

Believe *His* Prophets

This Morning Watch Calendar

follows the

Believe His Prophets

2019

Daily Bible Reading Guide

FEBRUARY

*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*



FEBRUARY 1

Chapter: Leviticus 22

Theme: Being Holy

Study Verse: Leviticus 22:32-3

STATEMENT: Right now, the whole priesthood and the sacrificial system are all new to the Israelites. Except for Nadab and Abihu, no one is taking it for granted. But God knows that people will become complacent after a while. Doing the rituals will be “just another day.” So, He makes instructions to remind people to keep His things sacred and maintain respect for the sacrifices—but most of all, for God. What can you take for your life from this chapter?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Holy One, You are higher than I can even imagine. Sometimes I, too, think of church, for instance, or worship or Bible study, as “just another thing I have to do.” Guard me from that attitude and help me to maintain my respect for Your great holiness.

FEBRUARY 2

Chapter: Leviticus 23

Theme: Holy Days

Study Verse: Leviticus 23:3

STATEMENT: This is a lovely chapter. Unlike those which are more for priests, this is a list of God’s holy days for everyone, which He says are “lasting ordinance(s) for generations to come, wherever you live.” Go through the list individually and list the reasons you can see for each one, the things they were meant to teach about God. Do you notice factors that have to do with society, justice, and care of the vulnerable? How can you put these principles to work in your own life?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Creator God, who laid out days, weeks, months, and years and gave us times and seasons to show our love and honor for You, remind me that I am to honor You at all times, in all days of my life.

FEBRUARY 3

Chapter: Leviticus 24

Theme: Within the Sanctuary

Study Verse: Leviticus 24:2

STATEMENT: Here we see the daily and weekly rituals for the lampstand and the table which are in the Holy Place, outside the curtain that shields the Most Holy Place. What do you think these flames and this bread represents in the tabernacles of our hearts? In what way do you keep your light burning perpetually before God? In what way do you share the bread of life?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord of eternity, may my life be fragrant incense rising to You day and night. May the light of Your love shine through me to all who see me, and may the Bread of life, the Bread of Your covenant point all to Jesus.

FEBRUARY 4

Chapter: Leviticus 25

Theme: Land Sabbath and Jubilee

Study Verse: Leviticus 25:23

STATEMENT: Throughout history, many societies have come to consider the land as something we can possess. Earlier societies didn't believe this, and here God makes it clear that the land is His, not ours, and can't be sold permanently. The Jubilee plan is really more like a lease. Read through this whole chapter and discuss it with some friends. What affects do you think it would have on your country if this plan were followed? How could God's plan keep people from getting too poor or too rich?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Provider God, Your plans are always complete and perfect. My world is much different from the one described here, but help me to somehow find ways to order my life to keep the principles of care for each other and care for the land that You have outlined here.

FEBRUARY 5

Chapter: Leviticus 26

Theme: Blessings of Obedience

Study Verse: Leviticus 26:44-45

STATEMENT: The first part of this chapter outlines the blessings God promises to those who are faithful to His covenant. The second part outlines the extremely unpleasant consequences of disobedience. But it's the third part which is perhaps the most moving: here, God promises that even when His children are so rebellious and disobedient that they are taken over by enemy nations, He will still love and seek to restore them. That's a great God we have!

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Oh, Father, You are so forgiving! Even when bad things happen by my own wrong choices, You still love me, still seek to restore me, and still try to teach me Your way.

FEBRUARY 6

Chapter: Leviticus 27

Theme: Tithe is Holy

Study Verse: Leviticus 27:30

STATEMENT: This is a confusing chapter. For one thing, it values different people differently. This doesn't mean one person is more important or necessary than another, especially to God. It is simply reflecting the economic benefit to the community of a given person. But the one thing that is clear and understandable is that ten percent of everything belongs to God and is not to be stolen by humans for any reason. Are you faithful with your tithe?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear God, You ask so little! Everything I have and am is Yours alone—100%. But You only ask for 10% of my physical goods to be specifically given to Your work. (Earthly rulers require much more!) Help me to be faithful to You.

FEBRUARY 7

Chapter: Numbers 1

Theme: Census

Study Verse: Numbers 1:52, 53

STATEMENT: After a year of work and prayer, the tabernacle is complete, the priests are dedicated, and the book of law for the priests and Levites is finished. The tabernacle is covered with a visible sign of God's presence—cloud by day, fire by night (Num 9:15-16). The first thing the people did (though it is not mentioned until Num. 9) was to keep the Passover. Then God told Moses to number the men over 20, able to go to war if necessary. The Levites were not to go to war; only to care for the tabernacle. We may wonder why this census was needed now, since there was no apparent threat, but it will become clear in our next chapter.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear Lord, count me among your army of light. Male or female, young or old, we are all called to go forth into a dark world and spread the light of Your love and mercy. I am enlisting for that!

