

Believe *His* Prophets

This Morning Watch Calendar follows the Believe His Prophets Daily Bible Reading Guide for 2017. Each chapter has a study verse to be used as the Youth Morning Watch verse of the day. A chapter Summary Statement is provided each day.

2017 Morning Watch Calendar

Quarter 4: October - December



General Conference Youth Ministries Department

www.gcyouthministries.org

October 1

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 11
2. **Theme:** A new Sanctuary
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 11:19-20
4. **Statement:** The prophet sees the evil leaders of Jerusalem, and God’s judgment against them and is terrified. Will the land be completely gone? God responds with reassurance that *He* is their sanctuary no matter where they go, and makes one of the most beautiful promises in the Bible. Where does God truly dwell?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Living Lord, make my heart your temple. Write Your law of love in me and live in me forever.*

October 2

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 12
2. **Theme:** God’s word immovable
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 12:28
4. **Statement:** Ezekiel, already in exile with others, acts out a living parable showing that the ones still in Jerusalem will also go into exile. When people claim that his vision, even if true, is far in the future, God is clear that it is not. Can we apply this to Jesus’ second coming? What are its limitations?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *God, I do want You to come now and not delay, but I don’t want to set times or think I know more than I do. Help me to simply live as if it were today.*

October 3

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 13
2. **Theme:** False male and female prophets
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 13:2
4. **Statement:** Some people were not only seeing (or making up) false visions, but they were also apparently selling “magic” charms for people to carry. The Bible shows God’s anger most clearly when it is against evil done in His own name. Have you seen that done?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, every day in our world, people do evil and call it good. Far too often, they claim You want them to do it. Fulfill what You promised in this chapter—make it clear You are the only God.*

October 4

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 14
2. **Theme:** God’s purpose will be fulfilled
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 14:22
4. **Statement:** This chapter, interestingly, does not talk of wooden or metal idols, but of idols “set up in their hearts.” What do you think that means? How do you feel when you read of the eventual healing God promises?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, search my heart. If there are any thoughts, feelings, opinions, desires, or ANYTHING that comes before You, take it away! Make my “conduct and actions” be of comfort to those who have taught me.*

October 5

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 15
2. **Theme:** The useless vine
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 15:8
4. **Statement:** If you were a carpenter, looking for wood to build something with, what kind of wood would you seek? God says Jerusalem and her people have been weak, clinging, and worthless, rather than standing strong against the storms of life like the trees they were intended to be like. Are you a vine, or a tree?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Great Gardener, grow me into the "tree planted by rivers of water" that You have planned for me. Make me strong and useful.*

October 6

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 16
2. **Theme:** The story of God's bride
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 16:14
4. **Statement:** This is an amazing and vivid story. Make a list of all the things God gave His bride. In some ways, this is a literal list. God did give Israel great temporal wealth and blessing. Note what the bride (His people) used those blessings for. If you were a loving spouse, what would you do if your mate took all the things you gave him/her and gave them to other lovers?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Great Maker, You have treated Your people as a loving husband would. And we have played You false so many times! Please forgive and heal us!*

October 7

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 17
2. **Theme:** Planting stories
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 17:24
4. **Statement:** Nebuchadnezzar and the Pharaoh are the two eagles, but God is the mover behind the events. He has commanded submission to Nebuchadnezzar, not Pharaoh, and in the end, it is *His* planting which will endure. How can we apply this parable to our lives today?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *My God, You are my only King. I will stay where You put me and bloom where I am planted, or I will move out to new and unknown lands—as You dictate.*

October 8

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 18
2. **Theme:** Each one's life judged individually
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 18:31
4. **Statement:** This is a chapter to which we still come back today. Some think the third commandment (Ex. 20:5-6) in which God describes consequences, as being *His* choice to punish descendants. Here He sets the record clear. Each stands before God alone. Lest we think this is all judged on works, He clarifies further in v 31—what is needed is a new *heart*—which He has already promised.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, give me that new heart! Let me stand for right no matter what family or friends may do, and seek to turn others back from wickedness if You ask me to.*

October 9

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 19
2. **Theme:** God’s tears
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 19:10
4. **Statement:** Again we are shown God weeping for the people into which He has poured so much love and care and training. He planted them in a good and fertile land where they had all they needed, He gave them water (especially important in an arid land)...and how did they respond?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Father, if I ever make You cry, I am sorry! Teach me to make You joyful instead.*

October 10

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 20
2. **Theme:** God remembers
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 20:12, 20
4. **Statement:** Elders among the exiles come to Ezekiel, claiming to inquire of the Lord. God reminds them of His leading for hundreds of years past. Do they *really* want to inquire of Him now? Unlikely. What does God say the true purpose of the Sabbath is? Why does He repeat it twice? Do you think we clearly understand this today, or have we turned it into a burden?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord of the Sabbath, thank You for this great gift! Help me to use it as a weekly reminder that only You are God, and only You can save!*

October 11

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 21
2. **Theme:** God groans and weeps
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 21:6
4. **Statement:** God has determined that judgment is necessary, but He hates it. If only His children would have listened to Him! He has given chance after chance after chance, even after the first attacks of Babylon and the first taking of captives. But they *will not*. The same thing happens when Jesus comes, several centuries later. (See Matt. 23:37.)
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I weep with You when I see the people of this world running this way and that, every way except the way You have given for our health and happiness. Is there something I can do to turn just one?*

