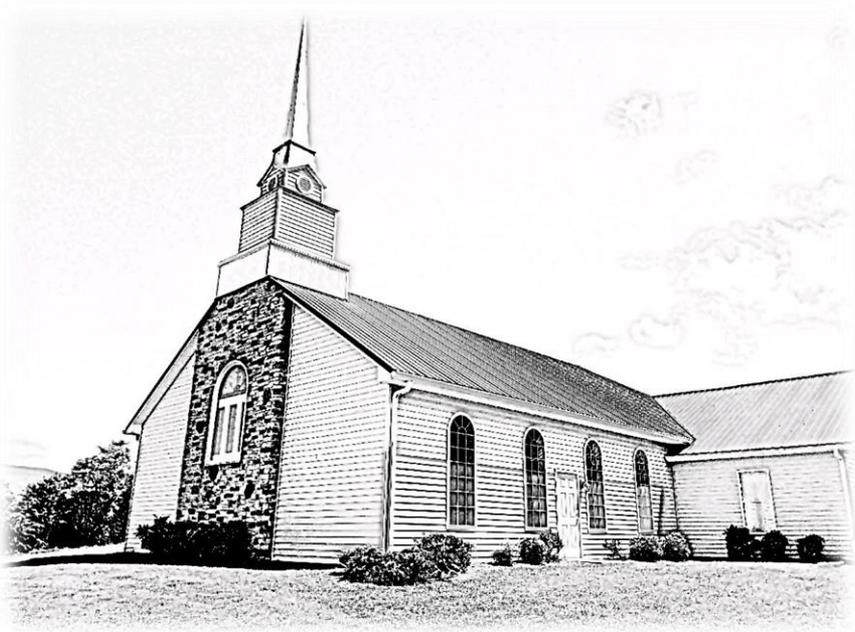


Bible Reading Guide 2020



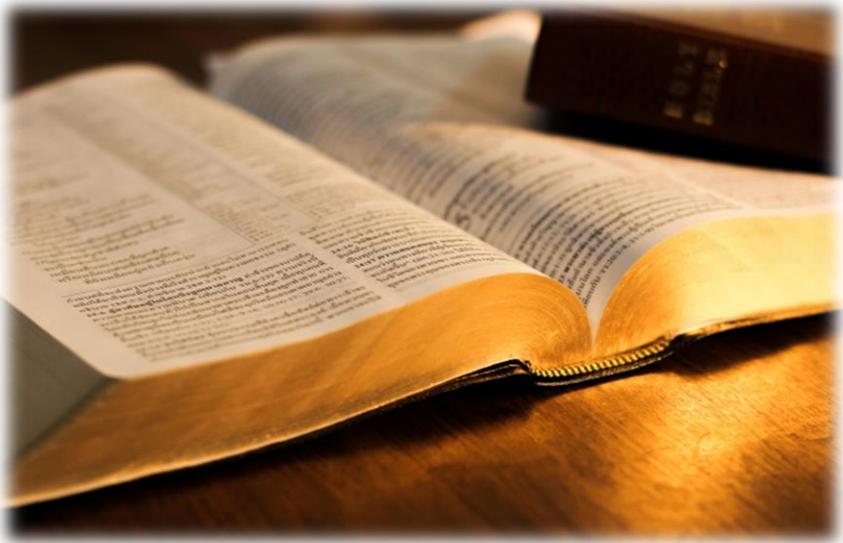
Week 12
March 15-21, 2020

Written by Rev. William F. Hill, Jr.

~Instructions~

1. Pray
2. Read the assigned text of Scripture.
3. Answer the discussion questions as offered. Keep a notebook of your thoughts and answers.

Each chapter is a summary. It is not meant to be overly educational or intellectual. It is intended to give the reader a good thumbnail sketch of each chapter.



~Lord's Day, March 15, 2020 ~

Reading: Psalm 21-22

PSALM 21

This Psalm may be divided into three sections. The first section (21:1-7) highlights the blessing that has been given to David in a song of praise. The entire Psalm is a song of praise to Jehovah. There are some items to note in this first section. First, the king rejoices in the salvation of the LORD. Second, the king rejoices in the blessing of the LORD in giving him the desires of his heart. Third, the king rejoices in the steadfast love of the LORD.

The second section (21:8-12) highlights the justice of the LORD. Throughout this section, the enemies of the LORD are warned with the impending doom that will come upon them if they continue to live in opposition to him.

