

# READ THE BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Weeks 27-39



Luke Powell

# Introduction

You've made it through a quarter of the *Bible in 2 years*. How blessed you have been reading His Word.

If you are looking for the first 26 weeks you can find them [on my website here](#).

Tips for reading:

- 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 27:

We are now a quarter of the way through this plan. A long way to go, but how worth it this journey has been so far! May you stay on the path for the next quarter, prayerfully seeking God in His Word, and remembering that this is not about ticking boxes so that we can say we've read the Bible – it's about meeting with the God of glory and being transformed as He speaks to us through His Scripture.

### Week 27 Mon

**Deuteronomy 13:** False prophets and idolaters are despised by God – we must be careful not to be swayed by their words and signs! Don't be led astray, stay firm in your commitment to the God of the Scriptures.

**Psalms 119:41–48:** V43 shows that the Psalmist not only took in God's Word, but spoke it to others. May we do the same. V44-46 are great statements of determination and V47 reminds us that Scripture is not just academic – it is to touch our hearts!

**Mark 10:** A full chapter of Jesus' ministry in Judea. He speaks of divorce – and we must remember his words in Matt 19:9 and Paul's words in 1 Cor 7 to get a fuller picture of this theme. He blesses children and teaches a powerful lesson about faith. He disappoints a rich young man and teaches a lesson on treasure. He predicts his death once again, and reminds of his purpose to serve and give up his life. Lastly, he heals another blind man. What verse from this chapter sticks with you today?

### Week 27 Tues

**Deuteronomy 14-15:** Unclean food was forbidden, but remember that the NT shows us a deeper understanding of this issue in passages such as Mark 7:15, Romans 14:14, and 1 Timothy 4:3b–5. Ch15 is a call to selfless giving to the needy – something Christ taught too.

**Psalms 119:49–56:** God's Word is the Psalmist's hope and comfort in times of trouble. Can we say the same?

**Mark 11:** Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling a prophecy in the book of Zechariah. Jesus' action toward the fig tree is the only time he cursed rather than blessing. May we never be found fruitless! Jesus clears the temple when he sees unjust things happening within, and then teaches about prayer in v22-25. Another humorous encounter takes place in v27-33.

### Week 27 Wed

**Deuteronomy 16:** Here Moses reviews the main Jewish feasts held in the sanctuary each year. We also read of appointing of judges, an important role in society.

**Psalms 119:57–64:** I love v58! Do we read the Word with this intensity? V59-60 again remind us that our reading should always result in changed lives. What a lovely v64 to end today's passage.

**Mark 12:** The Jewish authorities receive a stinging word from Jesus in the parable of the tenants. They try to trick him, but nobody can trick Jesus! His teachings on tax and marriage end up revealing their own lack of knowledge. Jesus quotes from the OT to show the greatest commandments, and perhaps we would be wise to remember his words here as we read through the OT ourselves. Jesus then takes on the Scribes for their haughty ways, before lauding a poor widow for her great faith.

### Week 27 Thu

**Deuteronomy 17-18:** More warnings against idolatry are found here, and then God predicts the people's desire for a king and tells them what sort of person to appoint. Ch 18 contains instructions regarding the Levites, and then warnings against occult practices and divination.

**Psalms 119:65–72:** I like v68 – since God is good, His decrees must be good too, and worth learning. Then two powerful verses – v71 in which the Psalmist's afflictions caused him to go deeper in the Word and find hope, and v72 where we see the true source of his delight. Oh, to be such a person of God!

**Mark 13:** This chapter is Jesus' famous 'Olivet Discourse' in which he talks of the end of the age. Perhaps v5 should be the loudest in our ears today. V10 reminds us of the urgency of spreading the gospel to the furthest lands. V13 is another to hold onto in faith. Some believe that v28 refers to Israel's formation as an independent nation in 1948, meaning the time is near! But v32-37 reminds us that nobody knows the exact time, and so we are to always be on guard and alert.

Week 27 Fri ☐

**Deuteronomy 19:** AGAIN there is warning to 'carefully' live for God. But here there is also information on cities of refuge for those who have killed and are awaiting trial. V20 is a matter of fair punishment – but once again, think of Jesus' words that showed a new and better way.

**Psalms 119:73–80:** V74 is interesting – are other people seeing God in us, because of our time in God's Word? Then another powerful statement of faith in v75, and it his beliefs in V76-77 that allow him some strength.

**Mark 14:** Jesus' anointing is a special moment, showcasing his true royalty, and finally tipping Judas over the edge to go and do his dastardly deed. The last supper is a sombre but wonderful moment, as is Gethsemane. We can learn much from Jesus' way of praying in v35-36 – as I [preached in this sermon](#). The young man in v51 is likely Mark himself. Jesus' trial begins, and Peter follows 'at a distance' (as we so often do), and then Peter sadly denies Him and breaks down in tears.

A blessed week in God's powerful word. Remember that you can catch up if needs be this weekend. I hope and pray that these readings are inspiring us to deep, Spirit-filled living to the glory of our great God.

“

“I have sought your face  
with all my heart; be  
gracious to me according  
to your promise.”

Psalm 119:58

”

## Week 28:

We continue through Deuteronomy. Hang in there as we read some strange sounding rituals and laws! Remember how important they were in their time. We also go further into Psalm 119 – and I hope we are realising the importance and the power of God’s Word in this Psalm. Mark’s gospel comes to an end, and we begin another great letter by Paul.

May you be blessed as you prayerfully encounter God in His Word this week.

### Week 28 Mon

**Deuteronomy 20-21:** Chapter 20’s rules of war can apply to us if we remember the spiritual battle we are in. Take the words of v1, and v3-4 to heart! Also remember that we are not to plunder in Jesus’ name, but love instead. Ch 21 contains various instructions and laws, but don’t miss the power of v23 when applied to Jesus, as Paul did in Galatians 3:10-13.

**Psalm 119:81–88:** The writer tells of how his struggles lead him to dive deeper into God’s Word. How deep his trust in God and His ways!

**Mark 15:** A familiar story, but let us not read it without our hearts being stirred. Notice that Pilate’s amazement at Jesus (v5) still doesn’t change his desire to please the crowd (v15). May the same not be true of us. Jesus is crucified in our place, and as he breathes his last, the centurion at the cross sees him for who he is, reminding me of [this amazing song](#). Let us also ‘hammer no more’ in light of this reading today!

### Week 28 Tue

**Deuteronomy 22:** Some practical laws are given, to help people live good and organised lives. There is a long section of sexual sin – how seriously God takes this.

**Psalm 119:89–96:** V89-90 show us the enduring quality of God’s Word. We must continue to delight in His precepts and teachings and ponder them daily.

**Mark 16:** We are so often like those in v8! Trembling and bewildered instead of sharing the good news. We also tend to skip over words like v14, where the risen Christ rebukes us for our lack of faith. Friends, He is risen! Believe it, and go and spread the Good News today, because as v16 confirms, sharing this news has eternal repercussions.

### Week 28 Wed

**Deuteronomy 23-24:** We see here how important ritual cleanliness was to the Israelites. V21-23 are important for us today – let’s be people of our word. Ch24 teaches on divorce – let’s read Matt 19 and 1 Cor 7 to get a fuller understanding of this issue. These chapters talk much of justice and fair treatment, which would have been counter-cultural in those times.

