# **Daily Bible reading April 2025**

Tuesday

**Joshua 3-4**

**The Israelites Cross the Jordan**

**3**

Early the next morning Joshua and all the Israelites left Acacia Grove[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%203-4&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5871a)] and arrived at the banks of the Jordan River, where they camped before crossing. **2**Three days later the Israelite officers went through the camp, **3**giving these instructions to the people: “When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, move out from your positions and follow them. **4**Since you have never traveled this way before, they will guide you. Stay about half a mile[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%203-4&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5874b)] behind them, keeping a clear distance between you and the Ark. Make sure you don’t come any closer.”

**5**Then Joshua told the people, “Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you.”

**6**In the morning Joshua said to the priests, “Lift up the Ark of the Covenant and lead the people across the river.” And so they started out and went ahead of the people.

**7**The Lord told Joshua, “Today I will begin to make you a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites. They will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses. **8**Give this command to the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: ‘When you reach the banks of the Jordan River, take a few steps into the river and stop there.’”

**9**So Joshua told the Israelites, “Come and listen to what the Lord your God says. **10**Today you will know that the living God is among you. He will surely drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites ahead of you. **11**Look, the Ark of the Covenant, which belongs to the Lord of the whole earth, will lead you across the Jordan River! **12**Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. **13**The priests will carry the Ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall.”

**14**So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. **15**It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river’s edge, **16**the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%203-4&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5886c)] until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho.

**17**Meanwhile, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the riverbed as the people passed by. They waited there until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground.

**Memorials to the Jordan Crossing**

**4**

When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, **2**“Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. **3**Tell them, ‘Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.’”

**4**So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. **5**He told them, “Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. **6**We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ **7**Then you can tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant went across.’ These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.”

**8**So the men did as Joshua had commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan River, one for each tribe, just as the Lord had told Joshua. They carried them to the place where they camped for the night and constructed the memorial there.

**9**Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day.

**10**The priests who were carrying the Ark stood in the middle of the river until all of the Lord’s commands that Moses had given to Joshua were carried out. Meanwhile, the people hurried across the riverbed. **11**And when everyone was safely on the other side, the priests crossed over with the Ark of the Lord as the people watched.

**12**The armed warriors from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh led the Israelites across the Jordan, just as Moses had directed. **13**These armed men—about 40,000 strong—were ready for battle, and the Lord was with them as they crossed over to the plains of Jericho.

**14**That day the Lord made Joshua a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites, and for the rest of his life they revered him as much as they had revered Moses.

**15**The Lord had said to Joshua, **16**“Command the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%203-4&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5903d)] to come up out of the riverbed.” **17**So Joshua gave the command. **18**As soon as the priests carrying the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant came up out of the riverbed and their feet were on high ground, the water of the Jordan returned and overflowed its banks as before.

**19**The people crossed the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%203-4&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5906e)] Then they camped at Gilgal, just east of Jericho. **20**It was there at Gilgal that Joshua piled up the twelve stones taken from the Jordan River.

**21**Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “In the future your children will ask, ‘What do these stones mean?’ **22**Then you can tell them, ‘This is where the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ **23**For the Lord your God dried up the river right before your eyes, and he kept it dry until you were all across, just as he did at the Red Sea[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%203-4&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5910f)] when he dried it up until we had all crossed over. **24**He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the Lord’s hand is powerful, and so you might fear the Lord your God forever.”

**Luke 4**

**The Temptation of Jesus**

**4**

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25033a)] **2**where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

**3**Then the devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

**4**But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone.’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25036b)]”

**5**Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. **6**“I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them,” the devil said, “because they are mine to give to anyone I please. **7**I will give it all to you if you will worship me.”

**8**Jesus replied, “The Scriptures say,

‘You must worship the Lord your God  
    and serve only him.’[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25040c)]”

**9**Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! **10**For the Scriptures say,

‘He will order his angels to protect and guard you.  
**11**And they will hold you up with their hands  
    so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25043d)]”

**12**Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25044e)]”

**13**When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

**Jesus Rejected at Nazareth**

**14**Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit’s power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. **15**He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

**16**When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. **17**The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

**18**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
    for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,  
    that the blind will see,  
that the oppressed will be set free,  
**19**    and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25051f)]”

**20**He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. **21**Then he began to speak to them. “The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!”

**22**Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. “How can this be?” they asked. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

**23**Then he said, “You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: ‘Physician, heal yourself’—meaning, ‘Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.’ **24**But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.

**25**“Certainly there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the heavens were closed for three and a half years, and a severe famine devastated the land. **26**Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent instead to a foreigner—a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. **27**And many in Israel had leprosy in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian.”

**28**When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. **29**Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, **30**but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.

**Jesus Casts Out a Demon**

**31**Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught there in the synagogue every Sabbath day. **32**There, too, the people were amazed at his teaching, for he spoke with authority.

**33**Once when he was in the synagogue, a man possessed by a demon—an evil[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25065g)] spirit—cried out, shouting, **34**“Go away! Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

**35**But Jesus reprimanded him. “Be quiet! Come out of the man,” he ordered. At that, the demon threw the man to the floor as the crowd watched; then it came out of him without hurting him further.

**36**Amazed, the people exclaimed, “What authority and power this man’s words possess! Even evil spirits obey him, and they flee at his command!” **37**The news about Jesus spread through every village in the entire region.

**Jesus Heals Many People**

**38**After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon’s home, where he found Simon’s mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. “Please heal her,” everyone begged. **39**Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.

**40**As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one. **41**Many were possessed by demons; and the demons came out at his command, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But because they knew he was the Messiah, he rebuked them and refused to let them speak.

**Jesus Continues to Preach**

**42**Early the next morning Jesus went out to an isolated place. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them. **43**But he replied, “I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent.” **44**So he continued to travel around, preaching in synagogues throughout Judea

**Psalm 104-105**

**Psalm 104**

**1**Let all that I am praise the Lord.

O Lord my God, how great you are!  
    You are robed with honor and majesty.  
**2**    You are dressed in a robe of light.  
You stretch out the starry curtain of the heavens;  
**3**    you lay out the rafters of your home in the rain clouds.  
You make the clouds your chariot;  
    you ride upon the wings of the wind.  
**4**The winds are your messengers;  
    flames of fire are your servants.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20104-105&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15552a)]

**5**You placed the world on its foundation  
    so it would never be moved.  
**6**You clothed the earth with floods of water,  
    water that covered even the mountains.  
**7**At your command, the water fled;  
    at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away.  
**8**Mountains rose and valleys sank  
    to the levels you decreed.  
**9**Then you set a firm boundary for the seas,  
    so they would never again cover the earth.

**10**You make springs pour water into the ravines,  
    so streams gush down from the mountains.  
**11**They provide water for all the animals,  
    and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.  
**12**The birds nest beside the streams  
    and sing among the branches of the trees.  
**13**You send rain on the mountains from your heavenly home,  
    and you fill the earth with the fruit of your labor.  
**14**You cause grass to grow for the livestock  
    and plants for people to use.  
You allow them to produce food from the earth—  
**15**    wine to make them glad,  
olive oil to soothe their skin,  
    and bread to give them strength.  
**16**The trees of the Lord are well cared for—  
    the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.  
**17**There the birds make their nests,  
    and the storks make their homes in the cypresses.  
**18**High in the mountains live the wild goats,  
    and the rocks form a refuge for the hyraxes.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20104-105&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15566b)]

**19**You made the moon to mark the seasons,  
    and the sun knows when to set.  
**20**You send the darkness, and it becomes night,  
    when all the forest animals prowl about.  
**21**Then the young lions roar for their prey,  
    stalking the food provided by God.  
**22**At dawn they slink back  
    into their dens to rest.  
**23**Then people go off to their work,  
    where they labor until evening.

**24**O Lord, what a variety of things you have made!  
    In wisdom you have made them all.  
    The earth is full of your creatures.  
**25**Here is the ocean, vast and wide,  
    teeming with life of every kind,  
    both large and small.  
**26**See the ships sailing along,  
    and Leviathan,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20104-105&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15574c)] which you made to play in the sea.

**27**They all depend on you  
    to give them food as they need it.  
**28**When you supply it, they gather it.  
    You open your hand to feed them,  
    and they are richly satisfied.  
**29**But if you turn away from them, they panic.  
    When you take away their breath,  
    they die and turn again to dust.  
**30**When you give them your breath,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20104-105&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15578d)] life is created,  
    and you renew the face of the earth.

**31**May the glory of the Lord continue forever!  
    The Lord takes pleasure in all he has made!  
**32**The earth trembles at his glance;  
    the mountains smoke at his touch.

**33**I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.  
    I will praise my God to my last breath!  
**34**May all my thoughts be pleasing to him,  
    for I rejoice in the Lord.  
**35**Let all sinners vanish from the face of the earth;  
    let the wicked disappear forever.

Let all that I am praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

**Psalm 105**

**1**Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness.  
    Let the whole world know what he has done.  
**2**Sing to him; yes, sing his praises.  
    Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds.  
**3**Exult in his holy name;  
    rejoice, you who worship the Lord.  
**4**Search for the Lord and for his strength;  
    continually seek him.  
**5**Remember the wonders he has performed,  
    his miracles, and the rulings he has given,  
**6**you children of his servant Abraham,  
    you descendants of Jacob, his chosen ones.

**7**He is the Lord our God.  
    His justice is seen throughout the land.  
**8**He always stands by his covenant—  
    the commitment he made to a thousand generations.  
**9**This is the covenant he made with Abraham  
    and the oath he swore to Isaac.  
**10**He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,  
    and to the people of Israel as a never-ending covenant:  
**11**“I will give you the land of Canaan  
    as your special possession.”

**12**He said this when they were few in number,  
    a tiny group of strangers in Canaan.  
**13**They wandered from nation to nation,  
    from one kingdom to another.  
**14**Yet he did not let anyone oppress them.  
    He warned kings on their behalf:  
**15**“Do not touch my chosen people,  
    and do not hurt my prophets.”

**16**He called for a famine on the land of Canaan,  
    cutting off its food supply.  
**17**Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them—  
    Joseph, who was sold as a slave.  
**18**They bruised his feet with fetters  
    and placed his neck in an iron collar.  
**19**Until the time came to fulfill his dreams,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20104-105&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15602e)]  
    the Lord tested Joseph’s character.  
**20**Then Pharaoh sent for him and set him free;  
    the ruler of the nation opened his prison door.  
**21**Joseph was put in charge of all the king’s household;  
    he became ruler over all the king’s possessions.  
**22**He could instruct[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20104-105&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15605f)] the king’s aides as he pleased  
    and teach the king’s advisers.

**23**Then Israel arrived in Egypt;  
    Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham.  
**24**And the Lord multiplied the people of Israel  
    until they became too mighty for their enemies.  
**25**Then he turned the Egyptians against the Israelites,  
    and they plotted against the Lord’s servants.

**26**But the Lord sent his servant Moses,  
    along with Aaron, whom he had chosen.  
**27**They performed miraculous signs among the Egyptians,  
    and wonders in the land of Ham.  
**28**The Lord blanketed Egypt in darkness,  
    for they had defied[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20104-105&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15611g)] his commands to let his people go.  
**29**He turned their water into blood,  
    poisoning all the fish.  
**30**Then frogs overran the land  
    and even invaded the king’s bedrooms.  
**31**When the Lord spoke, flies descended on the Egyptians,  
    and gnats swarmed across Egypt.  
**32**He sent them hail instead of rain,  
    and lightning flashed over the land.  
**33**He ruined their grapevines and fig trees  
    and shattered all the trees.  
**34**He spoke, and hordes of locusts came—  
    young locusts beyond number.  
**35**They ate up everything green in the land,  
    destroying all the crops in their fields.  
**36**Then he killed the oldest son in each Egyptian home,  
    the pride and joy of each family.

**37**The Lord brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold;  
    and not one among the tribes of Israel even stumbled.  
**38**Egypt was glad when they were gone,  
    for they feared them greatly.  
**39**The Lord spread a cloud above them as a covering  
    and gave them a great fire to light the darkness.  
**40**They asked for meat, and he sent them quail;  
    he satisfied their hunger with manna—bread from heaven.  
**41**He split open a rock, and water gushed out  
    to form a river through the dry wasteland.  
**42**For he remembered his sacred promise  
    to his servant Abraham.  
**43**So he brought his people out of Egypt with joy,  
    his chosen ones with rejoicing.  
**44**He gave his people the lands of pagan nations,  
    and they harvested crops that others had planted.  
**45**All this happened so they would follow his decrees  
    and obey his instructions.

