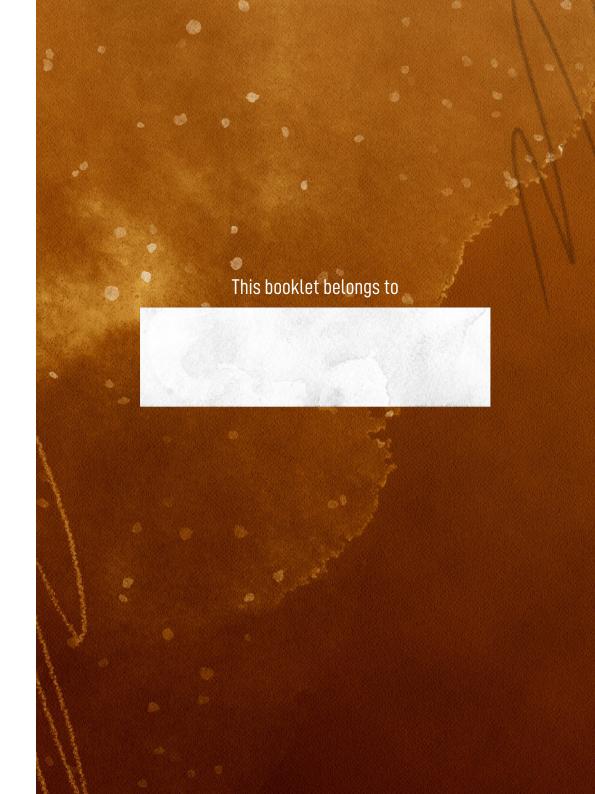
CHAPTER A DAY

an Agape Bible Reading Plan

YEAR 3, QUARTER 2 (APR - JUN 2022) Looking for a devotional guide to supplement your reading? Pick up Joel Beeke's 'Family Worship Bible Guide'!

FAMILY WORSHIP BIBLE GUIDE



WELCOME MESSAGE

by Pastor Johanan Justin (Editor)

Dear Agapian,

We are steadily making our way just for the book of Revelation to the end of our ACAD journey. for example (in case you're wary Boohoo, or hooray? Perhaps a bit of over-committing to a Bibleof both.

I'm also pleased to inform you that this booklet contains material from a host of other I do believe that one of the contributors! Dinnie & Nick have reasons God includes these contributed a majority of the 'harder' books in His holy word, overviews in this booklet. And is to teach us to dependent upon the beautiful design and graphics His Spirit - dwelling in us, have been put together by both and also dwelling in our fellow Mark and Crystal. For all the brothers and sisters in Christ! So excellent efforts poured into this grab someone, and journey into edition, I encourage you to look God's word together. into this booklet with fresh eyes and appreciation!

of tough books being introduced pleasing, and perfect will! May this guarter – namely Revelation, God always bless the reading of Ecclesiastes, and Jeremiah His word. as well. I think a great way to prepare yourself for these books, would be to take a few minutes to orient yourself through the overviews!

But another great way to move through these books, would be to partner with someone else!

Greetings once again in Christ! Maybe pair up with someone, reading partnership). Or get your cell group onboard to read a particular book together.

May God graciously reveal the mysteries of His word to you, There are going to be a couple and so direct you to do His good,

O GOD,

We bless You, our Creator, Preserver, Benefactor, Teacher, for opening to us the volume of nature where we may read and consider Your works.

This day You have spread before us the fuller pages of revelation, and in them we see what You would have us do, what You require of us, what You have done for us, what You have promised to us, what You have given us in Jesus.

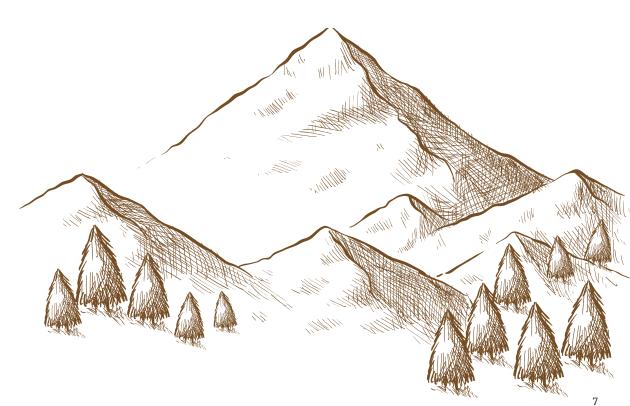
We ask You for a conscious experience of Your salvation, in our deliverance from sin, in our bearing Your image, in our enjoying Your presence, in our being upheld by Your free Spirit.

