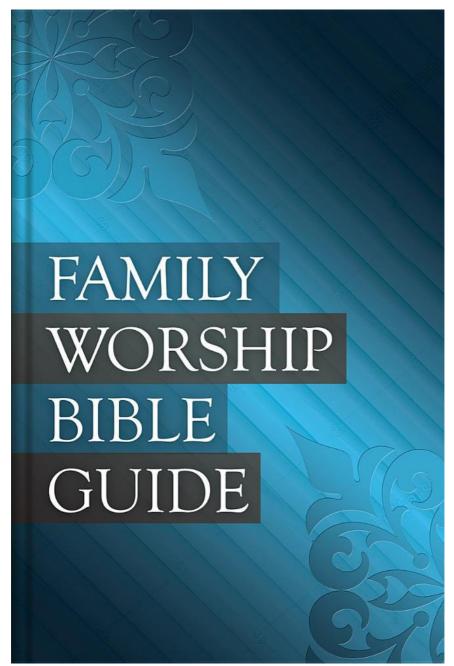
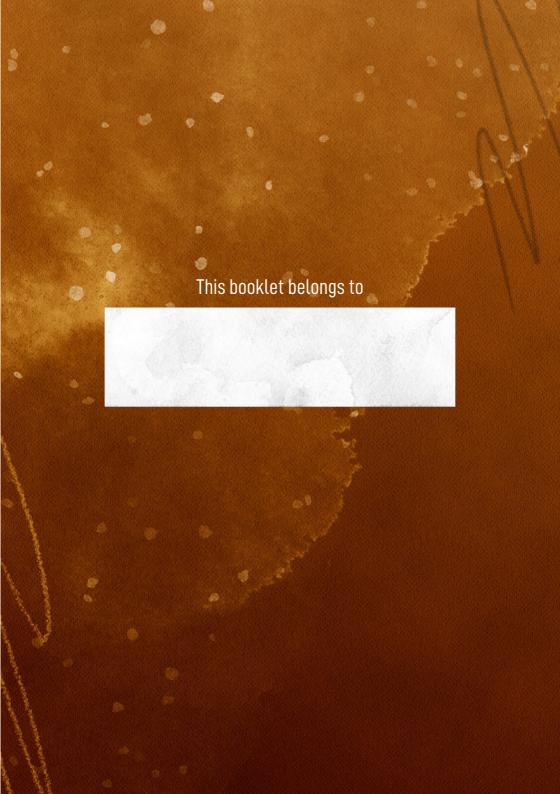
# CHAPTER ADAY

an Agape Bible Reading Plan

YEAR 3, QUARTER 3 (JUL - SEP 2022) 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 Christ! We are into the final 6 months of our ACAD journey – we're almost at the final lap!

Once again, I am deeply indebted to the contributions of Dinnie Ee, Shawn Lee, and Nicholas Chuan who have contributed all the overviews that you will find in this booklet. This booklet has also been carefully and artfully pieced together by our very own Mark Chan. For all their excellent efforts, I doubly encourage you to make the most of this booklet!

As we go through this quarter, I want to encourage you to read with all the divine energy and wisdom that the Holy Spirit provides. Whether you are going through times of abundance, or times of suffering, or times of predictable routine — would you read a chapter each day, never assuming what God has to say to you?

The word of God, applied to our hearts through the power and precision of the Holy Spirit, is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

As you read the word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, may you find the living and active Scriptures reading you as well! May the Scriptures lay bare your thoughts and the intentions of your heart. And may the Scriptures convict you cuttingly, to the very depths of your being.

May God always bless the reading of His word.

#### LORD JESUS,

I am blind, be my light, ignorant, be my wisdom, self-willed, be my mind.

Open my ear to grasp quickly Your Spirit's voice, and delightfully run after His beckoning hand; Melt my conscience that no hardness remain, make it alive to evil's slightest touch; When Satan approaches may I flee to Your wounds, and there cease to tremble at all alarms.

Be my good shepherd to lead me into the green pastures of Your Word, and cause me to lie down beside the rivers of its comforts.