Praise the Lord!

**Proverbs 1**

**The Purpose of Proverbs**

**1**These are the proverbs of Solomon, David’s son, king of Israel.

**2**Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline,  
    to help them understand the insights of the wise.  
**3**Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives,  
    to help them do what is right, just, and fair.  
**4**These proverbs will give insight to the simple,  
    knowledge and discernment to the young.

**5**Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser.  
    Let those with understanding receive guidance  
**6**by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables,  
    the words of the wise and their riddles.

**7**Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge,  
    but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

**A Father’s Exhortation: Acquire Wisdom**

**8**My child,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%201&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16385a)] listen when your father corrects you.  
    Don’t neglect your mother’s instruction.  
**9**What you learn from them will crown you with grace  
    and be a chain of honor around your neck.

**10**My child, if sinners entice you,  
    turn your back on them!  
**11**They may say, “Come and join us.  
    Let’s hide and kill someone!  
    Just for fun, let’s ambush the innocent!  
**12**Let’s swallow them alive, like the grave[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%201&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16389b)];  
    let’s swallow them whole, like those who go down to the pit of death.  
**13**Think of the great things we’ll get!  
    We’ll fill our houses with all the stuff we take.  
**14**Come, throw in your lot with us;  
    we’ll all share the loot.”

**15**My child, don’t go along with them!  
    Stay far away from their paths.  
**16**They rush to commit evil deeds.  
    They hurry to commit murder.  
**17**If a bird sees a trap being set,  
    it knows to stay away.  
**18**But these people set an ambush for themselves;  
    they are trying to get themselves killed.  
**19**Such is the fate of all who are greedy for money;  
    it robs them of life.

**Wisdom Shouts in the Streets**

**20**Wisdom shouts in the streets.  
    She cries out in the public square.  
**21**She calls to the crowds along the main street,  
    to those gathered in front of the city gate:  
**22**“How long, you simpletons,  
    will you insist on being simpleminded?  
How long will you mockers relish your mocking?  
    How long will you fools hate knowledge?  
**23**Come and listen to my counsel.  
I’ll share my heart with you  
    and make you wise.

**24**“I called you so often, but you wouldn’t come.  
    I reached out to you, but you paid no attention.  
**25**You ignored my advice  
    and rejected the correction I offered.  
**26**So I will laugh when you are in trouble!  
    I will mock you when disaster overtakes you—  
**27**when calamity overtakes you like a storm,  
    when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone,  
    and anguish and distress overwhelm you.

**28**“When they cry for help, I will not answer.  
    Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me.  
**29**For they hated knowledge  
    and chose not to fear the Lord.  
**30**They rejected my advice  
    and paid no attention when I corrected them.  
**31**Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way,  
    choking on their own schemes.  
**32**For simpletons turn away from me—to death.  
    Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.  
**33**But all who listen to me will live in peace,  
    untroubled by fear of harm.”

Wednesday 2

**Joshua 5-6**

**5**

When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings who lived along the Mediterranean coast[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%205-6&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5912a)] heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan River so the people of Israel could cross, they lost heart and were paralyzed with fear because of them.

**Israel Reestablishes Covenant Ceremonies**

**2**At that time the Lord told Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise this second generation of Israelites.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%205-6&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5913b)]” **3**So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the entire male population of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%205-6&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5914c)]

**4**Joshua had to circumcise them because all the men who were old enough to fight in battle when they left Egypt had died in the wilderness. **5**Those who left Egypt had all been circumcised, but none of those born after the Exodus, during the years in the wilderness, had been circumcised. **6**The Israelites had traveled in the wilderness for forty years until all the men who were old enough to fight in battle when they left Egypt had died. For they had disobeyed the Lord, and the Lord vowed he would not let them enter the land he had sworn to give us—a land flowing with milk and honey. **7**So Joshua circumcised their sons—those who had grown up to take their fathers’ places—for they had not been circumcised on the way to the Promised Land. **8**After all the males had been circumcised, they rested in the camp until they were healed.

**9**Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt.” So that place has been called Gilgal[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%205-6&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5920d)] to this day.

**10**While the Israelites were camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%205-6&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5921e)] **11**The very next day they began to eat unleavened bread and roasted grain harvested from the land. **12**No manna appeared on the day they first ate from the crops of the land, and it was never seen again. So from that time on the Israelites ate from the crops of Canaan.

**The Lord’s Commander Confronts Joshua**

**13**When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, “Are you friend or foe?”

**14**“Neither one,” he replied. “I am the commander of the Lord’s army.”

At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. “I am at your command,” Joshua said. “What do you want your servant to do?”

**15**The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did as he was told.

**The Fall of Jericho**

**6**Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. **2**But the Lord said to Joshua, “I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors. **3**You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. **4**Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram’s horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. **5**When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams’ horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town.”

**6**So Joshua called together the priests and said, “Take up the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant, and assign seven priests to walk in front of it, each carrying a ram’s horn.” **7**Then he gave orders to the people: “March around the town, and the armed men will lead the way in front of the Ark of the Lord.”

**8**After Joshua spoke to the people, the seven priests with the rams’ horns started marching in the presence of the Lord, blowing the horns as they marched. And the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant followed behind them. **9**Some of the armed men marched in front of the priests with the horns and some behind the Ark, with the priests continually blowing the horns. **10**“Do not shout; do not even talk,” Joshua commanded. “Not a single word from any of you until I tell you to shout. Then shout!” **11**So the Ark of the Lord was carried around the town once that day, and then everyone returned to spend the night in the camp.

**12**Joshua got up early the next morning, and the priests again carried the Ark of the Lord. **13**The seven priests with the rams’ horns marched in front of the Ark of the Lord, blowing their horns. Again the armed men marched both in front of the priests with the horns and behind the Ark of the Lord. All this time the priests were blowing their horns. **14**On the second day they again marched around the town once and returned to the camp. They followed this pattern for six days.

**15**On the seventh day the Israelites got up at dawn and marched around the town as they had done before. But this time they went around the town seven times. **16**The seventh time around, as the priests sounded the long blast on their horns, Joshua commanded the people, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the town! **17**Jericho and everything in it must be completely destroyed[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%205-6&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5943f)] as an offering to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and the others in her house will be spared, for she protected our spies.

**18**“Do not take any of the things set apart for destruction, or you yourselves will be completely destroyed, and you will bring trouble on the camp of Israel. **19**Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is sacred to the Lord and must be brought into his treasury.”

**20**When the people heard the sound of the rams’ horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it. **21**They completely destroyed everything in it with their swords—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep, goats, and donkeys.

**22**Meanwhile, Joshua said to the two spies, “Keep your promise. Go to the prostitute’s house and bring her out, along with all her family.”

**23**The men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, mother, brothers, and all the other relatives who were with her. They moved her whole family to a safe place near the camp of Israel.

**24**Then the Israelites burned the town and everything in it. Only the things made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron were kept for the treasury of the Lord’s house. **25**So Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute and her relatives who were with her in the house, because she had hidden the spies Joshua sent to Jericho. And she lives among the Israelites to this day.

**26**At that time Joshua invoked this curse:

“May the curse of the Lord fall on anyone  
    who tries to rebuild the town of Jericho.  
At the cost of his firstborn son,  
    he will lay its foundation.  
At the cost of his youngest son,  
    he will set up its gates.”

**27**So the Lord was with Joshua, and his reputation spread throughout the land

**Luke 5**

**The First Disciples**

**5**

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%205&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25077a)] great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. **2**He noticed two empty boats at the water’s edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. **3**Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%205&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25079b)] its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

**4**When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”

**5**“Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.” **6**And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! **7**A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

**8**When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” **9**For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. **10**His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” **11**And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

**Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy**

**12**In one of the villages, Jesus met a man with an advanced case of leprosy. When the man saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground, begging to be healed. “Lord,” he said, “if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.”

**13**Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!” And instantly the leprosy disappeared. **14**Then Jesus instructed him not to tell anyone what had happened. He said, “Go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%205&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25090c)] This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.”

**15**But despite Jesus’ instructions, the report of his power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear him preach and to be healed of their diseases. **16**But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

**Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man**

**17**One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord’s healing power was strongly with Jesus.

**18**Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, **19**but they couldn’t reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. **20**Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, “Young man, your sins are forgiven.”

**21**But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, “Who does he think he is? That’s blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!”

**22**Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you question this in your hearts? **23**Is it easier to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up and walk’? **24**So I will prove to you that the Son of Man[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%205&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25100d)] has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!”

**25**And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. **26**Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, “We have seen amazing things today!”

**Jesus Calls Levi (Matthew)**

**27**Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. **28**So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him.

**29**Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi’s fellow tax collectors and other guests also ate with them. **30**But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus’ disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with such scum?[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%205&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25106e)]”

**31**Jesus answered them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. **32**I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.”

**A Discussion about Fasting**

**33**One day some people said to Jesus, “John the Baptist’s disciples fast and pray regularly, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why are your disciples always eating and drinking?”

**34**Jesus responded, “Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. **35**But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.”

**36**Then Jesus gave them this illustration: “No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn’t even match the old garment.

**37**“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. **38**New wine must be stored in new wineskins. **39**But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. ‘The old is just fine,’ they say.”

**Psalm 106 – 107**

**1**Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
    His faithful love endures forever.  
**2**Who can list the glorious miracles of the Lord?  
    Who can ever praise him enough?  
**3**There is joy for those who deal justly with others  
    and always do what is right.

**4**Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people;  
    come near and rescue me.  
**5**Let me share in the prosperity of your chosen ones.  
    Let me rejoice in the joy of your people;  
    let me praise you with those who are your heritage.

**6**Like our ancestors, we have sinned.  
    We have done wrong! We have acted wickedly!  
**7**Our ancestors in Egypt  
    were not impressed by the Lord’s miraculous deeds.  
They soon forgot his many acts of kindness to them.  
    Instead, they rebelled against him at the Red Sea.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20106-107&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15635a)]  
**8**Even so, he saved them—  
    to defend the honor of his name  
    and to demonstrate his mighty power.  
**9**He commanded the Red Sea[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20106-107&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15637b)] to dry up.  
    He led Israel across the sea as if it were a desert.  
**10**So he rescued them from their enemies  
    and redeemed them from their foes.  
**11**Then the water returned and covered their enemies;  
    not one of them survived.  
**12**Then his people believed his promises.  
    Then they sang his praise.

**13**Yet how quickly they forgot what he had done!  
    They wouldn’t wait for his counsel!  
**14**In the wilderness their desires ran wild,  
    testing God’s patience in that dry wasteland.  
**15**So he gave them what they asked for,  
    but he sent a plague along with it.  
**16**The people in the camp were jealous of Moses  
    and envious of Aaron, the Lord’s holy priest.  
**17**Because of this, the earth opened up;  
    it swallowed Dathan  
    and buried Abiram and the other rebels.  
**18**Fire fell upon their followers;  
    a flame consumed the wicked.

**19**The people made a calf at Mount Sinai[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20106-107&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15647c)];  
    they bowed before an image made of gold.  
**20**They traded their glorious God  
    for a statue of a grass-eating bull.  
**21**They forgot God, their savior,  
    who had done such great things in Egypt—  
**22**such wonderful things in the land of Ham,  
    such awesome deeds at the Red Sea.  
**23**So he declared he would destroy them.  
    But Moses, his chosen one, stepped between the Lord and the people.  
    He begged him to turn from his anger and not destroy them.

**24**The people refused to enter the pleasant land,  
    for they wouldn’t believe his promise to care for them.  
**25**Instead, they grumbled in their tents  
    and refused to obey the Lord.  
**26**Therefore, he solemnly swore  
    that he would kill them in the wilderness,  
**27**that he would scatter their descendants[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20106-107&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15655d)] among the nations,  
    exiling them to distant lands.

**28**Then our ancestors joined in the worship of Baal at Peor;  
    they even ate sacrifices offered to the dead!  
**29**They angered the Lord with all these things,  
    so a plague broke out among them.  
**30**But Phinehas had the courage to intervene,  
    and the plague was stopped.  
**31**So he has been regarded as a righteous man  
    ever since that time.

**32**At Meribah, too, they angered the Lord,  
    causing Moses serious trouble.  
**33**They made Moses angry,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20106-107&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15661e)]  
    and he spoke foolishly.

