



2017 May Bible Reading

by Pastor Mike Barris

This month we conclude our reading of the prophet Isaiah, who lived during the rise of the Assyrian Empire and the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel (722-721 BC) and proclaimed God's judgment and exile of the Jews to Babylon. Isaiah also warned the southern kingdom of Judah that captivity would also be her experience as a result of her unfaithfulness and sin. This month's reading includes the powerful Word of the Lord concerning justice and truly acceptable worship (read carefully to see the way God defines worship in this text), the Good News chapter which Jesus quotes in part, a prayer of deep need on behalf of the people and the promise of the new heavens and the new earth.

✓	Day	Read	✓	Day	Read
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Is. 58	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Is. 64
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Is. 61	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Is. 65

Next, we move to Exodus, the second book of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible, also known as Torah in Hebrew). Exodus through Deuteronomy cover the period of Moses' call, leadership of the Israelites, transfer of power to Joshua, and death just before the Israelites enter the land promised to them by Yahweh. In Exodus, God's Word describes the birth, protection and calling of Moses to be the deliverer of God's people out of bondage to slavery in Egypt. You will read of the Passover night in which God's judgment against Pharaoh made possible their release, followed by their miraculous crossing of the Sea of Reeds. God's provision of Manna and the people's "grumbling" cause us to pause and reflect on how we treat God's provision in our lives. And then we read the powerful words concerning the giving of the law on Mount Sinai and later the golden calf incident. To close the book, we look at Yahweh meeting with Moses and the glory of the Lord filling the tabernacle - texts that inspire us to worship.

✓	Day	Read	✓	Day	Read
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Ex. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Ex. 19
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Ex. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Ex. 20
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Ex. 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Ex. 32
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Ex. 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Ex. 33
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Ex. 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Ex. 34
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Ex. 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Ex. 40

In Leviticus, God gives the law and regulations concerning worship at the tabernacle. It further describes how God’s people are to live in holiness in order to be in the presence of their holy King. The word “holy” appears more in this book than any other book of the Bible! Our readings will cover the Day of Atonement, the other annual festivals, and the blessings and curses associated with keeping God’s covenant as his holy people.

Then we move to the Book of Numbers, which presents the account of Israel’s 38-year wilderness wanderings resulting from its sin and lack of trust in Yahweh. The observance of Passover, the sin of the people, the report of the spies who went into the land of promise, more rebellion, and a summary of the stages of the entire journey make up the thought-provoking segments in our reading.

And finally, in Deuteronomy, we read (and hear with our imaginations) Moses’ farewell address to the people preparing them for their entrance into Canaan as they ready themselves just across the Jordan River in the territory of Moab. Moses recites their history including God’s covenant requirements, the call to the people to consecrate themselves, a recitation of the blessings and curses that will come upon the people according to their obedience (or lack thereof) and a renewal of the covenant. From these texts, we are called to the same kind of faithfulness and obedience in worship in recognition of the worthiness, greatness and holiness of God.

✓	Day	Read	✓	Day	Read
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	Lev. 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	25	Dt. 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	18	Lev. 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	26	Dt. 4
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	Lev. 26	<input type="checkbox"/>	27	Dt. 5
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	Num. 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	28	Dt. 6
<input type="checkbox"/>	21	Num. 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	29	Dt. 11
<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Num. 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	Dt. 28
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Num. 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	31	Dt. 29
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Num. 33			

As previously shared, the focus of our reading is on *depth* and not *distance*. As you read just one chapter per day (easily done in 5 minutes), you are encouraged to take a greater amount of time allowing your heart and mind to be the good soil in which God’s Word takes root.

As you read, consider these practical ways to hide God’s Word in your heart:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding and wisdom as you read. Take your time - its depth not speed you are after. Underline or highlight key words or phrases.
- Note the context - who, what, why, when, where, how - and ask questions like “How can my life be changed by the truth of this passage?” or, “What is welling up in my soul as a result of this text (assurance, conviction, encouragement)?”
- Note key principles, promises of God, or life lesson takeaways. Linger on any phrase or sentence that stands out to you. And this is key, be open and invite the Word to do its transforming work in you through your discoveries.
- Finally, thank God for what you received through the text. Tell him what you learned and how you desire to live as a result. Ask that his word be made alive in you.

May God richly bless you and cause you to flourish as you enjoy His Word.

Pastor Mike