October 12

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 22
2. **Theme:** The sins of the people
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 22:30
4. **Statement:** This is a difficult chapter to read. The list of the people’s defiant sins goes on and on; at the head of the list are bloodshed, idolatry, and immorality. God says He couldn’t find even one righteous person to “stand in the gap.” What do you think that means?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, You promise that the prayer of one righteous person can accomplish much. Let me stand in the gap for You. May my prayers turn someone back from ruin.*

October 13

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 23
2. **Theme:** Two sinful sisters
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 23:4
4. **Statement:** This chapter is even more difficult to read. God tells the story of Israel (the northern kingdom) and Judah (the southern kingdom), using the imagery of two lewd and promiscuous sisters. Nothing else God has said or done has made the slightest impression. Perhaps these shocking images will rouse them to realize the horrific nature of their defiance against God.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, I am so sorry that so many of the people You have created continue to turn against You with all their hearts. Please never let me be like that in the smallest way!*

October 14

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 24
2. **Theme:** The most painful living parable
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 24:18
4. **Statement:** Of all the things God asks his prophets to do for Him, this must have been one of the most difficult. God tells Ezekiel that his wife will die, but he must use her death as another parable for the people. He is not to mourn, just as the people will not be able to mourn their relatives now that Jerusalem is under siege. Try to imagine Ezekiel's pain.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *O Lord, I would love to be there when Ezekiel meets his wife again in Your kingdom. I would love to hear You tell him, "Well done, good and faithful servant," for following no matter how difficult, in the struggle to turn even a few hearts back to You.*

October 15

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 25
2. **Theme:** Judgment on Gentile nations
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 25:5
4. **Statement:** The nations around Judah laughed and cheered and mocked when Judah fell. But they, too, were descended from those who knew God, and had no excuse. Now they will meet the consequences.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Father, when I see others face painful consequences from their own wrong choices, let me not ever gloat over them.*

October 16

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 26
2. **Theme:** Tyre destroyed
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 26:13-14
4. **Statement:** Tyre, too, mocked and jeered at Judah's destruction. It was destroyed and has never been rebuilt. Once again, some of this sounds similar to the final judgments against the whole satanic system of following one's own desires instead of seeking God and the values of love and compassion.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Great King, let us find comfort in the fact that, after all this destruction, even after the final destruction of earth, You still promise "glory in the land of the living." (Verse 20)*

October 17

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 27
2. **Theme:** God weeps over Tyre
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 27:1-3
4. **Statement:** Even the most evil of sinners were once created by God to be glorious and loving children of the King. Even over Tyre, God weeps. This chapter shows the beauty that was there. How might the story have ended differently if all those gifts had been used for good instead of evil?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Father, You yearn over us—every single one of us. I will follow You. I grieve for those who refuse.*

October 18

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 28
2. **Theme:** Tyre and Lucifer
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 28:14
4. **Statement:** Tyre is often the representative of Lucifer, who was created beautiful, glorious, and gifted in ways we can only imagine, but who said, “I am a god.” The paradox at the heart of this chapter is that in trying to make his “heart like the heart of God,” Lucifer only made himself the very opposite of God’s real heart. He didn’t want God’s *heart*—he only wanted His *power*.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *O God, how painful it must have been for You to lose all those angels You had created, and loved so much! I want only to be Your humble child—I don’t want to be You!*

October 19

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 29
2. **Theme:** Judgment against Egypt
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 29:21
4. **Statement:** Egypt has come in for God’s retribution before. Israel and Judah thought Egypt could defend them against Babylon, but it couldn’t even defend itself. Interestingly, in vs 14-16 God promises restoration to a remnant of Egypt, as He has to a remnant of Israel.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord God most high, You sit above all the nations of earth. We are like children making cities in a sandbox, compared to You. Let us remember to be humble.*

October 20

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 30
2. **Theme:** God weeps over Egypt
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 30:13
4. **Statement:** If anyone thinks (as Israel did, and still will in a few centuries when Jesus comes the first time) that God loves Israel more than other nations, all they need to do is read these laments God gives over the Gentile nations He has to judge. He hates all this violence and bloodshed. But sometimes it’s the only thing some people will hear. Why do you think that is?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, never let me forget that You love ALL the peoples of earth, and always weep at the loss of any of them!*

October 21

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 31
2. **Theme:** God calls even to Pharaoh
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 31:3
4. **Statement:** God even sends a prophecy to Pharaoh himself, reminding him of the fate of Assyria, which set itself up as greater and better than anyone else. Egypt, too, will fall if Pharaoh does not humble himself before the only Creator.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Father, You never play favorites. You call us all, You long for us all, and You judge us all when we are defiant—only so that You might save some, at least.*

October 22

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 32
2. **Theme:** God weeps over all His lost ones
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 32:16
4. **Statement:** This begins with God’s lament over Egypt and Pharaoh, but later includes all the other defiant nations that have gone before. There have been many, many since. What will it take for people to turn to God?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Creator of all, You will one day be comforted it, when it is all over and all who remain are faithful and the universe runs on love alone. I long for that day.*