**34**Israel failed to destroy the nations in the land,  
    as the Lord had commanded them.  
**35**Instead, they mingled among the pagans  
    and adopted their evil customs.  
**36**They worshiped their idols,  
    which led to their downfall.  
**37**They even sacrificed their sons  
    and their daughters to the demons.  
**38**They shed innocent blood,  
    the blood of their sons and daughters.  
By sacrificing them to the idols of Canaan,  
    they polluted the land with murder.  
**39**They defiled themselves by their evil deeds,  
    and their love of idols was adultery in the Lord’s sight.

**40**That is why the Lord’s anger burned against his people,  
    and he abhorred his own special possession.  
**41**He handed them over to pagan nations,  
    and they were ruled by those who hated them.  
**42**Their enemies crushed them  
    and brought them under their cruel power.  
**43**Again and again he rescued them,  
    but they chose to rebel against him,  
    and they were finally destroyed by their sin.  
**44**Even so, he pitied them in their distress  
    and listened to their cries.  
**45**He remembered his covenant with them  
    and relented because of his unfailing love.  
**46**He even caused their captors  
    to treat them with kindness.

**47**Save us, O Lord our God!  
    Gather us back from among the nations,  
so we can thank your holy name  
    and rejoice and praise you.

**48**Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,  
    who lives from everlasting to everlasting!  
Let all the people say, “Amen!”

Praise the Lord!

Book five (Psalms 107–150)

**Psalm 107**

**1**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
    His faithful love endures forever.  
**2**Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out!  
    Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.  
**3**For he has gathered the exiles from many lands,  
    from east and west,  
    from north and south.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20106-107&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15679f)]

**4**Some wandered in the wilderness,  
    lost and homeless.  
**5**Hungry and thirsty,  
    they nearly died.  
**6**“Lord, help!” they cried in their trouble,  
    and he rescued them from their distress.  
**7**He led them straight to safety,  
    to a city where they could live.  
**8**Let them praise the Lord for his great love  
    and for the wonderful things he has done for them.  
**9**For he satisfies the thirsty  
    and fills the hungry with good things.

**10**Some sat in darkness and deepest gloom,  
    imprisoned in iron chains of misery.  
**11**They rebelled against the words of God,  
    scorning the counsel of the Most High.  
**12**That is why he broke them with hard labor;  
    they fell, and no one was there to help them.  
**13**“Lord, help!” they cried in their trouble,  
    and he saved them from their distress.  
**14**He led them from the darkness and deepest gloom;  
    he snapped their chains.  
**15**Let them praise the Lord for his great love  
    and for the wonderful things he has done for them.  
**16**For he broke down their prison gates of bronze;  
    he cut apart their bars of iron.

**17**Some were fools; they rebelled  
    and suffered for their sins.  
**18**They couldn’t stand the thought of food,  
    and they were knocking on death’s door.  
**19**“Lord, help!” they cried in their trouble,  
    and he saved them from their distress.  
**20**He sent out his word and healed them,  
    snatching them from the door of death.  
**21**Let them praise the Lord for his great love  
    and for the wonderful things he has done for them.  
**22**Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
    and sing joyfully about his glorious acts.

**23**Some went off to sea in ships,  
    plying the trade routes of the world.  
**24**They, too, observed the Lord’s power in action,  
    his impressive works on the deepest seas.  
**25**He spoke, and the winds rose,  
    stirring up the waves.  
**26**Their ships were tossed to the heavens  
    and plunged again to the depths;  
    the sailors cringed in terror.  
**27**They reeled and staggered like drunkards  
    and were at their wits’ end.  
**28**“Lord, help!” they cried in their trouble,  
    and he saved them from their distress.  
**29**He calmed the storm to a whisper  
    and stilled the waves.  
**30**What a blessing was that stillness  
    as he brought them safely into harbor!  
**31**Let them praise the Lord for his great love  
    and for the wonderful things he has done for them.  
**32**Let them exalt him publicly before the congregation  
    and before the leaders of the nation.

**33**He changes rivers into deserts,  
    and springs of water into dry, thirsty land.  
**34**He turns the fruitful land into salty wastelands,  
    because of the wickedness of those who live there.  
**35**But he also turns deserts into pools of water,  
    the dry land into springs of water.  
**36**He brings the hungry to settle there  
    and to build their cities.  
**37**They sow their fields, plant their vineyards,  
    and harvest their bumper crops.  
**38**How he blesses them!  
    They raise large families there,  
    and their herds of livestock increase.

**39**When they decrease in number and become impoverished  
    through oppression, trouble, and sorrow,  
**40**the Lord pours contempt on their princes,  
    causing them to wander in trackless wastelands.  
**41**But he rescues the poor from trouble  
    and increases their families like flocks of sheep.  
**42**The godly will see these things and be glad,  
    while the wicked are struck silent.  
**43**Those who are wise will take all this to heart;  
    they will see in our history the faithful love of the Lord

**Proverbs 2**

**The Benefits of Wisdom**

**2**My child,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%202&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16411a)] listen to what I say,  
    and treasure my commands.  
**2**Tune your ears to wisdom,  
    and concentrate on understanding.  
**3**Cry out for insight,  
    and ask for understanding.  
**4**Search for them as you would for silver;  
    seek them like hidden treasures.  
**5**Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord,  
    and you will gain knowledge of God.  
**6**For the Lord grants wisdom!  
    From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.  
**7**He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest.  
    He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.  
**8**He guards the paths of the just  
    and protects those who are faithful to him.

**9**Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair,  
    and you will find the right way to go.  
**10**For wisdom will enter your heart,  
    and knowledge will fill you with joy.  
**11**Wise choices will watch over you.  
    Understanding will keep you safe.

**12**Wisdom will save you from evil people,  
    from those whose words are twisted.  
**13**These men turn from the right way  
    to walk down dark paths.  
**14**They take pleasure in doing wrong,  
    and they enjoy the twisted ways of evil.  
**15**Their actions are crooked,  
    and their ways are wrong.

**16**Wisdom will save you from the immoral woman,  
    from the seductive words of the promiscuous woman.  
**17**She has abandoned her husband  
    and ignores the covenant she made before God.  
**18**Entering her house leads to death;  
    it is the road to the grave.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%202&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16428b)]  
**19**The man who visits her is doomed.  
    He will never reach the paths of life.

**20**So follow the steps of the good,  
    and stay on the paths of the righteous.  
**21**For only the godly will live in the land,  
    and those with integrity will remain in it.  
**22**But the wicked will be removed from the land,  
    and the treacherous will be uprooted

Thursday

**Joshua 7-8**

**Ai Defeats the Israelites**

**7**But Israel violated the instructions about the things set apart for the Lord.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5954a)] A man named Achan had stolen some of these dedicated things, so the Lord was very angry with the Israelites. Achan was the son of Carmi, a descendant of Zimri[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5954b)] son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah.

**2**Joshua sent some of his men from Jericho to spy out the town of Ai, east of Bethel, near Beth-aven. **3**When they returned, they told Joshua, “There’s no need for all of us to go up there; it won’t take more than two or three thousand men to attack Ai. Since there are so few of them, don’t make all our people struggle to go up there.”

**4**So approximately 3,000 warriors were sent, but they were soundly defeated. The men of Ai **5**chased the Israelites from the town gate as far as the quarries,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5958c)] and they killed about thirty-six who were retreating down the slope. The Israelites were paralyzed with fear at this turn of events, and their courage melted away.

**6**Joshua and the elders of Israel tore their clothing in dismay, threw dust on their heads, and bowed face down to the ground before the Ark of the Lord until evening. **7**Then Joshua cried out, “Oh, Sovereign Lord, why did you bring us across the Jordan River if you are going to let the Amorites kill us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side! **8**Lord, what can I say now that Israel has fled from its enemies? **9**For when the Canaanites and all the other people living in the land hear about it, they will surround us and wipe our name off the face of the earth. And then what will happen to the honor of your great name?”

**10**But the Lord said to Joshua, “Get up! Why are you lying on your face like this? **11**Israel has sinned and broken my covenant! They have stolen some of the things that I commanded must be set apart for me. And they have not only stolen them but have lied about it and hidden the things among their own belongings. **12**That is why the Israelites are running from their enemies in defeat. For now Israel itself has been set apart for destruction. I will not remain with you any longer unless you destroy the things among you that were set apart for destruction.

**13**“Get up! Command the people to purify themselves in preparation for tomorrow. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Hidden among you, O Israel, are things set apart for the Lord. You will never defeat your enemies until you remove these things from among you.

**14**“In the morning you must present yourselves by tribes, and the Lord will point out the tribe to which the guilty man belongs. That tribe must come forward with its clans, and the Lord will point out the guilty clan. That clan will then come forward, and the Lord will point out the guilty family. Finally, each member of the guilty family must come forward one by one. **15**The one who has stolen what was set apart for destruction will himself be burned with fire, along with everything he has, for he has broken the covenant of the Lord and has done a horrible thing in Israel.”

**Achan’s Sin**

**16**Early the next morning Joshua brought the tribes of Israel before the Lord, and the tribe of Judah was singled out. **17**Then the clans of Judah came forward, and the clan of Zerah was singled out. Then the families of Zerah came forward, and the family of Zimri was singled out. **18**Every member of Zimri’s family was brought forward person by person, and Achan was singled out.

**19**Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, by telling the truth. Make your confession and tell me what you have done. Don’t hide it from me.”

**20**Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. **21**Among the plunder I saw a beautiful robe from Babylon,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5974d)] 200 silver coins,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5974e)] and a bar of gold weighing more than a pound.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5974f)] I wanted them so much that I took them. They are hidden in the ground beneath my tent, with the silver buried deeper than the rest.”

**22**So Joshua sent some men to make a search. They ran to the tent and found the stolen goods hidden there, just as Achan had said, with the silver buried beneath the rest. **23**They took the things from the tent and brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites. Then they laid them on the ground in the presence of the Lord.

**24**Then Joshua and all the Israelites took Achan, the silver, the robe, the bar of gold, his sons, daughters, cattle, donkeys, sheep, goats, tent, and everything he had, and they brought them to the valley of Achor. **25**Then Joshua said to Achan, “Why have you brought trouble on us? The Lord will now bring trouble on you.” And all the Israelites stoned Achan and his family and burned their bodies. **26**They piled a great heap of stones over Achan, which remains to this day. That is why the place has been called the Valley of Trouble[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5979g)] ever since. So the Lord was no longer angry.

**The Israelites Defeat Ai**

**8**Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid or discouraged. Take all your fighting men and attack Ai, for I have given you the king of Ai, his people, his town, and his land. **2**You will destroy them as you destroyed Jericho and its king. But this time you may keep the plunder and the livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the town.”

**3**So Joshua and all the fighting men set out to attack Ai. Joshua chose 30,000 of his best warriors and sent them out at night **4**with these orders: “Hide in ambush close behind the town and be ready for action. **5**When our main army attacks, the men of Ai will come out to fight as they did before, and we will run away from them. **6**We will let them chase us until we have drawn them away from the town. For they will say, ‘The Israelites are running away from us as they did before.’ Then, while we are running from them, **7**you will jump up from your ambush and take possession of the town, for the Lord your God will give it to you. **8**Set the town on fire, as the Lord has commanded. You have your orders.”

**9**So they left and went to the place of ambush between Bethel and the west side of Ai. But Joshua remained among the people in the camp that night. **10**Early the next morning Joshua roused his men and started toward Ai, accompanied by the elders of Israel. **11**All the fighting men who were with Joshua marched in front of the town and camped on the north side of Ai, with a valley between them and the town. **12**That night Joshua sent about 5,000 men to lie in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the town. **13**So they stationed the main army north of the town and the ambush west of the town. Joshua himself spent that night in the valley.

**14**When the king of Ai saw the Israelites across the valley, he and all his army hurried out early in the morning and attacked the Israelites at a place overlooking the Jordan Valley.[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-5993h)] But he didn’t realize there was an ambush behind the town. **15**Joshua and the Israelite army fled toward the wilderness as though they were badly beaten. **16**Then all the men in the town were called out to chase after them. In this way, they were lured away from the town. **17**There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-5996i" \o "See footnote i)] who did not chase after the Israelites, and the town was left wide open.

**18**Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Point the spear in your hand toward Ai, for I will hand the town over to you.” Joshua did as he was commanded. **19**As soon as Joshua gave this signal, all the men in ambush jumped up from their position and poured into the town. They quickly captured it and set it on fire.

**20**When the men of Ai looked behind them, smoke from the town was filling the sky, and they had nowhere to go. For the Israelites who had fled in the direction of the wilderness now turned on their pursuers. **21**When Joshua and all the other Israelites saw that the ambush had succeeded and that smoke was rising from the town, they turned and attacked the men of Ai. **22**Meanwhile, the Israelites who were inside the town came out and attacked the enemy from the rear. So the men of Ai were caught in the middle, with Israelite fighters on both sides. Israel attacked them, and not a single person survived or escaped. **23**Only the king of Ai was taken alive and brought to Joshua.

