

Through the Bible in 24 Months



WEEK 73 OF 104

The Lord Reigns

Week 73 of 104 • 70% of the way through the Bible

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

General Old Testament	Isaiah 60–66
Wisdom Literature	Psalms 92–94
Gospels	Luke 19:28–20:8
General New Testament	2 Timothy 1–2

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Everything you read this week is about who is on the throne. Isaiah finishes his book with a God who says heaven is His throne and the earth is His footstool, and who then says He will look to one particular kind of person: the poor man with a contrite spirit who trembles at His word. A psalm states it flatly, the Lord reigns, while the floods are lifting up their voice. Then Jesus comes down the Mount of Olives on a borrowed colt, weeping over a city that will not have Him, and within the hour He is clearing the temple and being asked by what authority He does these things. And Paul, chained in a Roman cell, writes that the word of God is not chained.

How to use this guide: Read all four passages during the week. Your teacher will take up two of them in class, one in each session. For the other two, work through the “Extended Class Discussion or Self-Study” questions on your own and write your answers in the space provided.

GENERAL OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 60–66

New Heavens and New Earth

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Isaiah ends in light. Zion is told to arise and shine because her light has come, and the nations walk toward it. An Anointed One announces good tidings to the poor and liberty to the captives, the words Jesus read in Nazareth. A warrior comes from Edom with stained garments. A people confess that their righteousness is filthy rags and that they are clay in the Potter's hand. Then God promises new heavens and a new earth, and looks to the man who trembles at His word.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Jesus read Isaiah 61:1–2 aloud in the synagogue at Nazareth and stopped in the middle of a sentence (Luke 4:16–21). Compare what He read with what Isaiah wrote, and discuss why the place He stopped matters so much.
2. Isaiah 64:6 says our righteous acts are like filthy rags, and 64:8 says we are clay and God is the Potter. How do those two pictures work together, and what does each one protect us from believing about ourselves?

3. Isaiah 66:2 says God looks to the man who is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembles at His word. Describe what trembling at God's word looks like in practice for a person who has been hearing it since childhood.

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List everything Isaiah 65:17–25 says about the new heavens and the new earth. Then read 2 Peter 3:10–13 and Revelation 21:1–5 and write down what the New Testament adds and what it clarifies.
2. Read Isaiah 61:1–3 and write out each thing the Anointed One is sent to do. Which of them do you most need this month, and which one could you help deliver to someone else?
3. Isaiah 63:1–6 pictures someone coming from Edom in stained garments, having trodden the winepress alone. Compare Revelation 19:11–16. What are both passages saying about who finally deals with evil?
4. Trace every reference to the nations and the Gentiles in Isaiah 60, 62, and 66. Then read Acts 15:14–18 and Ephesians 2:11–22, and describe where those promises are actually being fulfilled.
5. Isaiah 65:24 says that before they call, God will answer. Name one thing you have never asked God for because you assumed He was not interested in it, and ask Him this week.

WISDOM LITERATURE Psalm 92–94

The Lord Reigns Forever

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Psalm 92 is a song for the Sabbath, and it begins by saying it is good to give thanks in the morning and at night. It watches the wicked spring up like grass and then shows the righteous planted in God's house, still bearing fruit in old age. Psalm 93 is four verses of pure enthronement: the Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty, and the floods may roar but His throne is older than the world. Psalm 94 asks how long the wicked will triumph.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Psalm 92:12–15 promises that the righteous will still bear fruit in old age and stay fresh and flourishing. What does fruitfulness look like in a seventy-five-year-old Christian, and who in this congregation is a living example of it?

2. Psalm 93 says the Lord reigns and that His throne is established of old, and in the same breath it describes floods lifting up their voice. How should the fact of God's present reign change the way you handle news that alarms you?
3. Psalm 94:12 says blessed is the man whom God chastens and teaches out of His law. Why is that called a blessing, and how do you tell the difference between God's discipline and ordinary trouble?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Psalm 92 carries the title "A Song for the Sabbath Day." Read Colossians 2:16–17, Romans 14:5–6, and Acts 20:7, and explain how Christians relate to the Sabbath and to the first day of the week.
2. List the arguments Psalm 94:8–11 makes against the notion that God does not notice. Notice how the psalmist reasons from creation to conclusion, and write the argument out in your own words.
3. Compare Psalm 92:7 with Psalm 73:16–19. What do the two psalms agree on regarding the prosperity of the wicked, and where does each one say the writer figured it out?
4. Trace the tree imagery in Psalm 92:7, 12, and 14. Grass, palm, and cedar are all growing things. What exactly is being contrasted, and what is the difference between them?
5. Psalm 94:19 says that in the multitude of anxieties within, God's comforts delight the soul. Name the anxiety that multiplies at two in the morning, and write down the specific comfort of God you will answer it with this week.