**Psalm 119:97–104:** V97 and 103 are wonderful – reminding us that God’s Word is not just a dry book, but something to be loved and enjoyed! I hope that we are the type of people that v101-102 describes.

**1 Corinthians 1:** The church in Corinth seemed to be wracked with problems. Paul wrote this letter to address those issues, but there is more to this letter than that! Here we find remarkable teachings on love, on eternal life, on spiritual gifts and more. Let’s read Paul’s words with open hearts over the next few weeks. Ch1 begins with a typical Paul-like greeting and blessing. He then implores the people to be undivided in their devotion to Christ – something our churches could learn from. Then v18 begins a powerful section on how foolish the wisdom of God seems to an unbelieving world. Hold onto v22-25 in faith today!

### Week 28 Thu

**Deuteronomy 25:** ‘Levirate’ marriages took place to ensure that a family’s name would not perish when a man died. The section on honest dealings is an appropriate one for us today.

**Psalm 119:105–112:** A famous description of God’s Word begins this passage! Has the Bible become this for you? Remember the last two verses – we are to delight in the Word and keep its decrees.

**1 Corinthians 2:** Paul continues his discussion on godly wisdom. V2 shows his singular focus on Jesus – do we have a similar outlook on life? Think deeply about v10-16: those who have the Spirit have the mind of Christ. Are we walking in step with the Spirit daily?

**Deuteronomy 26:** Instructions on first-fruit offerings are found here. The chapter ends with an exhortation to follow these laws carefully. It might be worth our while to read through Acts 15 alongside this today, reminding ourselves of the Christian's call to live moral lives but not necessarily follow the ritual laws of the OT.

**Psalm 119:113–120:** How can God be our refuge? V114 shows us. God sustains and delivers us when our faith is in Him and His Word.

**1 Corinthians 3:** Paul wants his people to grow up in their faith, and not be mere infants in Christ. He is clear that worldliness is a sign of spiritual immaturity. Paul then talks metaphorically about the church as a temple for the Spirit, with Christ being the foundation. Then he talks again of worldly wisdom and godly foolishness. In the end, are we, above all, 'of Christ'?

Deuteronomy has not been easy this week, but I pray that our Psalm and NT readings have balanced that out for you! May we meditate on His Word as we go about our business this weekend.

“

“God is faithful,  
who has called you  
into fellowship with  
his Son, Jesus Christ  
our Lord.”

1 Corinthians 1:9

”

## Week 29:

Here we go into week 29! More hard words from Moses are coming our way. More words of wisdom from the Psalmist are coming our way. And more hard but loving words from Paul are coming our way. Let's pray for God's wisdom as we read this week.

### Week 29 Mon

**Deuteronomy 27:** Moses commands the people as to what they would do when they had crossed the Jordan. The words of God were to be written plainly for the people to see, and a series of curses and blessings were to be pronounced. This takes place in Joshua 8.

**Psalms 119:121–128:** Do we also love God's words more than gold? The Psalmist gives us something to think about here.

**1 Corinthians 4:** Paul is not worried about the judgement of others. But he knows the seriousness of God's judgement, and warns us about it in the first verses of this chapter. V10-13 make me wonder – am I too comfortable in my faith? Should I be imitating Paul in my lifestyle (v16)? I pray that I am not arrogant (v18) or full of talk without power (v20).

### Week 29 Tues

**Deuteronomy 28:** Moses now shares the blessings that await God's people if they follow God, and the curses that await them if they stray. Think carefully about v58. It's not just about outward obedience – it's about reverence of God from the heart.

**Psalms 119:129–136:** The first verse sums it up: we obey because of the wonderful nature of God's Word. I pray that God would give us the same longing for His Word that the Psalmist has in v131!

**1 Corinthians 5:** Notice the pride at sexual sin (v2). How sad that we still see this today. Boasting is also condemned by Paul, and then he reminds us that Christ's sacrifice has set us free and we need no longer sin. Let's be reminded in v12 that we cannot hold non-Christians to Christian standards.

### Week 29 Wed

**Deuteronomy 29:** Another call to obedience. V19 might push some buttons today. Do we still persist in our own ways and expect God's blessings?

**Psalms 119:137–144:** Note v140. The Psalmist knows the trustworthiness of God's promises, because he has tested them. And he can say, in v143, that he delights in God's commands even in times of distress. What faith!

**1 Corinthians 6:** V3 shows us that we are to be discerning people, with the wisdom of God. And, Paul is clear: we Christians are washed and sanctified – sin no longer has a place in our lives. Our bodies are not our own – we are temples of the Holy Spirit, and so our eating and our sexuality should honour God.

### Week 29 Thurs

**Deuteronomy 30:** Here we have promises of compassion for those who return to God. Take note of v11 – living a holy life *is* possible, and now we know that through the Holy Spirit we have new power to live worthy lives. I love v19's words 'Choose life!' Let us do exactly that every day, walking in step with Him.

**Psalms 119:145–152:** V147-8 is a challenge. Do we ever rise early or stay up late to spend time in the Word and prayer?

**1 Corinthians 7:** Paul now begins answering questions which the people have asked. Paul tells the people that sex within the context of marriage is a good gift from God. He then speaks of each person's call to obey God wherever he has placed them. Paul then warns that marriage is difficult! He knows that a single person can have a greater focus on God, but also knows that God calls some to marriage. Either way, Christ must always come first in our lives.

### Week 29 Fri

**Deuteronomy 31:** Moses blesses Joshua with wonderful encouraging words. Perhaps they can encourage your heart too today!

**Psalm 119:153–160:** More great words from the Psalmist about God’s precious Word. How he trusts and delights in it. How we should too!

**1 Corinthians 8:** A great reminder in v1 that love is better than knowledge! Paul then shows us that we should be careful about how our actions affect others – if what we do in freedom tempts others to sin, we must avoid doing it.

I hope we are learning much from Deuteronomy’s call to holy living. The Psalmist is still showing us the power of God’s Word! And Paul is teaching us great spiritual truths. May the words we have read this week sink deeper into our souls this weekend.

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**“I COMMAND YOU TODAY TO LOVE THE LORD  
YOUR GOD, TO WALK IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM,  
AND TO KEEP HIS COMMANDS, DECREES AND  
LAWS; THEN YOU WILL LIVE AND INCREASE,  
AND THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BLESS YOU IN  
THE LAND YOU ARE ENTERING TO POSSESS.”**

DEUTERONOMY 30:16

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## Week 30:

Perhaps [this article by David Mathis](#) will bring us some perspective as we continue our journey this week.

### Week 30 Mon

**Deuteronomy 32:** The song we heard of in the last chapter is now sung by Moses. We should ‘take the words to heart’ as Moses says in v46, and, as always, be careful to follow God’s laws. V47 sums up how we feel about the Bible!

**Psalms 119:161–168:** Does the Word cause us to rejoice like the Psalmist in v162? What peace (v165) there is for those who follow and obey (v166-7). V168 reminds me of [this joyful song](#).

**1 Corinthians 9:** Paul explains that he had the right to expect compensation for his work, but chose not to, in fear that it might hinder his work for Christ. Most preachers have felt the burden Paul shares in v16 – I know I have! Paul then talks about becoming a slave to people in order to show them Christ, and then a great passage about running the race of faith with discipline and commitment.

