

Believe *His* Prophets

This Morning Watch Calendar
follows the
Believe His Prophets
2019
Daily Bible Reading Guide

OCTOBER

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



OCTOBER 1

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 16

Theme: The Ark is Home!

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 16:10, 11

STATEMENT: Being David, the first thing he does is write a song to show how joyful he is about the ark returning to Jerusalem. The first part of this song is found today in our Psalm 105, but the rest of it is collected in several different psalms. What is your favorite section? Can you, perhaps with some friends, try setting it to music? Have you ever tried writing a song or poem of praise to God?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Oh, I give thanks to You, Lord, I call upon Your name; I make known Your deeds among the peoples. I love to sing praises to Your name.

OCTOBER 2

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 17

Theme: A House for God?

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 17:16

STATEMENT: David realized he had spent a lot of money and time to build himself a beautiful house, but God still “lived” in a tent. (Of course David knew God dwells in the whole universe, not in one place.) With the best of intentions, he decided to build God a temple. It sounded like a good idea to the prophet, Nathan, too. But God, while pleased with their willingness, told Nathan and David that He didn’t want a house. God said He would build a house (a lineage) for David instead, and that one of his sons would build the temple. David was overcome with humble gratitude, and submitted.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear Father, I wish only to build You a house in my heart. It may be poor and small and not worthy of You at all, but I know You have promised to live there, and to bless me and those around me through it.

OCTOBER 3

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 18
Theme: Collecting Supplies for the Temple
Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 18:14

STATEMENT: In this chapter you can see in action one of the reasons God says David may not build His temple: David’s hands are “full of blood.” In his zeal to establish the kingdom of God, David does an awful lot of killing. But he also begins to collect the treasures with which his son, Solomon, will build God a temple. What treasures do you collect in your life, with which to build God a temple in your heart?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Mighty God, I am collecting gold of obedience and jewels of a gentle spirit. I also offer back to You all the gifts You have given me.

OCTOBER 4

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 19
Theme: A Big Mistake
Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 19:13

STATEMENT: Nahash, the new king of Ammon, makes a big mistake in this story! David sent some people to comfort him after the death of his father, and Nahash listened to troublemakers who said they were really there to spy out his land. In the end, he caused a war, which he lost badly. It’s terrible, the amount of destruction in the world caused by simple misunderstanding and making negative judgments about each other.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord, give me grace to listen! Let me not decide in advance that somebody means evil against me without asking them directly and listening to them willingly.

OCTOBER 7

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 22

Theme: David Charges Solomon

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 22:9

STATEMENT: The version of events in the Chronicles is shorter and quicker than the one in Kings. David has come already to his older years. Solomon is a young man and David has chosen him as next king. So, David collects stone, nails, and all kinds of supplies for the temple which Solomon will build. In this chapter, he gives fatherly advice and counsel to his son. Is there anything in this advice that you can adapt and use in your own life?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: High King of heaven, You are my Father, and I will follow Your counsel. Let me not be a person of violence either in word or deed, but live a blameless life that shows Your love to all I meet.

OCTOBER 8

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 23

Theme: Getting Ready for the Temple Project

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 23:25

STATEMENT: This chapter contains very interesting material about how David set up the tabernacle services. You can read names of many of the musicians, and you'll notice there were 4,000 of them! Now, these didn't all work at once; both priests and Levites took turns serving at the temple. But still, 4,000 people just for praising God with music. How many do you think there are in your local conference? Also, verse 5 says David made the instruments! We can assume he didn't make thousands of them, or even hundreds, so perhaps it means he designed them.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord of all music, remind us that music is meant for joy, for praise, for peace—also for lament. It can express all the emotions of the human heart, and can also influence those emotions strongly. Help me keep my influence going in a good and healthy direction.

OCTOBER 9

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 24

Theme: Divisions of Ministry

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 24:19

STATEMENT: Here are more faithful records of the details about how the services were set up and how the people were chosen for each ministry. It seems that once a person or a family was set apart for a certain ministry (which was led by the Holy Spirit) they made the decision about whose turn was next simply by drawing straws, or casting lots in some way. That's a good way to make a choice if the result doesn't matter one way or another. Then, knowing how important it is to keep good records, scribes wrote all these things down so there would be no confusion later.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: God of order, You love variety and spontaneity (I can tell by looking at Your creation) but all that is inside the bounds of general order. Help me to balance those things throughout my life.

