

Believe *His* Prophets

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

SEPTEMBER

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



SEPTEMBER 1

Chapter: 2 Kings 11

Theme: God's Hidden Child King

Study Verse: 2 Kings 11:17

STATEMENT: Down in Judah, wicked Queen Mother Athaliah completed the destruction of her own family so that she could rule. But in the midst of all this calamity, God still had a plan. Jehosheba, a faithful woman, stole baby Joash and his nurse, and hid them in the house of God with the high priest, Jehoiada. For seven years, they raised the little boy to be faithful and God-following. Then (getting lots of soldiers ready because they knew the "queen" would fight it), they made Joash king in his dead father's place. The priest made a covenant between the people and God, and they destroyed the Baals and all their altars.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: O Ruler of the heavens and earth, You always have Your faithful ones watching over Your people and Your ways. Help me to be one of those faithful ones.

SEPTEMBER 2

Chapter: 2 Kings 12

Theme: Repairing God's House

Study Verse: 2 Kings 12:2

STATEMENT: Joash was not only a wise and faithful king, he also set about repairing the damage to the temple. At first, the priests collected the money but still didn't fix the temple. Then the high priest put up an offering chest where people could bring their offerings (above and beyond tithes and sin offerings, which were for the priests). They used all this money to hire workers to mend the temple. Notice verses 15 and 16: they didn't even have to keep an accounting because the workers were so faithful. If only that were true more often!

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: My Lord, help me to find ways that I can give above and beyond my normal tithes and offerings for Your house, either for its physical needs or for spiritual needs of Your kingdom.

SEPTEMBER 3

Chapter: 2 Kings 13

Theme: God's Mercy

Study Verse: 2 Kings 13:23

STATEMENT: During Joash's long reign in Judah, two more evil kings ruled over Israel in the north, one of which had the same name—Joash, or sometimes Jehoash. The people would occasionally beg for mercy and God would grant it (see v. 5), but they still clung stubbornly to their unfaithfulness (v. 6). Then Elisha, now growing very old, died, but first Joash of Israel visited him and was given a prophecy of his victory over the forces of the Arameans. There is also a curious little story, mentioned nowhere else in the Bible, in verses 20-21. What do you think of this?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear Father, make me faithful, and never rebellious. Help me to gain victory over my sins and oppressions as the kings of old who came to You gained victory over their enemies.

SEPTEMBER 4

Chapter: 2 Kings 14

Theme: Amaziah—Good Start, Bad End

Study Verse: 2 Kings 14:3

STATEMENT: Amaziah, son of Joash of Judah, started his reign well. Not only did he (mostly) follow God, he even went against the bloody custom of killing the entire family of someone who had done wrong. Notice v. 6: it means Amaziah had at least some familiarity with God's law, which certainly is not true of many of these kings! But then, because he vanquished Edom, he incited war against Israel. Even though they were now two separate kingdoms, this was like a civil war. He spent most of the rest of his life in captivity.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: O Father of us all, help us to remember that all people are sisters and brothers, no matter what country or race or religion or belief system divides us.

SEPTEMBER 5

Chapter: 2 Kings 15

Theme: A Series of Kings

Study Verse: 2 Kings 15:3, 34

STATEMENT: Notice the first verses of each of the sections in this chapter. The kings in Judah last longer, no doubt because they “did right in the sight of the Lord” (though they still didn’t take down the pagan high places). Meanwhile, king follows king in Israel, as they fight and squabble and conspire against each other, or even ally with enemies as in v. 19. Notice who that enemy is: Assyria. Israel’s cup of wickedness is getting full. Eventually, God will allow them to fall to Assyria and cease to exist as a country. How do you think God feels about this? (For a hint, see Ezekiel 18:31.)

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Merciful God, You have patience with us, century after century. But eventually, You have to give up and let us have what we really want. I really want YOU!

SEPTEMBER 6

Chapter: 2 Kings 16

Theme: An Especially Wicked King

Study Verse: 2 Kings 16:8

STATEMENT: King Ahaz turned completely away from the better kings who had reigned in Judah before him. Not only did he rebel and worship idols, he did that most abominable thing and sacrificed his own child to one of them! Israel and Aram allied together and tried to overthrow him, but he sent gifts out of God’s house to the king of Assyria to come and help him. Then he built his own altar and took the one out of God’s house to put beside his, on which he made his own sacrifices, and “inquired.” Not of God, that’s for sure!

