

3.3

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 3 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS

MORNING WATCH FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

APRIL 2020



April 1

Day | 1

Chapter: Psalm 59

Theme: Strength versus Strength

Study Verse: Psalm 59:9

Statement: Again, this is a psalm written when David was in danger from Saul. It has an interesting insight for us. Notice that our study verse says, “because of his strength.” David sees that his enemy is strong. That very fact, instead of making him more frightened, leads David to turn to God. Compare the final stanza, in verses 16 and 17. Whose strength is David singing of here?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, often my enemies (usually temptations and trials, but sometimes people) are strong and frightening. Help me to remember that You are stronger!*

April 2

Chapter: Psalm 60

Theme: Can Loss Become Victory?

Study Verse: Psalm 60:12

Statement: And sometimes, those strong enemies win—for a while. David is lamenting a battle loss, and you and I have lamented loss of spiritual battles, besides times when earthly circumstances were against us. What is his remedy? What promise does he cling to at the end of his song?

Response: _____

Prayer: *My God, I cling to You, only to You. You are the only one who can tread down my adversaries.*

April 3

Day | 3

Chapter: Psalm 61

Theme: God as Rock and Shelter

Study Verse: Psalm 61:4

Statement: When you need someone bigger than yourself to make you feel safe and protected, there may be people around who help, but God is *always* there and *always* much bigger than any problems you may have. You can always pray this psalm, remembering to use “she” if you are a girl. The psalms are for you.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, You make me feel safe and protected. Let me live before You, praising Your name, forever.*

April 4

Day | 4

Chapter: Psalm 62

Theme: Waiting Patiently on God

Study Verse: Psalm 62:1, 2

Statement: This song has a repeating refrain. What slight differences do you see between the repeats? Does one fit into your life right now better than the other? Between the refrains are verses telling about sinful people. Do they apply to your life? How does reading this psalm make you feel?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Creator and Protector, You are watching. You see the cruelty and injustice. I will wait patiently for You, and watch to see what actions You want me to take to begin the change.*

April 5

Day | 5

Chapter: Psalm 63

Theme: Thirsty for God

Study Verse: Psalm 63:6, 7

Statement: David wrote this in the wilderness, likely when he was physically thirsty. He was in the habit (which you can make, too) of seeing God in every circumstance of his life. When his body was thirsty, it reminded him how thirsty his soul was for the Holy Spirit. He thought about his nightly prayers in bed, waiting to fall asleep. In your life today, watch for things that remind you of God.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Holy Spirit, I know You are always with me. Be in me, too, and keep my eyes open, watching for signs of Your presence and care.*

April 6

Day | 6

Chapter: Psalm 64

Theme: Deceit Turns on the Deceiver

Study Verse: Psalm 64:10

Statement: When people devise plots they think are clever, to hurt others or raise themselves in their own and others' eyes, it may seem to work for a while. But sooner or later, they will reap what they sow. When the righteous see the turnaround, they rejoice in the truth, but not in the sinners' downfall. They see this as a moment of vulnerability when perhaps the deceiver may be reached for God.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, it's hard, especially if I am the target of lies and schemes, but help me to look beyond and see the person You created and want to be loving and happy. Help me help them, if I can.*

April 7

Day | 7

Chapter: Psalm 65

Theme: The Creator and His Creation

Study Verse: Psalm 65:8

Statement: It is hard to choose one verse from this beautiful psalm. It makes a picture of God looking over His abundant earth, caring for every plant and creature, rejoicing in the care given the earth by His children, the human caregivers. You could set it to music or try to paint a picture of it. Or, just read it outside, rejoicing in all God has made.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Creator, You made this earth so beautiful that its beauty still shows, even after thousands of years of bad treatment and neglect. Help me to care for creation as You do.*

April 8

Day | 8

Chapter: Psalm 66

Theme: God's Care for Israel

Study Verse: Psalm 66:20

Statement: This psalm continues where the last left off, in a way. It still praises God for creation and watchcare. But then it goes into an overview of Israel's history. We've all experienced the oppression that comes from sin and rebellion, too; perhaps in smaller ways, or perhaps not. Perhaps you and those near you are in troublous times right now. Is God still with you? How can you tell?

