

## THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

6/11 – 2Chr 34-36, John 19:1-22  
6/12 – Ezra 1-2, John 19:23-42  
6/13 – Ezra 3-5, John 20  
6/14 – Ezra 6-8, John 21

6/15 – Ezra 9-10, Acts 1  
6/16 – Neh 1-3, Acts 2:1-13  
6/17 – Neh 4-6, Acts 2:14-47  
6/18 – Neh 7-8, Acts 3

\*\* Summaries/outlines from The Holy Bible, Contemporary English Version, ©1995 by the American Bible Society.

## 2 CHRONICLES

### **OUTLINE**

- I. Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth (1:1-17)
- II. Building and Dedication of the Jerusalem Temple (2:1-7:22)
- III. Other Events During Solomon's Rule (8:1-9:28)
- IV. The Death of Solomon (9:29-31)
- V. The Northern Tribes of Israel Rebel against King Rehoboam (10:1-19)
- VI. Kings of Judah (11:1-28:27)
- VII. King Hezekiah and the Assyrian Invasion (29:1-32:33)
- VIII. King Manasseh and King Amon (33:1-25)
- IX. King Josiah and the Book of God's Law (34:1-35:27)
- X. The Last Kings of Judah (36:1-16)
- XI. Jerusalem Destroyed and the People are Taken to Babylonia (36:17-21)
- XII. King Cyrus of Persia Lets the Jews Return to Judah (36:22-23)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)**

2Chr34: Josiah became king. He repaired the temple and had the law read out. Huldah said, "The LORD says: You will be buried in peace."

2Chr35: Josiah celebrated the Passover. He appointed priests to their duties and provided offerings. Then he attacked Neco and was killed.

2Chr36: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah ruled. Then Nebuchadnezzar burned the temple and took Judah captive for seventy years.

## EZRA

The book of 2 Chronicles ended with an official message allowing the Jews to return to their land and to rebuild the Lord's temple. The first part of Ezra begins with the same message and then tells how many of the Jews returned to Jerusalem and began work on the temple. But the people in nearby areas caused a lot of trouble for them, and so the work went slowly and even stopped for several years. But the temple was finally finished in 515 BC.

The first part of the book also tells about problems at a later time when the Jews had to stop rebuilding the city walls during the rule of Artaxerxes.

The second part of Ezra begins with Ezra arriving in Jerusalem to teach God's laws to the people of Judah. Ezra was horrified to learn that the people of Israel were committing the same sins as other nations. Israel was in serious danger of being punished or even destroyed by the Lord. So Ezra prayed and confessed Israel's sins, and the people agreed to begin obeying God's laws.

God's people were no longer an independent nation, but Ezra realized that God was in control, no matter what empire ruled over them.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. The Jews Return Home from Exile (1:1-2:70)
- II. The Altar is Rebuilt, and Work on the Temple Begins (3:1-4:5)
- III. Later Trouble Rebuilding Jerusalem (4:6-23)
- IV. The Temple is Rebuilt (4:24-6:22)
- V. Ezra Leads Many Jews Back to Jerusalem (7:1-8:36)
- VI. Ezra Forces Men to Divorce Their Gentile Wives (9:1-10:44)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)**

Ezr1: Cyrus said, "Let the LORD's people go up to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple." He gave the articles from the temple to Sheshbazzar.

Ezr2: The exiles returned to Judah with Zerubbabel. A total of 42,360 people returned. The heads of families gave offerings for the temple.

Ezr3: The Israelites made regular offerings. When the builders laid the foundation of the temple, the Levites sang praise to the LORD.

Ezr4: Enemies hindered the work in Judah. Rehum wrote to Artaxerxes: "Jerusalem is a rebellious city." So Artaxerxes stopped the building.

Ezr5: Zerubbabel began to build the temple. Tattenai wrote to Darius: "The elders say that Cyrus issued a decree to rebuild this temple."

Ezr6: Darius issued a decree: "The cost of the temple shall come from the treasury." The temple was completed and the Israelites celebrated.

Ezr7: Ezra went up to Jerusalem to teach the law. Artaxerxes wrote: "I decree that whatever Ezra needs shall be done." So I was encouraged.

