

Editorial

The previous issue, April 2018, marked our tenth year of bringing you this Quarterly DailyBibleReader newsletter. The DailyBibleReader ministry reaches out to encourage Bible reading in two separate spheres; on the internet and through the mails.

If you've followed us on the website www.dailybiblereader.com you've seen that the readings are available in four different popular Bibles. In addition, we have a lot of Bible background material which you can access and of course we have an e-mail address info@dailybiblereader.com giving an opportunity for you to ask questions about the Bible. All of this is now available on a mobile platform and we invite you to check it out on your cell phone or tablet. We are planning some exciting additions to the website in the future so please keep in touch with our internet activities.

However, not everybody has a cell phone, tablet or PC or perhaps is more comfortable with a good solid book in their hands. Hence, as we look ahead to a new decade with this quarterly newsletter, we are giving special thought to providing our current readers with the tools they need to read and understand this wonderful book that God has given to us.

First of all, the schedule on the back page will take you through

the entire Bible in one year. If you've never done this before or haven't done it for some time why not take this opportunity, half way through year 2018 to start anew and as we will speak about in more detail further on, "make it a habit." As with any effort to improve ourselves, the rewards will be equal to the effort we put into it.

Each quarter we will provide three sections on a regular basis. We hope to cover the following things in each of the three sections:

Thoughts on the Readings – As so much material is covered in the course of a quarter's readings, it would be impossible to provide a synopsis of everything. However, we do plan to highlight one or two of the events or outstanding characters from each quarter and present some thoughts that we hope will be illuminating and insightful.

What's important to our salvation – Each quarters readings reveal to us many things about God's plan and purpose with this earth and the wonderful things he has in store for those who choose to become his sons and daughters and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. We hope in this section to point out some of these important things from the readings of the quarter and open up your desire to seek answers to the many questions you will have as

you read God's word each day. In this newsletter we have presented an essay Why Read the Bible? We hope you will read this and make becoming a daily bible reader a habit.

Current Events & the Kingdom – As we draw closer to the return of our Lord and Master and the establishment of God's Kingdom here on this earth, there are Bible prophecies that we have read during the quarter that are being fulfilled in our time. We also will read about promises throughout the Bible where God has revealed a great deal about the future kingdom here on earth and his plans to restore this earth to the beauty and fruitfulness he planned for his people since the beginning. We hope to spend a little bit of time on some of these things as we progress through the Bible in our readings. In this newsletter you are encouraged to Keep Watch Because You Do Not Know When Your Lord Will Come.

The Bible brings us a message of hope, encourages us in our trials and tribulations and shows us how we can become sons and daughters of our heavenly Father and brothers and sisters of our savior and redeemer who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Why Read the Bible

There are numerous and profound reasons that could be advanced to answer the question, Why Read the Bible? The effect that the Bible has had on mankind over the centuries has been undeniable. We have all at some time or another found comfort and solace in reading passages from scripture in times of trouble and sorrow and would probably all rec-

ognize that the source of a great deal of the law we live under stems from the Bible. We could explore a verse from the Bible itself which reads as follows "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2

Tim 3:16,17) This very clearly teaches us that God gave us the Bible to prepare us to be his people, ready and prepared to serve where we are placed.

Although the title of this essay is Why Read the Bible? It really is an essay intended to explore the ques-
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Why Read the Bible

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tion Why Read the Bible *Daily*? Reading God's word daily presents a much greater challenge to us than simply keeping the book around and occasionally availing ourselves of its riches. We have on our tee-shirts that promote the website dailybiblereader.com the words "make it a habit" and that is what we must do. The schedule on the back of this newsletter (where you will also find the words "make it a habit") is designed to take one through the Bible in the course of a year by reading two portions each day. Developing the good habit of setting the time aside each day to do these readings takes a great deal of discipline at the start but following through will in the end reap rich rewards both now and in God's kingdom in the future when Jesus returns and begins the process of restoring this earth to the beauty and fullness that God originally intended it to be.

There are a number of reasons why we should read the Bible daily and some of the more important ones we have addressed as follows:

Reading daily takes us through the entire Bible giving us an opportunity to read how God interacted with his children and what he expected of them from the time of creation through to today. Every book of the Bible is "God-breathed" and if we limit ourselves to one part of it only, as many who

draw only on the New Testament, we cheat ourselves of the full value of this wonderful gift God has given to us.

Many people read a devotional each day with one or two verses from the Bible set forth and a paragraph or two addressing the main thought in these verses. While these may give the reader a sense of connection to the Bible, they do not give the context or background to the verses and in general rarely cover the broad scope of teachings that reading the Bible itself would reveal. Reading a devotional each day is good, but reading a portion of the Bible is better.