### Week 30 Tue

**Deuteronomy 33-34:** Moses blesses the tribes of Israel, and then dies. What a great man of God he was, as 34:10-12 says! Of course, he was really a pointer to Jesus, who was far greater still. 34:9 sets up where we are going in the next book of the Bible.

**Psalms 119:169–176:** So ends this epic Psalm, with more words of delight and praise at God’s Word. What an amazing collection of statements this is! I hope that it has inspired you to go deeper into God’s Word daily in your own life.

**1 Corinthians 10:** V3-4 give us a glimpse into Christ’s place in the OT, and 5-10 warn us against falling into the sins of the Israelites. Read v12-14 carefully! God provides a way out from sin, but we need to take it. Then v 31 sums up the next section. Do all you do to God’s glory. This is our calling as Christians.

### Week 30 Wed

**Joshua 1-2:** Let’s begin the book of Joshua! It is a wonderful book that sees the Israelites finally reach the Promised Land. It follows straight on from Deuteronomy with Joshua taking the reins after Moses’ death. How I love Joshua 1! It contains some of my very favourite words about courage, faith, and God’s Word. See if you can spot them, and note the repeated phrase in this chapter. It’s repeated for a reason! Chapter 2 is the wonderful story of Rahab, proving that God can use the most unlikely people to achieve his purposes. Rahab is mentioned on a few occasions in the NT to prove this. The scarlet cord used by Rahab reminds us of Christ’s blood, which bought our salvation.

**Psalms 120-21:** A distressed poem in Ps120, followed by assuring words in Ps121. How great to be able to find our help in the LORD who never sleeps!

**1 Corinthians 11:** A tricky section about headship and head coverings begins this passage. Most Bible-believers deduce that head coverings were a cultural issue, not applicable to our day; but that men’s headship is still in place today, albeit in the spirit of equality and with the servant-leadership attitude of Christ. Paul then reminds us of the seriousness of taking the sacrament of Holy Communion. Let us remember this passage next time we partake in this special rite!

### Week 30 Thur

**Joshua 3-4:** God does “amazing things” (3:5) by leading the people over the River Jordan in the promised land. Notice how the people pause and focus on God before they move. This is a big moment, and it has great spiritual significance – our coming to Christ and being born again is a kind of spiritual crossover into the life God promised us. The Israelites then put together two mounds of memorial stones – again a reminder to pause and focus on God, instead of just going on our own mission!

**Psalms 122:** Arriving in Jerusalem, God’s people rejoice! Perhaps we can apply these words to our home churches today.

**1 Corinthians 12:** A classic passage on spiritual gifting. We are each uniquely created and gifted – we should not try to be that which we are not. But we are all part of one body. Are we using our gifts *within* the body of Christ, or just by ourselves?

Week 30 Fri 

**Joshua 5:** The new generation of Israelite men are circumcised as a sign that they belong to God. The Israelites then celebrate the Passover, keeping the focus on God. Joshua encounters an angelic being, setting up our reading for next week.

**Psalm 123:** A short Psalm of faith. Verse 1 reminds of [this lovely song](#).

**1 Corinthians 13:** The passage we've all been waiting for in this book! Paul's words on love are among the most beautiful words ever written. Remember though, that they were written about community living, not marriages (although the principles work for both). Read this passage slowly and reverently and remember our great call as followers of Jesus – to share God's love.

As always, we have enjoyed a powerful week in God's Word. What a wonderful journey so far! Have a blessed weekend, catch up if you need to, and may the words we've read dwell in our hearts as we go.

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“Have I not  
commanded you? Be  
strong and  
courageous. Do not be  
afraid; do not be  
discouraged, for the  
LORD your God will  
be with you wherever  
you go.””

Joshua 1:9

”

## Week 31:

A lot of powerful messages fill our reading plan this week. May God bless us as we prayerfully read his Word!

### Week 31 Mon

**Joshua 6:** A huge moment in Israelite history, as the Jews march around Jericho and its walls tumble down. In v21 Joshua dedicates the city to God – do we also dedicate our ‘victories’ to God? The Israelites burn the city down, but the faithful Rahab is spared – a sign of God’s mercy.

**Psalms 124:** The famous “if” Psalm. Where would we be without him? Let’s join with v6 and praise God for not abandoning us.

**1 Corinthians 14:** An important passage in which Paul reminds us that speaking in tongues is not the most important spiritual gift. It has its place and must be used in the right way (v28), otherwise it only does damage. The key verse here is v33 – reminding us that our services should be ordered and thoughtful.

As for the verses about women keeping silent, this is hard to reconcile with Paul’s words about women prophesying and praying in 1 Cor 11:5. It would appear that certain women were disrupting this church’s worship time with questions and comments, and so Paul forbids that.

### Week 31 Tues

**Joshua 7:** An ominous opening verse sets the scene for this chapter. Achan was found to have disobeyed God’s command to leave the spoils from Jericho untouched. Israel lost favour with God because of this sinful act, and were defeated at Ai. Achan’s punishment is severe – and seems different to the way of Jesus who said ‘go and sin no more’ instead of stoning the guilty.

**Psalms 125:** Trust is the theme of v1, and we should take it to heart today. But don’t miss v4-5 – we are called to do good and live holy lives!

**1 Corinthians 15:** Notice what is of ‘first importance’ to Paul. These are the basics of our faith! Then Paul writes an extended section about Christ’s rising from the dead. Read it carefully! It is *the* defining factor in proving Christ to be who he claimed. The closing two verses are practical – thank God for what He has done, hold firmly to your faith and give yourself fully to God.

### Week 31 Wed

**Joshua 8-9:** With God’s blessing this time, the Israelites go to war with Ai again and defeat them using an ambush strategy. Joshua carries out the instructions of Moses in Deuteronomy 27. Then in Ch9, the Canaanite leaders all decide to unite against Israel, but the Gibeonites trick Israel into making a treaty with them instead.

**Psalms 126:** Think deeply about v5-6. When God’s people sow sorrow, they reap joy. God is working in our lives, let us hold onto him in faith and joy today.

**1 Corinthians 16:** Paul closes his letter by encouraging the people to give money at their local church meetings. He offers greetings and instructions regarding certain people, and some more words of encouragement (v13-14) before signing off with typically Paul-like words of affection. What a powerful letter!

### Week 31 Thurs

**Joshua 10:** The Amorite kings attack Gibeon in light of the treaty they made with Israel. Joshua and his men are summoned to help the Gibeonites, with God’s blessing (v8). Then an amazing moment – Joshua prays his famous ‘sun stand still’ prayer, and God keeps the sun up for much longer than normal, enabling the Israelites to complete their victory. What a bold prayer of faith! May we too pray with such boldness and faith.

**Psalms 127:** Without God, our efforts amount to nothing. Being a workaholic is futile (v2) – it is God who should be our focus! Praise God for the gift of children and family today (v3-5).

**2 Corinthians 1:** Shortly after writing 1 Corinthians, Paul wrote this letter to the same community. It seems that false teachers were denying Paul’s spiritual authority, and Paul wrote here to defend himself and refute the false teachers. It is a very personal and heartfelt letter – and has much to say to us all these years later.

Chapter 1 has Paul's usual loving greeting, and then Paul speaks much of suffering and comfort. God has helped him through so many trials! Next he explains the reasons his ministry schedule changed – assuring the people that he is not unreliable, but faithful to God.

