

Through the Bible in 24 Months



WEEK 96 OF 104

Everlasting Dominion

Week 96 of 104 • 92% of the way through the Bible

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

General Old Testament	Daniel 7-12
Wisdom Literature	Psalms 147-150
Gospels	John 12:9-50
General New Testament	Revelation 3-4

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Four monsters come up out of a churning sea, each worse than the last, and then the scene changes: thrones are set, the Ancient of Days takes His seat, and One like a Son of Man is brought before Him and given a dominion that will not pass away. Hold that picture, because it governs everything else you read this week. A King rides into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey and says His hour has finally come. The Psalter runs out of words and simply tells everything that breathes to praise. And an exile on Patmos looks up to see a door standing open in heaven, and behind it a throne, and the throne is not empty. Empires end. That throne does not.

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 Daniel 7-12

The Ancient of Days

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

The second half of Daniel is all visions. Four beasts rise from the sea and a boastful horn speaks great things, until a court convenes and a Son of Man receives everlasting dominion. A ram is trampled by a goat, and a later horn defiles the sanctuary. Daniel reads Jeremiah, prays one of the great confessions of Scripture, and is given the seventy weeks. Then a long, detailed account of kings warring north and south, and finally the promise that many who sleep in the dust will awake.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Daniel 7:13-14 shows One like a Son of Man brought to the Ancient of Days and given a dominion that will never pass away. Read Matthew 26:63-64 and Acts 1:9 alongside it, and discuss where that scene is fulfilled and when His reign began.

2. Daniel 9:24 lists six things the seventy weeks were decreed to accomplish, and 9:26–27 has an Anointed One cut off and sacrifice brought to an end. Read those six purposes aloud and decide together whether they sound like things still waiting or things already finished in Christ.
3. Daniel 12:2 says many who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt. Which practical difference should an awakening like that make in an ordinary Tuesday?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Set the four beasts of Daniel 7 beside the four metals of Daniel 2 and match them up. Which kingdoms correspond, and what does the change from a gleaming statue to a row of predators add to the picture?
2. List the six things Daniel 9:24 says the seventy weeks will accomplish. Read Hebrews 9:26 and Romans 3:21–26, and write beside each one where it was accomplished.
3. Daniel 12:2 describes two destinies coming out of one awakening. Read John 5:28–29 and Acts 24:15, and write down how many resurrections the New Testament actually describes and when they occur.
4. Trace what Daniel does in 9:1–19 before Gabriel ever arrives. How much of that prayer is confession, and what is he confessing that he did not personally do?
5. Daniel 12:3 says those who turn many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. Name one person you will talk with about Christ before this month ends, and write the date next to the name.

WISDOM LITERATURE Psalm 147–150

Let Everything Praise

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

The Psalter ends in a rush of praise. Psalm 147 sets God counting and naming the stars in one line and healing broken hearts in the next, and says He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse. Psalm 148 calls on everything, angels, sun and moon, sea creatures, weather, mountains, trees, kings, young and old, to praise Him. Psalm 149 puts a new song in the mouth of the assembly. Psalm 150 runs out of reasons and simply says let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Psalm 147:3–4 puts binding up the brokenhearted and naming every star in back to back lines. Why set those two side by side, and what does that pairing offer a person who is in pain right now?
2. Psalm 147:10–11 says God takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse or the legs of a man, but in those who fear Him and hope in His mercy. Which of your strengths have you been offering God that He never asked for?
3. Psalm 150:6 ends the whole collection with everything that has breath praising the Lord. After a hundred and fifty psalms full of lament, complaint, fear, and confession, why does the book end this way, and what does that say about where faith is headed?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List everything Psalm 148 summons to praise God, in the order it appears, from the highest heavens down. Where do human beings show up in that list, and what does their placement suggest?
2. Psalm 147 alternates between God's power over creation and His care for individuals. Mark every shift as you read. Which argument is the alternation making?
3. Psalm 150 names instruments used in temple worship under the Law of Moses. Read Colossians 2:14–17, then Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16, and write out what the New Testament authorizes for the praise of the church.
4. Psalm 149:6 puts high praises of God in the mouth and a two edged sword in the hand. Read Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12, and 2 Corinthians 10:3–5, and describe the only sword a Christian carries.
5. Choose one psalm from 147 through 150 and read it aloud, standing, first thing every morning this week. On Sunday write down what changed about the way your days began.