Let us not live uncertain of what we are, of where we are going. Bear witness with our spirit that we are Your children; And enable each one to say, 'I know my Redeemer.'

Bless us with a growing sense of this salvation. If already enlightened in Christ, may we see greater things; If quickened, may we have more abundant life; If renewed, let us go on from strength to strength. Give us closer abiding in Jesus that we may bring forth more fruit, have a deeper sense of our obligations to Him, that we may surrender all, have a fuller joy, that we may serve Him more completely.

And may our faith work by love towards Him who died, towards our fellow-believers, towards our fellow-men.

Amen.



WELCOME TO ' A CHAPTER A DAY'

Congratulations on making it through to this final year's readings! This booklet you hold in your hands is designed to help you through this third year – so here's a quick tour of its features :)

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.

~

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But however you use it, make sure that you **<u>do use</u>** 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!

3

2

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!

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

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• be inspired and encouraged by the Bible-reading 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 found the booklet helpful, you might want to check out some of these books and articles. They will definitely enrich your reading even further!

6

4

5

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 2022!



Now, you're ready to go! May God bless the reading of His word!

tips **IN HOW TO** read the Bible

What stuck out to you?

• DID YOU NOTICE SOMETHING NEW OR FRESH? • WERE YOU REMINDED OF SOMETHING YOU HAD FORGOTTEN?

4 STEPS TO GUIDE OUR READING OF THE BIBLE. THIS YEAR, WE LOOK AT 5 QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN STUDYING THE BIBLE <u>IN A GROUP.</u>

Did the passage raise any questions for you?



LAST YEAR WE LEARNT

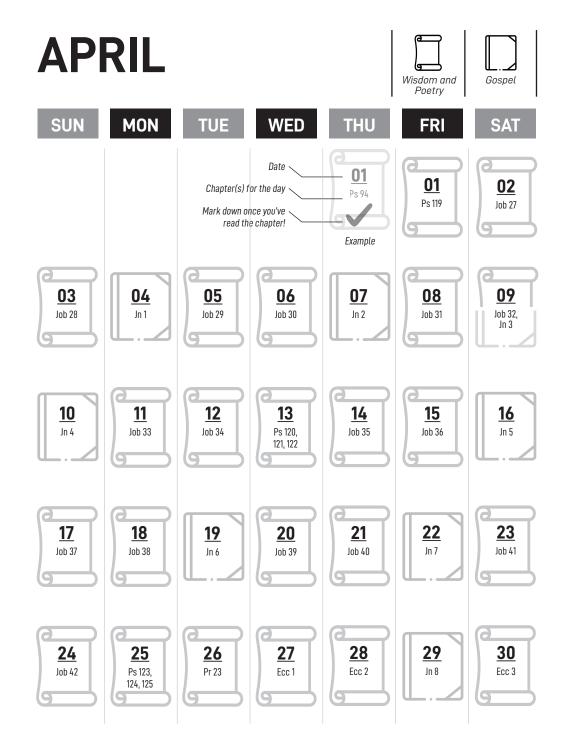
•DID ANY PART OF THE PASSAGE SURPRISE OR TROUBLE YOU? •WHICH PART(S) DO YOU FIND DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND?

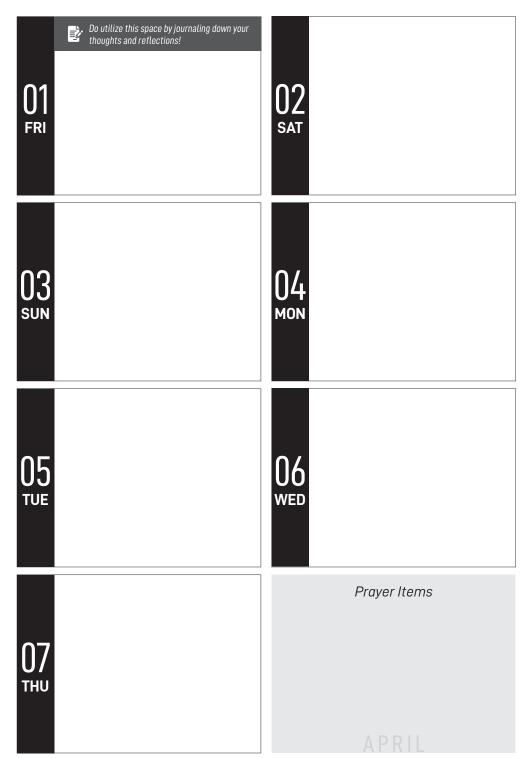


Where do we find Christ in this passage?

• WHAT IN THE PASSAGE HELPED YOU SEE More of Jesus and His Cross? • What Moved You to Love Jesus More?

