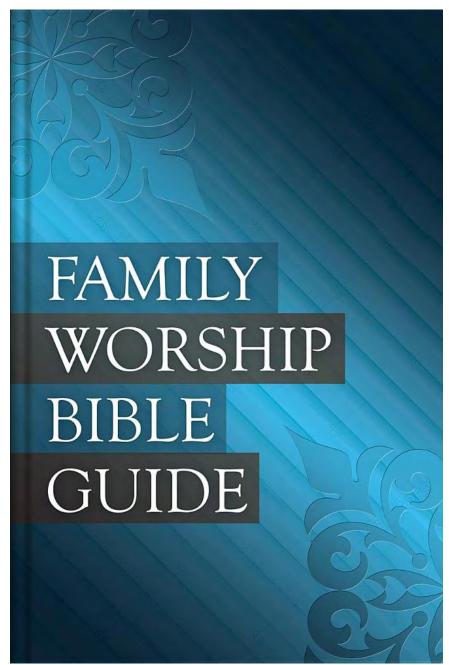
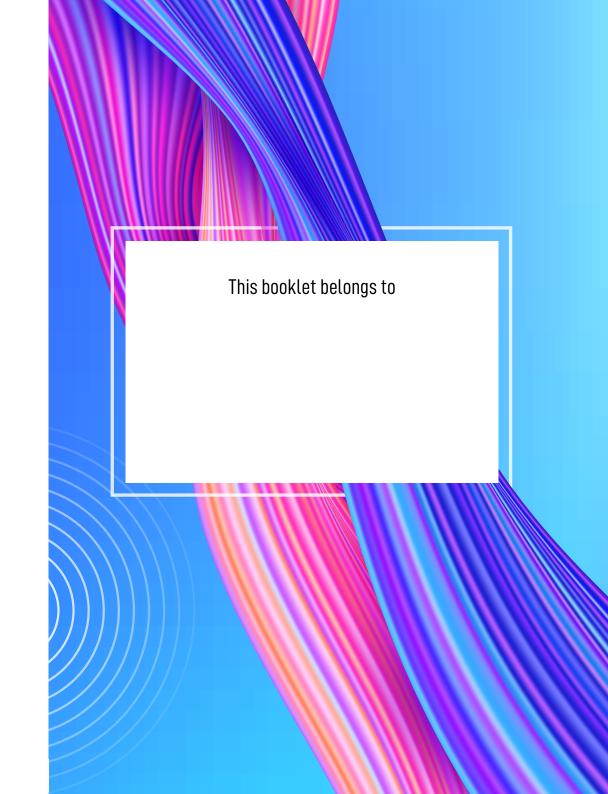
## ACHAPTER ACHAPTER ACHAPTER

an Agape Bible Reading Plan

**YEAR 2, QUARTER 1** (JAN - MAR 2021)

Looking for a devotional guide to supplement your reading? Pick up Joel Beeke's 'Family Worship Bible Guide'!





## WELCOME **MESSAGE**

by Pastor Johanan Justin (Editor)

#### Dear Agapian,

Greetings once again in the encouragement of Your Christ! Welcome to Year 2 of Brother, and the invitation of 'A Chapter A Day'. If you have the Spirit: managed to read through each chapter in Year 1 – my heartiest congratulations to you! If you have come close – my heartiest congratulations to you! And if you have read more of Scripture in 2020 than in previous years – my gladdest, heartiest congratulations to you!!!

You and I – we need God's word. We need His word in our minds. We need His word on our lips. We need His word in our hearts. And we need His word fuelling our actions each day. You become a stronger, more nourished Christian, as you take in God's word. We become a stronger, more nourished church, when we collectively take in God's word.

And the world is better for it.

Fellow saint, God still speaks today! Would you take up the challenge – at the very least, to simply read a chapter a day? If you can challenge yourself further – then reflect on the chapter, study the chapter, pray the chapter, apply the chapter. And day by day, may you hear the command of Your Father,

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money. come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread.

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good.

