not *forgiveness* in these passages. God is concerned about our physical health here. There is no spiritual defilement that comes from these things – provided, of course, that the sexual relations take place within the covenant of marriage.

Psalms 74: I love the "but God" verse halfway through! Even in our difficult times, we can say "but God" and trust that he will come through.

Matthew 14: John the Baptist is killed, sadly. Then we see two famous Jesus stories – the feeding of 5000, and water-walking. Do you need to read verses 27-32 a few times today, perhaps? The chapter closes with more healings from Jesus.

Week 16 Thurs

Leviticus 16: This chapter explains the high point of the sacrificial system: Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement – which provided a complete ceremonial cleansing for the whole community of Israel and the tabernacle for the year ahead. The two goats represent our sins being a) forgiven and b) taken away from us into the wilderness. [This picture](#) shows how Jesus' sacrifice did away with the need for this system.

Psalms 75: Verse 6-7 are sobering. But, if we are in Christ, we can echo verse 9 in our hearts as we consider God's judgement.

Matthew 15: Let's make sure that v7-9 don't apply to us! Remember that faith is a thing of the *heart*. Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman is a classic – he seemed to really appreciate her wit and her faith. Then Jesus heals more people, before the second miraculous feeding takes place.

Week 16 Fri ☐

Leviticus 17: Since the shedding of blood held such significance in the sacrificial system, the Israelites are now told to be very careful about where they kill animals and what they do with the blood. This may be why Jesus' listeners were so shocked when he told them to eat his body and drink his blood (John 6).

Psalms 76: Much praise to the God who brings victory fills this Psalm. But note verse 11 – we have a responsibility too.

Matthew 16: How often we too ask Jesus for a “sign” but he doesn't answer us in a straight way! Jesus warns of the ‘yeast’ of the Pharisees and Sadducees – that is, their evil teachings and conduct. Then a great moment as Peter confesses Jesus as Lord, and receives great responsibility as a result. The closing few verses are a challenge – are we living as verses 23-27 demand?

We are 16 weeks in! Keep persevering through the Word and finding the blessings God has for you in these words.

“

MY FLESH AND MY HEART MAY FAIL,
BUT GOD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY HEART
AND MY PORTION FOREVER.

PSALM 73:26

”

Week 17:

Another week in Leviticus, Psalms and Matthew. Read slowly, deeply, and prayerfully!

Week 17 Mon

Leviticus 18-19: Take careful note of 18:3-5. God is clear that his people are not to follow the cultural customs of the world around them. They are to do things God's way! Remember too that Jesus took this further and said that even *thinking* about someone lustfully is sinful. How high his standards are. Chapter 19 contains general laws of holiness.

Psalms 77: The Psalmist is struggling. But he makes a choice to remember God's greatness and compassion, and this gives hope! A great pattern for us to follow when we are down.

Matthew 17: The Transfiguration of Jesus is worthy of deep consideration and worship. Jesus is lifted up ahead of the great Old Testament men. On the way down from the mountain Jesus has some harsh words for his disciples. Let's ask ourselves if he would say the same to us today. Then there is the interesting account of Jesus' attitude towards the temple tax. Notice how he doesn't want to cause offense around this issue – he seemed to know just when offense was a good thing, and when it wasn't.

Week 17 Tues

Leviticus 20: God's punishments for these sins were severe. He longed for His people to be holy and separate from the ways of the other cultures. Verse 7 and 8 again show us how we should live. Let us remember that Jesus took a new approach – instead of killing those who have sinned in these ways, he offered them grace, and told them to 'sin no more'.

Psalms 78:1-39: The Psalmist is clear that we must pass on our knowledge of God to the next generations, so that they live holy and God-honouring lives. Notice, in verses 21-22, how seriously God takes our trust. Also notice his mercy in verse 38!

Matthew 18: Jesus teaches that true greatness comes in childlike humility. Then he has some serious words for those who lead others astray. The parable of the lost sheep shows us God's great love and desire to save, and then Jesus shows us how to deal with sin in the church. Lastly, a challenging parable on the importance of forgiving others. Do you need to forgive someone today?

Week 17 Wed

Leviticus 21: This chapter contains instructions for priests. Notice how often God calls them to holiness. Today, we believe in *the priesthood of all believers*. We are all called to heart holiness.

Psalms 78:40-72: Some Jewish history is remembered here. Let's pray that verses 41, and 56-57 are not true of us. V52-53 remind us of God's care for his people.

Matthew 19: Jesus' view of marriage is shown in this chapter. Then we see him blessing the little children – how great his love! Jesus then has a conversation with a rich ruler, who refuses to give up his wealth. I wonder how many of us would also be sad if Jesus asked the same of us. The chapter ends with Jesus explaining what rewards await the faithful – and a warning to still have a servant's heart.

Week 17 Thur

Leviticus 22: More instructions for the priests start this chapter. Then there is a section on offerings being without defect. How amazing that Christ offered himself on the cross, a perfect and unblemished sacrifice, for our sins! Also, consider your own worship of God. Is it half-hearted and careless, or do you bring your best to Him?

Psalms 79: The Israelites have been soundly beaten by their enemies, and they call on their God for help. I love the prayer in verses 8-10. However, their praise at the end of the Psalm was dependent on God's intervention. The NT way is to praise God even if things don't go your way.

Matthew 20: Jesus' parable of the workers reminds us that those saved of God receive the free gift of his salvation – whether saved early or late in life. Then jealousy starts to rise up in the disciples' camp, but Jesus quickly reminds them that they are to be *slaves* and *servants* of each other. Leaving Jericho, Jesus encounters two blind men and heals them with compassion.

Week 17 Fri ☐

Leviticus 23: The Israelites lived in a yearly cycle. The church re-worked this and now we have a church calendar with Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. You might find [this book by Robert Webber](#) to be an interesting read if you want more information about the Church year.