Ezr8: I assembled the family heads from Babylon and gave the gifts for the temple to the Levites. We came to Jerusalem and made offerings.

Ezr9: The leaders told me that the people had taken foreign wives. I tore my robe and prayed, "O God, we have forsaken your commandments."

Ezr10: The Israelites wept. They all assembled and Ezra said, "Separate from your foreign wives." The family heads investigated the matter.

## **NEHEMIAH**

Twelve years after the last events of the book of Ezra, a Jew named Nehemiah received bad news about Jerusalem: the walls of the city were still broken down, and the burned gates had never been replaced.

Nehemiah lived in the Persian city of Susa and was a personal servant to King Artaxerxes. So Nehemiah prayed and asked God to have Artaxerxes send him to Jerusalem to rebuild the city. Artaxerxes did send Nehemiah, and he even provided the materials for the repairs.

After Nehemiah had arrived in Jerusalem and the repair work had begun, the officials from neighboring areas insulted the Jews and accused them of wanting to rebel against Persia. These enemies even planned attacks against Jerusalem and tried to have Nehemiah killed. Finally, the walls and gates were finished and dedicated to God, and they became a sign that God had blessed his people.

But Nehemiah realized that God would continue to bless his people only if they obeyed him.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. King Artaxerxes Sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem (1:1-2:10)
- II. Rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem (2:11-4:22)
- III. Nehemiah's Concern for the Poor (5:1-19)
- IV. The Wall is Finished, in Spite of Enemy Plots (6:1-7:3)
- V. Exiles Who Returned (7:4-73)
- VI. Ezra Reads God's Law to the People, and the Festival of Shelters (8:1-18)
- VII. The People Confess Their Sins (9:1-37)
- VIII. The People Sign an Agreement to Obey the Lord (9:38-10:39)
- IX. The People Who Settled in Jerusalem and Judah (11:1-36)
- X. Priests and Levites Who Returned From Exile (12:1-26)
- XI. Nehemiah Dedicates the City Wall (12:27-47)
- XII. Changes Nehemiah Made (13:1-31)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)**

Neh1: The words of Nehemiah: Men from Judah said, "The wall of Jerusalem is broken down." I prayed, "O LORD, give me favour with the king."

Neh2: The king granted my request to go and rebuild Jerusalem. Sanballat was displeased. I inspected the walls and said, "Let us rebuild."

Neh3: The priests rebuilt the Sheep Gate, the Tekoites made repairs, Jedaiah repaired opposite his house, Meremoth repaired another section.

Neh4: Sanballat ridiculed us and plotted to attack Jerusalem. So we prayed and posted a guard. The builders carried swords as they worked.

Neh5: The people cried out, "We have to borrow to get grain." I told the nobles, "Let us stop exacting usury." I did not take my allowance.

Neh6: Sanballat and Tobiah sent for me to do me harm. I replied, "Why should I come?" The wall was finished and our enemies were afraid.

Neh7: I gave Hanani and Hananiah charge over Jerusalem. I registered the nobles, rulers and people by genealogy. The assembly was 42,360.

Neh8: The people gathered and Ezra read from the law. Nehemiah said, "This day is holy. Do not mourn." The people held the Feast of Booths.

## JOHN

### **OUTLINE**

- I. A Hymn in Praise of the Word (1:1-18)
- II. The Message of John the Baptist (1:19-34)
- III. Jesus Chooses His First Disciple (1:35-51)
- IV. Jesus' Seven Special Miracles (2:1-12:50)
- V. Jesus' Last Week: His Trial and Death (13:1-19:42)
- VI. Jesus is Alive (20:1-10)
- VII. Jesus Appears to His Disciples (20:11-21:25)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)**

Jn19: The soldiers took Jesus and crucified him. He said, "It is finished." He gave up his spirit. A soldier pierced his side with a spear.

Jn20: Mary went to the tomb and found it empty. Jesus met her. He came and stood among the disciples. Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!"

Jn21: Jesus appeared as the disciples were fishing. He said to Peter, "Do you love me? Feed my sheep." The beloved disciple has testified.