Look out for a new tip that will be released with each booklet throughout the year! In the meantime, practice the available steps in community :)





JAW-JAMMING: Judging Jesus with John

The gospel of John is markedly different from the other 3 gospels. You've got to read it and see for yourself! Jump in...

Justifying John

Here's some things to know and to look out for as you read John!

- 1. John Who? Not John "the Baptist"! John is the son of Zebedee and the brother of James. One of Jesus' 12 disciples, John is an apostle. He is also unabashedly "the disciple whom Jesus loved". *Come to love him, too!*
- 2. Triune God: John's gospel clearly depicts the trinitarian nature of God. Jesus is peculiarly depicted as "the Son", and the interplay between all 3 members of the trinity is regularly put on display. *Behold Your God!*
- **3. Signs:** John builds his gospel upon 8 "signs". These signs begin in John 2 and culminate with Jesus' resurrection from the dead in John 20. Don't miss them!
- 4. "Already but not yet": John displays the tension of the arrival of the "last days", and yet the awaiting of the fullness of hope. Pay attention to build Your house on solid rock!

John Juxtaposed

How is John's gospel any different from the previous 3?

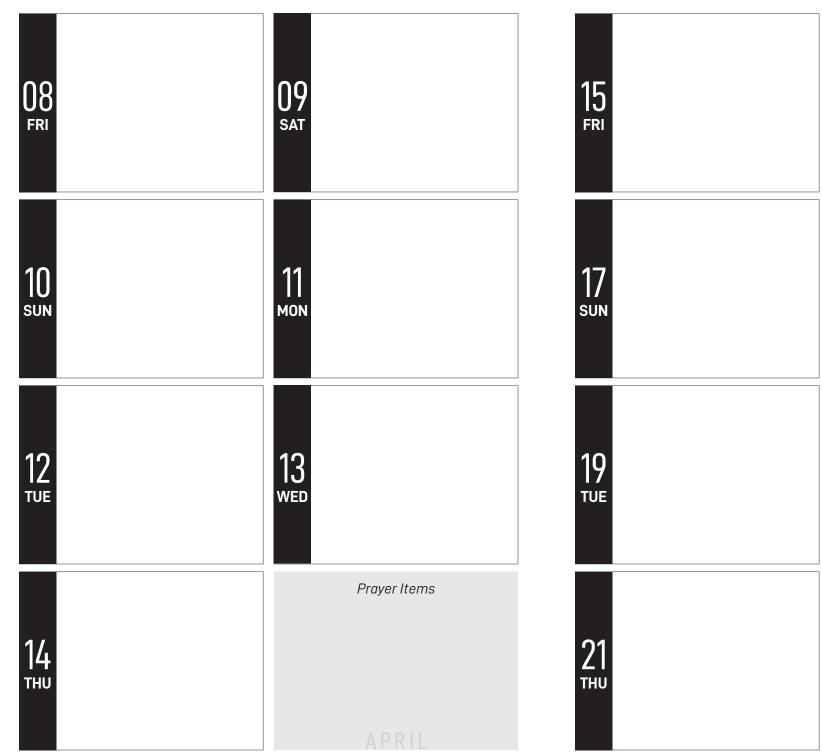
- Omissions: John leaves out substantial material recorded in the other 3 gospels.
- Additions: John contains material not seen in the other 3.
- Supplementation: John's account contains details that help "fill the gap" from the other 3.
- Jesus: John's account agrees with the other 3 on Jesus's teaching (& style), authority as the Son of God, and His journey to the cross and beyond.

59 Journeying with John

Need some direction? Here you go!

- / Prologue: The Word Became Flesh (1:1-18)
- // Jesus' Self-Disclosure in Word and Deed
 (1:19—10:42)
- /// Transition: Life and Death, King and Suffering Servant (11:1—12:50)
- *IV* Jesus' Self-Disclosure in His Cross and Exaltation (13:1—20:31)
- V Epilogue (21:1-25)

Feeling jaded with the repetitive presentations of Jesus in the gospels? Let Your passion for Christ be marvellously enriched through John!



sat моn wed Prayer Items





The book of Proverbs was put together by Solomon. It consists of 7 collections by Solomon and other wise individuals. 'Wisdom' is the big theme of Proverbs! *Let the wise take heed...*

G[‡] Pursuing Proverbs

Proverbs is not quite the same as most of the Bible. Here are some tips on reading it!