> and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to

hear, that your soul may live." (Isaiah 55:1-3a)

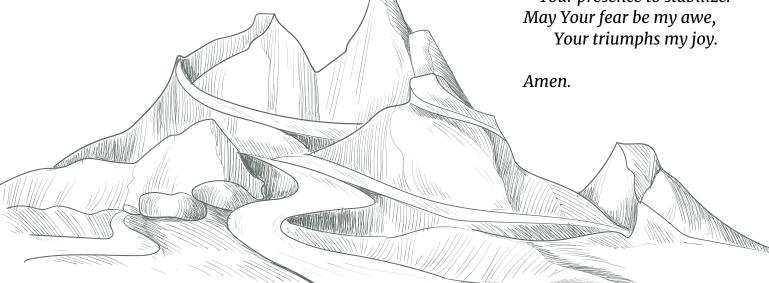
May God always bless the reading of His word.

#### O LORD,

Length of days does not profit me
except the days that are passed in Your presence,
in Your service, to Your glory.
Give me a grace that precedes, follows, guides,
sustains, sanctifies, aids every hour,
that I may not be a moment apart from You,
but may rely on Your Spirit to supply every thought,
speak in every word,
direct every step,
prosper every work,
build up every mote of faith,
and give me a desire to show forth Your praise;
testify Your love,
advance Your kingdom.

I launch my vessel on the unknown waters of this year, with You, O Father, as my harbour,
You, O Son, as my helm,
You, O Holy Spirit, filling my sails.
Guide me to heaven with my loins girded,
my lamp burning,
my ear open to Your call,
my heart full of love,
my soul free.

Give me Your grace to sanctify me,
Your comforts to cheer,
Your wisdom to teach,
Your right hand to guide,
Your counsel to instruct,
Your law to judge,
Your presence to stabilize.
May Your fear be my awe,
Your triumphs my joy.



# WELCOME TO 'A CHAPTER A DAY'

Congratulations on making it through the first year's readings! This booklet you hold in your hands is designed to help you through this second year.

#### It's Yours!

This booklet is entirely, completely, and unreservedly yours! Personalize it. Set up your own system of using it. You could treasure it and keep it in the most pristine condition possible. Or... you could

scribble in, scrawl across, and scrounge up this booklet to your heart's delight. But however you use it, make sure that you do use it!

#### Calendar

The goal is to read through the entire Bible in 3 years. This may seem like a really long process – but here's the thing: it's actually a day-by-day project. And to help and guide you – both in the daily project, and the 3-year process – we've included calendars. These calendars help you track where you are, and what you've covered. So as you move through each day, cross it off on your calendar – and praise God for the grace He's granted you that day!



Its features
IN A NUTESHELL

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#### Resources

This booklet is not merely a tool to guide your Bible-reading – nor is it merely for journaling! This booklet comes with resources to deepen your journey of reading the Scriptures. You could:

- join with Christians throughout this past century through praying a historic prayer
  - prepare yourself to read a particular book of the Bible by understanding its context
  - be inspired and encouraged by the Biblereading journeys of your pastors and leaders

Take heart! You are not alone on this journey of reading the word!

#### Credits

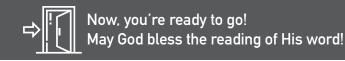
And at the end of this booklet, there is a list of resources provided for you. These resources helped shape this booklet, and the materials found in it. If you find the booklet helpful, you might want to check out some of these books and articles. They will definitely enrich your reading even further!

#### **Journaling Space**

In addition to the calendars, there is space provided for you to jot down a response to that day's reading(s). Is there a petition you want to make? Is there something you've learnt about God? Did God speak through His word into your situation in a particular way? Or do you have a question that arose out of that text? Capture these things – and later, share them with someone else too!

#### Join the Bible Reading Challenge!

Diligently keep up with the Bible reading plan for 365 days and get a special reward at the end of 2021!



#### TIPS ON HOW TO **READ THE BIBLE**

Last year we learnt 8 questions to help us understand and apply the Bible. This year, we look at 4 steps to guide our reading of the Bible.

#### Investigate the **CONTEXT**

- > Who is writing this passage? Who is this passage written to?
- > Why was this passage written?
- > From the passage, can you tell what is going on in the lives of the author & the recipients?
- > What happened in the passage just before? What is the link to the current passage?

