

DISCOVER

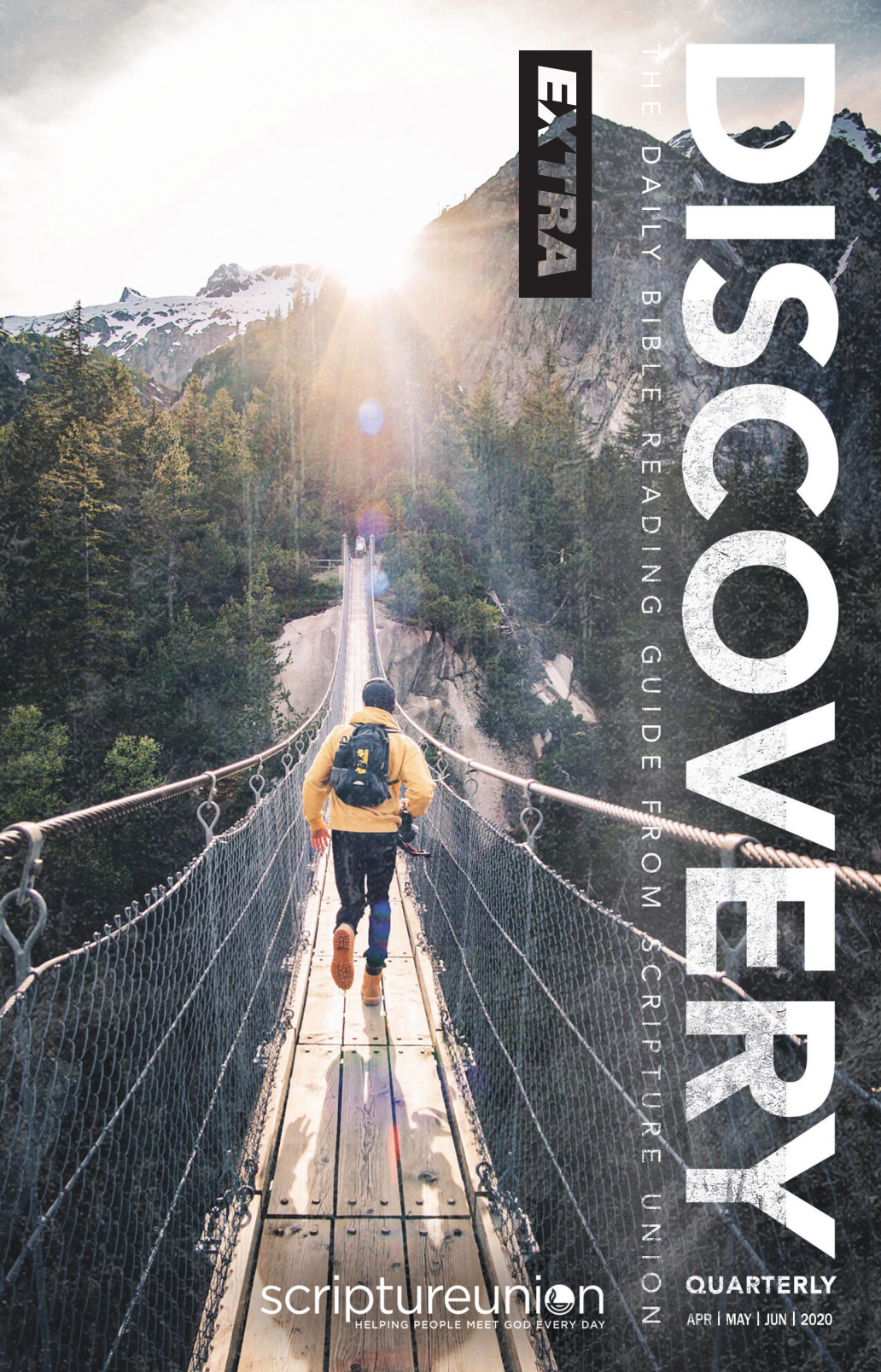
QUARTERLY

APR | MAY | JUN | 2020

THE DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE FROM SCRIPTURE UNION

EXTRA

scriptureunion 
HELPING PEOPLE MEET GOD EVERY DAY



Week One

1. Pursuant to Ezekiel 3:17ff, what do you think being designated a modern day “watchman” would entail? Does this apply to every believer? Why or why not?
2. See 3:23. Again, Ezekiel falls on his face the way he did in 1:28. Can you name other biblical figures who fell on their face in the presence of God? What aspect of God’s immediate presence do you think would take you down so quickly?
3. In 5:11 God accuses Jerusalem of defiling his sanctuary. What parallels can you cite from modern church practices? How do today’s people of God defile his sanctuary?
4. Ezekiel’s panoramic vision ends at 11:24. In v. 25 he recounts to his fellow exiles what he has seen. It isn’t pretty. Describe what you think the overall reaction is of his fellow exiles to his report.