Fill me with peace, that no disquieting worldly gales may ruffle the calm surface of my soul.

Your cross was upraised to be my refuge, Your blood streamed forth to wash me clean, Your death occurred to give me a surety, Your name is my property to save me, By You all heaven is poured into my heart, but it is too narrow to comprehend Your love.

I was a stranger, an outcast, a slave, a rebel, but Your cross has brought me near, has softened my heart, has made me Your Father's child, has admitted me to Your family, has made me joint-heir with Yourself.





O that I may love You as You love me, that I may walk worthy of You, my Lord, that I may reflect the image of heaven's first-born.

May I always see Your beauty with the clear eye of faith, and feel the power of Your Spirit in my heart, for unless He move mightily in me no inward fire will be kindled.

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:)



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!

2

#### **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

#### **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! 4

#### **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 Bible-reading journeys of your pastors and leaders

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

5

#### **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

# 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 on 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?



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

# Did the passage raise any questions for you?

- •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?

# How can I apply this passage to my life?

- •WHAT IS THE SPIRIT SPECIFICALLY LEADING YOU TO DO AS AN OBEDIENT RESPONSE?
- •IS THERE SOMEONE YOU COULD HOLD YOURSELF ACCOUNTABLE TO?





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:)

# **JULY**







SUN

MON

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**31**Ps 137,
138

Date
Chapter(s) for the day
Mark down once you've read the chapter!

O1
Ps 94

Example

01 Rev 3

02 Jer 33

**03** Jer 34













































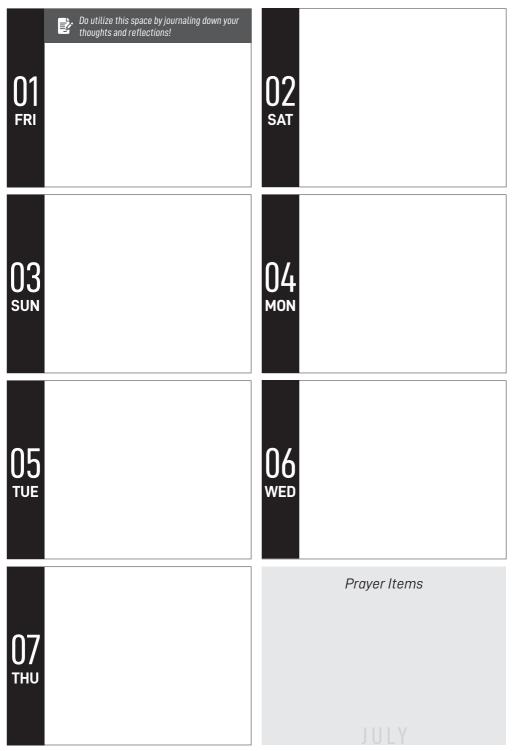












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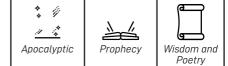
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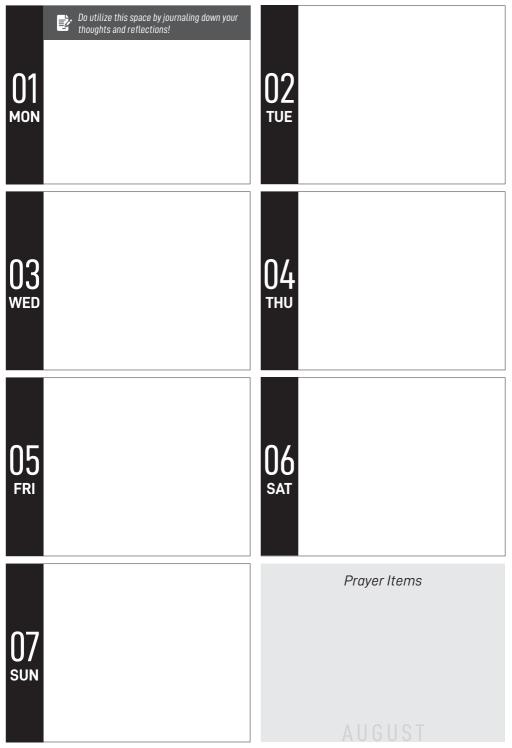
# **AUGUST**