Look out for a new step that will be released with each booklet throughout the year! In the meantime, practice the available step(s) every day

COMMESOOM



until it becomes natural:)

### **JANUARY**

24

Ps 56,

Ps 57

25

1 Sam 17

26

1 Sam 18







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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 1 Sam 21		Mark down o	Date for the day nce you've e chapter!	O1 1 Sam 1	01 1Sam	02 1 Sam 2
<b>03</b> Mk 1	<b>04</b> 1Sam 3	05 1 Sam 4	<b>06</b> Mk 2	<b><u>07</u></b> 1 Sam 5, 1 Sam 6	08 Mk 3	<b>09</b> 1 Sam 7
10 1 Sam 8	11 Ps 54, Ps 55	12 Pr 13	13 1 Sam 9	14 1 Sam 10	15 Mk 4	16 1 Sam 1
17 1 Sam 12	18 Mk 5	19 1 Sam 13	20 1 Sam 14	21 Mk 6	<b>22</b> 1 Sam 15	<b>23</b> 1 Sam 16

<u>27</u>

28

1 Sam 19

<u> 29</u>

1Sam 20

<u>30</u>

Mk 8



#### "ALL HAIL!":

### 1st Samuel, 1st King-Maker

The age of the Judges has left Israel in a terrible state. The people of Israel rejected God, deciding to do what was right in their own eyes. They called for a human king, so that Israel might be just like the surrounding nations - but it is also God's purpose to grant them a king. Thus begins the age of Kings...

#### • What is a 'Samuel'?

Samuel is a prophet (a person chosen to speak for God to guide His people). He is the son of Elkanah and Hannah. Hannah had been barren - and out of her intense longing for a son - she cries out to God and He gives her Samuel. As Hannah had promised God, she gives Samuel to the service of the LORD in the temple. There Samuel serves under the priest Eli, and receives his call as a prophet of God. Samuel served as the last judge of Israel. His most important duty was anointing the first two kings of Israel: Saul and David.

#### Seeing God in 1st Samuel

1st Samuel is a book of personalities. We learn about Eli, Samuel, Saul and David - but we also learn about God! What do we learn about God in 1st Samuel?

- He is the King: He will reign forever and ever. He is the One who anoints human kings, raising them up and even bringing them down. Human kings are answerable to the LORD for their actions, and are bound by His commands.
- He is the Provider: His timing is always perfect. He works all things for good. Where would Samuel be, if not for Hannah's difficult relationship with a rival wife? Where would David be if he had not brought bread to his brothers while they were facing Goliath? God often uses the routine, daily, and ordinary, to accomplish His purposes.
- He is the All-Wise: He has all knowledge. He has no regrets (1 Sam 15:29). He is always just and right. Therefore, His word & instruction is of utmost importance to our lives! Samuel listens. David though he sins terribly, listens and repents. Saul however, refuses to listen and perishes. God's wise word grants grace to sinners.

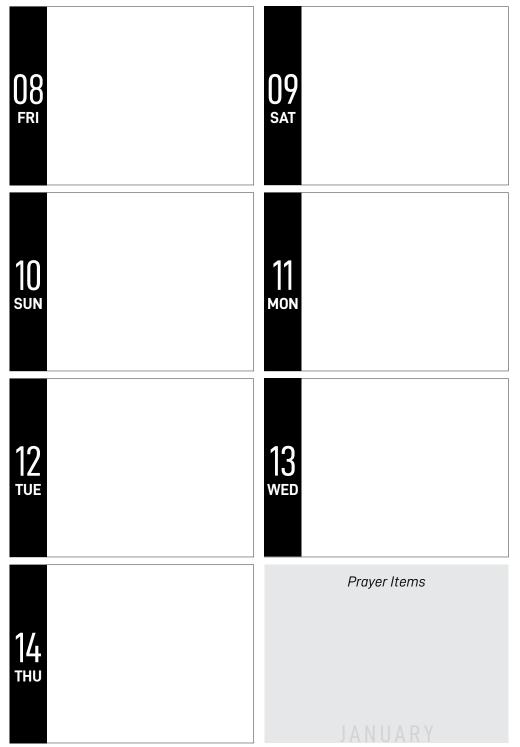
#### Sam's Wham-Bam **Breakdown**

Simple stuff!

- / The story of **Samuel (1-7)**
- // Transition to the Monarchy (8)
- /// The story of Saul (9-15)
- // The story of Saul and David (16-31)

Do utilize this space by journaling down your thoughts and reflections! Prayer Items

Revelations 1:6 says that we sinners have been made kings unto God. How could this be? Could there be One who is both King and King-Maker? Bend the knee the King of Kings is about to grace you with His presence!