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: O Lord, how do You stand it? When people do evil it’s bad enough, but when they do it in Your name and with Your sanctified things, that’s worse! I don’t ever want to be like that!

SEPTEMBER 7

Chapter: 2 Kings 17

Theme: The End for Israel

Study Verse: 2 Kings 17:13, 14

STATEMENT: The answer to our prayer in the last reading is: God eventually does not stand it anymore. It caused Him great sorrow to let go of His children, but this chapter tells a summary of the long, long story of the northern kingdom's complete and unrepentant rebellion. It had gone on for centuries, and finally God gave them over to the cruelty of Assyria. Individuals could and did still turn to God—no doubt there were thousands of faithful, just as in Elijah's time, and God still loved and cared for them. But Israel was no more. And Judah wasn't much better...

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: My God, how heartbroken You must be when You have tried and tried, spoken through prophets and providence and miracles... and Your people will not listen. I know the day is coming when this will be true for the whole human race. Today and every day, I choose YOU!

SEPTEMBER 8

Chapter: 2 Kings 18

Theme: Hezekiah's Faithfulness, Part 1

Study Verse: 2 Kings 18:7, 8

STATEMENT: Here begins one of the best stories in the whole Bible. First, by some miracle, Hezekiah is nothing like his evil father, but chooses to follow God. He turns against Assyria, even though he knows it will bring anger and threats on him. And it does. At first, Hezekiah weakens. He even gives the Assyrian king the gold from God's temple doors. But then his faith returns. He tells Sennacharib that he trusts in God, and he tells his people they will be worshiping the Lord in their own temple. His eyes don't give him any evidence for this faith. In fact, things get worse. To be continued...

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Master of the universe, You are the only one really in charge. You give us free will, and we abuse it and each other, but in the end, You can take one faithful person and turn everything around. Let me trust You even when everything is falling around my ears.

SEPTEMBER 9

Chapter: 2 Kings 19

Theme: Hezekiah's Faithfulness, Part 2

Study Verse: 2 Kings 19:15

STATEMENT: Hezekiah was terrified, but he did the smartest thing he could have done—he went straight to God. He laid the king's blasphemous letter before God and prayed a beautiful prayer. It would be a blessing if you learn the whole thing, from verse 14 through 19. God sent a message through Isaiah the prophet, and Hezekiah's and his people's faith was vindicated. Whenever you are facing a spiritual threat like this, even if it's not people, but darkness and fear, you can reread this story and follow the same steps Hezekiah did. God will be faithful for you, too.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Mighty Lord, You came through! What a different story the Old Testament would be, not to mention the whole history of the world, if all kings had been like this. Even when we make mistakes, we can turn back to You and You will make things right.

SEPTEMBER 10

Chapter: 2 Kings 20

Theme: Hezekiah Falters

Study Verse: 2 Kings 20:3

STATEMENT: Remember that Hezekiah came from a very wicked father. His strength to do right sometimes faltered. In this chapter, he gets sick and is told he will die. He cries out to God to save him, and God says yes! But then, Hezekiah foolishly shows off his (and God's) treasures to the king of Babylon. He has no way of knowing Babylon will be the next great world power after Assyria, but he should have had more sense than to boast to any other king. God, recognizing Hezekiah's weakness, tells him the calamitous results will not come in his lifetime, but they will come.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear Father, You are so wise and patient. I know I make a lot of foolish mistakes, too. Help me to listen humbly to those You send to show me when I am wrong, and help me to change and grow wiser.

SEPTEMBER 11

Chapter: 2 Kings 21

Theme: “If Only!”

Study Verse: 2 Kings 21:8

STATEMENT: Hezekiah’s son and grandson went back to the wickedness of the earlier kings. Manasseh sacrificed his child just as Ahaz had done. He rebuilt all the pagan altars, and even put some right inside the temple. God warned him through prophets, but he didn’t listen, nor did his son, Amon. They exemplified wickedness. Then, once again, a bright flower bloomed in ugliness and mud. Another child king came to rule, and everything was about to change.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear Lord, You are righteous in Your judgments, and have the right to allow all the disasters that come on those who blindly and determinedly follow the devil and his hatred instead of You and Your love. I hope You bring and end to it all, soon.