The third section (21:13) is a concluding statement of praise to the LORD.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can you use this Psalm in your own prayer life?
2. List the things that David highlights as a source of praise to the LORD.
3. How are the wicked warned in this Psalm?

PSALM 22

Psalm 22 is a Messianic Psalm because of the number of allusions it has to New Testament scripture. A review of those may prove helpful, and you can do so using a Bible with cross-references.

~Monday, March 16, 2020 ~

Reading: Exodus 15; Acts 16

EXODUS 15

This chapter is known as the “Song of Moses.” It is titled as such because of 15:1 “Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD.” This song is penned and sung after the LORD delivered the people from Egypt and the hands of the Egyptians, especially the recent deliverance at the Red Sea.

A few items to note. First, note that they sang this song to the LORD. This is what God’s people should be doing each time they gather for worship on the Lord’s Day. We sing to Him and edify one another through it. He is the focus of our singing. Like the people of old, we too have great reason to sing praise to God.

Second, Note how the song reviews the recent history of the people. We should follow that example and examine the many ways in which God has been merciful to us and not treated us as our sins deserve.

The end of this chapter is ironic as it is compared to the words of the song the people just sang to the LORD. In 15:22-27, God provides water for the people. Note how they failed to trust him and, instead, grumbled against Moses and the LORD. Praise to the LORD should keep us from complaining, yet the people commit that sin anyhow. This sin will follow the people for many years.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why are the people rejoicing in song in this chapter?
2. Who is the object of their praise?
3. Why do we sing in worship?

4. What should be praising God do regarding the sin of complaining and grumbling?

ACTS 16

Acts 16 is the record of the gospel that comes to Philippi through the powerful move of the Holy Spirit. The chapter can be divided into four sections. The first section (16:1-10) highlights the issues that led Paul and his friends to go to Philippi. The second section (16:11-15) records the conversion of Lydia. The third section (16:16-24) records the opposition that the missionaries received from some in the city. The final section (16:25-40) records the conversion of the jailor, he, and his whole household.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the Holy Spirit prevent Paul from doing what he wanted to do? Should we expect that kind of intervention of the Spirit today?
2. What led to the opposition of the city people that ultimately resulted in Paul and Silas landing in jail?
3. How is the jailor saved?

~Tuesday, March 17, 2020 ~

Reading: Exodus 16; Acts 17

EXODUS 16

This chapter contains the instructions regarding the “bread from heaven,” that is, the manna. The first thing to note is that it was the LORD who provided for the people. This “bread of life” parallels that which the Lord Jesus said in John 6. Second, note how the LORD makes allowance for the Sabbath day (this command predates the giving of the moral law). Third, note that the people

continue to grumble against the Lord. Fourth, note the instructions given at the end of the chapter regarding the manna and the (coming) ark of the covenant.

Discussion Questions:

1. What sin is repeated in this chapter? Why is this sin an abomination before the LORD?
2. What are the instructions regarding how the people are to gather the manna on the 6th day? Why?
3. Did everyone obey the instructions regarding the gathering of the manna on the 6th day?
4. How do the instructions regarding the manna highlight the importance the LORD places on the Sabbath?

ACTS 17

This chapter finds Paul and his missionary friends in three different locations. First (17:1-9) Paul is in Thessalonica. There he plants a church. It is the same church that he later writes two letters. Second (17:10-15) Paul is in Berea. There the missionaries preach and those that listen search the Scriptures to see if what the apostles were saying is true. This is a good lesson for all who hear the Word of God preached. We are to examine the sermon with the Word of God (See Larger Catechism Q160). Third, Paul is in Athens, and there he gives that great speech at the Areopagus. The speech is an excellent example of doing apologetics before skeptical people.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where is Thessalonica? Why is that important?
2. What kind of reception did Paul and Silas receive at Thessalonica?

3. Who remained in Berea after Paul left that region?
4. Why did Paul feel compelled to speak in Athens?

~Wednesday, March 18, 2020 ~

Reading: Exodus 17; Acts 18

EXODUS 17

Exodus 17 contains the narrative of two events in the lives of the people of God as they journeyed to Sinai. The first (17:1-7) is the account of the water from the rock. The people are complaining, as usual, and God instructs Moses to strike the rock from which water would flow. The parallel is found in the New Testament as Jesus proclaims that he is the water from the rock. The second event (17:8-16) is the account of the victory the people had over the Amalekites.