October 23

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 33
2. **Theme:** Duties of a watcher
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 33:7
4. **Statement:** Over the millennia, God has called many men and women to stand on the walls as watchers for Him, to blow the trumpet and call the people to repentance. There are two ways to go wrong: to not pass on the warning when God gives it to you, or to presume to speak for God when He *did not* give you the message. How can we be certain to speak only when and what God wants us to speak?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I want to be one of Your faithful workers. I don’t want to fail to give warning when You ask me to, nor do I want to go overboard and preach at people for whom You have not given me a message. Please keep me clear on what You want me personally to do and say.*

October 24

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 34
2. **Theme:** Judging the shepherds
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 34:12
4. **Statement:** The ones who come in for the harshest judgments of God are those who were given the watchcare over God’s flocks and instead, used the people for their own gain. God rebukes those faithless shepherds and promises to come Himself and find his wandering ones.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Great Shepherd, it’s comforting to be reminded that throughout all this judgment, rebuke, and destruction, there were always individuals and groups who were faithful to You, and for whom You faithfully cared.*

October 25

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 35
2. **Theme:** Judgment against Edom
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 35:11
4. **Statement:** Edom delivered Israel to her enemies, hoping to pick up the pieces and gain some wealth and land out of the deal. Note that God says He will deal with them according to their own anger and envy. If we are humble and teachable, then when we make mistakes, how does God deal with us?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, even if I fail, I hope I will always do so out of the best of intentions, and I always promise to listen to Your corrections, so You don't have to deal with me according to anger or envy.*

October 26

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 36
2. **Theme:** Restoration and healing
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 36:8-9
4. **Statement:** Finally! It's been a while, this time, since God interjected the promises of healing and restoration in between the prophecies of doom and punishment. But his mercy never, ever runs out, and all this time, if only the nations had turned and repented, they still could have changed the story. How sad that they did not, and how wonderful that God still promises restoration.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Redeemer, You have redeemed us, and You will redeem us. Thank You so much!*

October 27

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 37
2. **Theme:** Dry Bone Valley
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 37:27
4. **Statement:** This is one of the favorites among Ezekiel's visions. Take some time to try to imagine this whole story, from the frightening view of a valley full of skeletons, to their revival, rebuilding, and the final, messianic kingdom. The end verses will only be fully fulfilled after Jesus comes again. Which things must we wait for and which things can be true in our lives now?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Father, let Your dwelling place be with me now! Let me be one of Your sanctified people—forever.*

October 28

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 38
2. **Theme:** Gog and Magog and the final battle
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 38:23
4. **Statement:** This is clearly a prophecy for the last days. Make a list of all the things that tell you this is true. Here are three to start you off: so many countries named in vs 3-6, and the "remote parts of the north"; v 8: "after many days...in the latter years..."; v 16: "in the last days." How many more can you find?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I don't look forward to the final battles, but I do trust You to get Your faithful ones through them, and I DO long for the days after it's all over!*

October 29

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 39
2. **Theme:** Gog, continued
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 39:7-8
4. **Statement:** Here are more clues that this is speaking of the last “great and terrible day of the Lord.” Compare v 17 with Luke 17:37. Some of these prophecies were meant for Israel and Judah of that day; some would have come true if Israel had taken up her appointed task of being a light to the world, and some are still to be fulfilled for “spiritual Israel,” of which all faithful believers are now a part.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, You are my God, and I will watch for Your promised complete restoration.*

October 30

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 40
2. **Theme:** Man with a measuring rod
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 40:4
4. **Statement:** It’s important to note that this man Ezekiel sees is not measuring the literal Jerusalem temple—that’s burned down by this time. V 2 shows “a very high mountain” on which is “a structure like a city,” and it is this which is measured—in exhaustive detail. What do you think God is trying to teach here?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, You are measuring and discerning every detail of every life on earth. Keep mine in Christ’s, so that I am measured with His perfection.*

October 31

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 41
2. **Theme:** More measuring
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 41:4
4. **Statement:** This chapter goes inside the temple. Do you think all this detail is, at least in part, about the careful examination by God of every detail of our hearts, which are to be the dwelling place for God? (See 1 Cor. 6:19-20 and Heb. 10:20.)
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, You can measure my heart. Every single bit of me is open to You, and You can do all that You please to make me as You wish me to be.*

November 1

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 42
2. **Theme:** Still measuring
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 42:13
4. **Statement:** The man is still measuring every detail. Apparently, it's quite a big job. It's interesting that now and then, such as in vs 13-14, he feels the need to repeat temple instructions, as if they have been lost over the centuries. What are some things humans have lost sight of, concerning holiness?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Great God, You are the only One who is qualified to measure. Remind me of that when I am tempted to judge others—or even myself.*

November 2

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 43
2. **Theme:** God fills the temple
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 43:7
4. **Statement:** Finally, we learn the goal of all this careful measuring—the glory of God is coming into His temple, and He will fill the house with light. What are some clues that this is speaking of the final and complete restoration of the earth to God?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *O great High Priest, You have measured us and found us far short of Your ideal, but You have come to fill and rebuild us to the full stature You dream of. Help me live in that truth.*