GOSPELS Luke 19:28–20:8

By What Authority

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Jesus sends two disciples for a colt that no one has ever ridden, and then rides it down the Mount of Olives while a crowd spreads garments on the road and shouts that the King comes in the name of the Lord. Pharisees tell Him to silence them, and He says the stones would cry out. Then He stops, looks at the city, and weeps over it. He clears the temple of merchants, teaches there daily, and is asked point-blank where He gets His authority.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Jesus arranged every detail of this entry, down to the unbroken colt. Read Zechariah 9:9 beside Luke 19:28–38. What is He deliberately claiming, and why claim it on a colt rather than on a warhorse?
2. Luke says Jesus wept over the city because it did not know the time of its visitation (19:41–44). Why would the Son of God cry over a city that was about to kill Him, and where might that same sentence apply to people like us?
3. The chief priests asked by what authority He was doing these things, and Jesus answered with a question about John’s baptism (20:1–8). What did their private huddle reveal about how they made decisions, and when are we tempted to decide the same way?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Set Luke 19:29–38 beside Zechariah 9:9 and Psalm 118:25–26. List every detail that matches, and note what the crowd was actually quoting when they shouted.
2. Trace exactly what Jesus says will happen to Jerusalem in 19:43–44. Then read Luke 21:20–24 and find out from a reference work when those words came true.
3. Jesus drove out the sellers and quoted Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11. Look up both passages in their own contexts. What was actually wrong with what was happening in the temple courts?
4. In 20:5–6 the leaders reason among themselves about which answer will cost them the least. Write out their reasoning in full. Then identify the one question they never asked.
5. A crowd shouted “Blessed is the King” on Sunday, and by Friday the same city was silent or worse. Name the setting where your confession of Christ is loudest and the setting where it is quietest, and decide what you will do about the second one this month.

GENERAL NEW TESTAMENT 2 Timothy 1–2

Guard the Good Deposit

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

This is Paul’s last letter, written from a Roman prison with execution in view. He remembers the faith he first saw in Timothy’s grandmother and mother, tells him to stir up the gift of God, and says God did not give us a

spirit of fear. He asks him not to be ashamed of a chained apostle, to hold the pattern of sound words, and to commit what he has heard to faithful men. Then come the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Paul says he remembers the genuine faith that lived first in Lois and then in Eunice and now in Timothy (1:5). Talk about who handed you what you have, and about who is watching you right now the way Timothy watched them.
2. Second Timothy 2:2 puts four generations in a single verse: Paul, Timothy, faithful men, and others also. Where is that chain strongest in this congregation, and where is the next link in danger of not being formed?
3. Paul tells Timothy to be a workman rightly dividing the word of truth (2:15). What goes wrong in a congregation where the Scriptures are handled carelessly, and what does careful handling actually require of an ordinary member?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List the three pictures Paul uses for a servant of Christ in 2:3–6, the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer, and write down what each one contributes that the other two do not.
2. Second Timothy 1:12 says, “I know whom I have believed.” Read the whole verse carefully and identify the two things Paul is confident about. Compare Romans 8:38–39 and 1 Peter 1:3–5.
3. Hymenaeus and Philetus taught that the resurrection was already past (2:17–18). Read 1 Corinthians 15:12–22 and explain why that particular error overthrows the faith of those who accept it.
4. Trace the faithful saying in 2:11–13 line by line. Write out each clause, and mark which ones are promises and which are warnings. Where does the last line fit?
5. Paul says the Lord’s servant must not quarrel but be gentle, able to teach, patient, correcting opponents in humility (2:24–26). Name the conversation you keep having badly, and write down one sentence you will open with next time.

NEXT WEEK’S READING: Jeremiah 1–5 • Psalm 95–97 • Luke 20:9–47 • 2 Timothy 3–4

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