SEPTEMBER 12

Chapter: 2 Kings 22

Theme: Boy King Josiah

Study Verse: 2 Kings 22:2

STATEMENT: If you look back, you’ll see that in nearly all cases of good kings, the record says they followed God, “...but...” not quite. They let the high places remain. Or they didn’t destroy all the altars. Not Josiah. Look again at verse 2: “He walked in all the way...and did not turn to the right or to the left.” And Josiah didn’t even know the whole truth about God! He did all he knew, and when they found the Book of the Law, and he realized how far astray the people had gone, he tore his clothes in grief and sent for the prophet Huldah. God reassures him in beautiful words in verses 18 and 19, but you’ll notice God does not say the destruction will not come. It’s too late, and the people are still not repentant.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: O God, if that eight-year-old boy, raised in an environment of evil, could turn around like that, then I can, too!

SEPTEMBER 13

Chapter: 2 Kings 23

Theme: The Best King of All

Study Verse: 2 Kings 23:25

STATEMENT: Josiah knew, because the prophet Huldah told him, that the land was still head-
ed for destruction. But he decided that while
he was king, God’s way would be followed. He
didn’t just decree it, as some had before him. He
read the Book itself to all the people, and with
them, made a new covenant. He made a thor-
ough and complete clean-out of the house of
God. They even kept Passover, which had been
done in years and years! No other king, not even
David and Solomon, were as single-hearted in
their devotion to God. We can hope lots of peo-
ple were saved during his reign. But as soon as
he died, most people reverted right back to their
idolatry and rebellion. And God had had enough.

RESPONSE: _____

Prayer: Dear God, You must have been so glad
to see this young king fulfill the dream You had
always had for the land of Israel. His reign gives
us just a little picture of what the history of that
nation should have been like. I can’t wait to
meet Josiah in heaven!

SEPTEMBER 14

Chapter: 2 Kings 24

Theme: God’s Patience Runs Out

Study Verse: 2 Kings 24:14

STATEMENT: In our Bible, the story is not in
chronological order, but at this time, Jeremiah
has been pleading with the people for years to
turn back, and they haven’t. His prophecies have
changed. “Don’t bother asking for deliverance;
pray for the peace of Babylon, because you’ll be
there 70 years” (Jer. 29:5-14). And so it begins.
Egypt has already taken the kings captive, but
Babylon takes Egypt over, and takes over Judah,
too. The kings are only puppet kings. But God
still has plans (as you can see if you read the
Jeremiah passage). And somewhere in that train
of captives bound for Babylon are a young man
named Daniel and his three friends.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Holy One, eventually You must put
Your foot down and stand up for Your honor. But
in the midst of the darkest disaster, You still love,
and You still have plans for peace. I love You!

SEPTEMBER 15

Chapter: 2 Kings 25

Theme: Exile

Study Verse: 2 Kings 25:21

STATEMENT: The books of the kings end with a sorry tale. Nearly all the kings of both Judah and Israel have done evil. A handful have done well, and a very few have been truly righteous. The people, easily led, have followed not only the direction of whatever king they have, but also the temptations of any country around them. A minority has always been faithful, but they suffer along with the rest, except that they have their faith and trust and God is with them—and that is everything! Some of those are among the poor left in the land now, as it has its rest. Some of them are highly placed, and they are led away to Babylon. They are probably frightened, but they trust. And God never lets them down.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: God, no matter what, no matter where, I will trust You. No matter what is happening in my country and in the world, I will trust You. I may be afraid, and I know the times are getting dark, but I know that just means Your coming is getting close. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

SEPTEMBER 16

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 1

Theme: One Family

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 1:1-3

STATEMENT: The genealogy chapters are not very interesting on their own. But if you read them attentively, you learn some things that are interesting. The lesson in this chapter is that all these tribes and nations we've been reading about for months, which have been allying and fighting and making war on each other and leading each other astray from God (for the most part) ... they are all one family! We all came from Adam, and more recently than that, we all came from Noah. If you look through this chapter, you'll find names of many of the "enemy" peoples who caused each other the most pain. How sad is that?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Father of us all, You look with sorrow on the trouble we cause each other. Help me to remember all humans are Your children and my brothers and sisters, and to treat them accordingly.