**24**When the Israelite army finished chasing and killing all the men of Ai in the open fields, they went back and finished off everyone inside. **25**So the entire population of Ai, including men and women, was wiped out that day—12,000 in all. **26**For Joshua kept holding out his spear until everyone who had lived in Ai was completely destroyed.[[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6005j)] **27**Only the livestock and the treasures of the town were not destroyed, for the Israelites kept these as plunder for themselves, as the Lord had commanded Joshua. **28**So Joshua burned the town of Ai,[[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6007k)] and it became a permanent mound of ruins, desolate to this very day.

**29**Joshua impaled the king of Ai on a sharpened pole and left him there until evening. At sunset the Israelites took down the body, as Joshua commanded, and threw it in front of the town gate. They piled a great heap of stones over him that can still be seen today.

**The Lord’s Covenant Renewed**

**30**Then Joshua built an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal. **31**He followed the commands that Moses the Lord’s servant had written in the Book of Instruction: “Make me an altar from stones that are uncut and have not been shaped with iron tools.”[[l](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6010l)] Then on the altar they presented burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. **32**And as the Israelites watched, Joshua copied onto the stones of the altar[[m](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%207-8&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6011m)] the instructions Moses had given them.

**33**Then all the Israelites—foreigners and native-born alike—along with the elders, officers, and judges, were divided into two groups. One group stood in front of Mount Gerizim, the other in front of Mount Ebal. Each group faced the other, and between them stood the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant. This was all done according to the commands that Moses, the servant of the Lord, had previously given for blessing the people of Israel.

**34**Joshua then read to them all the blessings and curses Moses had written in the Book of Instruction. **35**Every word of every command that Moses had ever given was read to the entire assembly of Israel, including the women and children and the foreigners who lived among them

**Luke 6**

**A Discussion about the Sabbath**

**6**One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grainfields, his disciples broke off heads of grain, rubbed off the husks in their hands, and ate the grain. **2**But some Pharisees said, “Why are you breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?”

**3**Jesus replied, “Haven’t you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? **4**He went into the house of God and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests can eat. He also gave some to his companions.” **5**And Jesus added, “The Son of Man[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%206&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25120a)] is Lord, even over the Sabbath.”

**Jesus Heals on the Sabbath**

**6**On another Sabbath day, a man with a deformed right hand was in the synagogue while Jesus was teaching. **7**The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees watched Jesus closely. If he healed the man’s hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath.

**8**But Jesus knew their thoughts. He said to the man with the deformed hand, “Come and stand in front of everyone.” So the man came forward. **9**Then Jesus said to his critics, “I have a question for you. Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?”

**10**He looked around at them one by one and then said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! **11**At this, the enemies of Jesus were wild with rage and began to discuss what to do with him.

**Jesus Chooses the Twelve Apostles**

**12**One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. **13**At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. Here are their names:

**14**Simon (whom he named Peter),  
Andrew (Peter’s brother),  
James,  
John,  
Philip,  
Bartholomew,  
**15**Matthew,  
Thomas,  
James (son of Alphaeus),  
Simon (who was called the zealot),  
**16**Judas (son of James),  
Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

**Crowds Follow Jesus**

**17**When they came down from the mountain, the disciples stood with Jesus on a large, level area, surrounded by many of his followers and by the crowds. There were people from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon. **18**They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those troubled by evil[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%206&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25133b)] spirits were healed. **19**Everyone tried to touch him, because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone.

**The Beatitudes**

**20**Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said,

“God blesses you who are poor,  
    for the Kingdom of God is yours.  
**21**God blesses you who are hungry now,  
    for you will be satisfied.  
God blesses you who weep now,  
    for in due time you will laugh.

**22**What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. **23**When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, their ancestors treated the ancient prophets that same way.

**Sorrows Foretold**

**24**“What sorrow awaits you who are rich,  
    for you have your only happiness now.  
**25**What sorrow awaits you who are fat and prosperous now,  
    for a time of awful hunger awaits you.  
What sorrow awaits you who laugh now,  
    for your laughing will turn to mourning and sorrow.  
**26**What sorrow awaits you who are praised by the crowds,  
    for their ancestors also praised false prophets.

**Love for Enemies**

**27**“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. **28**Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. **29**If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. **30**Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back. **31**Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

**32**“If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! **33**And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! **34**And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

**35**“Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. **36**You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

**Do Not Judge Others**

**37**“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. **38**Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%206&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25153c)]”

**39**Then Jesus gave the following illustration: “Can one blind person lead another? Won’t they both fall into a ditch? **40**Students[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%206&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25155d)] are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.

**41**“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%206&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25156e)] when you have a log in your own? **42**How can you think of saying, ‘Friend,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%206&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25157f)] let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

**The Tree and Its Fruit**

**43**“A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. **44**A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. **45**A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

**Building on a Solid Foundation**

**46**“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? **47**I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. **48**It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. **49**But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

**Psalm 108**

**A song. A psalm of David.**

**1**My heart is confident in you, O God;  
    no wonder I can sing your praises with all my heart!  
**2**Wake up, lyre and harp!  
    I will wake the dawn with my song.  
**3**I will thank you, Lord, among all the people.  
    I will sing your praises among the nations.  
**4**For your unfailing love is higher than the heavens.  
    Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.  
**5**Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens.  
    May your glory shine over all the earth.

**6**Now rescue your beloved people.  
    Answer and save us by your power.  
**7**God has promised this by his holiness[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20108&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15726a)]:  
“I will divide up Shechem with joy.  
    I will measure out the valley of Succoth.  
**8**Gilead is mine,  
    and Manasseh, too.  
Ephraim, my helmet, will produce my warriors,  
    and Judah, my scepter, will produce my kings.  
**9**But Moab, my washbasin, will become my servant,  
    and I will wipe my feet on Edom  
    and shout in triumph over Philistia.”

**10**Who will bring me into the fortified city?  
    Who will bring me victory over Edom?  
**11**Have you rejected us, O God?  
    Will you no longer march with our armies?  
**12**Oh, please help us against our enemies,  
    for all human help is useless.  
**13**With God’s help we will do mighty things,  
    for he will trample down our foes.

**Proverbs 3**

**Trusting in the Lord**

**3**My child,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%203&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16433a)] never forget the things I have taught you.  
    Store my commands in your heart.  
**2**If you do this, you will live many years,  
    and your life will be satisfying.  
**3**Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!  
    Tie them around your neck as a reminder.  
    Write them deep within your heart.  
**4**Then you will find favor with both God and people,  
    and you will earn a good reputation.

**5**Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
    do not depend on your own understanding.  
**6**Seek his will in all you do,  
    and he will show you which path to take.

**7**Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom.  
    Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.  
**8**Then you will have healing for your body  
    and strength for your bones.

**9**Honor the Lord with your wealth  
    and with the best part of everything you produce.  
**10**Then he will fill your barns with grain,  
    and your vats will overflow with good wine.

**11**My child, don’t reject the Lord’s discipline,  
    and don’t be upset when he corrects you.  
**12**For the Lord corrects those he loves,  
    just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%203&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16444b)]

**13**Joyful is the person who finds wisdom,  
    the one who gains understanding.  
**14**For wisdom is more profitable than silver,  
    and her wages are better than gold.  
**15**Wisdom is more precious than rubies;  
    nothing you desire can compare with her.  
**16**She offers you long life in her right hand,  
    and riches and honor in her left.  
**17**She will guide you down delightful paths;  
    all her ways are satisfying.  
**18**Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her;  
    happy are those who hold her tightly.

**19**By wisdom the Lord founded the earth;  
    by understanding he created the heavens.  
**20**By his knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth,  
    and the dew settles beneath the night sky.

**21**My child, don’t lose sight of common sense and discernment.  
    Hang on to them,  
**22**for they will refresh your soul.  
    They are like jewels on a necklace.  
**23**They keep you safe on your way,  
    and your feet will not stumble.  
**24**You can go to bed without fear;  
    you will lie down and sleep soundly.  
**25**You need not be afraid of sudden disaster  
    or the destruction that comes upon the wicked,  
**26**for the Lord is your security.  
    He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap.

**27**Do not withhold good from those who deserve it  
    when it’s in your power to help them.  
**28**If you can help your neighbor now, don’t say,  
    “Come back tomorrow, and then I’ll help you.”

**29**Don’t plot harm against your neighbor,  
    for those who live nearby trust you.  
**30**Don’t pick a fight without reason,  
    when no one has done you harm.

**31**Don’t envy violent people  
    or copy their ways.  
**32**Such wicked people are detestable to the Lord,  
    but he offers his friendship to the godly.

**33**The Lord curses the house of the wicked,  
    but he blesses the home of the upright.

**34**The Lord mocks the mockers  
    but is gracious to the humble.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%203&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16466c)]

**35**The wise inherit honor,  
    but fools are put to shame

Friday

**Joshua 9-10**

1. The Gibeonites, who were not Israelites, heard about the conquests of Joshua and decided to make a treaty with the Israelites.
2. The Gibeonites pretended to be from a faraway land and asked Joshua to make treaty with them.
3. Joshua and the Israelites made a treaty with the Gibeonites without consulting God.
4. Three days later, the Israelites discovered that the Gibeonites were actually from nearby cities.
5. Despite this Joshua kept the treaty and spared the Gibeonites’ lives, but made them servants.

Joshua 10:

1. Adoni-zedek, the king of Jerusalem, forms an alliance with other kings to attack Gibeon for making a treaty with the Israelites (Joshua 10:1-4).

2. The Gibeonites ask Joshua for help, and Joshua leads the Israelites to defend Gibeon (Joshua 10:5-7).

3. Joshua prays to God, and God promises to give the Israelites victory (Joshua 10:8-14).

4. The Israelites defeat the alliance of kings, and Joshua kills the kings (Joshua 10:15-27).

5. The Israelites then conquer several other cities, including Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Eglon, Hebron, and Debir (Joshua 10:28-42).

**Luke 7**

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant (Luke 7:1-10)

- Jesus enters Capernaum, and a centurion's servant is ill and near death.

- The centurion sends Jewish elders to ask Jesus to heal his servant.

- Jesus agrees to go, but the centurion sends another message, saying he's not worthy to have Jesus come to his home.

- Instead, he asks Jesus to simply say the word, and his servant will be healed.

- Jesus praises the centurion's faith and heals the servant.

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son (Luke 7:11-17)

- Jesus travels to Nain, and a funeral procession is taking place.

- A widow's only son has died, and Jesus sees the widow's grief.

- Jesus approaches the coffin, touches it, and says, "Young man, I say to you, arise!"

- The young man sits up, and Jesus gives him back to his mother.

John the Baptist's Questions (Luke 7:18-35)

- John the Baptist sends two of his disciples to ask Jesus if he's the Messiah.

- Jesus responds by telling them to report back to John about the miracles he's performed.

- Jesus then praises John as a prophet and says he's more than a prophet.

- Jesus criticizes the people for not repenting despite John's and Jesus' messages.

The Anointing of Jesus (Luke 7:36-50)

- Jesus is invited to dinner by a Pharisee named Simon.

- A sinful woman anoints Jesus' feet with perfume and wipes them with her hair.

- Simon is scandalized, but Jesus tells a parable about forgiveness and says the woman has shown great love.

- Jesus forgives the woman's sins and tells her to go in peace.

**Psalm 109**

Verses 1-5: A Prayer for Help

- David asks God to hear his prayer and not be silent (v. 1).

- He describes his enemies' wickedness and deceit (vv. 2-3).

- Despite their attacks, David says he will pray for them (v. 4).

- However, his enemies repay his good with evil (v. 5).

Verses 6-20: A Prayer for Justice

- David asks God to appoint an accuser against his enemies (v. 6).

- He prays that his enemies will be found guilty and condemned (vv. 7-8).

- David asks that his enemies' children will be fatherless and their wives will be widows (vv. 9-10).

- He prays that his enemies' descendants will be cut off and their memory will perish (vv. 11-15).

- David reminds God that his enemies have persecuted the poor and needy (vv. 16-18).

- He asks God to deal with his enemies according to their wickedness (vv. 19-20).

Verses 21-31: A Prayer for Deliverance

- David asks God to deliver him from his enemies (vv. 21-22).

- He says he is poor and needy, and his heart is wounded (vv. 22-23).