Week 31 Fri ☐

**Joshua 11:** The Israelites' military conquests continue, and with God's help they are victorious. We may ask why God would expect such violence from his own people? I found [this to be a helpful explanation](#).

**Psalms 128:** The first verse sums it up! Notice the repeated word "blessing" in this Psalm. He truly blesses those who are for Him.

**2 Corinthians 2:** Hear Paul's great love for these people in v4! His teaching on forgiveness is very real for us today, and then he speaks of the 'aroma' that Christians have – either drawing people to Christ, or repelling them.

I pray that our readings have blessed you this week! Be sure to read the article I sent to give some perspective to the Joshua readings. We are almost through the Psalms – what a blessing they have been – and words from Paul have encouraged and challenged us. Praise God for his powerful Word! Have a blessed weekend.

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Thanks be to God! He gives us the  
victory through our Lord Jesus  
Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57  
”

## Week 32:

We continue our journey through Joshua, with some hard-to-read passages this week. The Psalms are expressive as always, and have much to teach us. Paul's letter to the Corinthians is a wonderful read. Let's read these passages with joy this week, counting on God to show us His truth as we read!

### Week 32 Mon

**Joshua 12:** The first 6 verses show us Moses' military conquests, and the rest focus on Joshua's. A list like this would give the people much hope – God was faithful, and was fulfilling his promises to them.

**Psalms 129:** A Psalm which seems to predict the anti-Semitism of later times. Let us not be part of those that despise God's chosen people!

**2 Corinthians 3:** Paul sees the people's faith as a witness to his own effective ministry – but he is quick to give GOD the glory in verse 5. Then there is a wonderful section on God's glory, where Paul states that the glory of the new covenant through the Spirit far surpasses the old way. Note v18 – when we contemplate God's glory, we are transformed. Praise God!

### Week 32 Tue

**Joshua 13-14:** Ch13 underlines the divisions of land between the tribes, and in Ch14 we see Caleb receiving his allotment after faithful years of wholehearted service to God.

**Psalms 130:** I believe v3-4 are some of the loveliest verses in the Bible! What a beautiful Psalm that tells us much about our God.

**2 Corinthians 4:** Paul's words about not losing heart might resonate with you today! He then talks about ministry – and how the enemy had blinded unbelievers so that they can't see the light of Christ until their eyes are opened. Paul then talks about his hardships in life before repeating 'do not lose heart'! Hold onto v17 today – even our heaviest problems are light and momentary in comparison to the eternal joy awaiting us.

### Week 32 Wed

**Joshua 15:** A long chapter with a number of names of places! Once again, this would prove to the original readers/listeners that God was faithfully fulfilling his promises.

**Psalms 131:** A very short Psalm that reminds us to be still before God to keep our perspective on things.

**2 Corinthians 5:** V7-10 are powerful verses. Is it our goal to please Him? Then a beautiful passage about the love of God which reconciles us to Him. We are to share this love with others, says Paul, and remember the wonderful truth of v21: that Christ became sin so that we could be righteous. Praise Him today.

### Week 32 Thu

**Joshua 16-17:** More signs of God's faithfulness as read of the allotments for half-tribes Ephraim and Manasseh.

**Psalms 132:** V9 and v16 may take on a new meaning if we remember that we are all priests now, in God's eyes! All Christians should have these qualities of faithfulness and righteousness together with joyful singing hearts.

**2 Corinthians 6:** Paul again talks about the hardships he has faced in sharing the gospel. He then warns against aligning ourselves with unbelievers – a principle which is usually applied to marriage and business relationships. Of course, we are to influence unbelievers through our Christlike lives, and so this is not so much about avoiding people who don't believe in God, but rather about being careful to avoid commitments to people who may lead us astray from God.

### Week 32 Fri

**Joshua 18-19:** Joshua casts lots to decide the allotment of land between the rest of the tribes. There is a spiritual application here – have we "taken possession of the land" in our faith?

**Psalms 133:** Another short Psalm with a lovely message – that unity among God's people is a sweet thing.

**2 Corinthians 7:** A massive verse to start this chapter! Read it and take it to heart. V4 is also powerful – Paul’s joy knows no bounds, in spite of all the hardships he has outlined in the previous chapters. Paul then talks about godly sorrow – and how it can lead us closer to God. An amazing passage of godly joy and godly sorrow –a contrast that all Christians live with.

Remember that you can catch up this weekend – try stay on track! God is moving in our hearts as we spend time in His Word.

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“If you, LORD, kept a  
record of sins, Lord, who  
could stand?

But with you there is  
forgiveness, so that we can,  
with reverence, serve you.”

Psalm 130:3-4

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## Week 33:

More powerful words await us this week! Perhaps you will join me in praying this before each day's reading:

*I want to see Your glory  
I want to see Your might  
I want to be amazed now as I read  
Reveal yourself to me I pray  
And let me stand in awe  
Lord it's this and this alone today I need*

### Week 33 Mon

**Joshua 20:** A short chapter dealing with the cities of refuge. Remember that this was a practical measure put in place to ensure justice.

**Psalms 134:** A short, sweet Psalm, which [always has me singing this](#).

**2 Corinthians 8:** V7 alone gives us much to chew on – do we “excel” in these things as Paul says? Notice how Paul “takes pains” to do what is right in the eyes of people and God. What a thoughtful life he lived.

### Week 33 Tue

**Joshua 21:** The Levitical cities are allotted. Don't miss the last few verses of this chapter, underlining God's faithfulness again. Take heart as you read v45 – the same is true of God's promises today!

**Psalms 135:** Another Psalm of praise which uses similar words to the previous Psalm to start. I used this Psalm as a guide for [this time of worship](#), feel free to watch and worship with me.

**2 Corinthians 9:** An important chapter that underlines the New Testament's understanding of giving. We are to be generous givers, for God sees the heart! We will be blessed and God will be glorified, if we are “givers”.

### Week 33 Wed

**Joshua 22:** V5 is a tremendous verse! What a helpful summary of the Mosaic Law. Then there is a misunderstanding of the purpose of an altar which was built. How quick we are to look down on our fellow believers who do things differently to us. In this case a civil war almost began – when in fact the altar that was built was for God's glory.

**Psalms 136:** A unique Psalm, which repeats the phrase “His love endures forever”. Maybe we should repeat it to ourselves this day! This also [reminds me of a song](#).

**2 Corinthians 10:** Paul is clear that Christians have different standards to those in the world (v2). He reminds us that our fight is in the spiritual realm, not the physical (v3-5). Then he shows the people that he is proud of the work he has been a part of – but that he will boast only in God and not commend himself as the other false teachers do.

### Week 33 Thu

**Joshua 23-24:** Joshua, an old man now, summons the leaders and shares some sobering words about the importance of keeping God's ways. In ch24 he addresses the people of Israel and gives them a charge to follow God, and we read his famous statement that he and his household will serve the Lord! The people join in and recommit to their faith, and then Joshua dies. What a man of God he was!

What did you get out of the book of Joshua? I would love for you to share your thoughts and insights with me.