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	<b>01</b> Pr 26	02 Lam 1	03 Lam 2	• <u>04</u> Rev 11	<b>05</b> Lam 3	06 Lam 4
<b>07</b> Lam 5	• 08 Rev 12	<b>09</b> Ezk1	<b>10</b> Ezk 2	* 11 / Rev 13	12 Ezk 3	13 Ezk 4
14 Pr 27	15 Ezk 5	16 Ezk 6	* 17 Rev 14	18 Ezk7	19 Ezk 8	20 Rev 15
<b>21</b> Ezk 9	<b>22</b> Ezk 10	* 23 Rev 16	<b>24</b> Ezk 11	<b>25</b> Ezk 12	<b>26</b> Ps 139, 140	<b>27</b> Ezk 13
<b>28</b> Ezk 14	* 29 Rev 17	30 Ezk 15	31 Ezk 16			





The first word (and the original title) of the book, Ekah, meaning "Alas!" or "How?", gives us a sense of what Lamentations is about. As Jeremiah walked through the streets of Jerusalem after Babylon's invasion in 586 BC, he saw nothing but pain, suffering, and destruction. From it birthed this set of poems — to lead the faithful to mourn over sin and judgment, and pray in hope for God's mercy.

#### Lessons from this Liturgy

- A prayer for the faithful: Lamentations is an eyewitness account (likely by Jeremiah himself) as he observes the devastation of Jerusalem. It was likely written to be prayed or sung in worship services since the time of the temple's destruction, for the congregation to seek God's forgiveness and restoration.
- 2. A liturgical collection of poems: The laments are akin to funeral orations expressions of deep grief for the dead and the suffering. The first four poems are acrostic ("from A to Z") giving full expression to the degree of suffering and sorrow. The laments move from Jerusalem's protest about her suffering (1:1-22) to her eventual, turning back to God in repentance (5:1-22).
- 3. A declaration of God's mercy: Sandwiched in the middle of the book is a powerful declaration of God's steadfast love, new mercies, and great faithfulness. God's character has not changed! In the face of sinful rebellion and judgment, it is only God's mercy that can restore His relationship with His people. Hope, not despair, is the final word!

#### **≜** Let's Listen & Learn

- I Jerusalem recounts her horrible defeat, devastation, and loss of hope; she prays, but almost solely in protest
  - How lonely sits the city! (1:1-22)
  - God has set Zion under a cloud; Jerusalem asks God to see and act (2:1-22)
- II Jeremiah the man who has seen affliction — counsels Jerusalem to turn to God and pray for renewal, just as he has done (3:1-66)
- III Jerusalem continues to lament and question her suffering, but she admits her sin and asks God to restore her to Himself
  - How the gold has grown dim! (4:1-22)
  - A community lament Jerusalem cries out to God (5:1-22)

Lamentations speaks to us today. Not only do we mourn individually and communally over our sin and its effects, but we shall also look to the LORD and appeal to Him for mercy — for that is our only hope for restoration.

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### FINDING HOPE FAR FROM HOME:

#### **Exiled with Ezekiel**

The book of Ezekiel covers a critical period of Israel's history that spanned 22 years (593 to 571 B.C.E). The period saw the city of Jerusalem besieged and destroyed, the temple burned down, and the monarchy brought to an end. The priest and prophet Ezekiel was among the first batch of Israelites soon to be deported and exiled from their land.

What hope was left for God's covenant people?

#### **Exploring Ezekiel**

Ezekiel lived among the Jewish exiles in Babylon at a settlement along the river Chebar called Tel-abib (3:15). His prophetic ministry started just 5 years into his time at Tel-abib, and dealt primarily with the Jewish exiles with him.

Hence, much of Ezekiel's message communicated God's judgement of Israel and the surrounding nations for the sins they had committed. Yet amidst the gloom and doom, Ezekiel provides some hope for the future.