November 3

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 44
2. **Theme:** Redefining the covenant
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 44:24
4. **Statement:** Here, God goes over all the laws He gave centuries before. Why do you think He needs to do that at this time, with Jerusalem in ruins and most of His people in exile far from home? If you were one of them, how would you respond to this?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, I take comfort in Your repetition of Your ways when all seems to be in rubble around me.*

November 4

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 45
2. **Theme:** Renewing the sacrificial system, part 1
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 45:9
4. **Statement:** Now God goes over the feast days and sacrifices, as He gave them originally to Moses and to a people who had just been released from slavery and oppression. Do you think there is any significance in the comparison of the people then and the people now in exile?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *God of all times and all places, You are holy and to be worshiped. In imitation of Jesus, I give You the sacrifice of myself and my heart.*

November 5

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 46
2. **Theme:** Renewing the sacrificial system, part 2
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 46:3
4. **Statement:** God continues His re-teaching of the old feasts and festivals, with special emphasis on Sabbath and New Moon (beginning of month) festivals. How can we, today, honor these ancient celebrations given by God?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, thank You so much for the sacrifice of Your Son, once for all time and all people. Help us to still honor You in our spring-times and harvests and in the passing of our days, months, and years.*

November 6

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 47
2. **Theme:** Water of life
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 47:12
4. **Statement:** Once again it becomes clear that this prophecy has an end-times layer to it. The water from the temple is like the water from God’s throne in Rev. 22:1-2, and the trees on its banks are like the tree of life in that same passage. Do you think there are also symbolic meanings for today? If so, what are they?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Jesus, You promised the water of life, in the form of the Holy Spirit to every believer, and eventually, access to the Tree of Life as well. Let me learn to live in that reality now.*

November 7

1. **Chapter:** Ezekiel 48
2. **Theme:** Dividing up the city
3. **Study Verse:** Ezekiel 48:35
4. **Statement:** In a fitting end for this prophetic book, the main point of this chapter seems to be, there's room for everybody! No one is left out. Again, the description reminds one of the New Jerusalem, and certainly its permanent name, "The Lord Is There," cannot be applied to any earthly city. Try to imagine life in the New Jerusalem.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Emmanuel, I long to learn to be aware in every single minute that You are here with me.*

November 8

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 1
2. **Theme:** Daniel's choice
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 1:8
4. **Statement:** Daniel and his friends were among those carried away after the first attack of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar had the positive policy of treating defeated nobles with honor, and his officials were being generous to offer these young men the king's own food. Notice how respectful Daniel was as he expressed his opposing wishes.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, in a way, all of us live in enemy territory. Help us to be compassionate and respectful as we share our differing views, rather than accusing and judgmental.*

November 9

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 2
2. **Theme:** Nebuchadnezzar's dream
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 2:22
4. **Statement:** Here is one of the greatest prophetic passages in the whole Bible. Notice how Daniel, already beginning to be honored, refers all glory back to God, not himself. His first impulse, in danger, was to pray. What is your first impulse in danger?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Father, let me always turn to You, every single day, so that I will automatically do so when I am afraid.*

November 10

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 3
2. **Theme:** The golden image
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 3:17-18
4. **Statement:** Do you remember what metal the first part of the image in the king's dream was? What is he saying by raising a giant statue made entirely of gold? When did the three men make their choice? Was it now, in the heat of the moment?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *My God, I am Yours. I am Yours now, today. That way, when danger threatens, the choice is already made.*

November 11

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 4
2. **Theme:** Nebuchadnezzar’s story
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 4:37
4. **Statement:** This is the only chapter in the Bible that we know was written by a pagan king. He has already learned something of the power of God through the witness of the four young men. In this story, which takes place over several years, the lesson is firmly cemented. We learn nothing more about Nebuchadnezzar; the next chapter is later. I hope he stuck by his decision to honor God.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Most High God, I take joy in being a member of Your everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion from generation to generation.*

November 12

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 5
2. **Theme:** Belshazzar’s moment of truth
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 5:21
4. **Statement:** Many years have passed. Belshazzar (not “son” in the way we think of it) is now king, and unlike Nebuchadnezzar, has no intention of honoring God. It is significant that even though old Daniel’s interpretation is a negative one, Belshazzar still confers the promised rewards on him, so he must have had some honor.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Most High God, You laid it all out from the beginning—Babylon would take Your rebellious people, then fall itself to the Medes and Persians. I am comforted to know that You know everything when I know nothing.*

November 13

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 6
2. **Theme:** A trap for Daniel
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 6:10
4. **Statement:** Daniel, old as he is, finds continuing honor and responsibility under the new king—so much so that he rouses jealousy. A trap is set by making a new law that he can’t pray to his God. When he hears this, what is the first thing Daniel does? What would you do? And what does Darius conclude (vs 25-27)? That’s two world empires turned by one faithful man...
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, may it be said of me that no ground of accusation can be found except that I am faithful to You.*

November 14

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 7
2. **Theme:** Daniel dreams, too
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 7:27
4. **Statement:** This chapter is out of order; it comes before Belshazzar’s end in ch. 5. After his years of interpreting dreams for others, Daniel has a frightening one of his own. But because Daniel is already a faithful God-follower, an angel interprets it to him immediately. What do you think is the main point of this chapter?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I am not sure I have a perfect grasp of all Bible prophecy. I am not sure any human does. But this I know: Your Kingdom is sure, and will last forever. Amen!*