**Psalms 137:** ANOTHER Psalm which reminds me of a song! This time it's a Boney M song, and I did a series of devotions on this Psalm last year, which you can hear by [clicking here and scrolling down to June 13 2022](#):

**2 Corinthians 11:** Hear Paul's pastoral concern for the people – that they not be deceived and led away from faith (v2-4). Paul then separates himself from the false teachers, and mentions a startling fact: that the devil masquerades as an angel of light (v14)! He is clear that though he is weak, God is at work in him.

### Week 33 Fri

**Judges 1:** Let's start a very difficult book. MacDonald says "God bringing strength out of human weakness is uniquely chronicled in this fascinating book". 'Judges' refers to the people God raised up to lead the people in that time, before the first King of Israel – although they were more like military leaders than judicial figures.

In ch1 we see the failure of the Israelites to drive out the pagans from the Promised Land. This, no doubt, led to their eventual intermingling with them, which eventually drew them away from God. Be careful not to leave sin in your life – be rid of it!

**Psalms 138:** Another great Psalm of praise! Pay attention to the description of God in v6.

**2 Corinthians 12:** Paul shares how he learned an amazing truth – that God's power is perfected in the weakness of his children. Can we join Paul in stating v10 today? Then we see Paul's continued concern for his people's spiritual well-being, as he worries about finding them untransformed by the gospel.

Friends, God is at work in us as we read His Word – cleansing our minds and hearts as we encounter Him here! Catch up this weekend if needs be, and let's be ready to find Him in a special way again as we read next week.



“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.””

Joshua 24:15





## Week 34:

There is some disturbing violence in these chapters of Judges – may I refer you back to [this article](#) if you struggle with this. Our Psalm readings are varied – a good representation of the ups and downs of life! And then Paul has much to teach us about the Christian life in his letters, as usual.

Read and blessed this week.

### Week 34 Mon

**Judges 2:** A distressing chapter. We see how Israel strayed from God terribly, and found themselves in a bad way as a result. Let us consider our own lives today, and ensure that we are not going after other gods the way that this generation did.

**Psalm 139:** This must be one of the loveliest of all Psalms! Pray these words today as you read them, and may they draw you nearer to God as you consider how he “fearfully and wonderfully made” you.

**2 Corinthians 13:** It’s important to note v3. Christ is serious about the sin in our lives. V4 is also important – are we living in His power? Paul gives some practical advice and then closes the letter with words that may be familiar to you from the traditional benediction that many churches use to close their services.

This has been a wonderful letter about a strong God working through weak people.

### Week 34 Tue

**Judges 3:** Israel’s first three judges helped them return to God – Othniel, who was specially anointed by the Lord; Ehud, who saved Israel from the evil king Eglon; and Shamgar who saved them from the Philistines. How blessed we are when we have leaders that show us the way to God!

**Psalm 140:** David cries out for help (v1-5) and then stands in faith (v6-7). His prayers for his enemies to be destroyed are different to Christ’s teachings – to pray for your enemies and love them.

**1 Thessalonians 1:** Let’s begin Paul’s wonderful first letter to the Thessalonians. He had preached there on his second missionary journey, and was eventually asked to leave the town because of the persecution coming to the church through his presence (Acts 17). He wrote to them later with much practical advice for the Christian life.

Chapter 1 is a gem – are we “a model to all believers” (v7) like these people were? Their deep and true faith came from the power of the Holy Spirit (v5).

### Week 34 Wed

**Judges 4-5:** God raises up Deborah to lead Israel – proving that leadership is not only a role for men. Deborah’s song in ch5 is powerful – I like v21’s “march on my soul, be strong!”.

**Psalm 141:** David prays for protection here – notice his desire in v3-4 to live a holy life! V5 is also a good reminder of the power of Christian friendship, and v8 sums it up: keep your eyes fixed on God.

**1 Thessalonians 2:** Paul is clear that pleasing God is the aim of the early mission workers (v4-6). Is it ours? His love for the people of God is touching indeed (v7-8), and his passion for holiness is obvious (v9-12). Paul ends the chapter by explaining that they had been blocked from visiting the Thessalonians.

### Week 34 Thu

**Judges 6:** Oppressed again by the Midianites, Israel cries out to God. God appears to Gideon – and how like him we are! Do you relate to some of the questions he asks God here? After tearing down the pagan altar in obedience, Gideon then summons an army, and asks God for a supernatural sign to confirm what he has already promised. This is unusual – God giving extra assurance to one so full of doubt – but his ways are not ours!

**Psalm 142:** David cries out to God while holed up in a cave. Can we pray v5 in our dark times?

**1 Thessalonians 3:** Don’t miss v5 – how often we see people being tempted away from the faith. But others have faith and love, and this gives other Christians much joy (v6-15). What a lovely prayer in the last few verses – are we loving, strong and holy, as Paul prays that his churches are?

### Week 34 Fri

**Judges 7-8:** God reduces Gideon's army down to only 300 men! Notice an important lesson here: Gideon *worships* God before heading into battle. We should always do the same. Also take note of 8:22 – Gideon knows who is the true Ruler. But sadly, he then yields to temptation and makes a golden ephod for the people to bow to. How quickly we can fall away from God's ways, if we are not careful.

**Psalms 143:** A full Psalm with many life lessons! I am holding onto v10 today, and praying it throughout my day.

**1 Thessalonians 4:** Paul gets very practical in v1-12. We must remember that we are called to be sanctified (v3), that is, to live a holy life (v7). Is this the focus of our Christian lives? Paul then writes a fascinating passage about death and the afterlife. What a wonderful picture of Christ's second coming – may it encourage you today.

I pray that God's Word has blessed you as you've read this week friends! May His truth dwell in our hearts richly this weekend.

“May he strengthen  
your hearts so that  
you will be  
blameless and holy  
in the presence of  
our God and Father  
when our Lord Jesus  
comes with all his  
holy ones.”

1 Thessalonians 3:13

## Week 35:

This week we read more sad stories of Israel's unfaithfulness. Oh, let us remain faithful to our God!! We also read some incredible Psalms of praise. Let them inspire us to be full of worship this week. In the NT, we read many wonderful words from Paul, before starting with John's first letter. Our Christian lives are enriched by taking these words to heart.

### Week 35 Mon

**Judges 9:** Gideon's son Abimelek seeks to take over Israel, and so Jotham tells a parable to the people in warning. Sadly his warnings go unheeded, and Abimelek's reign is filled with evil.

**Psalms 144:** God's greatness and human frailty are contrasted in this hymn. Hold onto the first and last verses, which show us to trust in God!

**1 Thessalonians 5:** Paul tells us that the day of the Lord will come quickly, so we should be ready! Let us take v4-6 seriously in our walk with Christ. His final instructions in this letter are practical and helpful – note one of the two shortest verses in the Bible in v16.

Also take a moment to think about v23-24. Remember our call as Christians to be sanctified and blameless in Christ.

A great letter of Paul's, which I'm sure blessed you.

### Week 35 Tues

**Judges 10:** Tola and Jair are good judges who lead Israel in God's ways. But then Israel rebels again, and v13-14 are scary – if we reject God, he leaves us to our sin.

**Psalms 145:** An amazing Psalm, with too much in it to comment on here! Read all the ways God is described and marvel.

**2 Thessalonians 1:** Paul writes another letter to the Thessalonians to encourage them, and to warn them about false views of the end times. This really is a gem – read it and be blessed!

Paul spends chapter 1 lauding the people for their faith. What an encourager he was!! Does his description of the early Christians fit us too?