- David asks God to help him and deliver him from his enemies (vv. 24-27).

- He says his enemies will be ashamed and humiliated (vv. 28-29).

- David thanks God for his deliverance and promises to praise him publicly (vv. 30-31).

**Proverbs 4**

Verses 1-9: A Father's Instruction

- The chapter begins with a father's instruction to his son, urging him to listen to his words and get wisdom (v. 1).

- The father shares his own experiences and the wisdom he received from his father (vv. 3-4).

- He emphasizes the importance of getting wisdom and discipline, and warns his son against forsaking them (vv. 5-6).

- The father encourages his son to seek wisdom and understanding, and promises that they will be a crown of glory to him (vv. 7-9).

Verses 10-19: The Path of Wisdom

- The father urges his son to walk in the path of wisdom and avoid the path of the wicked (vv. 10-15).

- He warns his son against the dangers of evil men and their ways (vv. 16-17).

- The father contrasts the path of the righteous, which is like the morning light, with the path of the wicked, which is like darkness (vv. 18-19).

Verses 20-27: Guarding Your Heart

- The father instructs his son to pay attention to his words and guard his heart (vv. 20-23).

- He warns his son against the dangers of a perverse mouth and a corrupt heart (vv. 24-25).

- The father encourages his son to ponder the path of his feet and to avoid evil (vv. 26-27).

This chapter emphasizes the importance of seeking wisdom, discipline, and parental guidan ce. It encourages readers to walk in the path of wisdom, avoid evil, and guard their hearts.

Saturday

**Joshua 11-12**

**Israel Defeats the Northern Armies**

**11**When King Jabin of Hazor heard what had happened, he sent messages to the following kings: King Jobab of Madon; the king of Shimron; the king of Acshaph; **2**all the kings of the northern hill country; the kings in the Jordan Valley south of Galilee[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2011-12&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6086a)]; the kings in the Galilean foothills[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2011-12&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6086b)]; the kings of Naphoth-dor on the west; **3**the kings of Canaan, both east and west; the kings of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites in the towns on the slopes of Mount Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

**4**All these kings came out to fight. Their combined armies formed a vast horde. And with all their horses and chariots, they covered the landscape like the sand on the seashore. **5**The kings joined forces and established their camp around the water near Merom to fight against Israel.

**6**Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them. By this time tomorrow I will hand all of them over to Israel as dead men. Then you must cripple their horses and burn their chariots.”

**7**So Joshua and all his fighting men traveled to the water near Merom and attacked suddenly. **8**And the Lord gave them victory over their enemies. The Israelites chased them as far as Greater Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and eastward into the valley of Mizpah, until not one enemy warrior was left alive. **9**Then Joshua crippled the horses and burned all the chariots, as the Lord had instructed.

**10**Joshua then turned back and captured Hazor and killed its king. (Hazor had at one time been the capital of all these kingdoms.) **11**The Israelites completely destroyed[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2011-12&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6095c)] every living thing in the city, leaving no survivors. Not a single person was spared. And then Joshua burned the city.

**12**Joshua slaughtered all the other kings and their people, completely destroying them, just as Moses, the servant of the Lord, had commanded. **13**But the Israelites did not burn any of the towns built on mounds except Hazor, which Joshua burned. **14**And the Israelites took all the plunder and livestock of the ravaged towns for themselves. But they killed all the people, leaving no survivors. **15**As the Lord had commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua. And Joshua did as he was told, carefully obeying all the commands that the Lord had given to Moses.

**16**So Joshua conquered the entire region—the hill country, the entire Negev, the whole area around the town of Goshen, the western foothills, the Jordan Valley,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2011-12&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6100d)] the mountains of Israel, and the Galilean foothills. **17**The Israelite territory now extended all the way from Mount Halak, which leads up to Seir in the south, as far north as Baal-gad at the foot of Mount Hermon in the valley of Lebanon. Joshua killed all the kings of those territories, **18**waging war for a long time to accomplish this. **19**No one in this region made peace with the Israelites except the Hivites of Gibeon. All the others were defeated. **20**For the Lord hardened their hearts and caused them to fight the Israelites. So they were completely destroyed without mercy, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

**21**During this period Joshua destroyed all the descendants of Anak, who lived in the hill country of Hebron, Debir, Anab, and the entire hill country of Judah and Israel. He killed them all and completely destroyed their towns. **22**None of the descendants of Anak were left in all the land of Israel, though some still remained in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod.

**23**So Joshua took control of the entire land, just as the Lord had instructed Moses. He gave it to the people of Israel as their special possession, dividing the land among the tribes. So the land finally had rest from war.

**Kings Defeated East of the Jordan**

**12**These are the kings east of the Jordan River who had been killed by the Israelites and whose land was taken. Their territory extended from the Arnon Gorge to Mount Hermon and included all the land east of the Jordan Valley.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2011-12&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6108e)]

**2**King Sihon of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, was defeated. His kingdom included Aroer, on the edge of the Arnon Gorge, and extended from the middle of the Arnon Gorge to the Jabbok River, which serves as a border for the Ammonites. This territory included the southern half of the territory of Gilead. **3**Sihon also controlled the Jordan Valley and regions to the east—from as far north as the Sea of Galilee to as far south as the Dead Sea,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2011-12&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6110f)] including the road to Beth-jeshimoth and southward to the slopes of Pisgah.

**4**King Og of Bashan, the last of the Rephaites, lived at Ashtaroth and Edrei. **5**He ruled a territory stretching from Mount Hermon to Salecah in the north and to all of Bashan in the east, and westward to the borders of the kingdoms of Geshur and Maacah. This territory included the northern half of Gilead, as far as the boundary of King Sihon of Heshbon.

**6**Moses, the servant of the Lord, and the Israelites had destroyed the people of King Sihon and King Og. And Moses gave their land as a possession to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

**Kings Defeated West of the Jordan**

**7**The following is a list of the kings that Joshua and the Israelite armies defeated on the west side of the Jordan, from Baal-gad in the valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, which leads up to Seir. (Joshua gave this land to the tribes of Israel as their possession, **8**including the hill country, the western foothills,[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2011-12&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6115g)] the Jordan Valley, the mountain slopes, the Judean wilderness, and the Negev. The people who lived in this region were the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.) These are the kings Israel defeated:

**9**The king of Jericho  
The king of Ai, near Bethel  
**10**The king of Jerusalem  
The king of Hebron  
**11**The king of Jarmuth  
The king of Lachish  
**12**The king of Eglon  
The king of Gezer  
**13**The king of Debir  
The king of Geder  
**14**The king of Hormah  
The king of Arad  
**15**The king of Libnah  
The king of Adullam  
**16**The king of Makkedah  
The king of Bethel  
**17**The king of Tappuah  
The king of Hepher  
**18**The king of Aphek  
The king of Lasharon  
**19**The king of Madon  
The king of Hazor  
**20**The king of Shimron-meron  
The king of Acshaph  
**21**The king of Taanach  
The king of Megiddo  
**22**The king of Kedesh  
The king of Jokneam in Carmel  
**23**The king of Dor in the town of Naphoth-dor[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2011-12&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6130h)]  
The king of Goyim in Gilgal[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2011-12&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-6130i" \o "See footnote i)]  
**24**The king of Tirzah.

In all, thirty-one kings were defeated

**Luke 8**

**Women Who Followed Jesus**

**8**Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, **2**along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons; **3**Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples.

**Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed**

**4**One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: **5**“A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. **6**Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. **7**Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. **8**Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!” When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

**9**His disciples asked him what this parable meant. **10**He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%208&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25224a)] of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled:

‘When they look, they won’t really see.  
    When they hear, they won’t understand.’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%208&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25224b)]

**11**“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. **12**The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. **13**The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. **14**The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. **15**And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

**Parable of the Lamp**

**16**“No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house. **17**For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all.

**18**“So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them.”

**The True Family of Jesus**

**19**Then Jesus’ mother and brothers came to see him, but they couldn’t get to him because of the crowd. **20**Someone told Jesus, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, and they want to see you.”

**21**Jesus replied, “My mother and my brothers are all those who hear God’s word and obey it.”

**Jesus Calms the Storm**

**22**One day Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” So they got into a boat and started out. **23**As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap. But soon a fierce storm came down on the lake. The boat was filling with water, and they were in real danger.

**24**The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!”

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. **25**Then he asked them, “Where is your faith?”

The disciples were terrified and amazed. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!”

**Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man**

**26**So they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%208&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25240c)] across the lake from Galilee. **27**As Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man who was possessed by demons came out to meet him. For a long time he had been homeless and naked, living in the tombs outside the town.

**28**As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down in front of him. Then he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, I beg you, don’t torture me!” **29**For Jesus had already commanded the evil[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%208&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25243d)] spirit to come out of him. This spirit had often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon’s power.

**30**Jesus demanded, “What is your name?”

“Legion,” he replied, for he was filled with many demons. **31**The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%208&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25245e)]

**32**There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby, and the demons begged him to let them enter into the pigs.

So Jesus gave them permission. **33**Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned.

**34**When the herdsmen saw it, they fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. **35**People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been freed from the demons. He was sitting at Jesus’ feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. **36**Then those who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed. **37**And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them.

So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake. **38**The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, **39**“No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.

**Jesus Heals in Response to Faith**

**40**On the other side of the lake the crowds welcomed Jesus, because they had been waiting for him. **41**Then a man named Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come home with him. **42**His only daughter,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%208&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25256f)] who was about twelve years old, was dying.

As Jesus went with him, he was surrounded by the crowds. **43**A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding,[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%208&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25257g)] and she could find no cure. **44**Coming up behind Jesus, she touched the fringe of his robe. Immediately, the bleeding stopped.

**45**“Who touched me?” Jesus asked.

Everyone denied it, and Peter said, “Master, this whole crowd is pressing up against you.”

**46**But Jesus said, “Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me.” **47**When the woman realized that she could not stay hidden, she began to tremble and fell to her knees in front of him. The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched him and that she had been immediately healed. **48**“Daughter,” he said to her, “your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

**49**While he was still speaking to her, a messenger arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. He told him, “Your daughter is dead. There’s no use troubling the Teacher now.”

**50**But when Jesus heard what had happened, he said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just have faith, and she will be healed.”

**51**When they arrived at the house, Jesus wouldn’t let anyone go in with him except Peter, John, James, and the little girl’s father and mother. **52**The house was filled with people weeping and wailing, but he said, “Stop the weeping! She isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.”

**53**But the crowd laughed at him because they all knew she had died. **54**Then Jesus took her by the hand and said in a loud voice, “My child, get up!” **55**And at that moment her life[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%208&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25269h)] returned, and she immediately stood up! Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. **56**Her parents were overwhelmed, but Jesus insisted that they not tell anyone what had happened.

**Psalm 110-111**

**A psalm of David.**

**1**The Lord said to my Lord,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20110-111&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15764a)]  
    “Sit in the place of honor at my right hand  
until I humble your enemies,  
    making them a footstool under your feet.”

**2**The Lord will extend your powerful kingdom from Jerusalem[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20110-111&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15765b)];  
    you will rule over your enemies.  
**3**When you go to war,  
    your people will serve you willingly.  
You are arrayed in holy garments,  
    and your strength will be renewed each day like the morning dew.

**4**The Lord has taken an oath and will not break his vow:  
    “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.”

**5**The Lord stands at your right hand to protect you.  
    He will strike down many kings when his anger erupts.  
**6**He will punish the nations  
    and fill their lands with corpses;  
    he will shatter heads over the whole earth.  
**7**But he himself will be refreshed from brooks along the way.  
    He will be victorious.

**Psalm 111**[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20110-111&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15771c)]

**1**Praise the Lord!

I will thank the Lord with all my heart  
    as I meet with his godly people.  
**2**How amazing are the deeds of the Lord!  
    All who delight in him should ponder them.  
**3**Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty.  
    His righteousness never fails.  
**4**He causes us to remember his wonderful works.  
    How gracious and merciful is our Lord!  
**5**He gives food to those who fear him;  
    he always remembers his covenant.  
**6**He has shown his great power to his people  
    by giving them the lands of other nations.  
**7**All he does is just and good,  
    and all his commandments are trustworthy.  
**8**They are forever true,  
    to be obeyed faithfully and with integrity.  
**9**He has paid a full ransom for his people.  
    He has guaranteed his covenant with them forever.  
    What a holy, awe-inspiring name he has!  
**10**Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom.  
    All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.

Praise him forever!