Psalms 80: God is our loving Shepherd and our glorious King, as verse 1 shows. Then there is a repeated cry of “restore us!” Perhaps you will join the Psalmist in praying this today.

Matthew 21: Jesus’ triumphant entry is a picture of his glory and humility, and of the disciples’ obedience. Jesus cleanses the temple and then does many wondrous works, much to the indignation of the Jewish leaders. We read of Jesus’ teaching around the fig tree, and of his outsmarting those who questioned his authority. Then two parables from Jesus show us that the kingdom of God is not just for the Jews anymore, but for anyone who repents, believes, and produces fruit.

I pray that this week’s readings have blessed you in a real way!

“

Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

Psalm 80:3

”

Week 18:

This week we finish our time in Leviticus, and start another difficult OT book – Numbers. We are still in the Psalms of course, and we get to the back end of Matthew’s Gospel. I pray that we will be richly blessed as we read.

Week 18 Mon

Leviticus 24: First we read that continual worship and thanksgiving were to be given to God by the priests. Then comes the law of retribution – each breaking of the law was to be punished. But Jesus, of course, spoke of love and forgiveness instead of retaliation (Matt 5:38).

Psalms 81: This Psalm starts with worship and then becomes a warning – when we listen to God, we are satisfied, but when we don’t, we lose our way.

Matthew 22: The parable of the wedding feast show that the invitation to God’s kingdom is open to all – but few accept the invitation, and fewer still clothe themselves in God’s holiness and love. The Jewish leaders try to trick Jesus several times, but each time he counters them: regarding tax, resurrection, and the law. Jesus then turns the tables and asks *them* a question they can’t answer. I can’t help but wonder if Jesus would say the words in verse 29 to our churches today.

Week 18 Tues

Leviticus 25: Sabbath years are discussed here. The land itself was to be given a rest! Every 50 years was a “Year of Jubilee” – although it seems unlikely that the Israelites carried this out consistently. Notice verses 17-18! These laws were in place to prevent greed and selfishness.

Psalms 82: A Psalm of judgement on unjust leaders. God may appoint people to leadership, but they are still responsible to care for the needy and not show favouritism to the rich.

Matthew 23: Jesus warns against hypocrisy and pride, and then pronounces seven “woes” on the hypocritical teachers and preachers of the day. We mustn’t forget or deny this side of Jesus. He has serious words that we need to take seriously.

Week 18 Wed

Leviticus 26: Here we read of blessings for obedience, and curses for disobedience. The people are still able to confess and repent, and find redemption, even if they have strayed. But the consequences for sin are real.

Psalms 83: Some believe that the Six-Day War against Israel in 1967 was the fulfilment of this Psalm. God’s chosen nation will not be destroyed! Note as well on verse 3 – though we are cherished by God, we are also subject to attack from his enemies.

Matthew 24: Sobering words from Jesus about the end times. Hear his cry of “keep watch!” in verse 42. Maybe verses 12-13 also need to ring in our ears – don’t let your love grow cold! Note verses 23-27 – we mustn’t be deceived. Jesus’ coming again will be clear. “Generation” in v34 likely means “race” – indicating that they Jewish people would still be around for these events.

Week 18 Thu

Leviticus 27: The last chapter of Leviticus! It talks of voluntary vows made to God in gratitude. I like the thought of dedicating our homes to God (v14) – for those of you in Gauteng I would be happy to do a home blessing ceremony at your house if you would be interested, contact me.

This has been a difficult book to read, since Christ-followers are no longer tied to the rituals and ceremonies described here. Praise God today, that Christ’s sacrifice completed the work of the Levitical priests, and we can be holy in his sight not by religious rituals, but *by deep faith in Him who is our High Priest forever!*

Psalms 84: A truly lovely Psalm with joyful overtones. The writer is longing for God’s special place, the temple. Now, God’s presence is with us, we are the temples of the Spirit. Does God dwell within us?

Matthew 25: The parable of the virgins reminds us to keep our faith alive and not let it die out! The parable of the servants reminds us to use what God has given us faithfully. Then Jesus reminds us that calling his name and doing religious things isn’t enough – if we haven’t lived our lives with the love and holiness he did, then we might hear those terrifying words “I never knew you”.

Numbers 1: Hear the words of MacDonald: “As Leviticus stresses *worship* and spiritual *position*, the theme of Numbers is *walk* and spiritual *progress* (or lack of it!). Christians should not think that this book is a dry Jewish history book! It is full of applications to modern Christian experience.” Indeed, we must learn from our history in these chapters, and seek to live faithful Christian lives in the fullness of the Spirit.

The book begins with a census, which is always hard to read for us, but let’s remember that such a census was essential to organise the people for the job of conquering the Promised Land.

Psalms 85: A prayer for revival, which McDonald notes is in four sections: A past instance of revival in Israel (1–3), a plea for God to do it again (4–7), a pause to hear how the Lord will answer (8–9), and a promise of future restoration (10–13).

Matthew 26: Jesus is anointed in Bethany, a sign of his true royalty. Jesus and his disciples share the last supper – read this slowly and reverently, taking in His words! Then we see a vulnerable and pleading Jesus in Gethsemane, praying an amazing prayer in verse 39 and 42, before being arrested and led away as his disciples flee in fear.

A sober but powerful end to the week. I do pray that you have been seeking God’s help as you read His Word. Looking forward to getting through Matthew’s gospel and starting the powerful book of Romans next week.

“ ———
Then he took a cup,
and when he had given
thanks, he gave it to
them, saying, “Drink
from it, all of you. This
is my blood of the
covenant, which is
poured out for many
for the forgiveness of
sins.

Matthew 26:27–28

—————”

Week 19:

Be prepared for some tough readings this week. But persevere and read with much prayer, and I know you will be most blessed by God's Word.

Week 19 Mon

Numbers 2: You can see why this book is named Numbers! This chapter shows how the tribes of Israel were to be arranged around the camp and on the march. Perhaps we can learn here that God is a God of order, not chaos.

