

Faith Lutheran Church + Grand Blanc, MI + www.faithgb.org

Bible Reading Journey

Key Study Points by Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

Each day, using the notes on this page:

- Pray for Spirit-filled insight as you read God's Word.
- Look for Law and Gospel themes that point us to Jesus.
- Apply the readings to your life.
- Pray to Jesus, as the readings inspire you, for yourself, your family, your church and your world.

Historical Context: Ezra, the scribe, writes around 440 BC about the return of the exiles from Babylon and restoration of Jerusalem through 457 BC. Nehemiah was cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia when he heard that the walls and gates of Jerusalem were still destroyed. He received the king's blessing to go and rebuild in 445 BC.

Law & Gospel Themes: Ezra, having overseen the rebuilding of the temple, now focuses on removing the corruption of Judah due to intermarriage with pagans and the adoption of their false religion. Nehemiah prays for God's

guidance in the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls and gates. He practices careful organization and bold, even harsh, persistence in the face of opposition. He also sets a great example of generosity for the work of the LORD. Ezra steps up, again, to call Judah back to obedience to the Law of the LORD as recorded in Scripture. The Judeans are moved to repentance of their sins of both omission and commission, pleading for mercy and grace.

Life Application Starters: How has intermarriage between Christians and unbelievers caused harm to individuals, families and

the church? How can the lessons of Ezra address these problems today? How do prayer and wise organization fit into your efforts to serve the LORD? How should we address the sin of ignorance concerning the will of the LORD? Where is our hope in all our sin?

Prayer Starters: For marriages in God's way that faithfully reflect the love of Jesus to the world. To be bold in prayer in all things. To use God's gift of reason to wisely accomplish His work. That we will repent of our sin of ignorance, receive mercy and respond in obedience.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Ezra 9:1-10:44

Tuesday: Nehemiah 1:1-11

Wednesday: Nehemiah 2:1-3:32

Thursday: Nehemiah 4:1-6:19

Friday: Nehemiah 7:1-8:18

Saturday: Nehemiah 9:1-10:39

October's Memory Verses:

Nehemiah 8:10, "...do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Esther 4:14, "...who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Job 1:21, "The LORD gave, & the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

Job 19:25-26, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,...."

Job 28:28, "...the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, & to turn away from evil is understanding."

Author of Ezra: Ezra the scribe. **Date Ezra Was Written:** c 440 BC

Author of Nehemiah: Nehemiah, governor of Judah. **Date Ezra Was Written:** c 445-432 BC

New Insights:

Questions to Pursue Further:

Insights from My Accountability Partners:

My Personal Prayers:

Share insights & Ask Questions on Facebook: *"Faith Bible Reading Journey"*

Faithfully Living Every Relationship in God's Way...

...to Unite Everyone with Jesus for Eternity



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Historical Context:

Nehemiah has guided the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls and gates and now focuses on populating it with faithful Judeans (445-434 BC). Esther acts to save the Jews in the realm of Persian King Ahasuerus (478-474 BC). Job is a righteous man of God from Uz, somewhere east of Canaan (~2000 BC).

Law & Gospel Themes:

Volunteers step up for the good of the nation as Nehemiah works to repopulate Jerusalem. The priests & Levites lead God's people in orderly worship in restored Jerusalem. Nehemiah's zeal borders on

excessive forcefulness as he accomplishes God's will. Although God is never mentioned by name in Esther, His divine care is implied throughout the book. The LORD uses the events of pagan politics for His good purposes. Prejudice led Haman down a path of blind vengeance and his own destruction. Esther & Mordecai celebrate their victory in the festival of Purim. Job is righteous, living by faith. (MORE next week)

Life Application Starters:

What sacrifices are you willing to make in volunteer service to the LORD? Should orderly

worship ever be set aside? Should we be more zealous in following God's will? How do we guard against being overly forceful in our zeal? How has prejudice hurt us/the church today? Should we celebrate Purim?