- 1. Understand the connection: Proverbs is unlike most of the Bible – but not *unlinked* from it! Just as the Law was given to protect sinners, Proverbs provides us with wisdom to live in a sinful world. *Proverbs is redemptive!*
- 2. Not deterministic: Proverbs is not Law! Proverbs makes use of concise, concrete comparisons (or contradictions) to provide us with titbits of wisdom. The proverbs come with beneficial or cautionary consequences – but these are not lawfully (or statistically) binding! Proverbs is meant to impress upon, not dictate!
- 3. Meet the cast: Proverbs is filled with interesting characters! The wise (embracing & living out covenant with God), the simple (remaining open, yet gullible & uncommitted), and the fool (opposed to God's covenant & a dangerous influence). Look out for other ideals (e.g. the prudent) and caricatures (e.g. the sluggard). Proverbs is meant to be immersive!
- **4. Super practical:** Proverbs is meant to be handson! Proverbs covers a wide array of topics from daily life (*e.g. friendship, work, speech, parenting, courtesy, etc.*). Proverbs helps us to see how covenant-living looks like day-today. *Proverbs offers us "skill in the art of godly living"*!

🛓 Prominent Publisher

What do we know about Solomon? He is the son of David, and the third and final king over the 12 tribes of Israel (until Jesus). King Solomon is also well known for being endowed with supernatural wisdom (1 Kings 3), and for speaking proverbs (1 Kings 4:29-34). Who better to publish the Proverbs?

Pointing the Path

Here's a simple guide for those venturing the path of Proverbs!

- I Title, Goal, and Motto (1:1-7)
- II A Father's Invitation to Wisdom (1:8-9:18)
- III Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16)
- IV The Thirty Sayings of "the Wise" (22:17–24:22)
- V Further Sayings of "the Wise" (24:23– 34)
- VI Hezekiah's Collection of Solomonic Proverbs (25:1–29:27)
- VII The Sayings of Agur (30:1–33)
- VIII The Sayings of King Lemuel (31:1-9)
- IX An Alphabet of Womanly Excellence (31:10–31)

Jesus is not only the Power of God, but also the Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:30). **Do you see Him here in Proverbs?**





Prayer Items

APRIL



The book of Ecclesiastes reads like a philosophical work on the meaning or rather, futility, of life. The Preacher explores the many facets of life searching for meaning and gain. Let those with ears hear the words of this ancient sage...

G[€] Exposing the Eccentricities

Ecclesiastes is a tricky book to understand. Here are some key interpretive pointers!

- 1. Editor's Voice: The bookends (1:1 and 12:8-14) are written by someone else who has compiled the teachings of the Preacher. These words give us guardrails for understanding. *Remember these when you get lost!*
- 2. Confronting Fleeting, Futile Absurdities: The keyword in Ecclesiastes is futility (NASB, or "vanity" in ESV). The Preacher uses the same word in three broadly distinct ways to mean: i) something that is fleeting (cf. 11:10), ii) a futile action that does not achieve its intended result (cf. 2:11), and iii) absurd situations that are incongruous (cf. 4:7-8). *Identifying how the Preacher uses the term helps with interpreting specific passages!*
- **3. Facing Fallenness:** Ecclesiastes is about "life under the sun" (cf. 1:3, 14), i.e., life subject to the fallenness of the world. It is an honest look at the results of sin in the world which are felt by all of creation. *The Preacher's pessimism points us to yearn for the New Creation!*
- **4. Tragic Themes:** Ecclesiastes deals with the difficult questions regarding sin, injustice, and death. With heart-wrenching words, the Preacher shows us the reality of these issues in a fallen world. *The Preacher's wisdom is thoroughly aware of these tragedies!*
- **5. Enjoyment of God's gifts:** The Preacher's idea of a life lived in wisdom includes a grateful enjoyment of God's gifts. We are to receive these gifts humbly and enjoy them with reverent fear of God. *The Preacher exhorts us to enjoy God by enjoying His gifts!*