Psalms 86: Notice, in this Psalm, how often David says "for" or "because". He shows many reasons that he prays the way he does. There are great words of praise, of God's love, and of David's faithfulness in this full Psalm.

Matthew 27: Judas sadly hangs himself in a moment of desperate regret. Jesus then stands trial before Pilate and continues to amaze those in his presence (v14). The crucifixion is always tough to read. I pray that we will get a new sense of the power of this moment – particularly in light of the time we've spent reading of sacrifices in Leviticus. This death was not just a martyrdom; it was the self-sacrifice of the Lamb of God, once for all, for the sin of humankind. Read slowly and worshipfully!

Week 19 Tues

Numbers 3: Here we read of the call of the Levites. Notice how the different clans had different responsibilities in the tabernacle. In a similar way, we are all called to play particular roles in the church of Jesus Christ. Are we using our talents, time and treasures to serve the body of believers?

Psalms 87: Most scholars believe that this is a prophetic Psalm, looking ahead to the city of God that Revelation 21 speaks of. Let us look forward to the day of its fulfilment and wait faithfully for the orchestration of these events by our God.

Matthew 28: From the distress of yesterday's reading, to being "filled with joy" alongside the women in v1-10! Jesus conquered death and rose again; we celebrate this again and worship Him today. Then, don't skip through v16-20 too quickly. These parting words of Jesus are fundamental to our lives as his followers. We are commissioned to go and make disciples for Him now. Let us do this passionately every day.

That is the end of Matthew's Gospel – a tough but amazing read. Praise God for sending His Son to be our Saviour!

Week 19 Wed

Numbers 4: The clans of the Kohathites, Gershonites, and Merarites are now instructed in their duties. Like we did yesterday, let's note that we are each called to serve God in some or other way, as v19 suggests. Again, we must ask ourselves: do we bring our best to God and treat him with the utmost respect and adoration?

Psalms 88: This is undoubtedly the saddest of Psalms. The writer is in such a deep despair that, unlike most Psalms, he doesn't end on a note of positive trust. I remember watching [this great sermon on Psalm 88](#) by Timothy Keller, perhaps it will bless you today.

Romans 1: Reading Romans is always a wonderful experience. This book has been called "The cathedral of the Christian faith" (Frédéric Godet) and "the most important book theologically in the whole NT" (William MacDonald). Augustine, Luther, Wesley, and Calvin were all deeply transformed by the teachings of Paul's letter to the Romans. May we too be thus transformed as we read over the weeks to come!

Chapter 1 begins with Paul greeting his people using characteristically thoughtful words. V14-17 shows Paul's deep desire to share the good news with all. Then V18-32 is Paul's famous summing up of the sinful nature of humanity. Oh, how our sin offends God – each one of us needs saving from this type of sinfulness. Thankfully, Paul goes on to explain how to receive this salvation in the chapters that follow.

Week 19 Thur ☐

Numbers 5: We are done with the census of the first few chapters of Numbers, and onto more teachings on purity, which sound a lot like Leviticus. Note v5-10's words on confessing sin and making things right – we should follow this today! V11-31 outline the “law of jealousy” – a kind of ancient adultery test.

Psalms 89:1-18: This Psalm always brings [Sandra McCracken's song “I Will Sing”](#) to my mind. V5-14 contain wonderful words of praise which I hope will guide our prayers today. V15-19 describes the blessings that God's people enjoy. What terrific words!

Romans 2: If you agreed with Paul's assessment of sinners in chapter 1, then linger on verse 1 of chapter 2 for a while! How often we condemn others when we ourselves deserve condemnation too. Paul goes on to explain that in God's eyes, Jews and Gentiles are equal – it is those whose hearts are made new by the Spirit (v29) who are the true people of God.

Week 19 Fri ☐

Numbers 6: Nazirite vows were usually for 30 days, but in some cases, lasted for life. The three rules of the vow were: no alcohol, no cutting their hair, and no contact with dead bodies. The chapter ends with the now famous Aaronic blessing – which many of you will recognize from benedictions that are said or sung at church today.

Psalms 89:19-52: God's blessings on David are vividly described, and it seems that the Psalmist may have been looking ahead to David's descendant Jesus Christ as he wrote these words. An amazing promise of God's faithfulness is found in v30-37, but the Psalmist then laments the fact that God doesn't *seem* to be holding up his end of the covenant. Even so, the writer still ends with a note of praise!

Romans 3: Paul boldly declares that neither Jews nor Gentiles can earn their way into salvation! Consider what v20 means in light of the OT readings we have worked through in the past weeks. V21-26 explain it – we are holy through *faith in Christ*, not by keeping the OT laws. V30 sums it up. Hallelujah, we are saved by God's grace!

This week has been heavy going. But ah, God's Word is so full of wonders! Be blessed this weekend, I am looking forward to week 20.

“

For I am not ashamed of
the gospel, because it is
the power of God that
brings salvation to
everyone who believes.

Romans 1:16

”

Week 20:

I know that Numbers has been difficult: persevere and read with a Christ-focused mind. The Psalms are rich and edifying as always, I hope they continue to provide many blessings to you. Paul's words to the Romans are challenging but deeply informative. Read with hearts of prayer, and may the Spirit move in us as we do!

Week 20 Mon

Numbers 7: A very long chapter which details the leaders of the 12 tribes bringing offerings to the completed tabernacle (going back to the end of Exodus). How are we blessing the people of God and the places they gather to worship? An amazing moment closes this chapter, as Moses hears the very voice of God!

Psalms 90: A Psalm of Moses, of whom we have read so much in the OT so far on our journey! The first 11 verses are rather downcast, but Moses seems to turn around in verse 12 and pray for God's blessing. A lovely Psalm which helps us to think about the fragility of life on earth.

Romans 4: Paul uses the OT to show that God's grace is given freely to those with faith, not those who follow religious rituals. FAITH made Abraham righteous, and it is the same for us today, Jew or Gentile. Read verses 20-25 carefully and rejoice that in Him we are made right with God.

