

Bible Reading Guide 2020



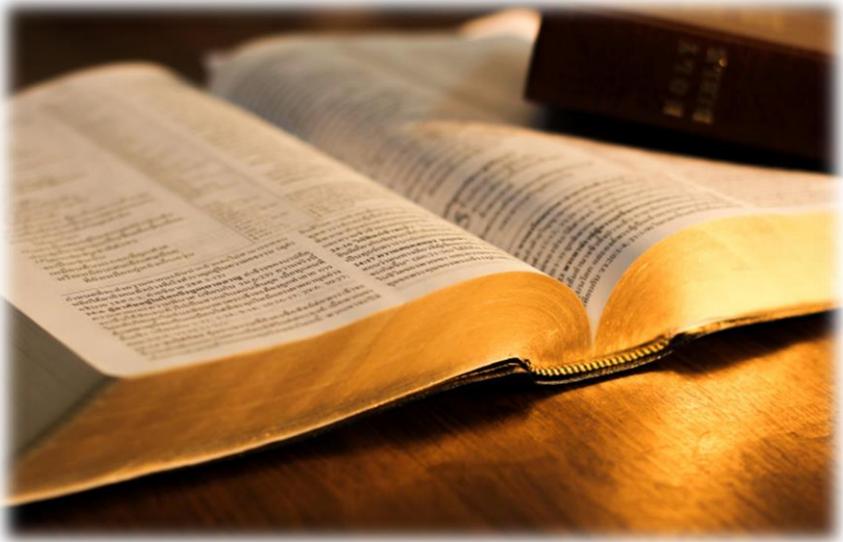
Week 16
April 26-May 2, 2020

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~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, April 26, 2020 ~

Reading: Psalm 29-30

PSALM 29

Psalm 29 is written by King David. The connection between the King of Israel and this Psalm cannot be missed. The Psalm is a praise to God the King. Therefore, the earthly King gives praise and glory to the King of heaven and earth. As you draw on this simple observation, it is helpful to remember that all kings of the earth have their positions and authority from God the King (Rom. 13). It is also useful to remember that all of these monarchs owe allegiance to the one true King – Jehovah.

The first section of the Psalm (29:1-2) makes a proclamation to all the earth to give glory and honor to the LORD. It also makes reference to heavenly beings. Thus all of creation is to ascribe to the LORD the glory that is due to his name.

The second section (29:3-4) makes reference to the voice of the LORD. In this section, take note of the descriptions of the LORD's voice: it thunders, it is powerful; it is full of majesty.

The third section (29:5-6) describes the effect the LORD's voice has on his creation.

The fourth section (29:7-8) further describes the awesome nature of the voice of the LORD.

The final section (29:9-11) again describes the effect of the voice of the LORD and describes the reign of this total and sovereign monarch of all creation and appeals to him for a blessing.

Discussion Questions:

1. This Psalm is one of praise. It does not refer to problems or difficulties in the life of the King. This Psalm is useful to pray through in worship and adoration to the LORD.
2. Why do you think the Psalmist places so much emphasis on the “voice” of the LORD? How does the voice of the LORD speak today, primarily?
3. The voice of the LORD speaks today through various providences. What are those things as outlined in this Psalm?

PSALM 30

This Psalm is also written by David. The ascription given to it causes some interpretive difficulties because the temple has not yet been built in David’s time. He was prevented from building the temple, and it was left to his son, Solomon, to accomplish that work. However, David may have gathered supplies for the building of the temple, and this action may be a solution to the interpretive issue.

The Psalm has four stanzas. As a song, this was likely sung in the time of David. The first stanza (30:1-3) is one of praise of the LORD’s protection and help in the face of enemies.

The second stanza (30:4-5) is an instruction to the people of God at this dedication to sing praises to the LORD. Two items are important. First, he tells the people to sing praises. Second, he tells the people to give thanks, and he tells them why they should. In your life, there are many things to give thanks to the LORD as he has guided you through your days.

The third stanza (30:6-10) is a commitment of David to do what he is telling the people to do. “As for me,” he writes. This is personal to him, and he highlights those reasons why he will praise and give

thanks to the LORD. It is also a commitment to plead for help in the face of enemies.

The final section (30:11-12) is the resolution to the issues David faced and prayed about in 30:8-10. Take note that the LORD cares about his people and hears their cries and pleadings.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to “extol” someone?
2. Who is the object of this praise and prayer in this Psalm?
3. Why should you sing praises to the LORD?
4. Why should you give thanks to the LORD?
5. Are you facing any issues of crisis in this life? What should you do about those matters?