**Proverbs 5**

**Avoid Immoral Women**

**5**My son, pay attention to my wisdom;  
    listen carefully to my wise counsel.  
**2**Then you will show discernment,  
    and your lips will express what you’ve learned.  
**3**For the lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey,  
    and her mouth is smoother than oil.  
**4**But in the end she is as bitter as poison,  
    as dangerous as a double-edged sword.  
**5**Her feet go down to death;  
    her steps lead straight to the grave.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%205&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16499a)]  
**6**For she cares nothing about the path to life.  
    She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn’t realize it.

**7**So now, my sons, listen to me.  
    Never stray from what I am about to say:  
**8**Stay away from her!  
    Don’t go near the door of her house!  
**9**If you do, you will lose your honor  
    and will lose to merciless people all you have achieved.  
**10**Strangers will consume your wealth,  
    and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor.  
**11**In the end you will groan in anguish  
    when disease consumes your body.  
**12**You will say, “How I hated discipline!  
    If only I had not ignored all the warnings!  
**13**Oh, why didn’t I listen to my teachers?  
    Why didn’t I pay attention to my instructors?  
**14**I have come to the brink of utter ruin,  
    and now I must face public disgrace.”

**15**Drink water from your own well—  
    share your love only with your wife.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%205&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16509b)]  
**16**Why spill the water of your springs in the streets,  
    having sex with just anyone?[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%205&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16510c)]  
**17**You should reserve it for yourselves.  
    Never share it with strangers.

**18**Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you.  
    Rejoice in the wife of your youth.  
**19**She is a loving deer, a graceful doe.  
    Let her breasts satisfy you always.  
    May you always be captivated by her love.  
**20**Why be captivated, my son, by an immoral woman,  
    or fondle the breasts of a promiscuous woman?

**21**For the Lord sees clearly what a man does,  
    examining every path he takes.  
**22**An evil man is held captive by his own sins;  
    they are ropes that catch and hold him.  
**23**He will die for lack of self-control;  
    he will be lost because of his great foolishness.

Sunday

**Joshua 13-14**

**The Land Yet to Be Conquered**

**13**When Joshua was an old man, the Lord said to him, “You are growing old, and much land remains to be conquered. **2**This is the territory that remains: all the regions of the Philistines and the Geshurites, **3**and the larger territory of the Canaanites, extending from the stream of Shihor on the border of Egypt, northward to the boundary of Ekron. It includes the territory of the five Philistine rulers of Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron. The land of the Avvites **4**in the south also remains to be conquered. In the north, the following area has not yet been conquered: all the land of the Canaanites, including Mearah (which belongs to the Sidonians), stretching northward to Aphek on the border of the Amorites; **5**the land of the Gebalites and all of the Lebanon mountain area to the east, from Baal-gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo-hamath; **6**and all the hill country from Lebanon to Misrephoth-maim, including all the land of the Sidonians.

“I myself will drive these people out of the land ahead of the Israelites. So be sure to give this land to Israel as a special possession, just as I have commanded you. **7**Include all this territory as Israel’s possession when you divide this land among the nine tribes and the half-tribe of Manasseh.”

**The Land Divided East of the Jordan**

**8**Half the tribe of Manasseh and the tribes of Reuben and Gad had already received their grants of land on the east side of the Jordan, for Moses, the servant of the Lord, had previously assigned this land to them.

**9**Their territory extended from Aroer on the edge of the Arnon Gorge (including the town in the middle of the gorge) to the plain beyond Medeba, as far as Dibon. **10**It also included all the towns of King Sihon of the Amorites, who had reigned in Heshbon, and extended as far as the borders of Ammon. **11**It included Gilead, the territory of the kingdoms of Geshur and Maacah, all of Mount Hermon, all of Bashan as far as Salecah, **12**and all the territory of King Og of Bashan, who had reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei. King Og was the last of the Rephaites, for Moses had attacked them and driven them out. **13**But the Israelites failed to drive out the people of Geshur and Maacah, so they continue to live among the Israelites to this day.

**An Allotment for the Tribe of Levi**

**14**Moses did not assign any allotment of land to the tribe of Levi. Instead, as the Lord had promised them, their allotment came from the offerings burned on the altar to the Lord, the God of Israel.

**The Land Given to the Tribe of Reuben**

**15**Moses had assigned the following area to the clans of the tribe of Reuben.

**16**Their territory extended from Aroer on the edge of the Arnon Gorge (including the town in the middle of the gorge) to the plain beyond Medeba. **17**It included Heshbon and the other towns on the plain—Dibon, Bamoth-baal, Beth-baal-meon, **18**Jahaz, Kedemoth, Mephaath, **19**Kiriathaim, Sibmah, Zereth-shahar on the hill above the valley, **20**Beth-peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth-jeshimoth.

**21**The land of Reuben also included all the towns of the plain and the entire kingdom of Sihon. Sihon was the Amorite king who had reigned in Heshbon and was killed by Moses along with the leaders of Midian—Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba—princes living in the region who were allied with Sihon. **22**The Israelites had also killed Balaam son of Beor, who used magic to tell the future. **23**The Jordan River marked the western boundary for the tribe of Reuben. The towns and their surrounding villages in this area were given as a homeland to the clans of the tribe of Reuben.

**The Land Given to the Tribe of Gad**

**24**Moses had assigned the following area to the clans of the tribe of Gad.

**25**Their territory included Jazer, all the towns of Gilead, and half of the land of Ammon, as far as the town of Aroer just west of[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2013-14&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6156a)] Rabbah. **26**It extended from Heshbon to Ramath-mizpeh and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the territory of Lo-debar.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2013-14&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6157b)] **27**In the valley were Beth-haram, Beth-nimrah, Succoth, Zaphon, and the rest of the kingdom of King Sihon of Heshbon. The western boundary ran along the Jordan River, extended as far north as the tip of the Sea of Galilee,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2013-14&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6158c)] and then turned eastward. **28**The towns and their surrounding villages in this area were given as a homeland to the clans of the tribe of Gad.

**The Land Given to the Half-Tribe of Manasseh**

**29**Moses had assigned the following area to the clans of the half-tribe of Manasseh.

**30**Their territory extended from Mahanaim, including all of Bashan, all the former kingdom of King Og, and the sixty towns of Jair in Bashan. **31**It also included half of Gilead and King Og’s royal cities of Ashtaroth and Edrei. All this was given to the clans of the descendants of Makir, who was Manasseh’s son.

**32**These are the allotments Moses had made while he was on the plains of Moab, across the Jordan River, east of Jericho. **33**But Moses gave no allotment of land to the tribe of Levi, for the Lord, the God of Israel, had promised that he himself would be their allotment.

**The Land Divided West of the Jordan**

**14**The remaining tribes of Israel received land in Canaan as allotted by Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the tribal leaders. **2**These nine and a half tribes received their grants of land by means of sacred lots, in accordance with the Lord’s command through Moses. **3**Moses had already given a grant of land to the two and a half tribes on the east side of the Jordan River, but he had given the Levites no such allotment. **4**The descendants of Joseph had become two separate tribes—Manasseh and Ephraim. And the Levites were given no land at all, only towns to live in with surrounding pasturelands for their livestock and all their possessions. **5**So the land was distributed in strict accordance with the Lord’s commands to Moses.

**Caleb Requests His Land**

**6**A delegation from the tribe of Judah, led by Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite, came to Joshua at Gilgal. Caleb said to Joshua, “Remember what the Lord said to Moses, the man of God, about you and me when we were at Kadesh-barnea. **7**I was forty years old when Moses, the servant of the Lord, sent me from Kadesh-barnea to explore the land of Canaan. I returned and gave an honest report, **8**but my brothers who went with me frightened the people from entering the Promised Land. For my part, I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God. **9**So that day Moses solemnly promised me, ‘The land of Canaan on which you were just walking will be your grant of land and that of your descendants forever, because you wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God.’

**10**“Now, as you can see, the Lord has kept me alive and well as he promised for all these forty-five years since Moses made this promise—even while Israel wandered in the wilderness. Today I am eighty-five years old. **11**I am as strong now as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then. **12**So give me the hill country that the Lord promised me. You will remember that as scouts we found the descendants of Anak living there in great, walled towns. But if the Lord is with me, I will drive them out of the land, just as the Lord said.”

**13**So Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave Hebron to him as his portion of land. **14**Hebron still belongs to the descendants of Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite because he wholeheartedly followed the Lord, the God of Israel. **15**(Previously Hebron had been called Kiriath-arba. It had been named after Arba, a great hero of the descendants of Anak.)

And the land had rest from war

Luke 9

**Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Disciples**

**9**One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25271a)] and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. **2**Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. **3**“Take nothing for your journey,” he instructed them. “Don’t take a walking stick, a traveler’s bag, food, money,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25273b)] or even a change of clothes. **4**Wherever you go, stay in the same house until you leave town. **5**And if a town refuses to welcome you, shake its dust from your feet as you leave to show that you have abandoned those people to their fate.”

**6**So they began their circuit of the villages, preaching the Good News and healing the sick.

**Herod’s Confusion**

**7**When Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25277c)] heard about everything Jesus was doing, he was puzzled. Some were saying that John the Baptist had been raised from the dead. **8**Others thought Jesus was Elijah or one of the other prophets risen from the dead.

**9**“I beheaded John,” Herod said, “so who is this man about whom I hear such stories?” And he kept trying to see him.

**Jesus Feeds Five Thousand**

**10**When the apostles returned, they told Jesus everything they had done. Then he slipped quietly away with them toward the town of Bethsaida. **11**But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick.

**12**Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, “Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place.”

**13**But Jesus said, “You feed them.”

“But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?” **14**For there were about 5,000 men there.

Jesus replied, “Tell them to sit down in groups of about fifty each.” **15**So the people all sat down. **16**Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. **17**They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers!

**Peter’s Declaration about Jesus**

**18**One day Jesus left the crowds to pray alone. Only his disciples were with him, and he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

**19**“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other ancient prophets risen from the dead.”

**20**Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

Peter replied, “You are the Messiah[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25290d)] sent from God!”

**Jesus Predicts His Death**

**21**Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone who he was. **22**“The Son of Man[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25292e)] must suffer many terrible things,” he said. “He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”

**23**Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. **24**If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. **25**And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? **26**If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels. **27**I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God.”

**The Transfiguration**

**28**About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray. **29**And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white. **30**Suddenly, two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared and began talking with Jesus. **31**They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem.

**32**Peter and the others had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus’ glory and the two men standing with him. **33**As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, “Master, it’s wonderful for us to be here! Let’s make three shelters as memorials[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25303f)]—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” **34**But even as he was saying this, a cloud overshadowed them, and terror gripped them as the cloud covered them.

**35**Then a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, my Chosen One.[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25305g)] Listen to him.” **36**When the voice finished, Jesus was there alone. They didn’t tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

**Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy**

**37**The next day, after they had come down the mountain, a large crowd met Jesus. **38**A man in the crowd called out to him, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, my only child. **39**An evil spirit keeps seizing him, making him scream. It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It batters him and hardly ever leaves him alone. **40**I begged your disciples to cast out the spirit, but they couldn’t do it.”

**41**Jesus said, “You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you and put up with you?” Then he said to the man, “Bring your son here.”

**42**As the boy came forward, the demon knocked him to the ground and threw him into a violent convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25312h)] spirit and healed the boy. Then he gave him back to his father. **43**Awe gripped the people as they saw this majestic display of God’s power.

**Jesus Again Predicts His Death**

While everyone was marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, **44**“Listen to me and remember what I say. The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies.” **45**But they didn’t know what he meant. Its significance was hidden from them, so they couldn’t understand it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

**The Greatest in the Kingdom**

**46**Then his disciples began arguing about which of them was the greatest. **47**But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he brought a little child to his side. **48**Then he said to them, “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-25318i" \o "See footnote i)] welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest.”

**Using the Name of Jesus**

**49**John said to Jesus, “Master, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he isn’t in our group.”

**50**But Jesus said, “Don’t stop him! Anyone who is not against you is for you.”

**Opposition from Samaritans**

**51**As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. **52**He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. **53**But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. **54**When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, “Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up[[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25324j)]?” **55**But Jesus turned and rebuked them.[[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25325k)] **56**So they went on to another village.

**The Cost of Following Jesus**

**57**As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

**58**But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.”

**59**He said to another person, “Come, follow me.”

The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.”

**60**But Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead![[l](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%209&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25330l)] Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.”