### Week 35 Wed

**Judges 11:** Jephthah is raised up by God to save Israel. At first, he seems to remind us of Christ: his was an unusual birth, and he was rejected by his own people, who later remembered him and called on him to save them. But of course he was imperfect (unlike Christ), and we see this in the rash vow he made in v31 which led to a terrible sin. Be careful of making rash promises to God!

**Psalms 146:** Another great Psalm of praise. Don't miss the lesson in v3-5.

**2 Thessalonians 2:** Please note verse 2 – to not "become easily unsettled or alarmed" when it comes to matters of end times! Nobody knows who this 'man of lawlessness' is, although each generation has typically believed it to be a famous political figure of their day (Hitler, Stalin, Trump, Obama, Putin, the Pope!) Let us take note of v12, and be sure not to delight in evil.

### Week 35 Thu

**Judges 12:** Jephthah dies, and we see Ibzan, Elon and Abdon used by God as judges.

**Psalms 147:** Perhaps you need to hold onto verse 3 today, or share it with somebody who needs to hear it. How great our God is – read this Psalm with a worshipful heart today!

**2 Thessalonians 3:** V3 is wonderful, and worth holding onto as we live our lives. Paul then offers startling warnings against laziness – we are, instead, to "never tire of doing what is good" (v13). Another lovely Paul greeting closes the letter.

### Week 35 Fri

**Judges 13-14:** Manoah and his wife are terrified by the Angel of the Lord – who they acknowledge as God himself. Their son Samson is born, and God begins to work in his life at an early age. But soon he is

disregarding his calling and doing his own thing. A stark warning to us today – do things God’s way, not your own way.

**Psalm 148:** Another Psalm of praise! How wonderful to know Him who is worthy of our praise.

**1 John 1:** Now let us move from Paul to John, one of Jesus’ closest friends. He wrote three famous letters to the church which we find in the NT, starting with this one which is very meaningful.

John begins by stressing both Jesus’ humanity *and* divine natures. He then teaches that nobody is without sin, but all people need the cleansing that God provides.

I have found this week’s readings to be deeply meaningful! I pray that you have too. Catch up if you need to this weekend, and be ready for a big moment next week when we finish the Psalms.

— “ —————

“Great is the  
LORD and most  
worthy of praise;  
his greatness no  
one can fathom.”

Psalm 145:3

————— ” —

## Week 36:

This week we finish Psalms! What a wonderful journey we've had going through those songs and poems. More helpful words from John remind us of our call to love and obedience, and more upsetting stories about the Judges warn us of what life without God can result in.

### Week 36 Mon

**Judges 15:** An awful story! Samson's father-in-law refuses to release his wife to him, and so Samson acts out violently. The Philistines retaliate with violence of their own. Then even more violence follows – yet, through it all, God is still at work.

**Psalms 149:** A joyful Psalm of praise! Look for every instance of joy in this song, and may we be filled with the joy of the Lord as we worship Him today.

**1 John 2:** John reminds us that Jesus cleanses sin – but that should not mean that we stay worldly. No, we turn from the world and live as Jesus did, if we are His true followers. This implies loving like Jesus and being holy as He was.

### Week 36 Tues

**Judges 16-17:** The more famous part of Samson's story is found here. Samson falls in love with Delilah, who colludes with the Philistines to bring Samson down. Samson comes to a sad end – an example to us of the tragedy that can become a person who doesn't follow God's plan for their lives. May we have more discipline and self-control than Samson, through the Holy Spirit, and live lives of goodness and holiness to God's glory. Ch 17 tells the sad story of Micah and the godless state of Israel at the time – note v6, which sounds very similar to our own world today.

**Psalms 150:** The famous last Psalm, in which all manner of instruments are used to praise God. My friend Rich [wrote a great version of this Psalm](#).

And with that, we are done with the Psalms! Can you name your favourite one? Mine is probably Psalm 63.

**1 John 3:** V1 is an all-time favourite for me! May it bless you today. Again there is a call to holiness and turning from sin, and again there are words on love: Jesus loved us and gave himself for us, and we should do the same for each other.

### Week 36 Wed

**Judges 18:** The Danites conquer and rename the town of Laish, but without renouncing idolatry. Another reminder of how we can do things which seem godly, but with our hearts far from Him.

**Proverbs 1:1-19:** Let's begin the book of Proverbs, a collection of sayings written by Solomon and others. This is an invaluable section of the Bible, which shows us the key of life! Read these and let them inspire you to walk in God's ways.

V7 is "the motto of the Proverbs" as Tyndale says. We find wisdom by fearing God and choosing not to walk in sinful ways.

**1 John 4:** John teaches the people that Jesus was truly human – not a superhuman/angelic type of being as some teachers had been saying. He then writes a lovely passage about love – and how Christ's love for us inspires us to love others. Look for the beautiful phrase "God is love" twice in this passage.

### Week 36 Thur

**Judges 19:** Brace yourself. This is, I believe, the most awful chapter in the Bible, describing the rape and dismembering of a priest's concubine. What we are seeing in this terrible story is the consequence of living without God – the disintegration of love and of moral standards. A sad read indeed, and a reminder to pray for God to conquer evil in our world today.

**Proverbs 1:20-33:** Notice v22 – sin comes from *delighting* in the wrong things. Let us "repent" (v23) today and no longer "disregard" (v25) the words of the Bible. Take note of v32 – is this not what we see happening in the book of Judges?

**1 John 5:** Again John tells his people that love for God means keeping his commands! He then tells of how the *spirit* (seen at Jesus' baptism), as well as the *water* (also at Jesus' baptism) and the *blood* (at Jesus' death)

all bear witness to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. For John, believing in Jesus as God's Son is the only way to everlasting life (v12). John closes his letter with more words on the importance of faithfulness to God. What a strong and wonderful letter.

Week 36 Fri ☐

**Judges 20:** After the grim events of ch19 the Israelites decide to take action against the tribe of Benjamin. After intense prayer and fasting, they finally conquer Gibeah, and the tribe of Benjamin is almost completely wiped out. What sad consequences sin and idolatry have.

**Proverbs 2:1-11:** The writer's words about seeking wisdom like silver or treasure reminds us of Jesus' own words about the Kingdom of God in Matthew 13. Let us seek God's wisdom and understanding daily!

**2 John:** A beautiful short letter written by John, showing his great love for the people of the church! Sadly, false teachers were taking advantage of the Christian people at the time, and John writes to warn against them. The same themes of love and obedience that we saw in his first letter come through strongly here. Take these words to heart today.

A heavy week of OT reading, but a delight to spend time in the Psalms, Proverbs, and John's letters. I pray that our faith is being strengthened as we fellowship with God in His Word!

“

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:10-11

”

## Week 37:

This is going to be a special week! Ruth, Proverbs and John will fill your soul with joy. I am praying for you all as we read together; may the Spirit move mightily in your life as you encounter God in His Word.

### Week 37 Mon

**Judges 21:** One last morbid story of godlessness to end the book of Judges, in which wives were arranged for the tribe of Benjamin in less than kind ways. The last verse of this chapter sums it all up.

Did you find any worth in reading this book? In it we have seen the sad nature of sinful humanity – and God’s patience too.