OCTOBER 10

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 25

Theme: Music for God

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 25:6

STATEMENT: Knowing David, the psalmist and harp player, we can see why music was so important to him. Here are still more details about the musicians and their work. There are two interesting details. First, in verse 1, it speaks of "prophesying by music," something we've lost today. You can see another hint about that in 2 Kings 3:15. Secondly, though men are the ones mostly listed, verses 5 and 6 make clear that women were also musicians, "under direction" to sing in God's house.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear God, help me discover and develop the gifts You have given me to use for Your work.

OCTOBER 11

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 26

Theme: Gatekeepers

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 26:12, 13

STATEMENT: In chapter 23:5, we saw that besides the 4,000 musicians there were also 4,000 gatekeepers. This chapter shows how they were divided—according to verses 17 and 18, it seems there would be around 22 gatekeepers on duty at any one time. Their posts were also chosen by lot. If you read carefully, you will find interesting little tidbits scattered here and there, such as in verse 14, which says one of the gatekeepers was “a counselor with insight.” How many can you find, and which are your favorite?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Great Keeper of Your vineyard, I know that You have angelic guards and gatekeepers around us all the time. Help me to trust You more and more, whether or not it seems that I am always safe, knowing that You are always working out Your purposes, even when bad things happen.

OCTOBER 12

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 27

Theme: Ministers of All Other Divisions in the Country

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 27:32

STATEMENT: David was getting old, and he had learned a lot (mostly the hard way!) He saw that having things organized, from the army commanders right down to who took care of donkeys, camels, and land, would make life a lot better. As you read, which of these jobs do you think you would be most suited for? Does your church, your school, your family organize things this carefully? If not, how can you help?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord who gives wisdom and understanding, help me to be a help, not a hindrance, to the organizations around me. Help me to maintain a balance between keeping things organized and being creative and spontaneous. I know that being too rigid is just as bad as no organization at all.

OCTOBER 13

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 28

Theme: Setting the Plan in Motion

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 28:9, 10

STATEMENT: David and his team completed all the behind-the-scenes work and got everything organized. He even made a plan of the temple, following and enlarging on the original plan given to Moses. Then David made a public ceremony out of turning it all over to Solomon, even though he wasn't king yet. David's speeches, at verses 2-10 and 19-21, are some of the most beautiful in the Bible. You can take them to heart even though you are not a king's son. Write down your favorite verse or verses and keep them with you.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord who knows all hearts and minds, govern over mine. Help me to act in whatever ways you give me and to be strong and courageous.

OCTOBER 14

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 29

Theme: A Praise Gathering

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 29:10, 11

STATEMENT: David lists all the things he has collected for building the temple. Even though he was disappointed not to get to build it himself, as a father, it must have been almost better to set things up for his son to do it. He proclaimed a day of praise and worship, and of offerings and feasting. At the end of the chapter, it looks as though David goes ahead and sets Solomon on the throne before he dies. David's and Solomon's statistics are given, and thus ends the first book of the Chronicler.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord of my fathers and mothers, reading these old stories reminds me of Your works and guidance in the past. Let me follow You faithfully till the day I die.

OCTOBER 15

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 1

Theme: Solomon's Request

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 1:10

STATEMENT: Apparently, David had brought only the ark to Jerusalem, and left the tabernacle at the high place in Gibeon. The original bronze altar, carried through all the years in the wilderness, was there, and Solomon and his leaders went there to seek God's blessing on the new king. You know the story: God asked Solomon what he wanted and Solomon asked only for wisdom. In response, God promised riches and long life as well. What would you like wisdom for? Below is part of Solomon's prayer, with blanks for you to personalize it.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Now, O Lord God, Your promise to _____ is fulfilled; for You have _____. Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may _____; for who can _____?

OCTOBER 16

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 2

Theme: Beginning the Work

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 2:6

STATEMENT: Solomon begins the great task of his life, though he shows immediately that he knows God can't live in any building. He sends to the king of Tyre for artisans and for lumber, and you'll notice in verse 12 that this "pagan" king recognizes the power of God. Solomon bargains for what he will pay. But at the end, he begins to go astray. He counts all resident aliens and forces them to work whether they want to or not. How much more of a blessing might this project have been to the people if he had invited all to work as God led their hearts, the way Moses did?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Master Builder, You are creating something beautiful of my life, whether I can see it yet or not. Help me cooperate and never resist.