God's plan and purpose with mankind and this planet earth is revealed throughout the pages of scripture from Genesis to Revelation, in promises, in visions and dreams and prophecies and in parables and letters written to churches or leaders of churches. For all of this to be captured and appreciated and for it to become part of our hope, this vision must be read in its entirety.

Some of what is written in the scripture is not easy to understand or interpret and as we progress through a year we will have questions, for a newbie perhaps many questions. Following up and getting answers to these questions is part of our spiritual growth. When Ezra read the law to the people who had returned to Jerusalem from captivity (Nehemiah 8), there

were those that mingled with the huge crowd of listeners and "they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading." Questions are and should be an integral part of Bible reading. Make each day's reading more profitable by seeking an answer to any questions that arise.

Our last reason has to do with the question "where else can we learn about God, the redemptive work of his son, our Lord and savior Jesus, and the wonderful plan God has for the earth?" Some would answer the churches but far too few, not all, but far too few really spend much time looking at the entire Bible. Take that wonderful opportunity you have to read daily and listen to what God and his son, our Lord and savior, are saying to us, not just about the past but about a glorious future as well. In doing so we can't help but recognize the claims our creator and his son have on our lives.

Perhaps the most powerful, and one might say over-riding reason to read God's Holy word is found in the intimate prayer of Jesus to his Father concerning his followers in John 17, verse three: "And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." What greater expectation could we have from our reading and study and prayer than to know our heavenly father and our Lord and savior Jesus the Christ. This is life eternal.

Thoughts on the Readings—Repeating History

It is said that "those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it". This truth becomes very evident while reading the history of the kings of Israel in the books of Kings and Chronicles during this quarter. Why read this repetitive history? Why is it included in God's Holy Bible? Of what value is it to us almost 3000 years lat-

er? Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers that these things were written down for our instruction:

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be care-

ful that you don't fall! - 1 Corinthians 10:11-12 NIV

The Old Testament is full of examples and warnings. The examples could be positive such as Moses and David or full of warnings such as Solomon's grave disobedience or Ahab's horrific wickedness. This

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Thoughts on the Readings- Repeating History

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history teaches about human nature and what temptations take us away from our God.

Isaiah warned Israel:

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken falsely, and your tongue mutters wicked things. - Isaiah 59:1-3 NIV

God does not want us to be separated from Him and so he gives us years of history to warn and to encourage us. Solomon did not follow in his father David's footsteps. Because he led Israel into the worship of useless idols which could not save them, Israel suffered civil war, disunity, injustice, and destructions.

Israel was divided into northern (aka Israel) and southern (aka Judah) kingdoms. For 300 years the kings of the north led northern Israel in idolatry and disobedience. God warned Israel of their need to repent and turn to him through prophets like Elijah, Elisha, Hosea and Amos. Finally, in 722 BC God brought the Assyrian Empire down to destroy this kingdom. You can read about this in 2 Kings 17.

During this same time period the southern kingdom, Judah, with its capital in Jerusalem had some faithful kings such as Asa, Joash, and Hezekiah. After the Assyrian army had destroyed Israel in the north it continued south. King Hezekiah felt helpless as this hoard invaded Judah taking one town after another. Finally, the Assyrians

arrived at Jerusalem and surrounded the walls. Hezekiah turned to the LORD for help. His prayer is found in 2 Kings 19:14-19. If you continue reading in verses 20-28 you will see that Isaiah the prophet brought an immediate answer to Hezekiah from the LORD. In fact, the entire history of the Assyrian threat to Jerusalem and the answer to Hezekiah's prayer can be found in 2 Kings chapters 18 and 19 and Isaiah chapters 36 and 37.

If you look at Isaiah chapter 1 you will find that Isaiah was sent to prophesy to Judah and Jerusalem during this tumultuous time. In the prophecy of Isaiah there are many chapters of warnings to the people concerning their need to repent and change and as in chapter 1 there is promise of forgiveness with repentance but warning of destruction if they persist in disobedience.

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." - Isaiah 1:18-20 ESV

The history and the prophecies given to us in the Old Testament are warnings and encouragements to teach us to trust God enough to obey him and to turn to him in all our troubles. The histories of the faithful are examples to follow. The histories of the faithless are warnings of how easy it is for us to forget our God and wander from him.

In the New Testament God has given us the history of the ministry of his Son, Jesus. In the history given us in the Gospel of John, Jesus shows us the way to trust and obey. He is the way, the truth and the life.