Week Two

1. Ezekiel 22:30 is the classic intercessory verse. Do you think that God is still seeking someone to do what is described in this verse? If so, what do you think would prompt God's desire in this regard? The overthrow of a dictatorship? An international crisis? A door to be opened into a remote country?
2. Do you think 34:1-1-4 describes certain Christian ministers today? Would it apply exclusively to leaders of pseudo-Christian cults? Which examples come to mind?
3. See 36:17. What ways and deeds could possibly provoke a comparison like this? Is there a parallel comparison to the ways and deeds of the contemporary church?

Week Three

- 1.** Luke 24:8 is significant. Who remembered his words? Discuss what this indicates regarding just who Jesus chose to teach. Were his words confined to the twelve? Who do you think was the spokesperson in v.10?
- 2.** Is Ezekiel 47 describing a literal or a figurative temple? Why do you feel about it the way you do?
- 3.** If you were Felix and were listening to Paul's defense in Acts 24:10ff, why would you be given to believe that this unusually bold Jew is actually turning this trial into an evangelistic opportunity? What statements from Paul would indicate this?
- 4.** Paul's appeal to Caesar in 25:11 is significant. This guarantees being shipped off to Rome rather than returned to Jerusalem. Why do you think Paul wanted to avoid Jerusalem? Also, do you think Paul's decision merged with the will of God at this point? If yes, why?

Week Four

1. Discuss Paul's astonishing remark in Acts 26:13, wherein he describes the light he encountered as "brighter than the sun." What light can possibly outshine the sun? What does this say of the awesomeness of Jesus in all his glory?
2. In 26:16, the Lord tells the newly converted Saul of Tarsus that there are things which he, the Lord, will yet reveal to him. What things might these be? Doctrinal truths? If so, what? Things about his new direction in life? What about his forthcoming relationship with Gentiles at large?
3. In 27:3 we find a remarkable statement: Julius treats Paul so kindly that he actually gives Paul leave of absence on the promise of his voluntary return. Discuss why Julius would ever grant such a favor at the risk of his own life.
4. Discuss the conclusion of the natives in 28:4 with Romans 2:15. How does Romans 2:15 shed light on the reaction of savages who have never heard the gospel?

Week Five

1. Consider Psalm 50:16-21, wherein God plainly declares that he doesn't punish us immediately when we trespass against him. What can you say about this attribute of God where your own life is concerned? What has God patiently endured about deficient areas of your walk with him?
2. See Acts 28:21-24. What does this say of the truth set forth in II Corinthians 2:14-16? What examples can you cite from your own set of experiences?
3. When the news of Daniel 3:8-12 reached the ears of the three Hebrew boys, what do you think they said among themselves, knowing what was about to happen: a summons from the king. What preparations do you think they made collectively?
4. Daniel 4 contains three declarations about God's sovereignty over rulers: vv.17,25,32. Given this information, how does this play out in our day and age? Has God placed every contemporary ruler in power? Does he have the ability to remove them? How high on the power staircase does this apply?

Week Six

1. Psalm 51 is attributed to the penitence of David after his incident with Bathsheba. Read it carefully. Do you think he penned this psalm before or after Nathan denounced him in II Samuel 12? Why do you feel the way you do?
2. See. Daniel 4:37. If God is able to bring the likes of Nebuchadnezzar to his senses, what does this say of his ability to do the same today. Discuss some world rulers whose conversion would make tidal waves on the worldwide circuit.
3. Daniel's godly reaction to the king's ungodly new law in chapter 6 is exemplary. If in your country a similar law were passed, how would it affect the believing community? Do you think some things might change?
4. Who is the Ancient of Days in 7:9? Why do you feel this way?

Week Seven

1. Compare Psalm 52:2-4 with the unflattering description of mankind in Romans 3:10-18. Which is worse? What commentary does this make on how much any of us has changed over the centuries?
2. Daniel 9:24-27 is a disputed passage. Do you think it refers to Israel or the Church? Why? A pivotal question concerns the “he” of v.27. Is this “he” Christ or the antichrist? Defend your answer.
3. Revelation 1:17-18 is a pivotal passage. If John himself fell at his feet as dead, what will we do? If Jesus is the First & Last, how can he have been dead but now alive? What does this say about the dual nature of Christ? What are the keys of Death and Hades? Why should this encourage us?
4. The “you” in 2:24 and 2:25 is plural. To whom do think this language is directed? Think carefully before you answer.