Week 20 Tues

Numbers 8: The Levites are cleansed and purified to prepare them for their work in the tabernacle. Paul said in Romans 12:1-2 that we Christians should offer our bodies to God as living sacrifices. Perhaps we are not so different from the Levites in this way!

Psalms 91: The famous Psalm of protection! Some of you might pray this one every day, as some are in the habit of doing. Take comfort in these words today, knowing that in the shadow of His wings we have peace.

Romans 5: More amazing words from Paul about our reconciliation to God through Jesus' saving work on the cross! The second part of the chapter shows us how Jesus is greater than Adam. In Adam, death came into the world; but in Christ, death was defeated and salvation bought.

Week 20 Wed

Numbers 9: The Israelites observe the Passover, and God is adamant that this is done! Do we take our own observance of Holy Communion as seriously? Then we read of the pillars of cloud and fire through which God led the Israelites. This makes me think of this great hymn: <https://youtu.be/GTvgtFS6SGY>

Psalms 92: This Psalm was written for use on the Sabbath. Maybe we can also read this regularly on our days of rest. What great words describe God here! Praise Him as you read. Notice too the contrast between the "fools" in v6-7 and the "righteous" in v12-13.

Romans 6: A wonderful chapter! Paul shows us that God's saving work cleanses us from sin and makes us new. Instead of just sinning gladly because God's grace will be there to wash our stains, we need to turn from our old lives of sin, and be made new and holy. Paul makes a clear distinction between our previous bondage to sin and our new call to holiness in Christ. So, in light of verse 19, we ask: to whom are we offering ourselves today?

Week 20 Thu

Numbers 10: The sounding of the trumpet was a way to send messages to the whole assembly of Israel. Remember, Jesus will come again with the sound of the trumpet! Then the Israelites leave Sinai and begin to move towards the Promised Land. Moses convinces Hobab to join – some say this was a lack of faith, since he already had God as a guide. Others say this was an act of humble faith, asking for wisdom from one who had experience and skills.

Psalms 93: A short Psalm which gives us a picture of God's greatness. Worship him as you read this!

Romans 7: Paul begins this great chapter reminding us that we are free from the law, but called to bear fruit in the Spirit. Then Paul laments what we've all experienced – the fact that coming to Christ did not mean an ending of our spiritual battle. Initially, we still struggle and fall even though we are in him. Paul's famous

groan of self-hatred in verse 24 is followed by the Good News of verse 25 – there is an answer to this dilemma! Chapter 8 explains it.

Week 20 Fri 

Numbers 11-12: Notice: the people moan, complain and wail; but Moses brings his struggles to God. Then notice how God spreads the load so that Moses didn't burn out. This is what church life is – a sharing of each other's burdens. In chapter 12 we see Moses' humility. Would we pray as he did in verse 12, if we had been hurt as he had?

Psalms 94: Don't ignore the message of this Psalm! God is indeed a God of vengeance, as the first and last verses of this Psalm show. But of course, for those who turn to Him, He is the God of mercy and love.

Romans 8: There is so much in this chapter that I can't come close to summarising it here! But I will try. Paul first marvels at the fact that in Christ there is no condemnation. Then even more good news – those in Christ are filled with the Spirit and can live lives of righteousness in him. Are we governed by the Spirit, or the flesh?? Read v12-14 carefully.

Paul then speaks of future glory, although the earth is a place of suffering for now. In a great climax to the chapter, he shows how nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ, and that those in Christ are more than conquerors.

What a powerful passage – I encourage you to read it slowly and take in these words prayerfully.

This week has been rich – Numbers has given us much to think on; Psalms have been varied and deep, Romans has been unspeakably powerful. Praise God for his Word which washes over us and brings peace, power and wisdom.



What, then, shall we say in
response to these things?
If God is for us, who can
be against us?

Romans 8:31



Week 21:

Buckle your seatbelts as you prepare to read some hectic events in Numbers! God's glory is on display in ways we would not want to witness. But then be joyful as you read some wonderful Psalms of praise. Paul's words in Romans this week are hard to grasp from Monday to Wednesday, but Thursday and Friday are practical and helpful.

Week 21 Mon

Numbers 13: A group of Israelite men go into the promised land to see what awaits them. Most of them agreed that the land was prosperous, but notice how they focused on their fears! How often we too focus on the obstacles in our paths and let those intimidate us, instead of boldly going where God sends, in faith.

Psalms 95: A favourite Psalm of praise! I love v6-7 in particular.

Romans 9: A powerful passage about God's sovereignty. Paul's sorrow for his people's rejection of Christ is moving – do we feel the same sadness at those in our circles who reject Christ? There are some tricky verses here about God's power and human responsibility, all aimed at the same goal: to further prove that we cannot EARN our salvation, but it is a free gift from God to be received by faith.

Week 21 Tues

Numbers 14: More grumbling from the people, as they stand on the edge of their promised land! Moses intercedes powerfully for his people, and God forgives them, but prevents them from entering into their land of milk and honey. A lesson for us; God offers forgiveness, but doesn't always remove the consequences of our sin. I pray that God's view of Caleb could be used for you and I too (v24).

Psalms 96: Search this Psalm for two things – signs of God's glory and greatness, and signs of joy in God's people. Notice how these two things are always linked!

Romans 10: May it be that v2 cannot be said of us! V9 is a classic, well worth memorising for its simple effectiveness in describing salvation. But sadly, as the latter half of the chapter explains, many still reject this offer of salvation that God has given.

Week 21 Wed

Numbers 15: This chapter begins with instructions on offerings to be given to God – details of which are already covered in Leviticus. Notice the warning against wilful sin in v30-31. A Sabbath-breaker is killed in v32-36 – which might explain why the Pharisees were so upset about Jesus' *apparent* breaking of the Sabbath. Then we read of the tassles that the Israelites were to wear to remind them of their calling. Perhaps we use crosses around our necks for the same reason.