Two main lessons in this chapter: God provides, and God protects his people.

Discussion Questions:

1. What names does Moses assign to the location where he struck the rock? Why?
2. What was a critical activity that helped the people of God defeat the Amalekites?

ACTS 18

Two accounts of the missionary labors of Paul are recorded in Acts 18. The first (18:1-17) is his first visit to Corinth. This is the church in which Paul would later write two letters. The second finds Paul returning to Antioch (17:18-23). There he remained for a brief period before heading to Galatia.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Paul seek to do every Sabbath?
2. What significant change in purpose did Paul state regarding his missionary efforts in this chapter?
3. What threat did Paul receive at Corinth?
4. Who is Apollos?

~Thursday, March 19, 2020 ~

Reading: Exodus 18; Acts 19

EXODUS 18

The main feature of this chapter is one of *delegation*. Moses was too busy trying to do everything himself. His father-in-law- gives him wise advice regarding the topic of delegation.

Discussion Questions:

1. How is the subject of delegation developed in this chapter?
2. How does Moses follow the advice of his father-in-law?
3. In what ways does the Lord Jesus follow this advice in his earthly ministry?

ACTS 19

Acts 19 is the record of events that occurred in the city of Ephesus. Two main issues arise here. First, Paul preaches the gospel to the people. Second, there is opposition to the preaching of the Word of God.

It is not a new concept in the 21st century. Wicked people will oppose the preaching of the Word.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read through the account in 19:1-10. List the main features of this passage and note the responses of the people.
2. What happens in 19:11-20. Many people will name the name of Christ, but do not know him. It was true then. It is true today.

~Friday, March 20, 2020 ~

Reading: Exodus 19; Acts 20

EXODUS 19

Exodus 19 is the account of the arrival of the people of God at Sinai. It is here they will remain until Num. 10. This is the same location as is recorded in Ex. 3 when Moses heard God speaking from the burning bush.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does God instruct Moses to do?
2. Why is Moses alone able to go to the top of the mountain?
3. How does God refer to his people in this chapter?
4. What does God tell the people to do? How do they respond?

ACTS 20

Acts 20 is the continuation of Paul's missionary journey, which eventually brings him to Ephesus. Before arriving in Ephesus, Paul raises Eutychus from the dead (20:7-16). Upon arriving in Ephesus, he begins to labor as a pastor among the elders of the church. This example is precisely why pastors should labor house

to house as well as with the elders of the church to teach the entire church the doctrines of the faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Paul faithfully labor in Ephesus? What were his methods?
2. Why does Paul warn the elders of the city about their office and duty before leaving them?
3. What is one of the duties of an elder and given by example in this chapter?

~Saturday, March 21, 2020 ~

Reading: Exodus 20; Acts 21

EXODUS 21

21:1-17 is the list of the Ten Commandments. These commandments are a summary of God's moral law. They can be found in 20:1-17 and should be memorized.

20:18-20 contains the record of the reaction of the people. The concluding section of the chapter includes instructions regarding the altar.

Discussion Questions:

1. Without looking, list the Ten Commandments in order. If you couldn't do it, work on memorizing them. Use short expressions (E.g., "no other gods").
2. To whom are the Ten Commandments given?
3. What is the reaction of the people when the people saw the presence of God on the mountain?

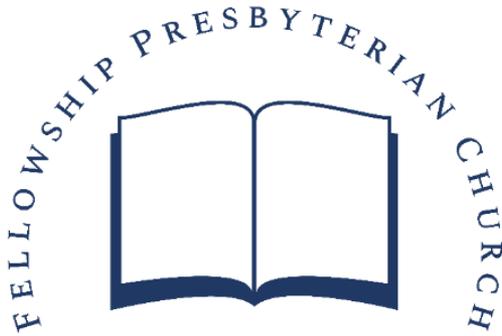
4. Why does God give instructions regarding the altar immediately after giving the Ten Commandments?

ACTS 21

This chapter contains a series of events that eventually bring Paul to Jerusalem. There he visits with James and the elders. This indicates that an established church was present in the holy city. While there, ministering in the temple complex, Paul is arrested. This arrest sets up the sermon he will preach in Acts 22.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is James? Is it the apostle or another man? You may need to consult a reference source or the internet.
2. Why was Paul arrested?



PREACH THE WORD - 2 TIM. 4:2