Week Eight

1. Psalm 53:1 has been disputed over the years by good-works-minded people. Are we to take the last sentence literally? If so, just how literally? If none can do good, is this assertion from our viewpoint or God's? Is it impossible to do anything good in God's sight while unredeemed?
2. Discuss Revelation 3:15-16. Why would Jesus really rather someone be cold than just lukewarm? Do you know of anybody in your sphere who qualifies?
3. Consider 4:9. Why would the living creatures be giving thanks to God? Thanks for what? What does this say of our obligation to give thanks?
4. Revelation 6:2 is a disputed verse. Who is the rider of that white horse? Give some reasons for your answer.

Week Nine

1. The final sentence in Psalm 54 is the articulation of a perfectly valid Hebrew ethic, essentially consistent with the OT Law. As New Testament, believers how are our ethics different from this? Are you sometimes tempted nevertheless to feel this way occasionally?
2. In II Kings 2:4,6 Elisha refuses Elijah's request to leave his company. Why do you think Elisha refused? There are more answers than just one.
3. What do we learn about Elisha in the account of the Shunammite woman? What kind of man is he really?
4. One of the unsung heroes of the OT is the Hebrew slave girl in II Kings 5:2-4. Why would she be considered heroic? Think about the end result of her declaration, considering both Naaman and his return to native country. What probably happened in Syria that is not recorded?

Week Ten

1. Under Jehoiada the Priest, the workers repairing the temple weren't even required to submit vouchers for expenses, a testimony to their trustworthiness. See II Kings 12:15. Why is scrupulous honesty with ministry money so vital?
2. The coroner's report in II Kings 17 identifies idolatry as the cause of death for the northern kingdom. Why do you think God put up with this for so long? Do you think Judah and her idolatry were more reprehensible? If so, why?
3. Hezekiah's bribe to the Assyrians to leave his kingdom alone (18:16) failed miserably. See vv.17ff. Is there a history of this misguided appeasement mentality? What modern day examples of such foreign policy can you cite?
4. Rabshakeh has long been considered a type of the devil. Given his performance in 18:19-35, what reflections of the devil's modus operandi can you identify? Just how is a type of the devil?

Week Eleven

1. Both Psalm 55:22 and I Peter 5:7 exhort believers to cast their burden on the Lord. In the Hebrew of 55:22 and the Greek of 5:7, the translation “cast” is appropriate. But how does one do this? Is this something that must be learned?
2. Clearly stated in II Kings 19:21-34 is God’s refusal to allow Sennacherib to invade Jerusalem. Do you see any parallels with the Jerusalem of today? Regarding his stated affection for Jerusalem, do you think God has moderated over the centuries?
3. Does God change his mind? They have been arguing that for centuries. See 20:1-6. What do you think?
4. In light of what we are told in 21:1-18 discuss how a twelve year old boy sheltered within a walled city with little, if any, contact with the outside world could become so wicked so quickly. The key may lie in 20:12-19.

Week Twelve

1. See Psalm 56:8. This language clearly declares God's knowledge of and affection for his people. Compare this language with what is stated in 139:1-6.
2. Paul seems to have graduated summa cum laude from Gamaliel University. See Galatians 1:14. Then in 1:12 Jesus overhauls everything he learned. Discuss the stress, anxiety, and challenges of having to completely change one's worldview when one comes to the Lord.
3. In 2:6 we are told an eternal truth about God: no partiality toward anyone. In light of Paul's comments in v.6, discuss how different things would be in the Body of Christ if God's people became determined to imitate God in this regard.
4. See 2:11-14. Even Peter, we are told, can succumb to a touch of hypocrisy. Discuss why Jesus hates hypocrisy. What is hypocrisy? Is it a form of lying? Does hypocrisy corrode one's personal integrity? If so, why?

Week Thirteen

1. See the opening clause in Galatians 3:22. What does this declaration do the average person's estimation of him/her self? How does it argue for the necessity of a savior? What was your initial reaction to this statement years ago?
2. Consider the language of 4:8. What gods did you serve prior to your encounter with the real God?
3. What liberty do you think Paul is primarily referring to in 5:1? What other forms of liberty can you cite as alternative candidates?
4. Discuss real life examples which you have experienced pursuant to the principle set forth in 6:7. Cite both favorable and unfavorable experiences.

Week Fourteen

1. Psalm 58:3 has long been recruited to prove the that the depravity of mankind is inherent, not learned. What are some of the things about the behavior of babies that would vindicate what this verse states?
2. Deuteronomy 1:2-3 is a stupendous statement. If it would take only 11 days to get from Horeb (Mt. Sinai) to where they are now (v.2), how come it took 40 years (v.3)? Discuss what you can recall from Exodus to Numbers as to why this journey took so long.
3. The operative word in 1:27 is “complained.” This unpleasant human tendency has always irritated God (see Philippians 2:14). Discuss your personal victory over this transgression during past years.