FEBRUARY 8

Chapter: Numbers 2

Theme: Organizing the Camp

Study Verse: Numbers 2:1, 2

STATEMENT: Now we see what God had in mind. All the members of each tribe were to have a particular place on the east, west, north, or south of the sanctuary. Can you think of reasons for this? God loves order, and also, He was seeking to rebuild a sense of tribal and national pride and self-respect in people who had been nothing but slaves for generations. How does it help you to feel healthy self-esteem, when you know who you are and where you belong?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: My Father, whether or not I know my tribe or clan, whether or not I feel a part of my community, I know I am Your child first, last, and always. But I also seek to create community and belonging for myself and those around me, as Jesus did.

FEBRUARY 9

Chapter: Numbers 3

Theme: The Levites are God's

Study Verse: Numbers 3:11, 12

STATEMENT: This is an interesting chapter! Of course, all human beings belong to God, but here He stated that the firstborn are especially His, but that the Levites, as servants of the tabernacle and its services, were especially dedicated to Him in place of the firstborn. Since there were 273 more firstborn than Levites, God asked ransom money, which would go toward the tabernacle and the needs of the Levites. This must have been especially meaningful since it came immediately after their first Passover celebration after the real Passover in Egypt. Are you a firstborn? How does this make you feel?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, first and only Son of God, I am grateful that You have paid the ransom of Your own life so that I can belong fully to Our Father. I dedicate myself solely and wholly to You.

FEBRUARY 10

Chapter: Numbers 4

Theme: Laying out Duties

Study Verse: Numbers 4:49

STATEMENT: Again, we are reminded that God loves order. Moses lays out the specific duties for each family clan within the tribe of Levi. It is so much easier and more enjoyable to do work when we know just what we are to do and how and when to do it. What are some things you are responsible for? Are there ways you could organize them more efficiently and make your work more enjoyable?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Master of the Universe, You are my Chief and my Commander. I know that there are many things in this life which are unexpected and even chaotic, and we can't order everything. But those things which I can put decently in order, help me to do so.

FEBRUARY 11

Chapter: Numbers 5

Theme: Restitution

Study Verse: Numbers 5:7

STATEMENT: The people at this time had no concept of germs or the way disease spreads, so God told them to separate sick people. In other places He gives more detail about how to bring them back when they are well. He also teaches the people about making restitution to one they have wronged. If we can, we are to make restitution directly to the one we have wronged, but if not, then to God.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear Lord, show me if there is anyone I have wronged and need to make restitution to. And please forgive me for all wrongs, because in truth, when I have hurt others, I have always hurt You more.

FEBRUARY 12

Chapter: Numbers 6

Theme: Blessing

Study Verse: Numbers 6:24-26

STATEMENT: The first part of this chapter is about people who want to make a special, temporary vow, dedicating themselves to the Lord in a special way. It is important that even at that time and place, where women were given little power and often thought of as much less important or valued than men, they could make these vows, too. The chapter ends with one of the most beautiful blessings in the Bible. Memorize it and use it and see what happens in your heart.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: O Lord, Your face does shine upon me! Sometimes I am more aware than others, but You are always there. Help me to make the shining facets of this blessing a beautiful part of my life.

FEBRUARY 13

Chapter: Numbers 7

Theme: First Offerings

Study Verse: Numbers 7:89

STATEMENT: We've moved slightly back in time, and are going to see the full story of what happened when the tabernacle was first complete and set up. This chapter can be slow reading, but isn't it interesting to imagine the heads of families eagerly bringing their offerings for the first time to the brand-new tabernacle? In verse 89, how does God show His pleasure?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Holy One, I wish I could have seen the brightness of Your presence in those days. But I know that Your presence is always with me, and it definitely brightens my heart, and perhaps others can see it in my face, too.

FEBRUARY 14

Chapter: Numbers 8

Theme: Dedicating Levites

Study Verse: Numbers 8:9b-10

STATEMENT: Have you ever been at an ordination where someone was set aside to work for God as a pastor or deacon? That is something like the scene here. The whole tribe of Levi had already been chosen by God—people did not choose them and could not agree or disagree with their call—but now they had a “cleansing” service, in which literally all the people literally presented them as an offering to the Lord (see v. 11). Note at the end that they worked from 25 to 50.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: High Priest of the heavens, I dedicate myself to Your service, whether You want me to be a pastor or other church leader, or something else entirely. I am presenting myself as a “living sacrifice,” and will do whatever You ask me to do.