Psalms 97: Again there is much praise and much joy in this powerful Psalm. Don't miss v10-11's call to faithfulness and righteousness.

Romans 11: Notice AGAIN Paul's emphasis on grace over works in verse 6. Paul then uses a picture of an olive tree to explain how the Gentiles have been 'grafted in' to take their place alongside the Jews in God's kingdom. Amen to this! But beware the warning in v19-24. Paul ends this section with a lovely doxology praising God, reminiscent of the Psalms.

Week 21 Thu

Numbers 16: Korah, a cousin of Moses and Aaron, attempts a rebellion in his jealousy. V30 shows that they were really treating GOD with contempt. God responds to their attitude and the people's continual grumbling in a powerful way. God doesn't always respond to sin so severely, but throughout the Bible there have been times when he judges immediately and harshly. Let us soberly examine our own hearts, and be sure we are safe in Christ!

Psalms 98: More praise and worship at God's great power and majesty. Does your heart soar reading words like this? I hope so!

Romans 12: A lovely practical passage that shows us that even though works don't save us, we are still called to holiness and righteousness *in light of* God's mercy. There's a lot to take in here, summarized neatly in that verse.

Week 21 Fri ☐

Numbers 17-18: Ch17 proved that Aaron and his family *were* the true priests after all. Some say v8 is a picture of Christian faith – it buds, blossoms and produces fruit. Ch 18 sees God repeat the instructions for priestly service at the tabernacle.

Psalms 99: Once again we have much praise and joy in this Psalm! Note v8 and how it links to this week's readings from Numbers.

Romans 13: Paul is still being practical now, reminding us to be respectful of those in authority, to love each other deeply, and to live alert and holy lives. Great advice for all Christians!

A tough week in the Word. We have seen God's anger, his power, and his sovereignty as we've read. But we've also noted his love, his mercy, and his call to practical holy living. May the Word continue to dwell deeply in our hearts this weekend.

“Sing to the LORD
a new song; sing to
the LORD, all the
earth.

“ Sing to the LORD,
praise his name;
proclaim his
salvation day after
day.

Psalm 96:1-2

Week 22:

As we start this week, perhaps this poem I wrote will be a helpful prayer to kick us off each day:

*Not just for information
Not just to tick a box
Not just to do the thing that I SHOULD do
But glorious godly pleasure
Enjoyment and delight
It's these I've come to seek today from You*

Week 22 Mon

Numbers 19: The offering of a red heifer is a powerful illustration of cleansing. The ashes of this sacrifice were to be used for ceremonial cleansing of those who had touched a dead body. Perhaps you want to read Hebrews 9:13-14 to be reminded that the blood of Christ provides for a much deeper cleansing!

Psalms 100: A classic Psalm which is often used to open worship services. Take the words to heart today.

Romans 14: I love v8, it sums things up very nicely! Paul spends this passage reminding us not to trip others up by our behaviour. Perhaps we can ask ourselves today: what impact does *my* behaviour have on other Christians who are looking to me? Paul continues with some practical advice for Christian living – always helpful.

Week 22 Tue

Numbers 20: We are now 40 years on from the Exodus. The Bible hasn't said much about the previous 37 years of wandering in the wilderness! And yet the people are still grumbling against their leaders. Eventually Moses' frustration gets the better of him and he lashes out, and the consequences for him are serious. The chapter closes with Aaron's death, and the passing on of the high priestly role to his son.

Psalms 101: A Psalm of commitment. Maybe today we should all make a similar commitment as we read these words prayerfully.

Romans 15: Wonderful words in v5-7 remind us to be kind and compassionate. V13 is a lovely prayer: who can you pray this over today? Next Paul recounts his busy time in ministry, and then asks for prayer in v30. Are we praying for our ministers and leaders?

Week 22 Wed

Numbers 21: Victory for the Israelites, but then more moaning! God sends poisonous snakes in response, but then provides for their deliverance through a bronze snake on a pole. This is an important symbol of Christ, becoming sin for us by being raised onto a cross to die (see John 3:14-15). Then we read of more Israelite military victories.

Psalms 102: 11 sad verses, and then v12's "but you Lord" turns it around. A great pattern of prayer for difficult days – express the struggle, but then express God's greatness!

Romans 16: Don't skip over Paul's greetings here too quickly – they contain some useful information regarding the type of people that were serving in the early church. Perhaps you will see yourself in there somewhere. Paul squeezes in some last-minute advice in v17-20, and then closes with a lovely benediction.

Week 22 Thur

Numbers 22: Balak king of Moab tries to hire Balaam the prophet to curse Israel. At first Balaam seems committed to God, see v18. But later he turns against God, as we shall see. Here we also read of an amazing miracle, when Balaam's donkey speaks to him!

Psalms 103: A favourite Psalm! Take in the wonder of God's loveliness as you read. Perhaps you will enjoy this week of audio devos I did on the first few verses of this Psalm: [day 1](#), [day 2](#), [day 3](#), [day 4](#), [day 5](#):

Hebrews 1: Let's begin another deeply profound NT book. Its author is unknown, although there is definitely Paul-like theology in here. The book begins as a sermon, but by the end we realise that this must have been a letter. The main theme is the superiority of Christ, and how He fulfilled the OT laws in an amazing way. Please read this slowly and prayerfully, and may God open your eyes to his wonders as you do!

Ch 1 comes straight to the point – underlining Jesus’ divinity and superiority over angels. Let the words lead you to worship!

Week 22 Fri ☐

Numbers 23-24: Note 23:19 - a picture of God we must remember. Balak tries and tries to coax Balaam into going against God – but he stands firm in his faith. This is a great picture of how we can remain faithful in time of temptation. However, Balaam ends up leading Israel astray later. We must always be on our guard against the enemy’s tactics!

Psalm 104: A wonderful Psalm of praise, centred on God’s creations. How great He is! Will you pray v33-35 today?