SEPTEMBER 17

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 2

Theme: More Records

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 2:1, 2

STATEMENT: The chronicler continues with genealogy and other records, in part to show the history of certain regions and cities. Again, there are interesting details. Take a look at verse 7, for instance. How would you like your legacy, the whole thing that was remembered about you, to be that you were “the troubler of Israel”? We may not get our names in records known to most of the world like these people, but God knows and keeps a record of us and our doings. Let us pray that our records are positive ones.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear God, remember me for good. Wipe out the memory of my sins and mistakes, and hide my records in the records of Your Son.

SEPTEMBER 18

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 3

Theme: David’s and Solomon’s Lines

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 3:9

STATEMENT: The first paragraph of this chapter is rather sad; almost every one of David’s sons has a different mother. You can see his weakness, and you can also see how it continues through his descendants. Since Solomon had 300 wives and 700 concubines, the recorder doesn’t even bother listing all his sons and their mothers. He just goes down the lineage from firstborn son to firstborn son. Again, it’s a reminder to us that our records are complete in the courts of heaven. And just think—even David’s sins have been blotted out because of his repentance and faith in God. Ours can be, too.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear Lord, I will try to raise my children, if I have any, to love and serve You first, last, and always.

SEPTEMBER 19

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 4

Theme: The Prayer of Jabez

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 4:10

STATEMENT: Here are more records, and more stories creeping in. In particular is a beautiful one that has become popular today: the story of the prayer of Jabez. His name means “he makes sorrowful,” so he didn’t exactly get the most promising start. But he chose honor despite what he was surrounded with, and he called on the God of Israel to help him. “Enlarge my borders” might mean a request for more land, but it can also be a request to broaden one’s spirit. What do you need God to stretch out for you?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: “Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!” (And that I might not pain others, either!)

SEPTEMBER 20

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 5

Theme: Turn and Turn About

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 5:20

STATEMENT: As the chronicler (or, more likely, generations of them) continues to keep the records, more stories begin to be interspersed among simple genealogies. There’s an interesting one at the end of this chapter. God helps Manasseh and Reuben fight against some unfaithful pagans, but then, the heads of households in their new land become unfaithful pagans themselves, and the story is turned around. God is displeased with unfaithfulness and rebellion, no matter who does it!

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Faithful God, Your eye is on the heart, not the bloodline. Just because my parents or grandparents may be faithful Christians does not mean I can skate into Your kingdom on their coattails. I must be a faithful follower myself. And I mean to be one.

SEPTEMBER 21

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 6

Theme: The Priestly Line

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 6:31

STATEMENT: These records contain spots that let us know where we are in time: vs. 10 and 15 for instance. They also show a fascinating window (a tiny one) into what it meant to minister for God, besides making sacrifices or taking care of the temple. Notice vs. 31 and 32: ministry meant music. In the Old Testament, that's all it seems to have been: sacrifices and music. There were rarely sermons. Also, if you read vs. 33 and 34 you'll find names of singers who became famous. Can you find which psalms some of these singers write?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord of song, both in human voice and in instrument, not to mention birds, wind, and waves, put a song for You always in my heart.

SEPTEMBER 22

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 7

Theme: The Records Continue

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 7:24

STATEMENT: It's something of a minor miracle that still, after all these thousands of years, we have these complete records of the early tribal genealogies. They are made interesting by the interspersed stories. In this chapter, the best bits are between vs. 20 and 26. Notice especially the unusual report of a woman who built towns, one of which was even named for her.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear God, You value all Your children equally: young, old, male female, any race, any time, any level of ability or intelligence. Help me to make my own mark on the world, in Your name.

SEPTEMBER 23

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 8

Theme: More Records

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 8:34

STATEMENT: Here is the lineage of Benjamin, with particular attention given to the lineage of Saul, who was a Benjamite and became Israel's first king. If only he had followed God, perhaps Benjamin would now be the famous tribe, instead of Judah. Note in verse 34 that Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, from 2 Samuel 4:4, apparently had another name, too: Merib-baal.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord, no matter how small and insignificant a tribe I am from, I can be important to You and to Your work in the world by being faithful to whatever small tasks You give me.