OCTOBER 17

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 3

Theme: Temple Specifications

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 3:1

STATEMENT: The chronicler wants to record all the details of the specifications of God's house, too, for future generations. I wonder if he had any idea we would be reading them, translated into many different languages, thousands of years later? It's a reminder that the things we choose and say and do may live on long after we do. You can find pictures of artists' best ideas of what Solomon's temple looked like, either online or in books.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Mighty God, You are far beyond our ability to comprehend, and You certainly don't dwell in houses, especially not ones made by human hands! Yet You choose to honor these places for our sake, and we are grateful.

OCTOBER 18

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 4

Theme: The Furnishings

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 4:1

STATEMENT: It's staggering to think of the massive amounts of gold and bronze that went into this building and its furnishings. Only leaders, such as Hiram or Solomon himself, are named, but hundreds of people worked on this huge project, and it would be still standing today if it weren't for warfare. The chronicler kept complete records and passed them down to us.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Maker of the earth and all its precious things, You must feel the way a mother does when her small child makes something for her. We do our best, and we make (by Your grace) some beautiful things, but they don't come close to measuring up to Your glory!

OCTOBER 19

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 5

Theme: Giving it to God

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 5:13b-14

STATEMENT: At last, and just in time for the great Feast of the Day of Atonement, the temple and all its furnishings are complete. Solomon calls another great assembly, and the Levites bring the ark from the tent David made for it, as well as the holy implements that were still with it, though most had been made new. Reread verses 11-14 to get a picture of what worship was like in those days. Noisy, that's for sure! How did God show what His opinion of all their work was?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: God of glory, You are present around and in me always, but only rarely do You show it by some great power like this cloud of Shekinah glory. I treasure the times when I can sense Your presence more than usual, but I trust Your presence all the time.

OCTOBER 20

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 6

Theme: Solomon's Prayer

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 6:21

STATEMENT: It is perhaps in this chapter more than any other that the amazing richness of wisdom that God granted Solomon is on display. Most people of his time think that there are many gods, and that they do dwell in the temples made by their followers. Solomon not only knows better, he sets out to be sure as many people as possible know better. To this high and holy God, far too big to dwell anywhere on earth, he addresses a prayer that is so far-reaching in its subject matter that it is still all-encompassing today. It would be a wonderful blessing for you to learn the entire prayer, or at least those parts which bless you most.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: O YAHWEH, the God of Israel [and of the entire cosmos], there is no god like You in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart. Bless us today and always.

OCTOBER 21

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 7

Theme: God's Response

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 7:3

STATEMENT: Again, the Shekinah glory fills the temple. This time, it burns up all the sacrifices, too. All the people present are reminded, as their forebears were at Sinai, how great God is, and fall before Him in worship. Then God responds, in detail, to all the things Solomon asks. And He warns again, these promises are conditional on obedience. David's kingdom will not last if the kings do not follow God.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear Lord, Your glory is too great for me to bear, but Your incredible love in bowing down to our level fills my heart with love for You in return. I know that Jesus, spiritually speaking, fulfilled the promise of a Davidic kingdom that will last forever, and I choose to be part of it.

OCTOBER 22

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 8

Theme: All is Done

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 8:16

STATEMENT: We now begin to read (again) of the accomplishments of Solomon. And we see his weaknesses creeping in, too—a wife who is the daughter of Pharaoh, with whom God's people are not supposed to ally themselves, and more forced labor. These things will cause harm to the kingdom over time. But he is still seeking to obey; for instance, moving his wife out of places where the ark has been. He is also honoring his alliance with Tyre.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear God, thank You so much for Your patience with us! We all have crooked places in our souls. I know I do. I ask You to take over, heal, and straighten those places.

OCTOBER 23

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 9

Theme: Queen of Sheba Visits

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 9:8

STATEMENT: When visitors came to Solomon's court—and they did come, from all over the known world—they always went home with new awe and respect for Solomon and his wisdom in ruling his people. But they also went with something far more important: at least a little knowledge of the one true God. Sheba's queen seems to have accepted this whole-heartedly, as we can hope many others did, too. To this day, in northern Africa, people claim to be descended, not necessarily physically, but spiritually, from this faithful queen.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Father of the world and all peoples, may those who come near me learn a little, every time, about You. It doesn't always have to be in words—give me both actions and words that will lift You up.