Prayer Starters: That we would be more courageous in our volunteerism for the LORD. To retain and practice orderly worship focused on God's gifts. To keep each other in check as we zealously serve the LORD. For eyes to see and flee from sinful prejudice. To remember & celebrate God's deliverance. For faith through suffering.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Nehemiah 11:1-13:31

Tuesday: Esther 1:1-2:23

Wednesday: Esther 3:1-4:17

Thursday: Esther 5:1-7:10

Friday: Esther 8:1-10:3

Saturday: Job 1:1-22



**October's
Memory
Verses:**

*Nehemiah 8:10, "...do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."
Esther 4:14, "...who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
Job 1:21, "The LORD gave, & the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."
Job 19:25-26, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,...."
Job 28:28, "...the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, & to turn away from evil is understanding."*

Author of Esther: Unknown. **Date Esther Was Written:** c 400 BC
Author of Job: Job or a contemporary. **Date Job Was Written:** Between c 2200 and 1400 BC

New Insights:	Questions to Pursue Further:

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Historical Context: Job is a righteous man of faith in the LORD from Uz, somewhere east of Canaan, perhaps more to the north (2200-1800 BC).

Law & Gospel Themes: The overall theme of Job is that our right relationship with the LORD is purely the result of faith in His redeeming grace, but it also yields righteous living in response to that grace, even through suffering. Satan is a fallen angel who has no right to be in the presence of God, but is permitted in the time of Job so key lessons might be taught. Satan is always under the control of the LORD. Job believes the LORD

has the right to give or take from man as HE chooses. Eliphaz, Bildad & Zophar wrongly base their rebukes of Job on their belief in the religion of man...that we get what we deserve based on what we do. [SEE esp. 8:2-6, 20] Job refuses to give in to such false belief, holding to a higher view of God's goodness and justice.

Life Application Starters: How does/doesn't your faith lead you closer to the LORD through your suffering? When have you slipped into the religion of man, thinking God acts only on OUR worthiness of His love? How often have

you heard someone say something like, "I HOPE I'm good enough to go to heaven."? How did you respond? How have you ascribed more power to Satan than is due to him?

Prayer Starters: For trust in the eternal goodness of God. For patience and faith even through the trials of life. For faithful friends who will provide us with godly counsel when we need it. To not judge others based on the ills that befall them. For the religion of God to prevail over the religion of man in our congregations, homes and hearts.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Job 2:1-3:26

Tuesday: Job 4:1-5:27

Wednesday: Job 6:1-7:21

Thursday: Job 8:1-10:22

Friday: Job 11:1-12:25

Saturday: Job 13:1-14:22

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Job 28:28, "...the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, & to turn away from evil is understanding."

Author of Job: Job or a contemporary.

Date Job Was Written: Between c 2200 and 1400 BC

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Historical Context: Job is a righteous man of faith in the LORD from Uz, somewhere east of Canaan, perhaps more to the north (2200-1800 BC).

Law & Gospel Themes: It's easier to judge a sufferer with Law and argue theology than to bring the comfort of the Gospel. [SEE 16:2] Job clung to God, Himself, as his faithful witness [16:19] and Redeemer, expressing profound faith in a bodily resurrection [19:23-27]. Even the faithful waiver when suffering persists. [Ch 17] Job's friends proclaim a "theology of glory;" that good people will have a

good life now. Job counters by saying that our only constant hope is in our unchangeable God. [23:13] True, enduring wisdom & understanding come only from God through His Word of truth. [28:28]

Life Application Starters: Do you have friends like Job's who offer you poor counsel? Where else do you hear/see such poor counsel? Who will be our one sure advocate come Judgment Day and why? Do you have a sure hope of rising from the dead with a perfect body? Why/why not? Have you seen the wicked prosper and

the good suffer? How have you seen human reason & scientific knowledge fail to discern lasting truth? How does Godly wisdom transcend what we see and reason for ourselves?

Prayer Starters: To always seek and receive comfort from God's Word first. To be a friend who brings true comfort from God to the suffering. For eyes to look to Jesus as our constant friend and advocate. To trust in being declared right and raised with a perfect body come Judgment Day. For true wisdom & understanding from God.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Job 15:1-17:16

Tuesday: Job 18:1-19:29

Wednesday: Job 20:1-21:34

Thursday: Job 22:1-24:25

Friday: Job 25:1-28:28

Saturday: Job 29:1-31:40

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