FEBRUARY 15

Chapter: Numbers 9

Theme: Trust and Obey

Study Verse: Numbers 9:22

STATEMENT: Here is the story of the first Passover remembrance festival. We can see by the dates that this is the month after the tabernacle was completed and set up. We can also see that the census was conducted on that same first day of Passover (while the men were lining up to be counted, the women were cooking!) Notice that the Passover rituals have built-in rules to share with the poor and with resident aliens. How can we make that true in our church and community life?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Holy One, when we commemorate important events in our lives and in the life of our church, family, and community, show us how to share both the celebration and the food and fellowship with those who need.

FEBRUARY 16

Chapter: Numbers 10

Theme: Silver Trumpets and an Exciting Day

Study Verse: Numbers 10:10

STATEMENT: Two silver trumpets, to blow assemblies and alarms, would be very special. Most calls were sounded on rams' horns. If you want to know what this sounds like, you may be able to find it online. Then, at last, after nearly two years at Sinai, the people were ready to roll up their new tabernacle and move on. Carefully, in the order they were given by God, they did their duties and moved out. What a change from the rabble that fled from Egypt! How do you imagine it felt?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Mighty One, I trust that You are overshadowing my life with your clouds of protection and fires of light, too, even though I can't see them. Guide me and show me when and how to move on to the next thing in my life.

FEBRUARY 17

Chapter: Numbers 11

Theme: Complaints Lead to Complaints

Study Verse: Numbers 11:17

STATEMENT: The Israelites had only traveled three days when they began whining. Worse, their complaints led Moses to complain, too! He blamed God for making him take care of all these complaining people, and even asked for death! You'd think God would be angry, but His response shows us that He knew Moses was simply overworked and overtired. What solution did God give Moses? How do you see this principle of sharing the burdens in action in your church and community?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord, help me and those around me not to think we can do everything ourselves. You do not burden any one person like that. Show me how to both give and receive help.

FEBRUARY 18

Chapter: Numbers 12

Theme: Respect God's Prophet

Study Verse: Numbers 12:5-8

STATEMENT: There were lots more excuses to complain during this period, weren't there? God was trying to train the people to trust and obey, but He wasn't having much success. Then came the worst—the leaders began to complain against their head leader (which really meant complaining against God for putting Moses in charge). What does verse 1 say their true objection was? It was prejudice, pure and simple. But what did they claim was their objection, in verse 2? How did God respond, and what do you think the ultimate results were in the hearts of Aaron, Miriam, and Moses?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Master, You are my only Chief and Leader. Help me to respect those You set in authority over me. If it's ever necessary, also give me strength to stand against a leader who directs me against Your Word, but to do so with love and respect.

FEBRUARY 19

Chapter: Numbers 13

Theme: The Twelve Spies

Study Verse: Numbers 13:30

STATEMENT: Only two years have passed. The people have spent more than half that time in one place, building the sanctuary and learning the laws and regulations that go with it. They reach the edges of the Promised Land and are ready to cross over and possess it in God's name. Just think how different our Bible would be if they had obeyed God and done that! What are the two different reports brought back? Which do you think you would have followed?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear God, I know You send me out sometimes to possess some new skill, or habit, or accomplishment—some stepping stone in my life. I know sometimes I get frightened and hesitate. Help me to remember the times I've trusted and the times I've faltered, and to remember the differing results. I want to follow You even when it's scary!

FEBRUARY 20

Chapter: Numbers 14

Theme: A Turning Point

Study Verse: Numbers 14:8

STATEMENT: The people side with the 10 frightened spies. Not only do they want to appoint a different leader and go back to slavery, they even want to stone Moses and Joshua and Caleb! Have we yet, in the whole Bible, seen God this angry? He has good reason! Do you think He really wanted to destroy His own people, or just to test Moses and his resolution? What was Moses' response, and what do you think God thought of that? What did the people do next? How would you have responded if you had to wander 40 years with rebels when you were ready to trust and obey?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, there have always been faithful people following You alone, no matter how evil the earth has become. I want to be one of those faithful ones. And when I suffer with those who are not obeying, help me to remember You did the same, and stay faithful anyway.

FEBRUARY 21

Chapter: Numbers 15

Theme: Law Reminders

Study Verse: Numbers 15:40, 41

STATEMENT: Much of this chapter is either laws for the new land they will eventually enter, or reminders of laws already given. There is a particularly interesting one at the end of the chapter. God gives the people a visible reminder, fringes on their clothing, to remember His laws. Why do you think He decided they needed that? Do you think something visible on you would remind you to follow God? What could you use in this way?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord of hosts, we “see” You in the life of Jesus, and in loving people around us, and we “hear” You in Your Word, or in godly music, but, we can’t see or hear you with our eyes or ears. If I need a visible reminder, help me to find that and use it to remind me to follow and trust You.