Hebrews 2: A powerful opening verse that should stop us in our tracks. V14-15 are wonderful words to hold to, and v17-18 are encouraging as we consider that this amazing God became human and knows our struggles.

Wow, what a powerful week in God’s Word! I pray that the Spirit has been moving in our hearts, cleansing and renewing us daily, as we have drawn near to him day by day. May He prepare our hearts for more treasures in His Word next week.

— “ ————
“We must pay the
most careful
attention, therefore,
to what we have
heard, so that we do
not drift away.”

Hebrews 12:1

————— ” —

Week 23:

Let us remember to read the Word *prayerfully*. It is easy for us to just read in order to tick the readings off of our lists, but I hope that we remember to ask for the Spirit's guidance and rely on Him as we read this week.

Week 23 Mon

Numbers 25: Balaam is not mentioned here, but in ch31 we see that it was he who led the Israelites astray into sexual immorality and idolatry. We must be careful to test what our leaders suggest against the standards the God! The zeal of Phineas is applauded by God, but let us again remember how Jesus and Paul deepened our understanding of zeal: we have no basis for killing or violence, but we stand up for God through love and mercy.

Psalms 105: A great Psalm of praise and thanksgiving, recounting the great things God had done in the Israelites' history. Let us never forget the mighty works of God down the ages.

Hebrews 3: A wonderful opening verse: fix your thoughts on Jesus! Are we doing this? He is faithful, and greater than Moses – good for us to remember as we read through the Old Testament. V12-13 remind us of our calling in Christian community.

Week 23 Tue

Numbers 26: 40 years on from the first census at the beginning of this book, a second census is taken. God's fairness and organization is seen in v52-56. See in the last few verses how God kept his promises.

Psalms 106:1-23: We read the first half of this Psalm today, and see how God has always been faithful, but his people have often strayed from Him.

Hebrews 4: This chapter shows us that those who have faith in God through Christ will enter into God's rest – eternal peace in Him. We need to be diligent in our faith, says the writer, so that we can be assured of that blessed rest with Him.

Week 23 Wed

Numbers 27-28: The case of Zelophehad's daughter's underlines God's fairness again. Then we see Moses' great compassion for his people, as he desires a new leader to succeed him and lead the people into the Promised Land. Joshua is chosen, and commissioned for his task. Ch28 explains the various offerings to be given – God's work is surely worthy of financial support!

Psalms 106:24-48: Incredibly, we read of Phineas in v30 – and we've just read that story in Numbers earlier this week! The Psalmist continues on recounting the history of Israel's sin, and sums it up in v43, before turning his attention to the faithful love of God in the last few verses of the Psalm.

Hebrews 5: Perhaps we should read the last 3 verses of chapter 4 to set this chapter up. Jesus is the GREAT high priest – exalted above Aaron, since he did not sin, but became the very source for our salvation. Praise Him today! The writer then tells his readers that they should be maturing in their faith through constant use of solid spiritual food. I pray that our churches are providing this!

Week 23 Thu

Numbers 29: More information on different offerings for different feasts are explained here. Notice how the Israelites were to be systematic in their giving. We are no longer bound by law, but we too should be a giving people, as we support the work of God.

Psalms 107: I love v2 – if you've been redeemed by God, *tell your story!* This is another Psalm that shows God's remarkable faithfulness in spite of the people's rebellion. I also love v43 – we are to ponder these great truths of God, not just let them go in one ear and out the other!

Hebrews 6: Sobering words today about those who have known the goodness of God, but turn away. May we be like those in v11-12 – diligent and hard-working in our faith. The rest of ch6 talks of the patience and hope that the Christians have because of God's promised word to Abraham. Let us hold onto this today.

Week 23 Fri

Numbers 30: Vows are important to God, and should not be taken lightly! This chapter deals with the nature of vows, and how families should deal with them. Perhaps we would do well to remember the words of Eccl 5:4-5 as we read this chapter. Also remember Jesus' words on oaths in Matt 5:33-37.

Psalms 108: How lovely are those first five verses! V12-13 remind us that ultimately our help comes from God. Let's call on Him today.

Hebrews 7: The writer shows us that the mysterious figure of Melchizedek was a 'type' of (or pointer to) Jesus Christ. Verses 22-28 show how Jesus is greater than the Levitical priests, because He sacrificed himself once for all to atone for our sins. Praise Him, as you read this today.

The Word has been deep this week – reminding us of our holy calling in Numbers, calling us to praise in the Psalms, and pointing out Christ's supremacy in Hebrews. I pray that your time in the Word is continuing to nourish and satisfy you as you draw near to Him.

“

Be exalted, O God, above
the heavens;
let your glory be over all
the earth.

Psalm 108:5

”

Week 24:

This week sees us finish the book of Numbers. We read the next few Psalms, and continue our look at Jesus in Hebrews. Read, pray, and take delight in His Word!

Week 24 Mon

Numbers 31: As one commentary states, 'this was not merely a war to spread the faith. It was for the survival of moral monotheism'. With the Midianite influence rising, the people of God are called to eradicate the evil they are bringing into the world. Today we know from Jesus that instead of violence toward people, we are to resist evil and pray for those who persecute us, conquering evil through love and mercy.

Psalms 109: I like David's words in v4 – "but I am a man of prayer". Can we say that with conviction, when things go wrong for us? The rest of this Psalm is incredibly harsh, and much like the Numbers reading today, we need to read it through Christian eyes, recognizing that we now call for God's mercy and transforming grace rather than his vengeance.

Hebrews 8: More words on Christ's superiority: here we see how he is superior to the old priesthood, and how it was through Him that God's promise of a new covenant came true. Praise Him today!

Week 24 Tues

Numbers 32: Moses' words in v6 and v23 should stop us in our tracks! Are we pulling our weight, and keeping from sin?

Psalms 110: An amazing Psalm, which the NT quotes often – including Hebrews which we have been reading. The words apply to Jesus as the Messiah.