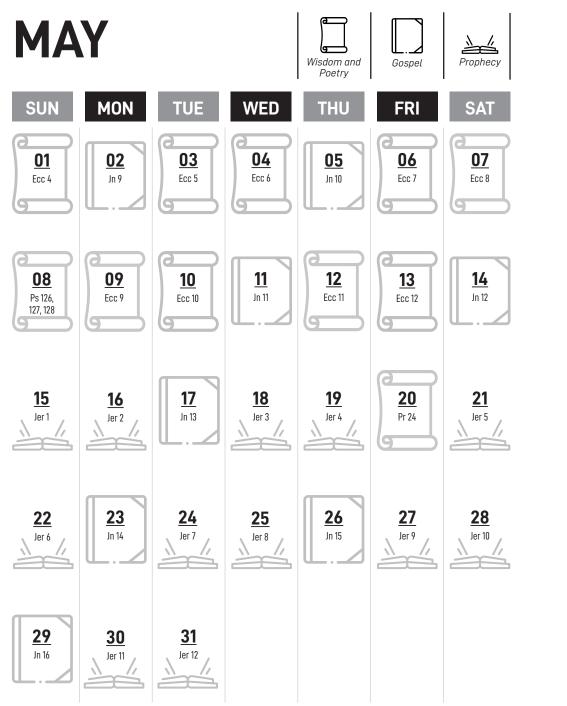
는 Exegeting the Essay

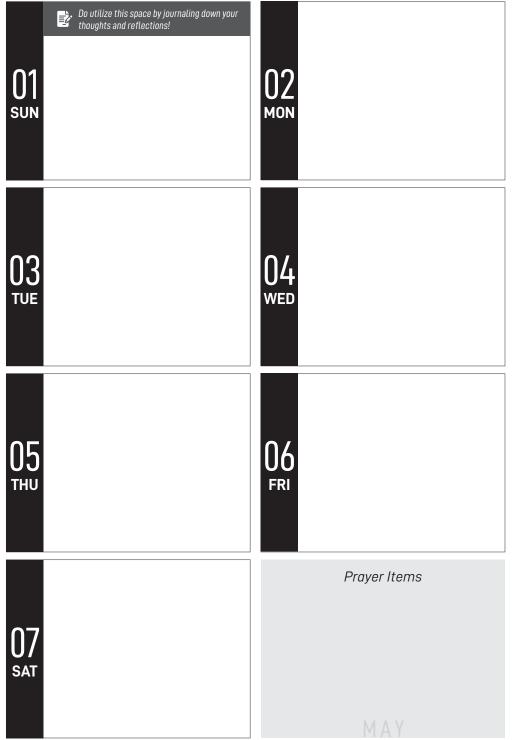
Refer to this guide as you explore the teachings of Ecclesiastes!

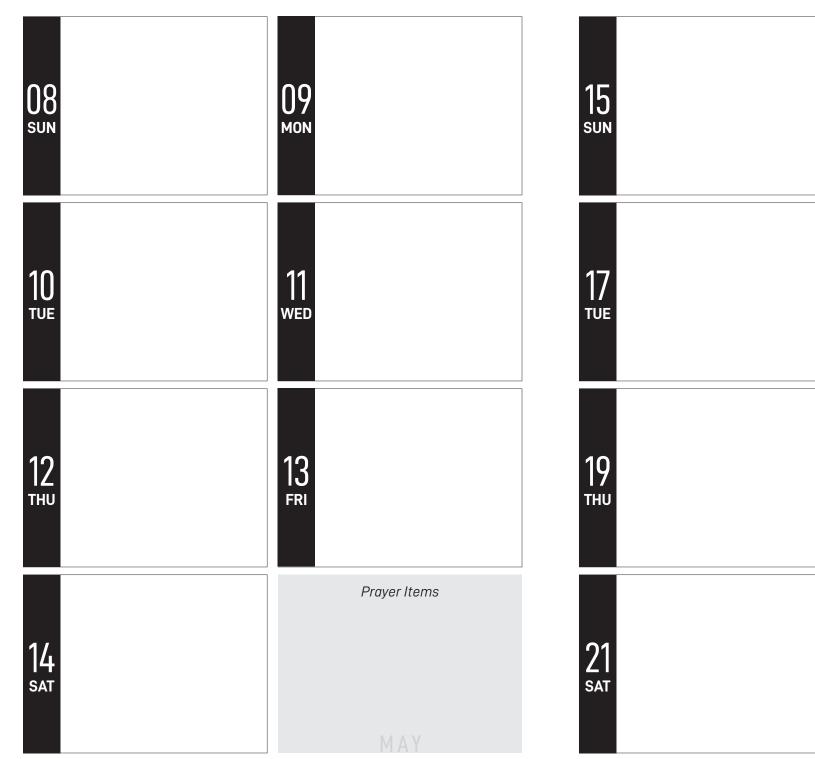
- I Introduction and Theme (1:1-3)
- II The Futility of Everything (1:4–2:26)
- III The Futility of Cyclical Time (3:1–15)
- IV The Futility of Labour (3:16-5:7)
- V The Futility of Thwarted Joy (5:8–6:12)
- VI The Futility of Wisdom and Righteousness (7:1–11:6)
- VII The Futility of Mortality (11:7-12:8)

VIII Epilogue (12:9-14)