This gospel account was written by John Mark - but it was actually based on the eye-witness report of the apostle Peter.

Read on to find out more...

#### **A** Monumental Mark

What makes Mark's gospel so unique? Here are some ways!



Jesus, the Son of God: Mark's gospel proclaims Jesus as the One with all authority to teach, heal and cast out demons. Worship Him!



Jesus, the Son of Man: Mark's gospel also proclaims Jesus as the true representation of humanity, through His rejection and suffering. Come to Him!



**Blitz:** Mark's gospel moves at an intense pace (the word 'immediately' appears some 35 times)! This book is lively, downto-earth, and dramatic. It is also the shortest of the 4 gospel accounts. Follow Him!



Secrecy: One of the unique traits of Mark's gospel is how Jesus seeks to keep His identity a secret by commanding silence from demons, those He heals, and even His disciples. Pursue Him!



Audiobook: Mark's gospel is designed to be listened to! Its fastpaced, action-packed, dialogue-filled narrative is better heard than read. Listen to Him!

Nevertheless, Mark does not proclaim a 'new' gospel he merely lends a unique perspective on it!

#### Mildly **Mapped**

The structure of Mark's gospel can be simply reduced to 3 iunctions:

- / Introduction (1:1-15)
- // Demonstration of Jesus' Authority (1:16-8:26)
- /// Testing Jesus' **Authority** in Suffering (8:27-16:8)

#### Measure the Man

This book is all about Jesus! Here are some questions worth asking:

- Who is lesus?
- What were some misconceptions about Jesus?
- What did Jesus come to do?
- What didn't Jesus come to do?
- How can someone become a follower of
- What does Jesus call His followers to do?

Mark proclaims Jesus as powerful, mysterious, and the Messiah! Has the secret of the kingdom been revealed to you (4:11-12)? What is the condition of your heart to receive His word (4:1-20)? Keep up! The Saviour of the world blazes a trail before you!

15	16	22	23
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19	20	26	27
TUE	WED	TUE	WED
21 THU	Prayer Items  JANUARY	28 THU	Prayer Items  JANUARY



# FEBRUARY







				Narrative History	Wisdom and Poetry	Gospels and Acts
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>01</b> 1 Sam 22	<b>02</b> Mk 9	<b>03</b> 1 Sam 23	<b>04</b> 1 Sam 24	<b>05</b> Ps 58, Ps 59	<b>06</b> 1 Sam 25
<b>07</b> 1 Sam 26	08 Mk 10	<b>09</b> 1 Sam 27	10 1 Sam 28	11 Mk 11	12 1 Sam 29	13 1 Sam 30
14 1 Sam 31	15 Mk 12	16 2 Sam	17 2 Sam 2	18 Ps 60, Ps 61	19 2 Sam 3	20 2 Sam 4
<b>21</b> Mk 13	22 2 Sam 5	23 2 Sam 6	24 Mk 14	25 2 Sam 7	26 2 Sam 8	<b>27</b> Mk 15
28 2 Sam 9						

Do utilize this space by journaling down your thoughts and reflections!  Oliminating down your thoughts and reflections!	02	08	09
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07 SUN	Prayer Items  FEBRUARY	14 sun	Prayer Items  FEBRUARY





#### "GOD SAVE THE KING!":

# 2nd Samuel, 2nd Sovereign

Samuel is dead. The first sovereign, King Saul, proved to be a terrible king. Though David was anointed, Saul refuses to hand the throne over. But now King Saul has died. And so unfolds one of the most cherished periods in Israel's history: Behold the reign of David the King...

#### **▲** David: The Halfway Point

Matthew 1 lists the genealogy of Jesus beginning from Abraham. At the genealogy's halfway point is David. Let's recap the story so far!

- Adam & Eve: In the Garden of Eden. God promises a seed (an offspring) who would destroy Satan the serpent.
- Abraham: God promises Abraham a great piece of land, and that a great nation will come from Abraham's many descendants. God also promises a seed (an offspring) through whom all the nations will be blessed.
- Jacob: Jacob blesses Judah with the promise of kingly offspring.
- Moses: God brings the great number of Hebrews out of Egypt and makes them a nation.
- Joshua: God makes a great nation out of Israel, and delivers to them the promised land.
- David: David is the first king from the tribe of Judah. God's promises of land, descendants, and nationhood have been largely fulfilled. Now God unconditionally promises David an offspring whose kingdom would be established forever.