~Monday, April 27, 2020 ~

Reading: Exodus 39, Romans 12

EXODUS 39

Exodus 39 describes the making of the priestly garments. The tabernacle is nearing completion. All of the items and elements are now in place. All that remains is to clothe the priests with the garments necessary for them to enter the tabernacle. (39:32).

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe the garments that were made for the priests.
2. Why do you think there is so much detail offered regarding the garments for the priests?
3. Why do you think the priests needed to wear these garments?

ROMANS 12

Romans 12 begins the application section of this letter. It is here that Paul begins to apply the matters that he has argued from chapters 1-11. The letter has taken the reader through important theological issues: sin and depravity, the doctrine of justification, the doctrine of sanctification, union with Christ, and all the benefits that flow from it, predestination and election, etc. Now he seeks to apply them.

The chapter opens with the word “therefore,” linking everything that has been said to these very practical words that are offered in the balance of the letter.

Three sections dominate this chapter. First (12:1-2), Paul exhorts his readers to live lives that prove those benefits that they have received as Christians. He tells them to first, live their lives as living sacrifices before the Lord. We are to deny ourselves and commit all to him because of what he has done for us. Second, we are to avoid worldliness and seek to have our lives and minds conformed to the image of Christ. A mere profession of faith is one thing, but the apostle now digs deep into the souls of men and tells them that true faith is proved in a life that sacrifices all for the Lord.

The second section (12:3-8) mark out for the reader those gifts and graces that accompany salvation. Every Christian has been given a gift from the Holy Spirit to be used in the context of the visible church. When one fails to do that, the church suffers.

The third section (12:9-21) considers several practical matters: true love, patience in trial and suffering, prayer, dealing with enemies, and so forth. They are worth meditating on and evaluating as you consider your walk with Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Paul appeal to Christian to live as Christians?
How does he describe that life?
2. Why should every Christian know what gift the Spirit has given to them? What happens to the visible church when members do not use their gifts as given?
3. What are the items listed in 12:9-21? Why are they offered, and what do they demonstrate in the life of one who says the love the Lord?
4. How should you treat your enemies? Why?
5. How should you treat those who weep? Rejoice?

~Tuesday, April 28, 2020 ~

Reading: Exodus 40, Romans 13

EXODUS 40

Exodus 40 is a critical chapter in the narrative that has unfolded thus far. For the last fourteen chapters, with brief interruptions (Ch. 32), instructions were given for the Tabernacle. Now, in this chapter, we witness the erection of it.

The chapter has two main sections. The first (40:1-33) contains the instructions regarding the erection of the Tabernacle. The second (40:34-38) shows the glory of the LORD descending on it. The book of Exodus closes with “For the cloud of the LORD was on the Tabernacle by day, and the fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.”

Discussion Questions:

1. When did the LORD command that the Tabernacle be erected? What is significant about that month (See Ch. 12)?

2. After the Tabernacle was erected, what happened? What is significant about that action?
3. Why was Moses prevented from entering the Tabernacle?
4. What is the significance of the actions of the LORD in 40:36-37?

ROMANS 13

The apostle Paul continues to apply the work of salvation in the lives of sinners by turning his attention to their attitude regarding civil authorities in 13:1-7. The fact is that Christians are bound to obey the civil magistrate unless he commands them to violate God's law. In this first section of the chapter, there are a few things to observe. First, all earthly authority is appointed by God. Second, all earthly authorities are to act on behalf of God as a ministering agent. Third, earthly authorities have charge of the sword. That is, they are to exercise justice and judgment on wicked people.

The next section in the chapter (13:8-14) gives further practical instructions in the areas of love towards neighbor, and other ethical demands placed on the life of one who says they are a Christian.

Discussion Questions:

1. When is it lawful to disobey the civil authorities? Give some practical examples from the Bible that illustrate that truth.
2. What is the function of the civil magistrate?
3. Who appoints the civil magistrate to his office?
4. Should Christians be disrespectful to the governing authorities? Why or why not?
5. Is it a sin to break the speed limit based on Rom. 13?
6. Why does Paul appeal to the second table of the Law in his argument to "love one another" (13:8-10)?

7. What does Paul mean when he tells Christians to “make no provisions for the flesh”?

~Wednesday, April 29, 2020 ~

Reading: Leviticus 1, Romans 14

LEVITICUS 1

Now that the Tabernacle is erected and all the furniture in place, the LORD can erect the sacrificial system that the book of Leviticus details. The book is called “Leviticus” because the primary issue is aimed at the Levities who will serve at the Tabernacle.