**Proverbs 2:12-22:** Sinful temptations are out there, says Solomon, but if you are wise and upright you will avoid such things. Note v21-22 carefully, and be sure to remember this passage when temptations come.

**3 John:** The shortest book in the NT, this little letter from John has much to teach us. As is always the case with John, love, holiness and truth are strong themes here.

I love v4! Any spiritual leader knows this truth – that it is a thing of great joy to see your people walking in the light of Christ. We read of good Gaius, and not so good Diotrophes, and then John warns readers to live holy lives like Demetrius. A short but powerful letter which shows us true Christian living.

### Week 37 Tues

**Ruth 1:** We will spend the rest of the week in one of the loveliest pieces of literature ever – the book of Ruth! There is much in this little story that points us to Christ. I hope you see Him as we read it.

Verse 1 tells us that even in the awful time of the Judges, there were good godly people staying faithful. When a Jewish woman named Naomi’s sons die, her Gentile daughters-in-law want to accompany her back to Judah. She sends them away, but Ruth utters a beautiful cry in v16-17 which is a lovely statement of family love: do you need to say similar words to a loved one today? Note Naomi’s faith – though she believes that God has been harsh on her, she still hangs onto Him and doesn’t curse or hate Him.

**Proverbs 3:1-26:** V5-6 are classics – some of my favourite in all Scripture! Wise words indeed for living lives of faith. Solomon again reminds of the benefits of living with wisdom.

**John 1:** Having read John’s letters, we now turn to his greatest work – his gospel. John’s gospel is very different to Matthew, Mark and Luke, and focuses more on Jesus’ divine nature and unity with the Father. His most famous words come from this book, and you will notice immediately that this is John writing, focusing in on love, light and truth just as he did in his letters. For new Christians, or people seeking to find out about Christianity, reading John’s Gospel is a very good place to start.

Chapter 1 is John’s epic picture of Jesus as “the Word” who existed with God from the beginning, and became flesh by coming to earth. Pay special attention to v11-14, which have much to teach us about who this Jesus is! We also see John the Baptist preparing his way, and Jesus’ disciples choosing to follow him. Have YOU answered his call in v43?

### Week 37 Wed

**Ruth 2:** Boaz enters the picture and we see him as a caring and kind leader/boss. We then see him treating Ruth with the utmost care and compassion. Oh for more leaders with such compassion in today’s business world! Naomi’s excitement at the fact that Boaz was a “guardian-redeemer” is because such people were bound by law to help their family out of difficulties. This is a glimpse of the work Christ does – *redeeming* us from the brokenness of sin and shame through his love.

**Proverbs 3:27-35:** Lots of “do nots” in this passage show us how to live wisely when it comes to relationships.

**John 2:** The lovely story of Jesus’ first miracle in Cana is recorded here. Do we heed the words of Mary in v5? Do we join the disciples in v11? We then see Jesus cleanse the temple of its false shepherds, before John gives us a glimpse of Jesus’ death. We see how John is already stressing *faith* in Jesus early in his book.

Week 37 Thurs ☐

**Ruth 3:** Ruth's strange approach to capturing Boaz's attention works. Again we see the moral character of this man shining through – he treats Ruth with respect and makes sure to do things properly without cutting corners. Boaz is a picture of how Christ treats his loved ones.

**Proverbs 4:1-12:** Note v7-9! Getting godly wisdom is of great value and importance.

**John 3:** Jesus' teaching on being born again *still* takes the world by storm today. Are you one who has experienced this new birth? V16 is probably the most famous verse of all – assuring us of God's love in sending Jesus to earth. But don't miss v17-19 – which teach us that God saves those who believe but condemns those who don't. We must be sure that we don't love the darkness more than Christ!! V36 stands as a stern warning, one that many tend to ignore today.

Then there is MORE gold in this chapter. John's words in v30 are so powerful.

Week 37 Fri ☐

**Ruth 4:** Boaz redeems Ruth, in a wonderful scene. Where the other possible redeemer was concerned over his own estate, Boaz gladly took on that risk in the name of love. Once again this is a picture of Christ, who gave his all for us in the name of love. Boaz and Ruth marry and have a baby boy, and we then find out how Jesus himself would be born in the same family line.

An extraordinary piece of history! Perhaps you'll enjoy [John Piper's long poem about Ruth](#).

**Proverbs 4:14-27:** V23 is a gem! Guard your heart friends. Be careful what you feed it. As the last few verses here say, give careful thought to how you live your life. Wisdom demands it.

**John 4:** Another extraordinary passage, where we see Jesus interacting with someone a rabbi normally would ignore: a *woman*, and not only that, an *adulterous Samaritan* woman! Nobody is beyond the redemption that Jesus offers. Jesus teaches her about spiritual thirst and living water (v13-14), about worship (v19-24), and about his own role in the world (v25-26).

Also note v39-41. The woman's testimony convinced some, and Jesus' own words convinced others. Let us keep sharing our stories and pointing people to His precious words.

I pray that the book of Ruth warmed your soul! And I pray that the Proverbs are keeping us focused in our journey with God. Lastly I pray that John's writings have drawn us nearer to Jesus. How precious to spend time in God's Word this week.

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

John 3:16-17



## Week 38:

It's week 38!! Perhaps you'd like to join me in praying this 'prayer-poem' I wrote each day before your time in the Word this week:

*Oh Lord your Word is precious, full of life and sweet delight  
And I know it will sustain me from this morning 'til tonight  
And so I ask you humbly Lord to show me what I need  
Speak truth and love and joy to me and change me as I read*

### Week 38 Mon

**1 Samuel 1-2:** 1 Samuel continues our march through Jewish history with the lives of 3 important figures: Samuel, Saul and David. In the words of McDonald, "First and Second Samuel bridge the gap between the judges and the full establishment of the royal line of David".

Hannah's story sounds a lot like that of Rachel and Leah earlier in the OT. In her deep grief, Hannah prays! Do we? Notice her focus on God's glory – when God grants her request, she dedicates the gift she receives to God. Her prayer in ch2 is lovely – I hope we can pray these words with her today.

Then the story turns to Eli's sons – godless men who treat the sacred with contempt. Take careful note of v30, and of the contrast between Eli's sons and young Samuel.

**Proverbs 5:** An important chapter about the dangers of sexual sin. While the focus is on a young man keeping pure, the principles of purity here are for all believers. Let us remember that our "ways are in full view of the Lord" at all times.

**John 5:** Jesus' words in v5 will, no doubt, speak to us. Perhaps [this worship session I led](#) around these words might benefit you as you read today.

Jesus then explains himself in detail in v16-47. I know this is a lot of reading, but don't go through it too quickly – get a sense for Jesus' self-understanding as you read his words here.

### Week 38 Tues

**1 Samuel 3:** A famous passage about Samuel mistaking God's voice for Eli's. I remember my mentor Rev. Derek Wilson preaching a sermon on this passage, [you can hear it here](#). Are our ears open to hear God speaking to us?

**Proverbs 6:1-19:** We must be careful of a few dangers – signing surety in the wrong situations, and being lazy rather than working hard. These are unwise and ungodly ways to live. The section ends with seven things that God detests – examine yourself carefully regarding such things!