**61**Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.”

**62**But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.

Psalm 112-113

**1**Praise the Lord!

How joyful are those who fear the Lord  
    and delight in obeying his commands.  
**2**Their children will be successful everywhere;  
    an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.  
**3**They themselves will be wealthy,  
    and their good deeds will last forever.  
**4**Light shines in the darkness for the godly.  
    They are generous, compassionate, and righteous.  
**5**Good comes to those who lend money generously  
    and conduct their business fairly.  
**6**Such people will not be overcome by evil.  
    Those who are righteous will be long remembered.  
**7**They do not fear bad news;  
    they confidently trust the Lord to care for them.  
**8**They are confident and fearless  
    and can face their foes triumphantly.  
**9**They share freely and give generously to those in need.  
    Their good deeds will be remembered forever.  
    They will have influence and honor.  
**10**The wicked will see this and be infuriated.  
    They will grind their teeth in anger;  
    they will slink away, their hopes thwarted.

**Psalm 113**

**1**Praise the Lord!

Yes, give praise, O servants of the Lord.  
    Praise the name of the Lord!  
**2**Blessed be the name of the Lord  
    now and forever.  
**3**Everywhere—from east to west—  
    praise the name of the Lord.  
**4**For the Lord is high above the nations;  
    his glory is higher than the heavens.

**5**Who can be compared with the Lord our God,  
    who is enthroned on high?  
**6**He stoops to look down  
    on heaven and on earth.  
**7**He lifts the poor from the dust  
    and the needy from the garbage dump.  
**8**He sets them among princes,  
    even the princes of his own people!  
**9**He gives the childless woman a family,  
    making her a happy mother.

Praise the Lord!

Proverbs 6

**Lessons for Daily Life**

**6**My child,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%206&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16518a)] if you have put up security for a friend’s debt  
    or agreed to guarantee the debt of a stranger—  
**2**if you have trapped yourself by your agreement  
    and are caught by what you said—  
**3**follow my advice and save yourself,  
    for you have placed yourself at your friend’s mercy.  
Now swallow your pride;  
    go and beg to have your name erased.  
**4**Don’t put it off; do it now!  
    Don’t rest until you do.  
**5**Save yourself like a gazelle escaping from a hunter,  
    like a bird fleeing from a net.

**6**Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones.  
    Learn from their ways and become wise!  
**7**Though they have no prince  
    or governor or ruler to make them work,  
**8**they labor hard all summer,  
    gathering food for the winter.  
**9**But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep?  
    When will you wake up?  
**10**A little extra sleep, a little more slumber,  
    a little folding of the hands to rest—  
**11**then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit;  
    scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.

**12**What are worthless and wicked people like?  
    They are constant liars,  
**13**signaling their deceit with a wink of the eye,  
    a nudge of the foot, or the wiggle of fingers.  
**14**Their perverted hearts plot evil,  
    and they constantly stir up trouble.  
**15**But they will be destroyed suddenly,  
    broken in an instant beyond all hope of healing.

**16**There are six things the Lord hates—  
    no, seven things he detests:  
**17**haughty eyes,  
    a lying tongue,  
    hands that kill the innocent,  
**18**a heart that plots evil,  
    feet that race to do wrong,  
**19**a false witness who pours out lies,  
    a person who sows discord in a family.

**20**My son, obey your father’s commands,  
    and don’t neglect your mother’s instruction.  
**21**Keep their words always in your heart.  
    Tie them around your neck.  
**22**When you walk, their counsel will lead you.  
    When you sleep, they will protect you.  
    When you wake up, they will advise you.  
**23**For their command is a lamp  
    and their instruction a light;  
their corrective discipline  
    is the way to life.  
**24**It will keep you from the immoral woman,  
    from the smooth tongue of a promiscuous woman.  
**25**Don’t lust for her beauty.  
    Don’t let her coy glances seduce you.  
**26**For a prostitute will bring you to poverty,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%206&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16543b)]  
    but sleeping with another man’s wife will cost you your life.  
**27**Can a man scoop a flame into his lap  
    and not have his clothes catch on fire?  
**28**Can he walk on hot coals  
    and not blister his feet?  
**29**So it is with the man who sleeps with another man’s wife.  
    He who embraces her will not go unpunished.

**30**Excuses might be found for a thief  
    who steals because he is starving.  
**31**But if he is caught, he must pay back seven times what he stole,  
    even if he has to sell everything in his house.  
**32**But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool,  
    for he destroys himself.  
**33**He will be wounded and disgraced.  
    His shame will never be erased.  
**34**For the woman’s jealous husband will be furious,  
    and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.  
**35**He will accept no compensation,  
    nor be satisfied with a payoff of any size.

Monday

Joshua 15-16

**The Land Given to the Tribe of Judah**

**15**The allotment for the clans of the tribe of Judah reached southward to the border of Edom, as far south as the wilderness of Zin.

**2**The southern boundary began at the south bay of the Dead Sea,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2015-16&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6181a)] **3**ran south of Scorpion Pass[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2015-16&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6182b)] into the wilderness of Zin, and then went south of Kadesh-barnea to Hezron. Then it went up to Addar, where it turned toward Karka. **4**From there it passed to Azmon until it finally reached the Brook of Egypt, which it followed to the Mediterranean Sea.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2015-16&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6183c)] This was their[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2015-16&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6183d)] southern boundary.

**5**The eastern boundary extended along the Dead Sea to the mouth of the Jordan River.

The northern boundary began at the bay where the Jordan River empties into the Dead Sea, **6**went up from there to Beth-hoglah, then proceeded north of Beth-arabah to the Stone of Bohan. (Bohan was Reuben’s son.) **7**From that point it went through the valley of Achor to Debir, turning north toward Gilgal, which is across from the slopes of Adummim on the south side of the valley. From there the boundary extended to the springs at En-shemesh and on to En-rogel. **8**The boundary then passed through the valley of Ben-Hinnom, along the southern slopes of the Jebusites, where the city of Jerusalem is located. Then it went west to the top of the mountain above the valley of Hinnom, and on up to the northern end of the valley of Rephaim. **9**From there the boundary extended from the top of the mountain to the spring at the waters of Nephtoah,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2015-16&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6188e)] and from there to the towns on Mount Ephron. Then it turned toward Baalah (that is, Kiriath-jearim). **10**The boundary circled west of Baalah to Mount Seir, passed along to the town of Kesalon on the northern slope of Mount Jearim, and went down to Beth-shemesh and on to Timnah. **11**The boundary then proceeded to the slope of the hill north of Ekron, where it turned toward Shikkeron and Mount Baalah. It passed Jabneel and ended at the Mediterranean Sea.

**12**The western boundary was the shoreline of the Mediterranean Sea.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2015-16&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6191f)]

These are the boundaries for the clans of the tribe of Judah.

**The Land Given to Caleb**

**13**The Lord commanded Joshua to assign some of Judah’s territory to Caleb son of Jephunneh. So Caleb was given the town of Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), which had been named after Anak’s ancestor. **14**Caleb drove out the three groups of Anakites—the descendants of Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the sons of Anak.

**15**From there he went to fight against the people living in the town of Debir (formerly called Kiriath-sepher). **16**Caleb said, “I will give my daughter Acsah in marriage to the one who attacks and captures Kiriath-sepher.” **17**Othniel, the son of Caleb’s brother Kenaz, was the one who conquered it, so Acsah became Othniel’s wife.

**18**When Acsah married Othniel, she urged him[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2015-16&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6197g)] to ask her father for a field. As she got down off her donkey, Caleb asked her, “What’s the matter?”

**19**She said, “Give me another gift. You have already given me land in the Negev; now please give me springs of water, too.” So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.

**The Towns Allotted to Judah**

**20**This was the homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Judah.

**21**The towns of Judah situated along the borders of Edom in the extreme south were Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, **22**Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah, **23**Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, **24**Ziph, Telem, Bealoth, **25**Hazor-hadattah, Kerioth-hezron (that is, Hazor), **26**Amam, Shema, Moladah, **27**Hazar-gaddah, Heshmon, Beth-pelet, **28**Hazar-shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah, **29**Baalah, Iim, Ezem, **30**Eltolad, Kesil, Hormah, **31**Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah, **32**Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon—twenty-nine towns with their surrounding villages.

**33**The following towns situated in the western foothills[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2015-16&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6212h)] were also given to Judah: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, **34**Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, Enam, **35**Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah, **36**Shaaraim, Adithaim, Gederah, and Gederothaim—fourteen towns with their surrounding villages.

**37**Also included were Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal-gad, **38**Dilean, Mizpeh, Joktheel, **39**Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon, **40**Cabbon, Lahmam, Kitlish, **41**Gederoth, Beth-dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah—sixteen towns with their surrounding villages.

**42**Besides these, there were Libnah, Ether, Ashan, **43**Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib, **44**Keilah, Aczib, and Mareshah—nine towns with their surrounding villages.

**45**The territory of the tribe of Judah also included Ekron and its surrounding settlements and villages. **46**From Ekron the boundary extended west and included the towns near Ashdod with their surrounding villages. **47**It also included Ashdod with its surrounding settlements and villages and Gaza with its settlements and villages, as far as the Brook of Egypt and along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

**48**Judah also received the following towns in the hill country: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh, **49**Dannah, Kiriath-sannah (that is, Debir), **50**Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, **51**Goshen, Holon, and Giloh—eleven towns with their surrounding villages.

**52**Also included were the towns of Arab, Dumah, Eshan, **53**Janim, Beth-tappuah, Aphekah, **54**Humtah, Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), and Zior—nine towns with their surrounding villages.

**55**Besides these, there were Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah, **56**Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, **57**Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah—ten towns with their surrounding villages.

**58**In addition, there were Halhul, Beth-zur, Gedor, **59**Maarath, Beth-anoth, and Eltekon—six towns with their surrounding villages.

**60**There were also Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim) and Rabbah—two towns with their surrounding villages.

**61**In the wilderness there were the towns of Beth-arabah, Middin, Secacah, **62**Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En-gedi—six towns with their surrounding villages.

**63**But the tribe of Judah could not drive out the Jebusites, who lived in the city of Jerusalem, so the Jebusites live there among the people of Judah to this day.

**The Land Given to Ephraim and West Manasseh**

**16**The allotment for the descendants of Joseph extended from the Jordan River near Jericho, east of the springs of Jericho, through the wilderness and into the hill country of Bethel. **2**From Bethel (that is, Luz)[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2015-16&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-6244i" \o "See footnote i)] it ran over to Ataroth in the territory of the Arkites. **3**Then it descended westward to the territory of the Japhletites as far as Lower Beth-horon, then to Gezer and over to the Mediterranean Sea.[[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2015-16&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6245j)]

**4**This was the homeland allocated to the families of Joseph’s sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

**The Land Given to Ephraim**

**5**The following territory was given to the clans of the tribe of Ephraim.

The boundary of their homeland began at Ataroth-addar in the east. From there it ran to Upper Beth-horon, **6**then on to the Mediterranean Sea. From Micmethath on the north, the boundary curved eastward past Taanath-shiloh to the east of Janoah. **7**From Janoah it turned southward to Ataroth and Naarah, touched Jericho, and ended at the Jordan River. **8**From Tappuah the boundary extended westward, following the Kanah Ravine to the Mediterranean Sea. This is the homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Ephraim.

**9**In addition, some towns with their surrounding villages in the territory allocated to the half-tribe of Manasseh were set aside for the tribe of Ephraim. **10**They did not drive the Canaanites out of Gezer, however, so the people of Gezer live as slaves among the people of Ephraim to this day.

Luke 10

**Jesus Sends Out His Disciples**

**10**The Lord now chose seventy-two[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2010&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25333a)] other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit. **2**These were his instructions to them: “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. **3**Now go, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. **4**Don’t take any money with you, nor a traveler’s bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don’t stop to greet anyone on the road.

**5**“Whenever you enter someone’s home, first say, ‘May God’s peace be on this house.’ **6**If those who live there are peaceful, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you. **7**Don’t move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide. Don’t hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay.

**8**“If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you. **9**Heal the sick, and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God is near you now.’ **10**But if a town refuses to welcome you, go out into its streets and say, **11**‘We wipe even the dust of your town from our feet to show that we have abandoned you to your fate. And know this—the Kingdom of God is near!’ **12**I assure you, even wicked Sodom will be better off than such a town on judgment day.

**13**“What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse. **14**Yes, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on judgment day than you. **15**And you people of Capernaum, will you be honored in heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2010&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25347b)]”

**16**Then he said to the disciples, “Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God, who sent me.”

**17**When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!”

**18**“Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! **19**Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. **20**But don’t rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”

**Jesus’ Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**21**At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and he said, “O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way.

**22**“My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

**23**Then when they were alone, he turned to the disciples and said, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you have seen. **24**I tell you, many prophets and kings longed to see what you see, but they didn’t see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn’t hear it.”