Just as the calamities had come to pass, so would the promises of restoration be fulfilled. Israel would return to God and to their promised land. They would be His people and He would be their God.

While the book starts with dark and disturbing images climaxing in the temple's destruction, it ends with a message of hope. God will once again rule and reign not just over Israel, but the whole world!

#### At a glance...

- The book of Ezekiel has a collection of 52 oracles and divinely given messages/visions. While you might find the oracles, messages and visions obscure and difficult to read and interpret (there is also little 'storyline' to help give context), the book has a clear and defined structure that can help get you back on track whenever you get lost.
- Look out for these two phrases: 'the word of the LORD came to me' and 'the hand of the LORD was upon me'.
   The two phrases indicate and mark the start of a new oracle, message or vision.
- Ezekiel uses more than words to relay God's message. Ezekiel enacted certain prophecies (4:1-8, 5:1-2, 12:3-7, 12:18, 24:16-24), which led to people questioning his sanity. Don't get stumbled by them! Look beyond the strangeness of his actions and see the message he was relaying to the Israelites.

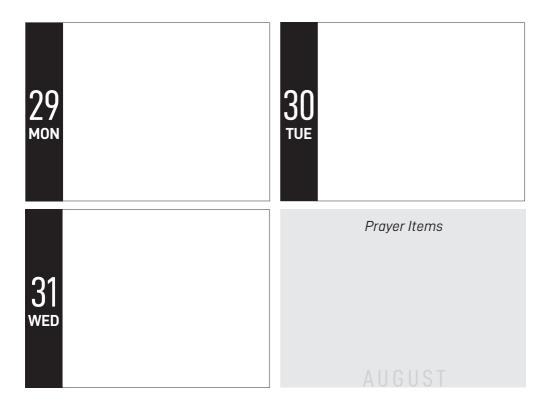
#### Reading Ezekiel: Roadmap

- I Ezekiel's commission (1:1 3:21)
- II Prophecies concerning the coming destruction of Jerusalem (3:22 - 24:27)
- III Prophecies against seven neighbouring nations (25 32)
- IV The scope of accountability (33:1-22)
- V Prophecies of restoration (34 48)

The book of Ezekiel reminds us to seek the Lord even in the dark times when we feel lost, to examine our own lives, and to align ourselves with the one true God who will come again! Will you consider doing so today?

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28 sun	Prayer Items  AUGUST



# SEPTEMBER | \$\frac{1}{2} \ \frac{1}{2} \ \fr

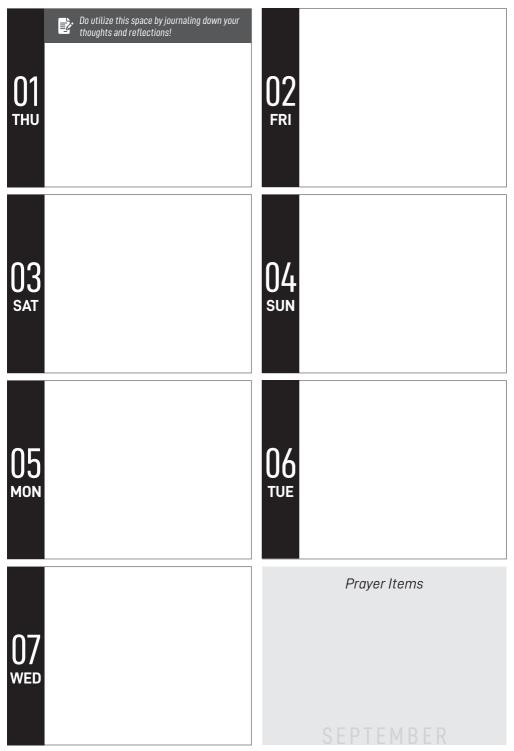








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				• <u>01</u> Rev 18	<b>02</b> Ezk 17	<b>03</b> Ezk 18
04 Rev 19	<b>05</b> Ezk 19	<b>06</b> Ezk 20	<b>07</b> Pr 28	<b>08</b> Ezk 21	<b>09</b> Ezk 22	10 Rev 20
11 Ezk 23	12 Ezk 24	* 13 Rev 21	14 Ezk 25	15 Ezk 26	16 Rev 22	17 Ezk 27
18 Ezk 28	19 Ps 141, 142	<b>20</b> Ezk 29	<b>21</b> Ezk 30	22 2 Cor 1	<b>23</b> Ezk 31	<b>24</b> Ezk 32
25 2 Cor 2	<b>26</b> Ezk 33	<b>27</b> Ezk 34	28 2 Cor 3	<b>29</b> Ezk 35	30 Ezk 36	