Jesus left His perfect Trinitarian fellowship to inhabit a life under the sun, that He might suffer the effects of sin, injustice and death, so that we can enjoy fellowship with Him. **Behold, God's greatest gift, His own Son!**







wed Fri Prayer Items

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REJECTED JEREMIAH REMINDS JUDAH: **Repent!**

The book of Jeremiah draws back the curtain on Judah's last days – leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 587 B.C.E. But is this fundamentally a geopolitical crisis, or a spiritual one? *Will Judah listen to God's prophet's urgent call to repent, or will they reject it and be destroyed?*

Revealing Jeremiah

1. Look out for covenantal language:

As we learnt in Deuteronomy, the old covenant established at Sinai is the basis of God's relationship with Israel. Under the covenant, obedience brings blessings and life; disobedience brings curses and death. Jeremiah tells Judah to read the events of their day against this backdrop — the crisis Judah is facing is the result of their disobedience, their rightful curse under the covenant.

- 2. Look out for God's anguish: How does God feel about punishing His people? How is it expressed in the anguish of His prophet, Jeremiah? Watch the grief that Jeremiah expresses, and let it be a sobering reminder that *God is deeply grieved by our sin.*
- 3. Look out for expressions of hope! Is God constrained by His own covenant? Is there no hope left for God's people? No! God, in His sovereignty, chooses to promise grace far above and beyond what His people deserved. His people deserved death and destruction. Yet, God determines to preserve a remnant and establish a new, everlasting covenant, where His people would sin no more. That is, in fact, the gospel.

7 Reason Judah Rejected Jeremiah?

Why was it so difficult for the people of Judah to understand and receive Jeremiah's message?

That's because they falsely believed that God had made an **irrevocable** promise to Jerusalem, its monarchy, and its temple priesthood. They assumed that they were **indispensable** to God's promise and **immune** from God's judgment!

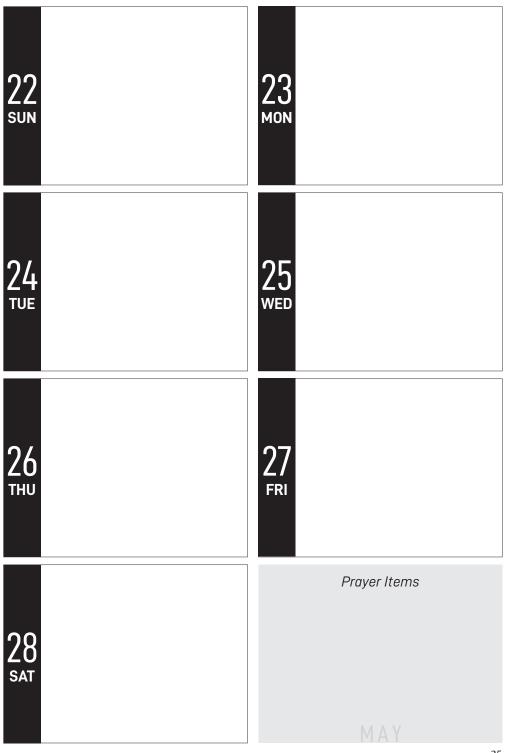
Jeremiah challenges this ideology head-on. He points to the old covenant, points out their unfaithfulness, and asks Judah to "turn around" or "repent" — over 100 times!

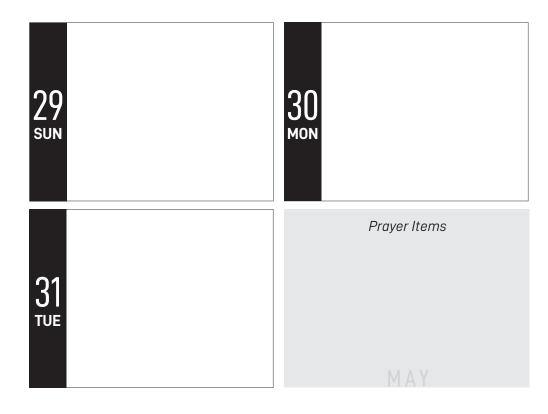
In the end, false ideology could not save them. Judah was destroyed – not ultimately by foreign powers – but by the sovereign LORD who purposed it so.