Chapter One gives instructions regarding the laws for burnt offerings.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who provides the instructions to the people regarding the laws centering on burnt offerings?
2. Moses acts as a mediator in this chapter (and those to follow). How?
3. Note the number of “if statements” made through the chapter and relate them to the burnt offerings.

ROMANS 14

Romans 14 is a significant chapter because it gives practical instructions as it relates to the visible community of God. In this chapter, Paul discusses the weaker and stronger brother and calls the mature in the church to be mindful of the weaker as not to cause them to stumble. The life of love serves others. A mature

Christian will always be mindful of the weaker and seek to help them grow and not cause them to fall.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some areas in the Christian life in which weaker brothers and sisters wrestle?
2. Is drinking alcohol a sin according to the Bible? If a brother or sister is offended by you drinking in front of them, what should you be willing to do?
3. In 14:5, Paul discusses the issue of “esteeming one day as better than another.” Is he destroying the moral command regarding the 4th commandment in 14:5-6? Why or why not?
4. Is Paul arguing that you may never judge another believer in 14:10-12? Compare his argument with Matthew 7.

~Thursday, April 30, 2020 ~

Reading: Leviticus 2, Romans 15

LEVITICUS 2

This chapter details the law regarding grain offerings. This offering symbolizes the worshiper’s dedication to the LORD.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what way does this grain offering illustrate the attitude of the worshiper to God?
2. Why must a grain offering be free of leaven?

ROMANS 15

This chapter has four main sections. The first (15:1-7) contains Paul's further instructions as to how Christians should interact with the weaker of the family of God. In a word, Paul is appealing to his readers to be patient with one another.

The second section (15:8-13) summarizes the ministry of Paul when he tells his readers that Christ is the hope of all people – Jew and Gentile.

The third section (15:14-21) is Paul's brief ministerial biography of his labor to the Gentiles.

The final section (15:22-33) contains Paul's desire to come and see the Christians in Rome.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are you a mature Christian? How do you measure that assessment, and, if accurate, how should you treat the weaker in the church? If you are not sure of your assessment, speak to an elder or your pastor.
2. Why is Jesus the hope of the Jews and the Gentiles?
3. What was the main emphasis of the ministry of Paul?

~Friday, May 1, 2020 ~

Reading: Leviticus 3, Romans 16

LEVITICUS 3

This chapter includes the various laws and regulations regarding the peace offerings. This offering can also be called the “fellowship” offering or the “covenant” offering. The Hebrew term

that is used throughout this chapter (translated as “peace” in the ESV) is the word *shalom*, meaning “peace.”

Discussion Questions:

1. What is distinctly different about this offering as compared to the first two in Lev. 1-2?
2. Why do you think this offering is called the “peace offering”?

ROMANS 16

This chapter concludes Paul’s letter to the Romans. In typical fashion, he ends it with greetings and various reports. What is central to this chapter is the extensive greeting he uses and the list of the names of the people. Some commentators think this argues for a warm fellowship he had with the people and with the Roman church.

Discussion Questions:

1. As you read through the list of names, some of the people stand out more than others. Who are they, and why do they stand out?
2. At the end of the chapter, Paul gives a final word of instruction to the church. What is it?

~Saturday, May 2, 2020 ~

Reading: Leviticus 4, 1 Corinthians 1

LEVITICUS 4

This chapter continues the regulations regarding the various offerings commanded by the LORD to the people. In this chapter, we have those rules regarding the “sin offering.”

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the purpose of the regulations regarding “unintentional sins?”
2. There are four classes of people in this chapter. Who are they, and what are the differences as it relates to the “sin offering?”

1 CORINTHIANS 1

This letter, written by the apostle Paul, is perhaps the strongest worded letter of all his writings (Cp. Galatians). In it, he deals with several issues that are plaguing the church at Corinth. One of them is immediately addressed in this chapter.

This chapter can be divided into four sections. The first two are typical of Paul (1:1-9) in that he gives a greeting and then records a prayer for the church.

The third section takes up the first matter of concern: division in the church (1:10-17). It is a very serious matter and one that will split a church if left unattended.

The final section (1:18-31) deals with the issue of Christ's wisdom and God's power (ESV).

Discussion Questions:

1. To whom is Paul writing this letter?
2. How does he greet this church, and what does he call them?
3. What are the things that he gives thanks to God for about this church?
4. What is the first issue of concern that Paul addresses in this church? Why is that matter so important to address and eradicate?