## ACTS

This is the second book written by Luke. In his first one, commonly known as the Gospel of Luke, he told "all that Jesus did and taught from the very first until he was taken up to heaven." In this book, Luke continues the story by describing some of the struggles the disciples faced as they tried to obey the command of Jesus.

So many different countries are mentioned in Acts that the book may seem to have been written only to tell about the spread the Christian message. But that is only part of the story. After Jesus was taken up to heaven, one of the big problems for his followers was deciding who could belong to God's people. And since Jesus and his first followers were Jews, it was only natural for many of them to think that his message was only for Jews. But in Acts the Spirit is always present to show that Jesus came to save both Jews and Gentiles, and that God wants followers from every nation and race to be part of his people.

The first conflict between Christians and Jews took place when some of the Jewish religious leaders rejected the message about Jesus. But the most serious problems for the early church happened because the disciples at first failed to understand that anyone could become a follower of Jesus without first becoming a Jew. This began to change when Philip dared to take the message to the Samaritans, and when Peter went to the home of Cornelius, a captain in the Roman army.

Finally, Peter reported to the church in Jerusalem and a meeting was held there to discuss the question of who could become followers of Christ. Before the meeting was over, everyone agreed that the Spirit of God was leading them to reach out to Gentiles as well as Jews with the good news of Jesus.

The one who did the most for the spread of the faith was a man named Paul, and much of the book tells about his preaching among the Gentiles. Finally, he took the message to Rome, the world's most important city at that time. One of Luke's main reasons for writing was to show that nothing could keep the Christian message from spreading everywhere.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. Telling the Good News in Jerusalem (1:1-8:3)
- II. The Good News in Judea and Samaria (8:4-12:25)
- III. Paul's First Journey to Tell the Good News (13:1-14:28)
- IV. An Important Decision in Jerusalem (15:1-35)
- V. Paul's Second Journey to Tell the Good News (15:36-18:22)
- VI. Paul's Third Journey to Tell the Good News (18:23-21:16)
- VII. Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (21:17-23:22)
- VIII. Paul is Taken to Caesarea (23:23-26:23)

## IX. Paul is Taken to Rome (27:1-28:31)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)**

Acts1: Jesus said, "You will receive the Spirit and be my witnesses." He was taken up in a cloud. The believers cast lots to replace Judas.

Acts2: At Pentecost they were filled with the Spirit. Peter told the crowd, "You crucified Jesus but God has made him Lord." 3,000 believed.

Acts3: Peter and John healed a lame man at the temple. Peter told the people, "Faith in Jesus has healed this man. Repent of your sins."

### **Getting to Know God Through His Book - 4 Questions - Ask...**

**Insight**—what does the passage say? Paraphrase the main point(s) and the commands to follow, promises to claim, examples to follow (or avoid), etc.

**Question**—what don't I understand? Need to know more about? How does this passage make me feel?

**Praise**—what does this passage teach me about God? Turn what the passage says into praise for the Lord's goodness, power, holiness, wisdom, etc.

**Apply**—what is God saying to me from this passage? Confess how you have not followed it. Pray, asking God to help you obey. Get quiet and ask God to speak to you.

**Journal**—write out your prayers, thoughts, responses to God and His Word

### **HOW TO PRAY**

Scripture is God speaking to us. Prayer is us speaking to and listening to God. Jesus gave us the model in the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6). Keep your relationship fresh with the Lord by both reading and praying - two way communication. Remember to look up like Jesus did when He prayed.

1. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name – focus on God, adore, praise, thank Him – long to see His glory and honor.
2. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done – ask for what you know will please Him, pray back the Scripture – that is His will.
3. Give us this day our daily bread – ask for your needs and others to be met.
4. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us – ask for forgiveness, from God, and from others you may have hurt. Ask God to help you forgive and restore others too. Ask Him to get rid of bitterness and have love & compassion for those who have hurt you.
5. And lead us not into temptation – ask God to take over your day, protect you and others from evil.
6. For thine is the kingdom, power & glory – end by re-focusing on God, His kingdom, power, and glory!
7. Listen – ask God to speak to you by His Spirit – always test what you hear by His Word.
8. Pray the Blind Bartimaeus Prayer (Mark 10) – Tell God what you feel, what you want, and ask God what you should do to get what you want (if what you want is right).