**John 6:** Two wonderful stories begin this chapter – Jesus feeding a multitude, and Jesus walking on water. Do you need to hold onto his words in v20 today? V25-71 is a long section in which Jesus further explains who he is. Some of his words here are hard to fathom – and this caused many people to leave him and seek for truth elsewhere. Oh, may we not make this error! But may we truly see him as the "bread of life" he claims to be. [This "Friday Classis Hymn"](#) deals with this subject, may it bless you!

### Week 38 Wed

**1 Samuel 4-5:** The ark of the covenant is captured by the Philistines, and Eli's shock at this causes him to die an awful death. But soon all sorts of problems come on those who captured the ark. You can try to dominate God, but it is only when you glorify Him that you find joy and peace.

**Proverbs 6:20-35:** V22-23 again show us the importance of knowing God's Word deep in our hearts. Then there are warnings against adultery – a sin with many awful consequences.

**John 7:** Notice the different opinions about Jesus. People still struggle to place him, even today! But Jesus is clear in v37-38 that believing in him will give people life. I pray that you have placed your faith in him and found that joy of which he speaks.

### Week 38 Thurs

**1 Samuel 6-7:** The lords of the Philistines set up an experiment to see if it was truly the God of Israel causing such problems for them. When they realise that it was indeed He whom they were up against, they arranged

for the ark to be returned to Israel. Many people would rather turn God away, out of their lives, than bow to Him.

Ch 7 sees Samuel lead the people in prayer, fasting and repentance, and this enables them to defeat the Philistines. Do you see any similarities between what they did and what's been going on during the Asbury Revival in the USA?

**Proverbs 7:** Are God's teachings "the apple of your eye" (v2)? Once again the writer warns of sexual sin – a problem that has always been around, but one that has become particularly problematic in the internet age. We must guard ourselves from this type of sin carefully.

**John 8:** This will be an interesting read in light of what Proverbs has shown us this week! Jesus is clearly against the sin of adultery, but he offers grace and a new beginning instead of simply condemning those in sin. V11 is precious – he doesn't condemn, but he does say 'sin no more'.

Then we read a wonderful truth in v12 – words that I would encourage you to memorise. A heated debate with the Jewish leaders follows this, and Jesus again shocks them with a claim of equality with God the Father.

### Week 38 Fri

**1 Samuel 8:** We now see Samuel as an old man, and like Eli, his sons are godless men. The people then demand a king, but God warns them solemnly that a king will not help – they need HIM to be king of their lives. But the people refuse to listen, and so God grants their request. Be careful what you ask for from God – you might just get it!

**Proverbs 8:1-21:** Where ch7 pictured sin crying out to tempt people of God, now we see a picture of wisdom crying out to call people to God. Which voice will you listen to? V10-11 and v19 again show us that this is a matter of *value*. What are we valuing most of all? The wisdom and ways of God are worth far more than anything else we might gain.

**John 9:** Jesus heals a blind man, but the Pharisees remain spiritually blind! Think carefully about v38 – may the words be yours too.

A deep week in the Word. We've learned much from Samuel, we've learned much from the Psalmist, and we've learned much from Jesus. Let's keep God's glory at the centre and thank Him for blessing us with His holy Word.



**“Choose my instruction  
instead of silver,  
knowledge rather than  
choice gold, for wisdom is  
more precious than rubies,  
and nothing you desire can  
compare with her.”**

Proverbs 8:10-11



## Week 39:

As we head into week 39, I pray that God will bless us. Remember to be prayerful and ask for the Spirit's guidance in each reading.

### Week 39 Mon

**1 Samuel 9:** God uses a search for lost donkeys to reveal his chosen king. How mysterious are His ways!

**Proverbs 8:22-36:** Wisdom is personified again in this passage. Read v32-36 carefully – these principles of wisdom we are finding in this book bring life and blessing.

**John 10:** Jesus is the Good Shepherd! A lovely title which has many deep meanings. V10 is precious to me – and I hope that we have found *life* in Him. V11 is also precious – his self-sacrifice was an act of love for us. The second half of the chapter sees Jesus explaining that his works prove his identity as the Son of God.

### Week 39 Tues

**1 Samuel 10-11:** Saul is privately anointed as king, and God changes his heart (v9). Sadly, he ended up backsliding terribly, as we shall see in the chapters to come. Saul is then publicly chosen as king, and heads home with some strong friends in the faith at his side (v26).

In ch11 we see Saul take his place as king and lead the Israelites to victory in battle. A great celebration takes place to affirm him in his new role.

**Proverbs 9:** Again Wisdom is personified, and cries out, imploring us to feast with her and leave behind sinful ways to walk in wisdom. At the same time, Foolishness cries out and implores us to join her – but death awaits us there.

**John 11:** A powerful chapter, where Jesus' friend Lazarus dies and we see the shortest verse in the Bible: 'Jesus wept' (v35). He was very much human! But God uses this occasion to do something great – again to prove that Jesus was who he claimed to be.

Read v25-27 a few times today. Hear Jesus' question "do you believe this?" I pray that your answer will be the same as Martha's!

Also, don't miss what Caiaphas said in v50. He didn't know it, but he was speaking an amazing truth.

### Week 39 Wed

**1 Samuel 12:** God's people are gripped with fear after Samuel warns them about dishonouring God. V22 is a great verse about God's love; V23 is a great verse about a spiritual leader's commitment; v24 is a great verse for every follower of God to hold to.

**Proverbs 10:1-16:** Now we get a series of short, sharp proverbial statements from Solomon, covering a wide variety of topics. Ask God to reveal which ones need to touch your life in this time.

**John 12:** Jesus' anointing at Bethany upsets Judas. The next day Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey – fulfilling some amazing prophecies. Jesus' words in v25-26 reminds us of his calling on our lives, and his words in V44-50 confirm what he has been telling the people all along.

### Week 39 Thu

**1 Samuel 13:** Saul makes a grave error – he disobeys God. Oh the consequences of sin! Let us never downplay the seriousness of doing things our way instead of God's.

**Proverbs 10:17-32:** More contrasts between the good and the wicked fill these proverbs. Which way of life are you choosing?

**John 13:** An amazing verse to start this chapter – Jesus' love is deep! Then he backs up his words with actions – showing his love by an incredible act of service. Have you received the cleansing Jesus offers? If so, remember: we are to love each other as he loved us (v14, v34-35). More drama unfolds after this, with Jesus revealing his foreknowledge of both Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial.

**1 Samuel 14:** Jonathan and his armour-bearer go on the attack, and lead Israel to great victory over the Philistines. But Saul's lack of wisdom begins to show. His focus is in the wrong place, and as he deals with silly matters, the Philistines flee and Israel's victory is diminished.

**Proverbs 11:1-15:** Solomon continues to contrast goodness/righteousness with wickedness/godlessness. We would be wise to choose God's ways in all we do.

**John 14:** What comforting words Jesus offers in the first few verses. Linger for a moment on v6 – do you know Jesus to be these things? Do you believe that it is only in Him that eternal life is offered? He has been saying it all throughout this book.

Jesus again tells his disciples to keep his commands in love for him, and then he promises them his Holy Spirit to remind them of his words and guide them. What a promise!

Wow, a deep week in the Word as always. Catch up this week if you need, and I pray that the Spirit will come and remind you of what you've read at the right moment.

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“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-34

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## Afterword

You're another eighth of the way through this plan! Soon you'll be halfway, and getting ready to tackle the New Testament and the poetry of the Old Testament again.

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](#).

Onto the next lot!