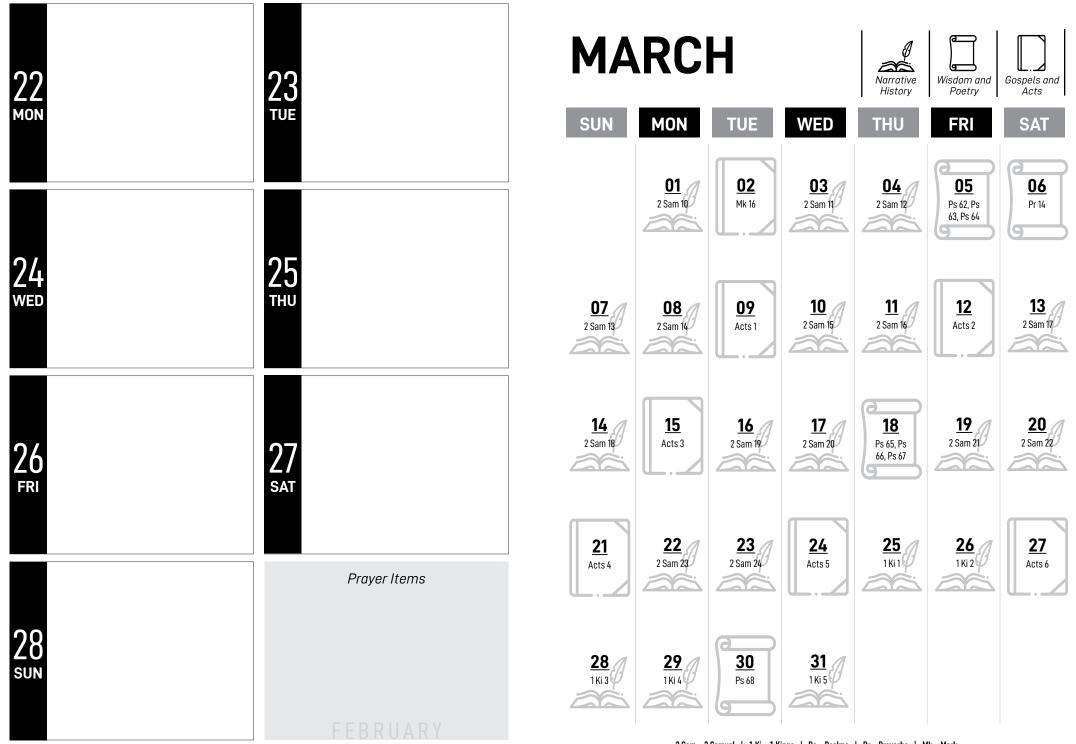
#### God has not forgotten His promises! We had better not forget too!

#### What makes David so great?

At the centre of 2nd Samuel is the story of David. Why is David so important?

- "a man after God's heart": In contrast to wicked King Saul, God recognised the Godfearing, God-reverencing, God-obsessive heart of David. David serves as a model to every believer.
- have ushered in Israel's golden era of peace and prosperity - but to the people of Israel, King David was hands-down their greatest King.
- **Poet King:** Having filled anywhere between 73 to 122 Psalms with the most beautiful lyrics - no wonder David is called "the sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Sam. 23:1)!
- **L** Warrior King: King David was a man of battle. He led Israel's armies to numerous victories - some of which were deemed impossible!
- Human King: The greatest king was a man of humble origins. He was also a fallible, sinful man capable of great sin - yet also of great repentance.
- Remembered King: King David's name is featured more than 400 times in the Old Testament outside of 1st & 2nd Samuel. Even in the New Testament his name is mentioned more than 50 times!

King David is also the Messianic King - one of the great shadows of the true Messiah King, Jesus Christ the son of David! What can you learn about Jesus from David's life?



2 Sam – 2 Samuel | 1 Ki – 1 Kings | Ps – Psalms | Pr – Proverbs | Mk – Mark

Do utilize this space by journaling down your thoughts and reflections!  Oliminating the property of the prope	02	08	09
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#### **ANNOUNCE AND ADORE:**

### **Appointed to Acts**

The book of Acts is Luke's second letter to his friend, Theophilus (the first was the gospel according to Luke). "Acts" is actually short for "The Acts of the Apostles". It focuses mainly on Peter & Paul, and on events & people who shaped the history of the early Church.