November 15

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 8
2. **Theme:** Another dream for Daniel
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 8:14
4. **Statement:** Again, this dream belongs in the reign of Belshazzar. This time, despite the interpretation, Daniel is “exhausted and sick for days.” At least in part, this is because he understands that 2300 days are 2300 years, and he is afraid this means his people will not go home after the 70 years of the present prophecy are up, after all. We will see this in the next chapter. What do you think, personally, about this prophecy?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *O Lord, You are in control. When things are overwhelming, when we today look around at our world and wonder how long our captivity will last, help us remember—You are in control!*

November 16

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 9
2. **Theme:** Daniel's beautiful prayer
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 9:19
4. **Statement:** Darius is now in power, and Daniel has been studying “the books”—clearly, the writings of Jeremiah. God had promised that in 70 years the people would go home. That time is nearly up. Daniel, as is his custom, goes straight to God in prayer. With fasting, he makes confession—note how he identifies with the people, using “we,” even though he himself has not rebelled. He is offering himself as intercessor, a reflection of what Jesus will later do. God responds immediately and lovingly.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *O Lord, great and awesome God, like Daniel I agree—we don't deserve Your intercession. Do it for Your own honor and Your own name, please!*

November 17

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 10
2. **Theme:** Another terrifying vision
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 10:19
4. **Statement:** Again, comparing with Revelation, it seems that Daniel sees God the Son before He was born to earth as Jesus. Daniel was already worried and afraid; he had been fasting for three weeks. Just the vision of God is enough to make him faint. But notice how tenderly God and the angels comfort Daniel. What do you think is the most comforting thing they said to him?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *O Father, You are so great, and we are so small! I am sure if You appeared here right now, I would faint, too, even though in my heart I am not afraid of You. I trust Your love.*

November 18

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 11
2. **Theme:** End time conflicts
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 11:1
4. **Statement:** God lays out the most detailed and complicated prophecy of the Bible. Many have tried to interpret it in the light of historic events, and we believe we have a fairly comprehensive view of that. However, it will become clear in the next chapter that the prophecy goes all the way to the end, so it must have more layers yet to be fulfilled. What can we take comfort from?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, it is good to know that You are “and encouragement and a protection” for anyone who will let You. But most of all, it is comforting to know that You always know what is going on even when it is complete confusion for us.*

November 19

1. **Chapter:** Daniel 12
2. **Theme:** The very end
3. **Study Verse:** Daniel 12:3
4. **Statement:** There are still Bible scholars who debate the meanings of these prophecies, especially the numbers in the final verses. We do know that it times out exactly to the first coming of Christ and the destruction of the earthly temple. We can bring it down to 1844. Beyond that, there is still mystery. By God's grace, the beautiful promises in this chapter shine brightly amidst the questions and debates.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Great God, some things are too great for me. May I simply follow You, the One who does shine like the stars forever. May I shine by Your reflected light.*

November 20

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 1
2. **Theme:** Hosea's wife and family
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 1:10
4. **Statement:** Hosea is a book full of pain. It shows clearly, in human terms, the pain God goes through on a daily basis as people who have promised themselves to Him turn back again and again to their addiction to sin. Throughout, we must keep our eyes on the promises scattered like jewels.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I want to be faithful to You. I also am willing to be used in any way You choose to draw others back to You.*

November 21

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 2
2. **Theme:** Israel's adultery
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 2:14
4. **Statement:** The greatest pain in this chapter is God's pain. He gave Isreal a long list of temporal blessings, and they took all these gifts and offered them to gods of war and lust. How would you have felt if you were God? Yet still, He offers healing and renewal.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *O God, You offer so many blessings, so much compassion and patience and love! I don't know how You do it, but I will spend my life in gratitude to You.*

November 22

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 3
2. **Theme:** Trying again
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 3:5
4. **Statement:** Hosea goes to get Gomer back when she leaves him. He even pays for her! He still loves her despite her adultery. Perhaps she wants to love him, too, but is weak. What does God promise to weak and erring humans?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *God, You are so gracious, again and again. You always promise full restoration to those who truly desire it.*

November 23

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 4
2. **Theme:** Israel's defiance
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 4:19
4. **Statement:** They turn from Him, He goes after them, they turn from Him again...it seems to be the theme of the entire Old Testament. In this chapter of pain, listing all their constant sinning, the only positive we can find is at the end: at least they will eventually be ashamed of their sin.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, let me not be like that! Ever! I want to return to You instantly when I stray, and I want to learn not to stray to begin with.*

November 24

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 5
2. **Theme:** Apostasy rebuked
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 5:15
4. **Statement:** The king, priests, and leaders come under the strongest judgment because it is they who have led the people astray. God warns of judgment, but also tries just leaving. If He "goes away and returns to His place," then will they seek His face?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Father, like Daniel, I confess for the people of earth that we are not worthy of Your love or forgiveness. I will seek You, no matter what others may do.*