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#### **CORRESPONDENCES:**

#### 2 and Fro, 2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians is actually Paul's fourth letter to the church in Corinth. Why so many words, and all the drama and tears? Read on to discover the apostle's heart for the church and true gospel culture.

#### **Circumstances**

Paul had a #it'scomplicated history with the Corinthians. After writing 1 Corinthians, he wanted to visit them (1 Corinthians 16:5-9), and sent Timothy first (vv. 10-11). However, Timothy found the church in disarray, and Paul decided to visit earlier than planned (1:15).

This visit turned out to be short and extremely painful due to the church's open disregard of Paul (2:1). Paul then wrote a tearful letter exhorting them to repent (2:3-4), which they did, as reported by Titus (7:5-16).

Now, Paul writes another letter to appeal to anyone still in doubt about the authenticity of his ministry, urging them to repent before his third visit to Corinth (12:14, 13:1).

#### 77 Combat

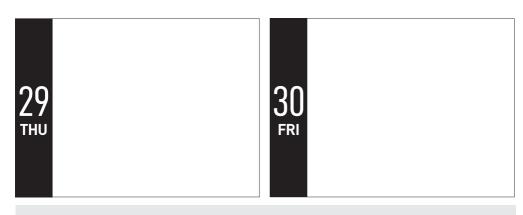
The occasion of 2 Corinthians is the influence of the so-called "super apostles" (11:5, 12:11) who questioned the authenticity of Paul's apostolicity by arguing that he suffered too much. They also attacked his integrity in asking for monetary collection for the Judean church (12:14-18), as well as his lack of oratory skills (10:10).

Paul's response is that his suffering is how other believers are comforted (1:3-11), and how Christ is made known. Paul's affliction embodies the cross of Christ, and his endurance shows the resurrection power of Christ in him (12:7-10). Therefore, Paul transparently reveals his personal struggles to the Corinthians, to explain the close link between his ministry of toil and his apostleship.

#### **Composition**

- I Prologue and Greetings (1:1-2)
- II Paul's Defence of His Apostleship Legitimacy through Suffering (1:3-7:16)
- III Paul's Appeal for a Monetary Collection (8:1-9:16)
- IV Paul's Second Defence of His Apostleship Humble Boasting (10:1-13:10)
- V Final Greetings and Benediction (13:11-14)

Paul describes his ministry as afflicted but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed. Yet, he fixes his eyes on the eternal weight of glory promised in Christ. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us as we suffer in our Christian walks before being revealed in glory.



Prayer Items

SEPTEMBER

#### **RESOURCES**

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

Bennett, Arthur. (2007). Valley of vision. Retrieved from https://banneroftruth.org/

Carson, D. A., Motyer, A., & Wenham, G. J. (Eds.). (1994). **New Bible Commentary.** Nottingham, United Kingdom: Inter-Varsity Press.

Henry, Matthew. (1961). Matthew Henry's Commentary.

NIV Zondervan Study Bible. (2015). Grand Rapids. Michigan: Zondervan

Segal, Marshall. (2015). **Six Questions to Ask When Studying the Bible in a Group.** Retrieved from <a href="https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/six-questions-to-ask-when-studying-the-bible-in-a-group">https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/six-questions-to-ask-when-studying-the-bible-in-a-group</a>

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Family Worship Bible Guide. Digital Image. Amazon.com. 29 December 2016. https://www.amazon.com/Family-Worship-Bible-Guide-Beeke/dp/1601785003

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