FEBRUARY 22

Chapter: Numbers 16

Theme: The Worst Rebellion

Study Verse: Numbers 16:4, 5

STATEMENT: This is a terrible chapter! Some people don’t seem to learn, even though there have already been several plagues and catastrophes due to disobedience. Notice that Moses doesn’t even try to deal with this himself. He falls on his face before God and turns it over to His justice. Perhaps, if the rebels had come when they were called, they might have had a chance to repent, but they were insolent and blasphemous. Their judgment was swift and severe. God must have had tears in His eyes as He saw their end. May He preserve us from such insolent rebellion!

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Oh, God, this story is hard to read. I know there must have been smaller rebellious thoughts in their hearts first, that they chose not to deal with and turn over to You. If I have even the smallest rebellious or angry thought against You, help me to find it right away, confess it to You (and perhaps to a godly person who can help me), and turn from it! Let it never grow to this kind of severity!

FEBRUARY 23

Chapter: Numbers 17

Theme: Aaron’s Rod

Study Verse: Numbers 17:10

STATEMENT: This is the same story, continued. God wanted to show once and for all whom He had chosen to be the spiritual leader of Israel. He did the lovely miracle of the budding rod, and even memorialized that rod forever in the holy Ark of the Covenant. But notice verse 10. If you had doubted that God hated for people to die in their rebellion, you have proof here. He is trying to prevent further deaths. Yet, at the end of the chapter, do you see the people’s trust growing, or still shrinking?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Holy One, people are so continually wicked! Don’t let me be like that! Keep my eyes on Jesus, keep reminding me that You are Love Personified, keep me trusting.

FEBRUARY 24

Chapter: Numbers 18

Theme: God Reassures Aaron

Study Verse: Numbers 18:8

STATEMENT: You can see how Aaron might be nervous, after all that has happened. He knew he was not sinless, and we’ve seen some pretty serious sins he’d fallen into before this. Look how God reassures him. First, He gives Moses reassurances to give to Aaron and the other Levites. But then, look—God speaks to Aaron himself! Most of the time, God speaks to Moses, but He has a message for His first high priest. What is the message?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Jesus, my High Priest forever, though I am not a priest, I know that I have been dedicated to You, perhaps by my parents; certainly now I dedicate myself. Use me as You will.

FEBRUARY 25

Chapter: Numbers 19

Theme: Laws for Purity

Study Verse: Numbers 19:9

STATEMENT: The ordinance of the red heifer is an interesting one. If you can read about this chapter in the Bible Commentary, you will learn much. Like all the sacrifices in the Old Testament, this heifer points forward to the purifying sacrifice of Christ. The rest of the chapter is, again, about purification rules in a time when people knew nothing about the spread of disease. But it also has spiritual application. What principles can you find?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Pure and holy God, Your presence is a purifying fire. May I always be overflowing with the Holy Spirit, so that all that is visible of me is seen through Jesus' perfection.

FEBRUARY 26

Chapter: Numbers 20

Theme: Moses' Big Mistake

Study Verse: Numbers 20:8

STATEMENT: There's a lot of loss in this chapter. Miriam dies, apparently without notice; later Aaron dies, but this time with awareness that it will happen. God calls them up on the mountain and makes an official "passing of the torch" of the high priesthood. In between is the real tragedy. God tells Moses to speak to the rock, and he strikes it instead. This wasn't the worst, though. The worst was in verse 10: "Must we bring forth water for you?" Wait—we?? Moses, just for that moment, gave in to the temptation to make himself as God. For that, he didn't get to go into the earthly Promised Land.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Almighty One, I, too, get impatient and snap at people when You've asked me to help them. I am so sorry for that, and I ask Your power to help me remain patient and humble.

FEBRUARY 27

Chapter: Numbers 21

Theme: Look and Live

Study Verse: Numbers 21:8

STATEMENT: Gripe, gripe, gripe! How many times so far (and there are many years to go yet!) have we read the words, “and the people complained...”? Like us, they had little idea of God’s constant care. Little did they know there were poisonous serpents all around, from which God was keeping them safe. When he withdrew His protection, out came the serpents! It’s interesting that they had to look at a representation of the very thing that hurt them before they could be healed. This is a picture of Jesus (John 3:14) but it is also true in daily life that we must face the true causes of darkness in our lives before we find light.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I can’t even imagine why You would leave the glory of heaven and be hung on a pole for me, but I am unspeakably grateful that I must only look and live!

FEBRUARY 28

Chapter: Numbers 22

Theme: A Smart Donkey

Study Verse: Numbers 22:33

STATEMENT: The story of Balaam is a sad one. This man was trying to be a prophet of God, but only half-heartedly. The desire for money and fame overcame his desire to do only God’s will. Because of this double-mindedness, he became more foolish than a donkey! (Don’t you wish God would always give the power of speech to poor animals that people are mistreating?) Notice that even though God let Balaam go, He didn’t let him say anything except what God wanted him to say. To be continued...

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear God, I only want to say and do what You want me to say and do. Please straighten me out if I allow other desires to come before my desire to serve You!