SEPTEMBER 24

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 9

Theme: Israel's Beginnings in the Promised Land

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 9:33

STATEMENT: This chapter contains yet more records, but with a different slant. These records tell of the first Israelites to settle in their new land. More interestingly, it tells more detail about the life of the Levites who were priests and what we would call deacons, in the verses from 14 to 34. Pay particular attention to verse 33, because it tells us how important music is to God. The musicians had no other duties than to create and share music in praise of God. Do you have musical gifts? How do you use it for God?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Great Singer of worlds, Your word and breath is life itself. In a way, music reflects that. It gets into our hearts and spirits like nothing else can. Whether I think I can sing or not, help me to praise You constantly in word and deed.

SEPTEMBER 25

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 10

Theme: The Death of Saul and his Sons

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 10:11-12

STATEMENT: As you read, you will realize that the Chronicles are another set of records, just like the Kings. They were kept by different people, and so have slightly different details in some places. By comparing them, we learn more about the stories than we otherwise would. This chapter recounts the story of King Saul's death, repeating that he died and his kingdom ended because of his unfaithfulness. The people of Jabesh-Gilead give us a beautiful picture of honoring the fallen even though they are fallen in more ways than one.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Holy One, You love us all, and You loved and mourned Saul, sad that he turned from You and wouldn't turn back. Help me to honor the soul You love even in people who are not followers of You.

SEPTEMBER 26

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 11

Theme: David Made King

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 11:1

STATEMENT: As we read many of the same stories over again, keep your eyes open for new insights. The first verse of this chapter is heart-warming—the people want David for their king not because of his exploits or power, but because they feel one with him. There is another good story in verses 15-19. His men risk their lives to bring him water, and he is so grateful that he offers it to God instead of drinking it.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Lord, these are the stories that remind me why David was so near to Your heart. Help me to be that connected and loving.

SEPTEMBER 27

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 12

Theme: Some Volunteers for David

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 12:18

STATEMENT: As the word spread that David was going to be king of the whole land now, uniting all the tribes who had had their own judges and done whatever they wanted, volunteers came to join him. Tellingly, they came from more than his own tribe. He made it clear that if they came in peace, they were welcome. Notice, not just the words Amasai spoke, but the source of those words. Why did he speak as he did?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Father, when I am drawn to a cause, show me through Your Spirit whether You are willing for me to join that cause. If You aren't, I won't.

SEPTEMBER 28

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 13

Theme: Bringing Home the Ark

Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 13:3, 4

STATEMENT: As David is moved to do certain things, notice that his people are united with him. They all knew it was the right thing to bring back the ark, to which no attention had been paid throughout the reign of Saul. Unfortunately, Uzzah thought God needed his help to keep the ark safe. God gives us work to do with Him and is happy when we do it, but He does not need our help, especially not to do something that He has always commanded not to do, like touch His holy ark.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Dear God, one of the things people keep getting in trouble for is trying to “help” You do what is Yours alone (Abraham thought You needed help to get him an heir, and look where that led!) Help me to clearly see the difference between working beside You and with You, and trying to take over Your place.

SEPTEMBER 29

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 14
Theme: Victory over the Philistines
Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 14:12

STATEMENT: This is an interesting lesson in the fact that God gives victory in different ways at different times. David asked God both times; he didn't just assume the answer was the same the second time. And God's answer, though leading to victory both times, was different. Possibly one of the most important moments in this chapter comes in verse 12. It just shows how a good leader can turn his people's eyes toward the Lord and make them realize He is the only God.

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: One and only God, I will follow You only, all my days. Remind me to ask You for guidance every time I start something, and to pay attention to the answer.

SEPTEMBER 30

Chapter: 1 Chronicles 15
Theme: David Learns His Lesson
Study Verse: 1 Chronicles 15:22

STATEMENT: David recognized what he had done wrong when he moved the ark before. This time he got Levites only to carry it, and instructed them to be purified. He dedicated singers and gatekeepers, and all the offices to praise God and honor His ark. He didn't have a temple yet, though he wanted to build one, but he prepared a tent, such as the ark had lived in throughout the wandering in the wilderness. Then he jumped and danced and got so excited about the ark coming home that he got in trouble for it. Has that ever happened to you?

RESPONSE: _____

PRAYER: Most high God, I leap and dance and am filled with joy and praise before You.