Reading Jeremiah: Roadmap

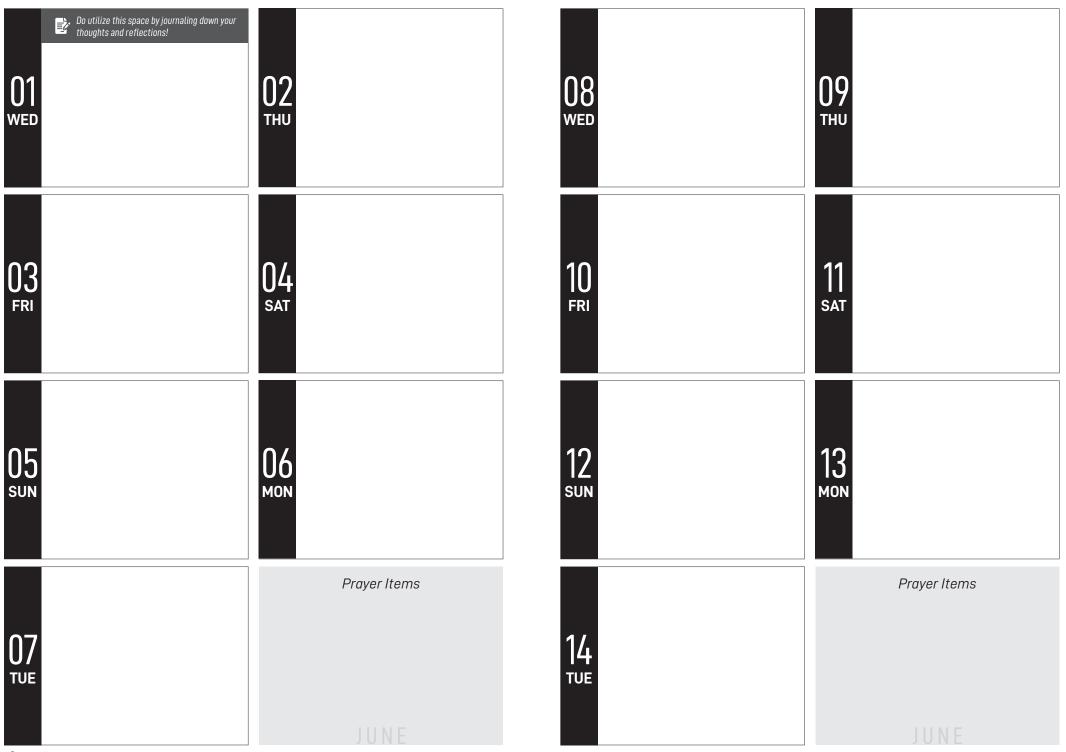
- I The Call of Jeremiah (1:1-19)
- II Judah's Covenantal Adultery A Faithless Spouse (2:1 – 6:30)
- III Judah's False Religion An Idolatrous People (7:1 10:25)
- IV Jeremiah's Struggles and Confrontations (11:1 29:32)
- V God's Promised Restoration A New Covenant (30:1 – 33:26)
- VI God Judges Judah (34:1 45:5)
- VII God Judges the Nations (46:1 51:64)
- VIII The Fall of Jerusalem An Ending and a Chance (52:1-34)

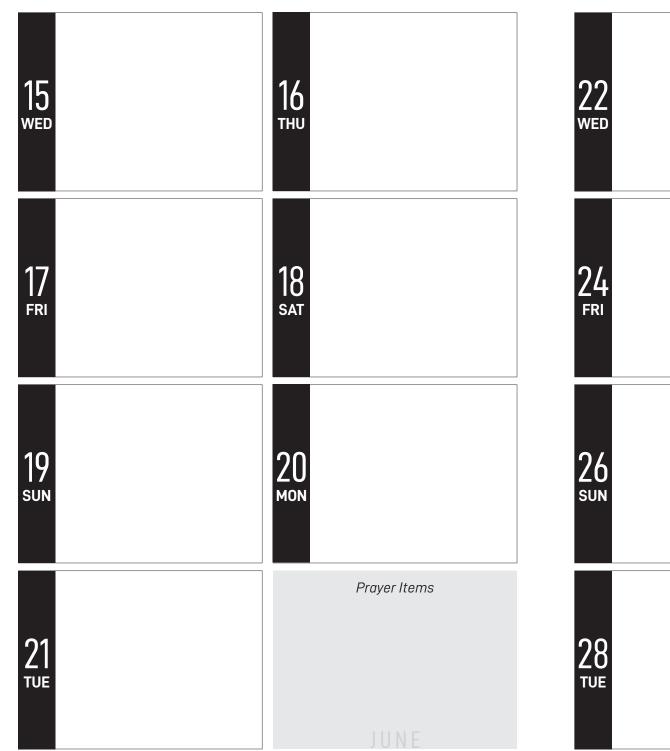
Jeremiah's message speaks to us today. Will we listen to God's Word — Jesus Christ Himself — and repent from our sin, or will we reject the call and be ultimately destroyed?