Response:

Prayer: *Keeper of Israel and of Your people today, You see what is going on in this sinful world. Millions are refugees, millions are in slavery of one form or another. I believe in Your deliverance, and in the meantime, I trust You and work for Your people and Your world.*

April 9

Day | 9

Chapter: Psalm 67

Theme: A Doxology

Study Verse: Psalm 67:1

Statement: This little song, whose author we don't know, is clearly meant to be a praise song for worship. Its first reference is to the ancient blessing that God gave directly to Moses and Aaron in Numbers 6:24-27. Then, lest anyone think this is only Israel's God, the song exhorts all peoples and all nations to bless and be blessed by God, who cares for us and makes the earth to produce its bounties for us. As the earth grows old and weary and we come nearer to the Second Coming, God will still provide.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, there are people starving on this planet, even though the earth You made still provides enough for all. Help me to do my bit to create greater justice and feed those who need it, and to trust You in the meantime.*

2020 MORNING WATCH for Youth and Young Adults: April

A Chapter a Day Bible Reading Plan with **daily** chapter summary

THIS PLAN WILL TAKE YOU THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN 3 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS

April 10

Day | 10

Chapter: Psalm 68

Theme: The God of Sinai is for the Weak and Helpless

Study Verse: Psalm 68:5, 6

Statement: This long psalm reminds us of Sinai, when God thundered forth His law of love. It reminds us that we are not keeping that law, but that a few are hoarding what God made for all. This psalm does not call God “of Abraham and Isaac,” but “a father for the fatherless and a judge for widows.” How can you help God in his work of restorative justice?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Great Lawgiver, we like so much to make list of rules and rituals and call it keeping Your law. We forget that Your law is **all about love**. It is about loving you above all and loving all those You love. Help me do that!*

Chapter: Psalm 69

Theme: A Song of Anguish and Despair

Study Verse: Psalm 69:6

Statement: This is one of the most heartbreaking of David's psalms. His despair is so deep he feels there is no hope. We can see both betrayal by enemies (vs. 4, 22-28) and sorrow for his own sin (vs. 5-8, 18, 19). There are also messianic references, such as in verses 21 and 26. Still, despite everything, David reassures himself (and us) with a praise song at the end, from 29-36. He may *feel* there is no hope, but he *knows* God is hope.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord God, You are my hope and my salvation. When others harm me, or when I harm myself or others by wrongdoing, I still turn to You. Redeem me because of Your great mercy.*

April 12

Day | 12

Chapter: Psalm 70

Theme: Prayer for Help

Study Verse: Psalm 70:4

Statement: We must be sure to make many prayers of thanks and blessing, because it's clear that humans are constantly praying for help! It's okay, because God knows we are weak and need Him a lot, but we also need to remember to thank Him! Have you thanked God today?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Jesus, thank You. Just thank You. That's all I can say.*

April 13

Day | 13

Chapter: Psalm 71

Theme: God of Our Whole Life

Study Verse: Psalm 71:17, 18

Statement: This is not labeled as being by David, but it sounds like him, doesn't it? Anyway, like all psalms, it applies to all of us. When you read 17, you can think of your life now. How has God taught you during your childhood and youth? When you read 18, you can't really imagine what it will be like when you are old and gray, but you can determine to stick with God until then!

Response: _____

Prayer: *O God, from this day until the last day of my life on this earth, I am Yours.*

April 14

Day | 14

Chapter: Psalm 72

Theme: Prayer of a Righteous King

Study Verse: Psalm 72:6, 7

Statement: This is a prayer of both David and Solomon for Solomon to have wisdom to rule in a way that brings peace and prosperity to his people and to care for the needy and vulnerable (vs 4, 12, 13). At the end, it says this is the end of David's prayers. Some scholars think David prayed this for Solomon and then Solomon wrote it down and made it his own. There are more of David's psalms, but we are at the end of the main collection. What can you do for the poor and needy?

Response: _____

Prayer: *King of heaven, be king of my life. In the small things I have responsibility for, help me to be like a righteous king or queen, watching out for those weaker and needier than I am, in any way.*

April 15

Day | 15

Chapter: Psalm 73

Theme: A Story of Faith

Study Verse: Psalm 73:26

Statement: We have now come to a songbook of Asaph songs, meaning ones written by the great song leader and also by his descendants. This one tells the story of the writer almost losing his faith because it seems the wicked are better off than the righteous. Doubts and questions are one thing, but this writer confesses that he let them take him all the way to bitterness. Then what happened? What was it that turned his heart around? What does he believe now, and what does he see the results will be?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Faithful Lord, You know we don't understand, and You want us to bring our questions to You. But don't let me get bitter, and if I do, bring me back, as You did Asaph.*

April 16

Day | 16

Chapter: Psalm 74

Theme: How Long, O Lord?