OCTOBER 24

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 10

Theme: Consequences

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 10:19

STATEMENT: Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became king when Solomon died. Instead of following his father's best works, he followed his worst. Solomon had cause a lot of forced labor, and also heavy taxes. The older leaders pointed out to him that if he lightened the people's burdens, they would be faithful to him, but he listened to violent young men instead. The ten northern tribes promptly rebelled, and from that day on, Israel was divided into two kingdoms: Judah in the south, and Israel in the north. It was not God's plan!

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord, I've seen this sort of thing in smaller ways, among families or churches, where people side with each other against other factions. Please help me to be a peacemaker.

OCTOBER 25

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 11

Theme: The Division Grows Stronger

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 11:4

STATEMENT: Not content with merely holding a separate kingdom from David's line, Jeroboam even kicks out all the priests and Levites and sets up his own. It's just as well, since no godly priest would ever consent to holding services over calf idols and even more wicked things. Rehoboam plans to go to war and get the northern kingdom back, but at least he does listen when God says not to war against his own relatives. These are all Jacob's descendants, remember.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: O Lord, how can You bear with us? Please show me ways to build bridges, to bring people back together and back to You rather than growing farther apart.

OCTOBER 26

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 12

Theme: Rehoboam Listens!

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 12:6

STATEMENT: How wonderful to read a rare story in which the people actually listen to God, humble themselves, and make a new choice! You'll notice God did not let them entirely off the hook. What is the reason, in verse 8, that He gives for still allowing them some trouble? What do you think they learned from the experience?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Holy One, sometimes people actually learn their lesson and turn back to You! Help me to stay turned to You, so I don't have to learn the hard way.

OCTOBER 27

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 13

Theme: Abijah's Strength...and Weakness

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 13:12

STATEMENT: Abijah stood for God in some important ways, and God stood for him in return, and helped him to win against the northern kingdom, though God would have been much happier and the people more blessed if they had listened to what Abijah said in verse 12. But Abijah also fell to the common weakness of the time: considering women as property. He took 14 women to be his “wives”—(only the first was his wife in God’s eyes)—and this displeased the Lord.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Faithful God, You gave us marriage to be like a picture for us of the unity and love within Your Trinity. Of all the gifts You give us, this is one of the most misused! Please help me to find the mate You choose for me, or to be content with just You and me.

OCTOBER 28

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 14

Theme: Another Good King

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 14:11

STATEMENT: Asa went further than his father had done in following God. He removed all the pagan altars and high places and restored proper worship of the one true God. Because of it, he had peace for most of his long reign. God routed those who came against him.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Father, You are the only God, and You are God of my heart and my life.

OCTOBER 29

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 15

Theme: Asa's Continued Faithfulness

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 15:2

STATEMENT: God sent Asa encouragement through the prophet, and we can take it to our hearts, too. God is still with those who are with Him. Asa took down more high places and altars to false gods in surrounding areas and removed the queen mother from her position because she was an idolater. Notice in verse 9 that others from some of the northern tribes came to him, too, because they didn't like their wicked king. Some of the temple treasures had been stolen, and Asa brought some of his own and his father's treasures to the temple.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear God, there is not much treasure in me, but what there is, You can have. I know that You consider me such a treasure that You were willing to die for me!

OCTOBER 30

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 16

Theme: Asa Falters

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 16:9

STATEMENT: Everyone makes mistakes. Asa's was turning to the king of Aram and not only making a treaty with him, but giving him some of the temple treasures to seal it. What he did was not worse than what David did, and God responded the same way—sending him a prophet to rebuke him. And here is the difference: David listened and repented. Asa imprisoned the prophet. Apparently, he still repented and God forgave him, because 2 Chronicles 15:17 says his heart was "blameless all his days," and you can't say that unless a person is forgiven and cleansed.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord, I know You forgive and cleanse of all unrighteousness all those who confess and turn to You. I am so grateful!

OCTOBER 31

Chapter: 2 Chronicles 17

Theme: Teaching the People

Study Verse: 2 Chronicles 17:3, 4

STATEMENT: Jehoshaphat also followed God, as his fathers had done, removing more pagan altars, instituting and encouraging correct worship. But he did something even more important, that no king, so far as we know, did before or after him. Read verses 7 through 9. What did Jehoshaphat do that the other kings did not do? What effect do you think this had on his country?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: O, Teacher of the world, today we have Christian schools which teach Your ways and Your laws. I am so grateful for them! And even if I can't go to one, I am grateful for all the ways I can learn of You.

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2020



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