November 25

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 6
2. **Theme:** Hosea encourages repentance
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 6:3
4. **Statement:** Hosea urges the people, "Come, let us return." He reminds them that punishment doesn't have to continue. God will bind them up and heal them. V 3 is a lovely description of God's presence. Then God adds His urging. What does He say He delights in?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, come to us like the rain, like dawn after a dark night, like spring rain after a drought.*

November 26

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 7
2. **Theme:** God's pleading
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 7:2
4. **Statement:** God has tried, and is still trying, to heal. But all He gets is more iniquity, more defiance, as if they don't even know He sees what they do. Even after facing consequences, they still refuse to listen. How do you think God feels?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, You have trained and strengthened my arms, and I, for one, will use them for You!*

November 27

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 8
2. **Theme:** Reaping the whirlwind
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 8:7
4. **Statement:** It's not just refusing to obey. The people have built their own silver and gold gods, and they claim *those* are the God of Israel! "My God," they claim, "we of Israel know You!" (v 2) Do you see this sort of thing in the world today, evil done in the name of God?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, You promise we will reap what we sow. If we sow nothingness, we'll reap nothingness. I want to sow seeds of love, compassion, and joy.*

November 28

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 9
2. **Theme:** Final casting off
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 9:17
4. **Statement:** God is at the limit of His patience. Time after time, year after year, century after century, He has tried to get His people's attention. First they ignored Him, then they defied Him to His face. Their time is over. They are bringing upon themselves the worst possible results of their actions. Yet...wait for two more chapters...
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Please, God, show me ways to bring people's eyes to You and Your ways before it is forever too late.*

November 29

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 10
2. **Theme:** Israel's selfishness
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 10:12
4. **Statement:** The first verses give the theme—why has Israel acted so wantonly? For her own gain. Are there those today whose whole aim is to produce more and more for themselves, to build "altars" to their own glory and self-aggrandizement? What do you think will be the result in the end?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Father, You are our only King. Help me to seek for the good of others, not just more and more for me.*

November 30

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 11
2. **Theme:** God is *still* yearning!
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 11:8
4. **Statement:** Every time God says, Okay, that's it, I'm done, you're facing the very end...He comes back to His endless love. "I called my son...I took them in My arms...I bent down and fed them...I am God and not man...I will settle them in their houses." Can you believe it?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *O great Father of us all, if only I could help people to see how unfathomably much You love us! You never, never want to give us up.*

December 1

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 12
2. **Theme:** Remembering God’s leading
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 12:6
4. **Statement:** God through Hosea reminds the people again of the history He has with them. He was compassionate with Jacob and his family, He gave people laws and prophets and festivals. Will they not listen and turn back?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Creator, You lead us by the hand. If I am ever confused, please lead me like a sheep.*

December 2

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 13
2. **Theme:** Israel’s idolatry
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 13:4
4. **Statement:** God was the One taking care of them. God is *always* the One taking care of us all. Why did they—why do we—make up nonsense about calves to kiss and bring offerings to, or modern methods and philosophies and politics that have brought us success? Or our own efforts? Why?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *My God, I want to keep my eyes on You alone. All that is good in my life, I know comes from You.*

December 3

1. **Chapter:** Hosea 14
2. **Theme:** God ends with promises
3. **Study Verse:** Hosea 14:4
4. **Statement:** As always, God comes back to healing, forgiveness, and restoration. Hosea recommends the words of submission to bring to God. He encourages the people to confess, and to promise never again to worship their own works and creations.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I long to live in Your shadow, to raise grain and blossom like the vine. I want to walk in Your ways.*

December 4

1. **Chapter:** Joel 1
2. **Theme:** Locust invasion
3. **Study Verse:** Joel 1:14
4. **Statement:** The little book of Joel, like many prophecies, seems to have more than one layer. Apparently, there is a terrible plague of locusts destroying all crops and leaving people and animals to starve. But as we study, you will see clues that this is also spiritual devastation. Do you see any in chapter 1?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *King of heaven, whenever I am in trouble or drought, physical or spiritual, I turn to You.*

December 5

1. **Chapter:** Joel 2
2. **Theme:** Devastation and deliverance
3. **Study Verse:** Joel 2:28-29
4. **Statement:** Immediately it is clear that there is a far-reaching application. Vs 1-17 describe a visitation that can't be only earthly insects. The rest of the chapter promises God's deliverance, including more abundant prophetic gifts to many different kinds of people, and physical wonders. What do you think these prophecies refer to?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, You have taught us that we are in the last days right now. You have sent prophetic words to us, and will send more. Let me be part of the solution, never part of the problem.*

December 6

1. **Chapter:** Joel 3
2. **Theme:** Final restoration
3. **Study Verse:** Joel 3:16-17
4. **Statement:** Before full restoration, there will be judgment. Many of the nations we have seen before are named again here. What clues do you find that this is about the very end? And after judgment...full and final peace! What is your favorite part?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *I praise You, Lord, for Your promises and the way You share them with everyone in all times. Help me to spread them far and wide.*