Study Verse: Psalm 74:10

Statement: This song seems to be about the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. The first part states the problem and the feelings clearly. Then the second part states just as clearly strong faith in God as Deliverer. The world is in this state today: “the enemy has damaged everything.” The world is crying, “How long, O Lord, till You come and redeem us?”

Response: _____

Prayer: *How long, O Lord? Since the day You left, we have been promised that You would return ‘soon.’ We are waiting. I am waiting. I am clinging to trust, but I wish You would get here!*

April 17

Day | 17

Chapter: Psalm 75

Theme: God is the Judge

Study Verse: Psalm 75:9

Statement: This psalm sings God's praises, and reminds us that it is only God who can judge correctly, knowing all hearts. God will ultimately decide who is lifted up and who is put down—He is the only one who really knows, from the inside, which of us choose to live with Him forever and which choose to pay for our own sins instead of accepting Jesus.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Great Judge, thank You so much for giving me Jesus to hide inside! You can and do judge my daily thoughts and actions, and I do ask that You keep me in Your way of love. But ultimately, it is Jesus who stands in Your court for me.*

April 18

Day | 18

Chapter: Psalm 76

Theme: Earthly Judgment

Study Verse: Psalm 76:8, 9

Statement: This writer sees God as working through the outcome of a battle to see that the right side wins. Which side does he see as “the right side”? We tend to think in terms of “us vs. them.” *We* are clearly the right side; *they* are clearly the wrong side. But look at your study verses. Who did God rise up to save? How can you help in this work?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, give me gifts to bring to You by sharing them with those You uphold—always the “humble,” the “needy,” the “widows and orphans.”*

April 19

Day | 19

Chapter: Psalm 77

Theme: Comfort from the Past

Study Verse: Psalm 77:12

Statement: As is the case with so many psalms, the writer of this one is distressed, but it then takes a different tack. Instead of simply saying, “I will trust You no matter what,” the person spends time pondering and meditating on all God’s great works of old. This brings comfort. In the past, God has always helped, and He will again. Can you think of God’s past deeds, both in history and in your life? Do they comfort you now?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Your way, O God, is holy; there is no other god like You. I will keep my eyes on all the wonders You have worked, and I will not fear.*

April 20

Day | 20

Chapter: Psalm 78

Theme: Lessons from the Past

Study Verse: Psalm 78:1

Statement: Here is another way to use history: to teach lessons to those who need them. This psalm gives an overview of Israel, showing God's faithfulness and their faithlessness. It only goes as far as God's choice of David as shepherd of His people. What do you think the writer would think if he could see that the pattern of rebellion and deliverance has continued to this day? Where do you stand in this long road of history?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Shepherd of Israel and of me, keep me in Your paths. I need the guidance of Your skillful hands, but I also will choose to stay by You and not stray. Forgive me if I fail in that.*

Chapter: Psalm 79

Theme: Lament for Jerusalem

Study Verse: Psalm 79:9

Statement: This is another psalm written by a descendant of Asaph after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem. You can feel the pain, and also the sorrow of knowing Israel's sins had brought this on themselves. But the writer begs God to forgive, not because they deserve it, but for the sake of His own name. He also promises they will praise God to future generations—which millions of Jews have done ever since.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, when I face consequences of my own bad choices, I have mixed feelings. I know I deserve it, and am willing to face the music, but I also long to be forgiven and restored—and to return my life to praise of You.*

April 22

Day | 22

Chapter: Psalm 80

Theme: Begging for Mercy

Study Verse: Psalm 80:1

Statement: There were more psalms written, as you can imagine, in that time of great sorrow after and during the Babylonian captivity. This one uses the imagery of a vine, reminding God that He was the one who “transplanted” it from Egypt to Canaan, and beseeching Him to care for them now. Do you see messianic references in the last section? It could also refer to a current king of course.