Read on for our family story...

#### A-xciting & A-nriching!

Who stands to benefit from reading the book of Acts? Answer:

- The Sceptic: For the non-Christian who doesn't believe the book of Acts provides many evidences for the Christian faith that are verifiable by sources outside the Bible! Read and ask: "Could the Christian faith be the real deal?"
- The Doubtful: For the Christian who struggles with faith the book of Acts provides encouraging & inspiriting accounts of faith! Read and ask:

  "Could the same faith in these believers, be in me?"
- The Young: For the new Christian who needs a picture of the Christian life the book of Acts provides an example of a life of faith! Read and ask: "Could this life of bold proclamation be mine too?"
- The Mature: For the long-time Christian who might be in danger of apathy & spiritual pride –the book of Acts demonstrates that God still calls you to humble action! Read and ask:

  "Could I have settled for something less than a life of faith and hold witness?"

This is a book for everyone!

"In Jerusalem, and in all Judea & Samaria, and to the End of the Earth"

The book of Acts can be viewed as an enactment of Acts 1:8!

- / The Spirit Empowers the Church for Witness (1:1—2:47)
- // The Apostolic Witness in Jerusalem (3:1—5:42)
- /// The Witness Beyond Jerusalem (6:1—12:24)
- /V The Witness to the Ends of the Earth (12:25—28:31)

God's grace pours forth from the foot of the cross, to the ends of the earth!

Central to the book of Acts, is the preaching of the good news of Jesus. The Greek term for "preach the gospel" occurs more times in this book than anywhere else in the New Testament. Have you been lacking the boldness to proclaim Christ?

Keep your chin up & see the saints who have run the race before you!

Prayer Items





David's glorious reign is coming to an end. His son, Solomon, is set to become king over Israel's most prosperous and peaceful era. However, with Solomon's death comes division and deterioration.

Welcome to the beginning of the end of the Kings...

#### North versus South?

The nation of Israel splits into two: the Northern Kingdom of Israel & the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Don't simply pit the two kingdoms against each other! There are greater battles being waged:

- \*\*Like David' vs 'Unlike David': In 1 & 2 Kings, different rulers are often evaluated by how alike or different they are from King David. A David-like ruler was humble and obedient to God. But those unlike David did whatever they pleased. How do you lead your life?
- True worship vs Idolatry: Both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms struggle with idolatry. In particular, the Northern Kingdom remains stuck in the "sins of Jeroboam". But in the midst of half-hearted devotion, there are a few precious instances of true worship don't miss them!
- Repenting at God's Word vs Rejecting God's Word: God often speaks in 1 & 2 Kings both through His Law and prophets. However, the rulers of both Kingdoms each respond differently. Some respond with repentance and find life. Some respond with rejection and continue unto death. Is there wisdom here for your own life?

#### Is this History?

1-2 Kings is **theological history.**We are used to *modern history* – the details of the life of a nation and its rulers, the politics, the scandals, and so on. However, 1-2 Kings doesn't quite flow with our idea of a historical account. Instead, God's opinion of the nation & her kings is given greater importance over a human assessment. *This is history through God's eyes.* 

#### **Keeping company with Kings**

Here's a simple breakdown to help you keep pace with 1 Kings!

- / The Reign of King Solomon (1:1-11:43)
- // The Kingdom Divided (12:1-14:31)
- /// Abijam and Asa (15:1-24)
- /V From Nadab to Ahab (15:25-16:34)
- V Elijah and Ahab (17:1-22:40)
- V/ Jehoshaphat and Ahaziah (22:41-53)

How can it be that David-like kings are few and far between?! Would a king as great as King David ever arise? What better place to grieve for our sins – and to rejoice at the Greater David! Hallelujah for the Son of David!

29	30
MON	TUE
31 WED	Prayer Items  MARCH

#### **RESOURCES**

Here are the resources that shaped this booklet – be encouraged to use them for yourself!

**4 gospels, 4 perspectives.** (2018, Nov 22). Retrieved from <a href="http://www.biblestudymagazine.com/bible-study-magazine-blog/2018/11/21/4-gospels-4-perspectives">http://www.biblestudymagazine.com/bible-study-magazine-blog/2018/11/21/4-gospels-4-perspectives</a>

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