It is living as Jesus lived that brings us victory, that brings us close to our God.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. - John 14:6 ESV

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." ... Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. - John 14:21, 23-24 ESV

So the Old Testament histories and prophecies show us through examples and teachings the need for trust and obedience. Jesus came and showed us how to live this life of loving and trusting God enough to obey him. In fact, Jesus declared that in his death on the cross we must learn two things:

I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave." - John 14:30-31 NIV

Jesus loved his Father and obeyed him even to the point of going to the cross. This is the example that he has given us.

Keep Watch Because You Do Not Know When Your Lord Will Come

The Jewish Temple in Jerusalem had originally been built by King Solomon about 1,000 years before Jesus' birth. It was destroyed by the Babylonians a little more than 400 years later but then rebuilt.

At the time of Jesus this "second" Temple had been greatly enlarged and improved by King Herod and was the center of Jewish religious and national life. It represented all the greatness of their nation and the dwelling place of their God, the only one true God and creator of all. It represented the hope and promise of the prophets that the glory of the Kingdom of Israel would be restored.

Less than one week before Jesus was crucified he was in the Temple with the disciples. As they left Jesus made this statement:

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." - Matthew 24:1-2 NIV

The disciples must have been shocked. They had hoped that Jesus was the one who would finally bring about the fulfilment of all the prophets of old concerning Israel and Jerusalem. Instead Jesus told them that destruction was coming. As soon as they were able to speak to him privately, they asked Jesus three questions:

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what

will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" - Matthew 24:3 NIV

They wanted to know when the destruction of the Temple would occur but they also wanted to know the sign of Jesus' coming and the end of the age. They were basically asking when would all the prophecies be fulfilled. When would Jesus, the long awaited Messiah, become king of Israel and reign on David's throne eternally? They were waiting for prophecies such as Isaiah 9 to be fulfilled:

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

At this time the disciples still did not understand that Jesus had to die on the cross, be raised from the dead, and then ascend to his Father in heaven before the prophecies could be fulfilled. Jesus answered their questions in Matthew 24.

This has become known as the Olivet Prophecy and includes warnings about being deceived by false messiahs, warnings about times of great troubles and distress, and exhortations about be-

ing ready for the time of his return. It also includes a description of Jesus' return to the earth:

"Immediately after the distress of those days " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. **And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.** - Matthew 24:29-30

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he spoke with his disciples and taught them many things before he was taken up into heaven. It was after this that two angels made a promise to those disciples who saw him go into heaven.

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here

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Keep Watch Because You Do Not Know When Your Lord Will Come

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looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." - Acts 1:6-11 NIV

The promise is that Jesus will return in the same way that he was taken into heaven. This promise has not yet been fulfilled. In future newsletters we will consider

such questions as:

Why is Jesus coming back to earth?

What does Jesus prophesy about the "sign of his coming" and "end of the age"?

What are the "signs of the times"?

What are some of the prophecies from the Old Testament that speak of the Messiah's second coming?

Why does it matter to us?

Two pamphlets on these important subjects are available. Please see notice below.

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. - Matthew 24:42-44 NIV



Two pamphlets concerning prophecies of Jesus' return are available. Please write to: [DailyBibleReader at PO Box 143, Villas, NJ 08251](mailto:DailyBibleReader@POBox143.Villas.NJ.08251) or at info@dailybiblereader.com to receive these two pamphlets:

WHEN WILL JESUS RETURN TO THE EARTH?
THE MIDDLE EAST AND BIBLE PROPHECY.

Make it a Habit Each Day – Feast on God's Word

Jesus told a parable to the people about a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son and sent out invitations to his subjects. Surprisingly all those he invited were too busy with everyday life to come and enjoy and celebrate at the king's banquet. Why would anyone not come to the king's banquet?

And yet God has prepared a banquet of good things, of food that brings everlasting nourishment, but few find the time to come and enjoy. Yes, I'm talking about the Bible. In this book, through the prophets and through his Son, God has revealed to us his thoughts and plans, who he is, his love and mercy, and what he requires of us. He has done this so that we may come to know him and to love him.

With this love comes trust and obedience to him. This he knows will bring us life—eternal life.

There's an old saying that "you are what you eat" and that certainly rings true for our physical body. But what about the things we feed our mind and heart and spirit? God has prepared for us a banquet of rich foods—the best of everything to fill our souls. A steady diet of God's word each day will fill us with wisdom, hope, comfort in times of need, and the knowledge and beauty of our God and of his Son.

Take the Bible in your hand each day. Make the choice, make the decision each and every day to read it, both Old and New Testaments, carefully and with an in-

tense desire to learn from its pages. Learn of God's wisdom, love, and plans for the future. Listen to the words of life. Be introduced to God's perspectives, perceptions, and insights. There is so much beyond today's moment, today's "things" that God wants us to know: things too wonderful for us to imagine.