Response: _____

Prayer: *God of justice and mercy, I know You are always seeking restoration, even when You allow evil to come from our rebellions. Your hope is that we will turn to You, and when Israel did, You restored their lands. Help me to remain faithful to You.*

April 23

Day | 23

Chapter: Psalm 81

Theme: God's Response

Study Verse: Psalm 81:10

Statement: This group of several songs is almost like a conversation between Israel and God, written by a gifted psalmist. In 79 and 80, the psalmist has begged for help. Now, in a song written from God's point of view, He responds. What does He remind them of? What can you tell about how God still sees His erring children? If you were the writer, how would you reply?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Shepherd of the flock, I will listen! I am sorry for my sins and want to follow You, feeding from the Bread of Life and the sweetness of the Rock of Ages.*

April 24

Day | 24

Chapter: Psalm 82

Theme: God Continues

Study Verse: Psalm 82:3, 4

Statement: God continues His response, this time with specifics. Make a list of His indictments against them and of the corrected actions He requires of them. How are you fulfilling these requirements? Understand, too, that in this psalm, the word “gods” refers to human rulers, although you could also apply this rebuke to Satan and his angels.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Judge of all that is, You see clearly. You know who acts from malice, and who because they don't understand, and You know how to judge them. You will defend the powerless. I will be on Your side, doing what I can.*

April 25

Day | 25

Chapter: Psalm 83

Theme: The Asaph Writer Replies

Study Verse: Psalm 83:18

Statement: The writer from the clan of Asaph goes back (as many psalmists do) into history, reminding God (and the people) what He has done for them before. He seems to want revenge, which is human and understandable, but not godly. Notice at the end his over-arching goal. Is that your goal, too? What has God done for you in the past?

Response: _____

Prayer: *My loving God, I remember all the times You have cared for me before, and I am inspired to continue to trust You.*

April 26

Day | 26

Chapter: Psalm 84

Theme: Singing of God's House

Study Verse: Psalm 84:11

Statement: This beautiful song extolls the beauty of God's earthly temple at Jerusalem, but can also be applied to the beauty of dwelling with God in our hearts. Do you have the security of a bird in her nest because your heart is safe in God? Even in the Valley of Weeping, can you drink from the spring of life that is the Spirit within you?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Holy Spirit, live in me. Make a spring of water to eternal life, as Jesus promised. Let me live in Your courts now and in Your heavenly courts forever.*

April 27

Day | 27

Chapter: Psalm 85

Theme: A Song of Restoration

Study Verse: Psalm 85:11

Statement: We are now in a songbook of the clan of Korah. This one comes from after the long captivity in Babylon. The Jews were allowed to go home again, and begin to rebuild. The writer wants more than that—wants the people to be revived into full faithfulness with their faithful God.

Response: _____

Prayer: *God of our salvation, You rejoice when we rejoice, walk by our sides when we are in trouble, restore us, and then, again, rejoice with us. From my cradle to my grave, be my constant Lord.*

April 28

Day | 28

Chapter: Psalm 86

Theme: A Prayer of Trust

Study Verse: Psalm 86:4

Statement: Here is another of the psalms of David which are scattered through the rest of the book of Psalms. As always, he begs for God's grace, and also recognizes God's glory and power. Lift up your soul to God today and glorify His name.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Great God, there is indeed none like You. Show Your faithfulness and your glory, even through me.*

April 29

Day | 29

Chapter: Psalm 87

Theme: Glorious Things

Study Verse: Psalm 87:7

Statement: Do you know the hymn, “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”? If not, you could look it up; it is based on this psalm, which says that all dwelling places are glorious, but God’s house is the most glorious of all. What does it mean to you to be “born here,” in God’s house?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Yahweh, Your house is not just the temple or the church, but the heavens and earth. I was born into Your hands even before I was born into this town and this country on this planet. I will dwell in Your house forever, where all my springs of joy are.*

April 30

Day | 30

Chapter: Psalm 88

Theme: Ethan's Song, Part One

Study Verse: Psalm 88:13

Statement: Ethan the Ezrahite is apparently of the clan of singers known as the Sons of Korah. He follows the ancient tradition of the psalms in both expressing all feelings fully and also trusting God, but he does it in a different way. This psalm is all about the sorrow. What feelings do you find in this psalm—there are a lot of them!

Response: _____

Prayer: *Jesus, sometimes I feel so alone. I feel as if even You have turned from me. I know that isn't the whole story, and will wait for Your light.*