Hebrews 9: This is a very important chapter, showing us that the OT tabernacle and sacrificial system were fulfilled in Christ's death. Think carefully on v13-14! What precious words in v26-28! Don't miss the importance of Jesus' sacrifice as you read this passage.

Week 24 Wed

Numbers 33-34: Ch33 is a summary of the Israelites' travels. V55 is a warning about living alongside the evil ones in the land. We must remember to stand firm and not be swayed by others. In ch34 we see how God desired the inherited land to be organised among the people. Once again, God's orderliness stands out!

Psalms 111: A wonderful Psalm of praise, marvelling at God's works, deeds, wonders, and provisions. Join the Psalmist in truly revelling in God today.

Hebrews 10: A full chapter. Note verse 4. It reminds of an old hymn that says 'what can wash away our sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!' We are reminded again throughout this passage that Christ's ONE sacrifice was enough to wash away the sins of the world. V19-25 outline some practical ways of living out our faith, and then don't miss the startling warning in v26-31 – Christ's sacrifice is to motivate us to holy living and perseverance.

Week 24 Thur

Numbers 35: The Levites inherit certain towns, and other towns are to be used as places of refuge. Some believe there is a symbolic meaning to this text: Israel put Christ to death without knowing what they were doing, and they are now in a state of 'exile' until he comes again to restore them.

Psalms 112: Note the link between fearing God and joy! True joy comes from seeing Him for who He is. Don't read verse 3 without linking it to verse 5 and 9.

Hebrews 11: The classic definition of faith in verse 1 is worth memorising! The rest of the chapter is the famous 'hall of faith', where the writer looks back at the FAITH of the great OT people of God. How amazing their faith – even though they did not know what we know about Jesus and the fullness of salvation.

Week 24 Fri

Numbers 36: This chapter is a continuation of chapter 27, and Zelophehad's Daughters marry within their tribe so that their land remained in their family.

Numbers is done! Moses was the mediator between God and the sinful people; but as Hebrews has been pointing out to us, CHRIST is now the mediator, and it is faith in HIM alone that can make us right with God. Through Him, we can avoid the type of sinfulness that we see rife in the book of Numbers.

Psalm 113: How many times can you spot the word 'praise' in this Psalm? This Psalm always makes me think of [this song](#).

Hebrews 12: A brilliant opening three verses, telling us to throw off our sinful ways and fix our eyes on Jesus! We then learn that hardships in life are a form of discipline from God, meant to grow us and produce fruit in our lives. Can we see our trials in this light? I'd like to also point out v14 – a powerful verse calling us to true holy living. V18-29 teach us of the unshakeable kingdom of God, which we can enter into joyfully through Jesus. Praise God!

We're 24 weeks in. Prayerfully call to mind the truths we have read this week.

“Let us run with
perseverance the race
marked out for us, fixing
our eyes on Jesus, the
pioneer and perfecter of
faith.”

Hebrews 12:1-2

Week 25:

We finish the fascinating book of Hebrews early this week, and turn back to the gospels to encounter this Jesus whom the writer to the Hebrews held in such high esteem. We also begin the last book of the Pentateuch (first 5 books of the OT). Please remember that you are welcome to message me with any comments or questions on the texts we read. Blessings as you head towards Christmas!

Week 25 Mon

Deuteronomy 1: Let's begin Deuteronomy – a book that is quoted from over 80 times in the NT! It seems as if Jesus loved this book – he used its words when fighting the devil's temptations in the wilderness. The book's name means 'second law', because this is essentially a restatement of the law we have already read in the previous books – rewritten for the new generation who would enter the Promised Land. Let's read it with joy and recognise God's speaking to us through these holy words.

In Ch1, Moses recounts his appointment of leaders and sending of spies to the Promised Land. Though we have already read these stories, here we read them again that we may remember them more clearly, and learn from them.

Psalms 114: A Psalm looking back at God's work of salvation, freeing the Israelites from their captivity in Egypt. Thinking of God's power, the Psalmist tells the earth to tremble – but do we tremble at the thought of His greatness?

Hebrews 13: Hebrews ends with much practical advice for the Christian life, and more statements describing the superiority of Jesus.

Week 25 Tue

Deuteronomy 2: Now Moses recounts the Israelites' years in the wilderness, and their defeat of King Sihon. Consider God's patience with his people, as well as His power to help them.

Psalms 115: GOD deserves the glory, not us, and not idols. The repetition in v9-11 should stick with us – very true words there that we would be wise to remember.

Mark 1: We are back in the gospels. Mark's gospel is thought to be the first one written. It is widely believed that Mark received information from Peter as he wrote this gospel – the details of the events clearly come from an eye-witness. Mark writes in a rapid, quickfire fashion, and tells the story of Jesus the compassionate servant of all. May it be that we encounter this Jesus in a powerful way as we read Mark's words.

Ch 1 has a lot of information, from Jesus' baptism and temptation to his ministry in Galilee. Notice the opening words of Jesus' ministry in v15. Would he preach the same message today? Notice also the words of v17, which he says to each of us. Have you answered his call? Be amazed with the people in v27, and learn from Jesus' prayer life in v35.

Week 25 Wed

Deuteronomy 3: Moses remembers Israel's defeat of King Og, as well as his commissioning of Joshua to lead the people. Notice that Moses' words of worship did not cause God to reverse the consequences of his sin.

Psalms 116: A lovely Psalm explaining God's saving love. Think on v15 with joy today, as you reflect on the lives of the "faithful servants" who have gone before you.

Mark 2: Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man is meaningful on many levels. His dinner at Levi's house reveals his purpose in coming to earth. His debate with Jewish leaders on fasting and the Sabbath begin to show us what we learned in Hebrews – the superiority of Jesus to the OT traditions.


Week 25 Thu

Deuteronomy 4: A powerful chapter, showing us how to live for God. Look for the word 'careful' or 'carefully' throughout the chapter, and get a sense of how serious God is about the way we live.