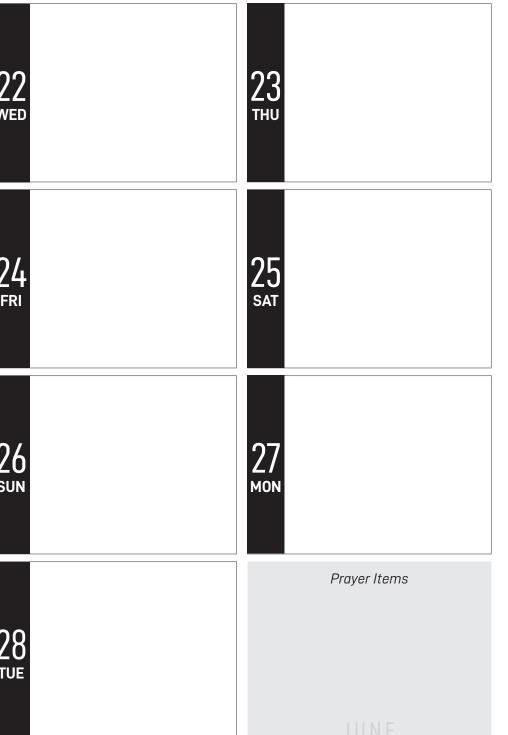














REDISCOVERING THE RESOLUTION: Redeeming Revelation

The Revelation (no "s") of John might be the most misunderstood biblical book. While many mine its pages for predictions of how the world ends, John's concerns are more complex. *Read on for encouragement on living amidst persecution...*

😹 Restoring Reason

Revelation is full of rabbit holes. We respond to two common questions to help you reap its truth.

- 1. Is this a letter, prophecy, or apocalypse? The answer is. all three! Revelation is:
 - A letter to seven churches (1:1-7). Their surrounding culture is significant in interpretation (e.g., understanding what it means to be "lukewarm" cf. 3:16)
 - b. A prophecy (1:3; 22:7, 18-19). John receives a word from God that interprets contemporary events, just like OT prophets (10:8-11, cf. Ezekiel 2:8-3:3). He writes not from his own perspective (unlike a standard epistle), but from God's revelation.
 - c. An apocalypse (1:1). John receives visions full of OT imagery through otherworldly means (e.g., 4:1). The heavenly reality uncovers and interprets the earthly reality.
- 2. How am I to make sense of the events and symbols in the book? Traditionally, there are four main ways to interpret Revelation. Each view has strengths and weaknesses, yet the historicist view bears no relevance to John's intended readers and should be discredited. Hence, the wise approach combines the strengths of the latter three views without being bound to one.

View	Events symbolise	Example
Historicist	World history	Antichrist = Hitler
Preterist	Events in John's time	Judgment = fall of Jerusalem
Futurist	End of history	Tribulation, Rapture
Idealist	Timeless spiritual truths	God is sovereign

💘 Refocusing the Report

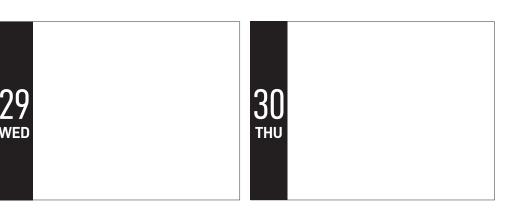
The question throughout Revelation is, "Who rules the world?" The answer is that despite contrarian appearances, the Triune God has sovereign control over the fate of His creation. Hence, John exhorts his readers to conquer not by force, but by emulating the Lamb in enduring suffering, and thereby worship God. *Are you* prepared to suffer for our great God?

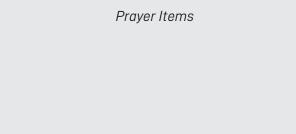
29 An Overview

Refer to this eagle's eye view of the Revelation as you read through it.

- I Prologue and Greetings (1:1–8)
- II The Vision of the Risen Christ (1:9-20)
- III Letters to the Sevene Churches (2:1–3:22)
- IV The Heavenly Throne Room Vision (4:1-5:14)
- V The Seven Seals (6:1-8:1)
- VI The Seven Trumpets (8:2-11:19)
- VII Cosmic Conflict (12:1-14:20)
- VIII The Seven Bowls (15:1-16:21)
- IX The Fall of Babylon and the Beast (17:1-20:15)
- VII The New Creation (21:1-22:5)
- VIII Epilogue (22:6-21)

When John despaired that nothing in creation was worthy to open the scroll, the Lion of Judah, the slain Lamb, appeared and was declared worthy to do so. Behold, Jesus Christ, who conquers death and evil by His sacrificial death, who is worthy of our worship!





JUNE

RESOURCES

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

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