December 7

1. **Chapter:** Amos 1
2. **Theme:** Early warnings of judgment
3. **Study Verse:** Amos 1:2
4. **Statement:** Amos prophesied much earlier, before either the northern or southern kingdoms had been taken over by Assyria and Babylon. We will see many of the same nations named, and consequences warned of. It's kind of sad to read it, knowing that they will all still say "no," and their kingdoms will be destroyed. Yet we will watch for God's grace as well.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Father, thank You for giving warnings far ahead of actual judgment. I hope there were many individuals in Israel and Judah who did listen, and who will be in heaven.*

December 8

1. **Chapter:** Amos 2
2. **Theme:** More judgments
3. **Study Verse:** Amos 2:10
4. **Statement:** God continues to catalog the sins and judgments of the nations. He reminds them it was He who led them and blessed them. If they do not repent, there will be painful results.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, let me not trust to earthly powers for safety, but only to You.*

December 9

1. **Chapter:** Amos 3
2. **Theme:** All tribes guilty
3. **Study Verse:** Amos 3:7
4. **Statement:** Besides naming many surrounding nations, God calls “the entire family” of Israel (v 1) to book for what they have done. He points out that He doesn’t just descend on them in righteous wrath (though He would have the right to do so), He always warns through prophets. It’s up to them to listen.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, how can we thank You for Your words through Your prophets over the millennia? Help me to have open eyes and ears.*

December 10

1. **Chapter:** Amos 4
2. **Theme:** Empty worship
3. **Study Verse:** Amos 4:13
4. **Statement:** Verses 4 and 5 list the worship practices the people do: paying tithes every three days, offering offerings and thank offerings. Are they worth anything? Why not?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, deliver me from empty worship! I want to bring You my whole heart and my whole life.*

December 11

1. **Chapter:** Amos 5
2. **Theme:** God’s power
3. **Study Verse:** Amos 5:4,14
4. **Statement:** The God who made the stars and brings darkness and dawn has a right to be listened to and obeyed. At this point, Israel is still prosperous, and the people think they owe it all to themselves and their own efforts. What do you think?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Mighty Creator, take charge of my life as fully as You take charge of the stars and planets.*

December 12

1. **Chapter:** Amos 6
2. **Theme:** God loathes arrogance
3. **Study Verse:** Amos 6:8
4. **Statement:** The description in vs 4-6 could apply to many today. Some people are fat and wealthy and don’t care about the millions who have nothing to eat and nowhere to sleep. What do you think God says to them?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, help me to share what I have—to notice the needs of my neighbor and respond.*

December 13

1. **Chapter:** Amos 7
2. **Theme:** God's mercy
3. **Study Verse:** Amos 7:15
4. **Statement:** God threatens destruction three times, but pulls back each time. This prefigures the mercy He will have on His people in the coming two centuries. Amos is threatened. What is his response?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Father, when others oppose me for doing what You call me to do, help me to be sure of my calling, and to stand firm in You.*

December 14

1. **Chapter:** Amos 8
2. **Theme:** Oppressing the poor
3. **Study Verse:** Amos 8:4-6
4. **Statement:** Remembering that these prophecies are coming at a time when Israel and Judah are still prosperous, make a list of the sins God holds against them. Do you see any of these active today?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, give me Your heart, Your eyes, and Your love for those in need around me.*

December 15

1. **Chapter:** Amos 9
2. **Theme:** Ruin and restoration
3. **Study Verse:** Amos 9:11
4. **Statement:** Amos foreshadows the same prophecies several prophets after him will give. And, of course, he ends with God's promise of restoration. Since the country still appeared secure, what do you think the people's reaction was? What would yours be in like circumstances?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Father, if You send prophets, help me to be very clear when they are from You, and to listen even if it seems impossible.*

December 16

1. **Chapter:** Obadiah 1
2. **Theme:** All face judgment equally
3. **Study Verse:** Obadiah 1:21
4. **Statement:** God here warns nations not to gloat when they see neighboring nations judged. The same counsel applies to individuals. Have you ever been tempted to gloat over someone who "got what he/she deserved"?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *God, keep me humble. Let me never mock or gloat over another's dismay.*

December 17

1. **Chapter:** Jonah 1
2. **Theme:** Jonah's call
3. **Study Verse:** Jonah 1:14
4. **Statement:** Foolish Jonah! It's easy to see why he was reluctant. How would you like to go and proclaim judgment to a large, sinful city near you, one which has never heard of you? At least Jonah is honest to the seamen. And they are clearly good-hearted, not wanting to kill him. How did God answer their prayer?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, I promise, if You send me north, I won't go south. I will go where You lead me.*

December 18

1. **Chapter:** Jonah 2
2. **Theme:** Jonah's prayer
3. **Study Verse:** Jonah 2:7
4. **Statement:** When he's in very scary trouble, suddenly Jonah wants to pray to God after all. If we're tempted to mock him, we should remember, that's more than the people we've been reading about ever did! At least he does turn back.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *God, when I have been in trouble, You have heard me, too. I am so grateful.*

December 19

1. **Chapter:** Jonah 3
2. **Theme:** Nineveh repents
3. **Study Verse:** Jonah 3:5
4. **Statement:** This is a shocking chapter. For weeks now, we've been reading about God's people obstinately refusing God, even to their own death. Yet this ungodly nation, hearing Jonah's warning, immediately repents, from the king down to "the least of them". How does that make you feel?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Great God of all the earth, thank You for sending prophets (probably many more than we know) to other nations that are supposedly not "Your" people. Help me remember we are all Your people.*