Psalms 117: The shortest chapter in the Bible, but each word is powerful!

Mark 3: Jesus continues to reform our understanding of the Sabbath in this chapter. His words on blasphemy against the Holy Spirit are hard to understand – but still cause us to think about our ways. As the chapter

ends we see Jesus putting God's purposes above even his family life. In a sense, we learn how important our church family is from this moment.

Week 25 Fri 

Deuteronomy 5: Moses recounts the 10 commandments here. These are the basics of God-honouring living. Verses 32-33 sum it up – live carefully to the glory of God, so that things will go well for you.

Psalms 118: A wonderful upbeat Psalm! I love verses 6-9. There are many other verses that speak powerfully to God's goodness and. I hope we will worship as we read this one.

Mark 4: Jesus' parable of the sower is powerful. Do you recognize yourself in his story? Let's be careful that the thorns of life don't choke out our fruit. Parables of the lamp, growing seed and mustard seed also have much to say to us, and then comes the famous story of Jesus calming the storm. He still does this today!

Friends, we have had a deep week in His Word. I pray that the Spirit has been touching you deeply in each reading session. Be ready for more gold from God's Word next week!



**“It is not the healthy
who need a doctor,
but the sick. I have
not come to call the
righteous, but
sinners.”**

Mark 2:17



Week 26:

It's week 26, and we have much to look forward to in these readings. May God speak to us as we seek Him in these words this week.

Week 26 Mon

Deuteronomy 6-7: The words of 6:5 are surely familiar to Christians! For Jesus, this was the most important verse in the Scripture. Notice that 6:7 expects a great commitment to the Word from us. 6:13-19 are also helpful practical words, and ch7 is all about keeping untainted by ungodly cultures – take note of v6. Of course we know through Jesus that driving out ungodly cultures by violence is not the way anymore, but we must certainly cut any ungodly influence out of our own lives.

Psalms 119:1–8: We are going to spend 4 whole weeks on Psalm 119, starting today! Notice how practically every verse talks of the worth of God's Word. This is why we are doing this plan together. The Psalm begins by explaining the blessings of obedience.

Mark 5: Jesus drives out a demon. Many people had found their calling in v19 – to stay for God rather than go for Him. Then a miracle on his way to doing a miracle. Could it be that Jesus is saying the words of v36 to you today?

Week 26 Tues

Deuteronomy 8: More urgent words from Moses, summed up in v11's words 'do not forget the Lord your God'!

Psalms 119:9–16: Purity comes from following God's words. Notice that we are to rejoice in, meditate on and delight in God's Word!

Mark 6: I hope v6 cannot be said of you and I! Notice, in v7, that Jesus calls people to him, and THEN sends them out to do His work. Then we see John the Baptist's bold faith costing him his life. Jesus tries to withdraw to a quiet place for some rest (as should we!) but ends up performing 3 more great miracles in his compassion.

Week 26 Wed

Deuteronomy 9: This chapter warns of self-righteousness. We must always give GOD the glory for the great things that happen in our lives. Moses then recounts the building of the golden calf to warn the people of idolatry.

Psalms 119:17–24: Verse 18 is VERY powerful. Perhaps we should use this one each time we open the Bible. Verse 24 is a great one!

Mark 7: Jesus rebukes the Pharisees, and again we must be careful that v6-7 don't apply to us. V15-23 teaches that it is our hearts which lead to defiling actions, which means that food cannot be clean or unclean. Jesus encounter with the Syrian Phoenician woman is filled with humour. More miracles cause more excitement about Him, but how sad that when he wanted the people to keep quiet, they spoke out (v36), but now he wants people to speak out but they mostly keep quiet.

Week 26 Thu

Deuteronomy 10-11: 10:12-13 are practical and helpful verses for us, and 10:14-22 are full of great descriptions of our God. How great He is! Ch11 then recounts God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, as a reminder to the people of the reason they should obey Him. More calls to 'careful' living and more calls to hold fast to God's words are here too.

Psalms 119:25–32: Twice here we see the Psalmist relying on God's word to uplift his spirit. Do we do the same? Also notice his own choosing of the ways of God in the last 3 verses.

Mark 8: Another miraculous feeding from Jesus, which he performed in great compassion. Now, notice how his words in v15 also encourage us to 'careful' living! There is a theme in our readings today. The chapter ends with a powerful moment as Peter confesses his faith in Jesus. How would you answer his question in v29? Lastly, there is the powerful and challenging teaching of Jesus on what it takes to follow him. Read v34-38 slowly and thoughtfully.

Deuteronomy 12: God is clear that the people's worship practices should not be influenced by the practices of other cultures. A thoughtful question: do our worship services reflect God's will, or own culture?

Psalms 119:33–40: The first 3 verses are also ones we might pray often as we read His Word. V36-37 show how God's Word can transform our ways.

Mark 9: V1 sets up the Transfiguration that was about to take place. What a sight Peter, James and John saw! But they still had to come down from that glorious mountain to the reality of life in the trenches. V19 causes us to stop and look within – does Jesus get frustrated by our lack of power too? V23 is worth holding onto today and every day. Next is a lesson on servanthood and humility, and then a solemn warning from Jesus to be violent towards our sin.

What a powerful selection of readings this week. Deuteronomy is driving home the seriousness of God's call to holy living. Psalm 119 is showing us the great worth in the Word of God. And Mark's Gospel is showing us Jesus, full of power and compassion. Praise God for His Word to us.

“
Love the LORD your
God with all your
heart and with all
your soul and with all
your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:5

”

Afterword

You've made it through a quarter of this reading plan! 26 weeks of reading is a lot. I trust God has been revealing Himself and His truth to you in wonderful ways.

You can find the PDF for the next 13 weeks [on my website here](#).

If you found these notes helpful, please consider [donating towards my online ministry here](#).

Let's go onto the next 13 weeks.