Reading, studying, and meditating on the teachings of the Bible, and then putting the teachings into practice in our daily lives is a choice that we make each day. Find the time, do the hard stuff, and make the choice to live as God's servant each day. There can be nothing better in this life or the life to come.



Daily Bible Readings for July, August and September

Read the Entire Bible in One Year

JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER		
DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa	DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa	DAY	Old Test	NewTest/Psa
1	II Sam 15, 16	II Corinth 13	1	Isaiah 49, 50	John 1	1	II King 14, 15	Psalm 97
2	II Sam 17, 18	Psalm 74	2	Isaiah 51, 52	John 2	2	II King 16, 17	I Thess 1
3	II Sam 19, 20	Galatians 1	3	Isaiah 53, 54	John 3	3	II King 18, 19	i Thess 2
4	II Sam 21, 22	Galatians 2	4	Isaiah 55, 56	John 4	4	II King 20, 21	I Thess 3
5	II Sam 23, 24	Galatians 3	5	Isaiah 57, 58	Psalm 85	5	II King 22, 23	I Thess 4
6	Song Sol 1-3	Galatians 4	6	Isaiah 59, 60	Psalm 86	6	II King 24, 25	I Thess 5
7	Song Sal 4-6	Galatians 5	7	Isaiah 61, 62	John 5	7	Jonah 1-4	Psalm 98
8	Song Sol 7, 8	Galatians 6	8	Isaiah 63, 64	John 6	8	Micah 1-3	Psalm 99
9	Isaiah 1, 2	Psalm 75	9	Isaiah 65, 66	John 7	9	Micah 4, 5	Psalm 100, 101
10	Isaiah 3, 4	Psalm 76	10	I King 1, 2	Psalm 87, 88	10	Micah 6, 7	II Thess 1
11	Isaiah 5, 6	Ephesians 1	11	I King 3, 4	John 8	11	Nahum 1-3	II Thess 2
12	Isaiah 7, 8	Ephesians 2	12	I King 5, 6	John 9	12	I Chron 1, 2	II Thess 3
13	Isaiah 9, 10	Ephesians 3	13	I King 7, 8	Psalm 89	13	I Chron 3, 4	Psalm 102
14	Isaiah 11, 12	Ephesians 4	14	I King 9, 10	John 10	14	I Chron 5, 6	Psalm 103
15	Isaiah 13, 14	Ephesians 5	15	I King 11, 12	John 11	15	I Chron 7, 8	Psalm 104
16	Isaiah 15-17	Ephesians 6	16	I King 13, 14	John 12	16	I Chron 9, 10	I Timothy 1
17	Isaiah 18-20	Psalm 77	17	I King 15, 16	Psalm 90	17	I Chron 11, 12	I Timothy 2
18	Isaiah 21, 22	Psalm 78	18	I King 17, 18	John 13	18	I Chron 13, 14	I Timothy 3
19	Isaiah 23, 24	Psalm 79	19	I King 19, 20	John 14	19	i Chron 15, 16	I Timothy 4
20	Isaiah 25, 26	Philippians 1	20	I King 21, 22	Psalm 91	20	I Chron 17, 18	I Timothy 5
21	Isaiah 27, 28	Philippians 2	21	Joel 1, 2, 3	John 15	21	I Chron 19, 20	I Timothy 6
22	Isaiah 29, 30	Philippians 3	22	Amos 1-3	John 16	22	I Chron 21, 22	Psalm 105
23	Isaiah 31, 32	Philippians 4	23	Amos 4-6	John 17	23	I Chron 23, 24	Psalm 106
24	Isaiah 33, 34	Psalm 80	24	Amos 7-9	Psalm 92	24	I Chron 25, 26	Psalm 107
25	Isaiah 35, 36	Colossians 1	25	Obad, II King 1	John 18	25	I Chron 27, 28	II Timothy 1
26	Isaiah 37, 38	Colossians 2	26	II King 2, 3	John 19	26	I Chron 29 Hos I	II Timothy 2
27	Isaiah 39, 40	Colossians 3	27	II King 4, 5	Psalm 93, 94	27	Hosea 2-4	II Timothy 3
28	Isaiah 41, 42	Colossians 4	28	II King 6, 7	John 20	28	Hosea 5, 6	II Timothy 4
29	Isaiah 43, 44	Psalm 81	29	II King 8, 9	John 21	29	Hosea 7, 8	Psalm 108
30	Isaiah 45, 46	Psalm 82, 83	30	II King 10, 11	Psalm 95	30	Hosea 9, 10	Psalm 109
31	Isaiah 47, 48	Psalm 84	31	II King 12, 13	Psalm 96	31		