December 20

1. **Chapter:** Jonah 4
2. **Theme:** Foolish Jonah
3. **Study Verse:** Jonah 4:11
4. **Statement:** Jonah shows his true immaturity in this chapter. He *wanted* Nineveh to be destroyed! He was angry with God for His compassion. Why do you think God wanted this chapter in the Bible?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, let me be compassionate like You, not vengeful like Jonah.*

December 21

1. **Chapter:** Micah 1
2. **Theme:** Micah’s prophecy of judgment
3. **Study Verse:** Micah 1:3
4. **Statement:** During Micah’s time, the destruction of Israel was drawing closer. He warned the people, as all the other prophets did, and he spoke of God’s sorrow, as they also did. Is there a way you can comfort God?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, You lose so many! May I be a comfort, not only in standing by You myself, but in calling others to do so.*

December 22

1. **Chapter:** Micah 2
2. **Theme:** Warnings and promises
3. **Study Verse:** Micah 2:12
4. **Statement:** Micah lists the things God holds against them. Why do you think so many prophets bring up dishonesty, oppression of the poor, and coveting each other’s lands? Again, God ends with promises.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *God, I would think You would get so tired of this! Yet Your mercy remains new every morning.*

December 23

1. **Chapter:** Micah 3
2. **Theme:** Leaders rebuked
3. **Study Verse:** Micah 3:8
4. **Statement:** Once again, it is the rulers and priests who are held the most responsible. V 5 is especially interesting. When the rich people have what they want, all is fine, and yet they “declare holy war” against those with nothing. Do we see that today?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, whenever I am in any position of leadership, let me be faithful to my calling.*

December 24

1. **Chapter:** Micah 4
2. **Theme:** Final restoration
3. **Study Verse:** Micah 4:1
4. **Statement:** Here is a beautiful passage describing not only what will finally be true, but what could have been true in many ways here on earth, if only Israel had kept her pledge to be a light to the earth. What stopped them?
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, there is only one real Light to the nations, and of course it is You. But help us to hold up our little candles and point to the Great Light.*

December 25

1. **Chapter:** Micah 5
2. **Theme:** Messianic prophecy
3. **Study Verse:** Micah 5:2
4. **Statement:** And still the beauty continues. It is a lovely relief from all the chapters of judgment and destruction. And in this five-year plan it comes on just the right day! Write God a prayer of thanks for sending His Son.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord, of course I know You weren't born on December 25. But I take every chance I get to celebrate Your birth and bring You to the mind of my neighbors.*

December 26

1. **Chapter:** Micah 6
2. **Theme:** Indictment, and simple instructions
3. **Study Verse:** Micah 6:8
4. **Statement:** Again God indicts His people, reminding them of how He has led and warning of judgment. He points out that He doesn't ask that much. It's not impossible. Just do justice, love kindness (mercy), and walk humbly with God.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, let me focus my days on those three things: what is just, what is kind, and what is humble?*

December 27

1. **Chapter:** Micah 7
2. **Theme:** Micah confesses
3. **Study Verse:** Micah 7:7-8
4. **Statement:** He could be confessing with and for the people, as Daniel did, but Micah, being human, is also a sinner. He says he will bear his punishment and trust God to hear and to be just.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Lord, no matter how I fall, with You I know I can rise and walk again.*

December 28

1. **Chapter:** Nahum 1
2. **Theme:** Oracle of Nineveh
3. **Study Verse:** Nahum 1:15
4. **Statement:** Nahum writes of God's power and might, somewhere near the destruction of Nineveh. He also, like all prophets, passes on God's promise of restoration. There will be peace, and worship of God again.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, so let it be! We wait for the day when "never again will the wicked one pass" through us.*

December 29

1. **Chapter:** Nahum 2
2. **Theme:** End of Nineveh
3. **Study Verse:** Nahum 2:2
4. **Statement:** Nahum describes the war, with chariots and mighty men and people rushing to and fro. No beautiful architecture or great riches will be of any help to those who turn from God and refuse to turn back.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear God, help me to remain faithful to You all my days.*

December 30

1. **Chapter:** Nahum 3
2. **Theme:** Final destruction
3. **Study Verse:** Nahum 3:4
4. **Statement:** Nahum continues to describe the war—in some ways, a description of the final battle, when Satan’s falsity is ended forever. In v 4, it becomes clear that it was more than just oppression or idolatry—these people used sorcery to try to gain power. The end is inevitable.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *O God, help me never to be tempted by personal power or manipulation. I know that is the first step to destruction.*

December 31

1. **Chapter:** Habakkuk 1
2. **Theme:** Habakkuk’s questions
3. **Study Verse:** Habakkuk 1:12
4. **Statement:** As we end our year, we begin the dialogue between God and His prophet that makes up the book of Habakkuk. The prophet sees evil coming, and it is hard for him to understand how God can use evil for His own ends, to bring justice for sin. He knows he can take his questions only one place—straight to God.
5. **Response:** _____

6. **Prayer:** *Dear Lord God, I have questions, too. There is much I do not understand. Help me always to bring my questions straight to You, and always to trust whether I see answers or not.*