GOSPELS John 12:9–50

The Hour Has Come

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Crowds come out to Bethany to see both Jesus and the man He raised, and the chief priests decide Lazarus has to die too. The next day palm branches and shouting fill the road into Jerusalem. Some Greeks ask to see Jesus,

and He answers that the hour has come, that a grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die, and that lifted up He will draw all people to Himself. A voice speaks from heaven. Then John explains why so many still would not believe.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Jesus answers the request of some Greeks by announcing that His hour has come and then talking about a grain of wheat that has to be buried (12:23–26). How does that one image explain both His cross and what He asks of anyone who follows Him?
2. John 12:42–43 says many of the rulers believed and would not confess Him, because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. Where does that same trade show up in your week, and what has it already cost you?
3. In 12:31–32 Jesus says that now is the judgment of this world and that being lifted up will draw all people to Himself. Which moment is He calling “now,” and how does a cross judge and draw at the same time?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Read Zechariah 9:9, then John 12:12–16. Which part did the disciples fail to understand at the time, and what does John say finally made sense of it for them?
2. List what Jesus says about His hour in John 2:4, 7:30, 8:20, 12:23, and 12:27. Trace how the language changes as the Gospel moves forward.
3. John 12:37–41 quotes Isaiah 53:1 and Isaiah 6:10. Read both passages in Isaiah, and explain how people could watch sign after sign and still not believe.
4. Trace the responses in this chapter: the crowd, the chief priests, the Greeks, the rulers, and the Pharisees. Which thing does each group’s response appear to depend on?
5. Jesus said the one who loves his life will lose it. Name the one thing you are currently protecting that He is asking you to lay down, and take the first visible step toward laying it down this week.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Three more letters finish the seven. Sardis has a reputation for being alive and is told it is dead, though a few names have not defiled their garments. Philadelphia has little strength and is given an open door no one can shut. Laodicea is lukewarm, congratulates itself on being rich, and is told it is wretched, poor, blind, and naked, with Christ standing outside knocking. Then a door opens in heaven, and John is shown a throne, an emerald rainbow, twenty four elders, and worship that does not stop.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Sardis has a name for being alive and is dead (3:1). How does a congregation's reputation outlive its life, and what would an honest reading of that verse turn up about ours?
2. Laodicea says it is rich and has need of nothing, and Jesus calls it wretched, poor, blind, and naked (3:17). Which of those two assessments would an outsider have made, and what does the size of that gap teach us about self evaluation?
3. Chapter 4 opens with a throne, and the throne is occupied. After seven letters full of problems, why does the vision begin here, and what would be different about your week if that throne were as real to you as your calendar?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Philadelphia has only a little strength (3:8) and receives one of the richest promises in the seven letters. List what Jesus commends in them and everything He promises them.
 2. Revelation 3:20 is usually quoted to unbelievers. Read it in its context, noting who is being addressed in 3:14 and what Jesus says in 3:19. Who is on the other side of that door, and what changes when you read it that way?
 3. List everything present in the throne room of Revelation 4 and what each person or object is doing. What is the whole scene occupied with from beginning to end?
 4. Revelation 4:11 gives the ground on which God is declared worthy. Compare Revelation 5:9. On which two bases is worship offered in these two scenes?
 5. Jesus counsels Laodicea to buy gold refined in the fire, white garments, and eye salve. Name which of the three you most need, and say plainly what buying it will cost you this week.
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NEXT WEEK'S READING: Hosea 1-8 · Ecclesiastes 1-2 · John 13 · Revelation 5-7

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