**The Most Important Commandment**

**25**One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

**26**Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”

**27**The man answered, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2010&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25359c)]

**28**“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

**29**The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

**Parable of the Good Samaritan**

**30**Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

**31**“By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. **32**A Temple assistant[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2010&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25364d)] walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

**33**“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. **34**Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. **35**The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2010&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25367e)] telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’

**36**“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

**37**The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.”

Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

**Jesus Visits Martha and Mary**

**38**As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. **39**Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught. **40**But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.”

**41**But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! **42**There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Psalm 114-115

**Psalm 114**

**1**When the Israelites escaped from Egypt—  
    when the family of Jacob left that foreign land—  
**2**the land of Judah became God’s sanctuary,  
    and Israel became his kingdom.

**3**The Red Sea[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20114-115&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15802a)] saw them coming and hurried out of their way!  
    The water of the Jordan River turned away.  
**4**The mountains skipped like rams,  
    the hills like lambs!  
**5**What’s wrong, Red Sea, that made you hurry out of their way?  
    What happened, Jordan River, that you turned away?  
**6**Why, mountains, did you skip like rams?  
    Why, hills, like lambs?

**7**Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
    at the presence of the God of Jacob.  
**8**He turned the rock into a pool of water;  
    yes, a spring of water flowed from solid rock.

**Psalm 115**

**1**Not to us, O Lord, not to us,  
    but to your name goes all the glory  
    for your unfailing love and faithfulness.  
**2**Why let the nations say,  
    “Where is their God?”  
**3**Our God is in the heavens,  
    and he does as he wishes.  
**4**Their idols are merely things of silver and gold,  
    shaped by human hands.  
**5**They have mouths but cannot speak,  
    and eyes but cannot see.  
**6**They have ears but cannot hear,  
    and noses but cannot smell.  
**7**They have hands but cannot feel,  
    and feet but cannot walk,  
    and throats but cannot make a sound.  
**8**And those who make idols are just like them,  
    as are all who trust in them.

**9**O Israel, trust the Lord!  
    He is your helper and your shield.  
**10**O priests, descendants of Aaron, trust the Lord!  
    He is your helper and your shield.  
**11**All you who fear the Lord, trust the Lord!  
    He is your helper and your shield.

**12**The Lord remembers us and will bless us.  
    He will bless the people of Israel  
    and bless the priests, the descendants of Aaron.  
**13**He will bless those who fear the Lord,  
    both great and lowly.

**14**May the Lord richly bless  
    both you and your children.  
**15**May you be blessed by the Lord,  
    who made heaven and earth.  
**16**The heavens belong to the Lord,  
    but he has given the earth to all humanity.  
**17**The dead cannot sing praises to the Lord,  
    for they have gone into the silence of the grave.  
**18**But we can praise the Lord  
    both now and forever!

Praise the Lord!

Proverbs 7

**Another Warning about Immoral Women**

**7**Follow my advice, my son;  
    always treasure my commands.  
**2**Obey my commands and live!  
    Guard my instructions as you guard your own eyes.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverb%207&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16554a)]  
**3**Tie them on your fingers as a reminder.  
    Write them deep within your heart.

**4**Love wisdom like a sister;  
    make insight a beloved member of your family.  
**5**Let them protect you from an affair with an immoral woman,  
    from listening to the flattery of a promiscuous woman.

**6**While I was at the window of my house,  
    looking through the curtain,  
**7**I saw some naive young men,  
    and one in particular who lacked common sense.  
**8**He was crossing the street near the house of an immoral woman,  
    strolling down the path by her house.  
**9**It was at twilight, in the evening,  
    as deep darkness fell.  
**10**The woman approached him,  
    seductively dressed and sly of heart.  
**11**She was the brash, rebellious type,  
    never content to stay at home.  
**12**She is often in the streets and markets,  
    soliciting at every corner.  
**13**She threw her arms around him and kissed him,  
    and with a brazen look she said,  
**14**“I’ve just made my peace offerings  
    and fulfilled my vows.  
**15**You’re the one I was looking for!  
    I came out to find you, and here you are!  
**16**My bed is spread with beautiful blankets,  
    with colored sheets of Egyptian linen.  
**17**I’ve perfumed my bed  
    with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.  
**18**Come, let’s drink our fill of love until morning.  
    Let’s enjoy each other’s caresses,  
**19**for my husband is not home.  
    He’s away on a long trip.  
**20**He has taken a wallet full of money with him  
    and won’t return until later this month.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverb%207&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16572b)]”

**21**So she seduced him with her pretty speech  
    and enticed him with her flattery.  
**22**He followed her at once,  
    like an ox going to the slaughter.  
He was like a stag caught in a trap,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverb%207&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16574c)]  
**23**    awaiting the arrow that would pierce its heart.  
He was like a bird flying into a snare,  
    little knowing it would cost him his life.

**24**So listen to me, my sons,  
    and pay attention to my words.  
**25**Don’t let your hearts stray away toward her.  
    Don’t wander down her wayward path.  
**26**For she has been the ruin of many;  
    many men have been her victims.  
**27**Her house is the road to the grave.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverb%207&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16579d)]  
    Her bedroom is the den of death

Tuesday

**Joshua 17-18**

**The Land Given to West Manasseh**

**17**The next allotment of land was given to the half-tribe of Manasseh, the descendants of Joseph’s older son. Makir, the firstborn son of Manasseh, was the father of Gilead. Because his descendants were experienced soldiers, the regions of Gilead and Bashan on the east side of the Jordan had already been given to them. **2**So the allotment on the west side of the Jordan was for the remaining families within the clans of the tribe of Manasseh: Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hepher, and Shemida. These clans represent the male descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph.

**3**However, Zelophehad, a descendant of Hepher son of Gilead, son of Makir, son of Manasseh, had no sons. He had only daughters, whose names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. **4**These women came to Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the Israelite leaders and said, “The Lord commanded Moses to give us a grant of land along with the men of our tribe.”

So Joshua gave them a grant of land along with their uncles, as the Lord had commanded. **5**As a result, Manasseh’s total allocation came to ten parcels of land, in addition to the land of Gilead and Bashan across the Jordan River, **6**because the female descendants of Manasseh received a grant of land along with the male descendants. (The land of Gilead was given to the rest of the male descendants of Manasseh.)

**7**The boundary of the tribe of Manasseh extended from the border of Asher to Micmethath, near Shechem. Then the boundary went south from Micmethath to the settlement near the spring of Tappuah. **8**The land surrounding Tappuah belonged to Manasseh, but the town of Tappuah itself, on the border of Manasseh’s territory, belonged to the tribe of Ephraim. **9**From the spring of Tappuah, the boundary of Manasseh followed the Kanah Ravine to the Mediterranean Sea.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2017-18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6261a)] Several towns south of the ravine were inside Manasseh’s territory, but they actually belonged to the tribe of Ephraim. **10**In general, however, the land south of the ravine belonged to Ephraim, and the land north of the ravine belonged to Manasseh. Manasseh’s boundary ran along the northern side of the ravine and ended at the Mediterranean Sea. North of Manasseh was the territory of Asher, and to the east was the territory of Issachar.

**11**The following towns within the territory of Issachar and Asher, however, were given to Manasseh: Beth-shan,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2017-18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6263b)] Ibleam, Dor (that is, Naphoth-dor),[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2017-18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6263c)] Endor, Taanach, and Megiddo, each with their surrounding settlements.

**12**But the descendants of Manasseh were unable to occupy these towns because the Canaanites were determined to stay in that region. **13**Later, however, when the Israelites became strong enough, they forced the Canaanites to work as slaves. But they did not drive them out of the land.

**14**The descendants of Joseph came to Joshua and asked, “Why have you given us only one portion of land as our homeland when the Lord has blessed us with so many people?”

**15**Joshua replied, “If there are so many of you, and if the hill country of Ephraim is not large enough for you, clear out land for yourselves in the forest where the Perizzites and Rephaites live.”

**16**The descendants of Joseph responded, “It’s true that the hill country is not large enough for us. But all the Canaanites in the lowlands have iron chariots, both those in Beth-shan and its surrounding settlements and those in the valley of Jezreel. They are too strong for us.”

**17**Then Joshua said to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, the descendants of Joseph, “Since you are so large and strong, you will be given more than one portion. **18**The forests of the hill country will be yours as well. Clear as much of the land as you wish, and take possession of its farthest corners. And you will drive out the Canaanites from the valleys, too, even though they are strong and have iron chariots.”

**The Allotments of the Remaining Land**

**18**Now that the land was under Israelite control, the entire community of Israel gathered at Shiloh and set up the Tabernacle.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2017-18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6271d)] **2**But there remained seven tribes who had not yet been allotted their grants of land.

**3**Then Joshua asked them, “How long are you going to wait before taking possession of the remaining land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has given to you? **4**Select three men from each tribe, and I will send them out to explore the land and map it out. They will then return to me with a written report of their proposed divisions of their new homeland. **5**Let them divide the land into seven sections, excluding Judah’s territory in the south and Joseph’s territory in the north. **6**And when you record the seven divisions of the land and bring them to me, I will cast sacred lots in the presence of the Lord our God to assign land to each tribe.

**7**“The Levites, however, will not receive any allotment of land. Their role as priests of the Lord is their allotment. And the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and the half-tribe of Manasseh won’t receive any more land, for they have already received their grant of land, which Moses, the servant of the Lord, gave them on the east side of the Jordan River.”

**8**As the men started on their way to map out the land, Joshua commanded them, “Go and explore the land and write a description of it. Then return to me, and I will assign the land to the tribes by casting sacred lots here in the presence of the Lord at Shiloh.” **9**The men did as they were told and mapped the entire territory into seven sections, listing the towns in each section. They made a written record and then returned to Joshua in the camp at Shiloh. **10**And there at Shiloh, Joshua cast sacred lots in the presence of the Lord to determine which tribe should have each section.

**The Land Given to Benjamin**

**11**The first allotment of land went to the clans of the tribe of Benjamin. It lay between the territory assigned to the tribes of Judah and Joseph.

**12**The northern boundary of Benjamin’s land began at the Jordan River, went north of the slope of Jericho, then west through the hill country and the wilderness of Beth-aven. **13**From there the boundary went south to Luz (that is, Bethel) and proceeded down to Ataroth-addar on the hill that lies south of Lower Beth-horon.

**14**The boundary then made a turn and swung south along the western edge of the hill facing Beth-horon, ending at the village of Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), a town belonging to the tribe of Judah. This was the western boundary.

**15**The southern boundary began at the outskirts of Kiriath-jearim. From that western point it ran[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2017-18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6285e)] to the spring at the waters of Nephtoah,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2017-18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6285f)] **16**and down to the base of the mountain beside the valley of Ben-Hinnom, at the northern end of the valley of Rephaim. From there it went down the valley of Hinnom, crossing south of the slope where the Jebusites lived, and continued down to En-rogel. **17**From En-rogel the boundary proceeded in a northerly direction and came to En-shemesh and on to Geliloth (which is across from the slopes of Adummim). Then it went down to the Stone of Bohan. (Bohan was Reuben’s son.) **18**From there it passed along the north side of the slope overlooking the Jordan Valley.[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2017-18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6288g)] The border then went down into the valley, **19**ran past the north slope of Beth-hoglah, and ended at the north bay of the Dead Sea,[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2017-18&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6289h)] which is the southern end of the Jordan River. This was the southern boundary.

**20**The eastern boundary was the Jordan River.

These were the boundaries of the homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Benjamin.

**The Towns Given to Benjamin**

**21**These were the towns given to the clans of the tribe of Benjamin.

Jericho, Beth-hoglah, Emek-keziz, **22**Beth-arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, **23**Avvim, Parah, Ophrah, **24**Kephar-ammoni, Ophni, and Geba—twelve towns with their surrounding villages. **25**Also Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, **26**Mizpah, Kephirah, Mozah, **27**Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, **28**Zela, Haeleph, the Jebusite town (that is, Jerusalem), Gibeah, and Kiriath-jearim[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2017-18&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-6298i" \o "See footnote i)]—fourteen towns with their surrounding villages.

This was the homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Benjamin.

**Luke 11**

**Teaching about Prayer**

**11**Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

**2**Jesus said, “This is how you should pray:[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25376a)]

“Father, may your name be kept holy.  
    May your Kingdom come soon.  
**3**Give us each day the food we need,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25377b)]  
**4**and forgive us our sins,  
    as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And don’t let us yield to temptation.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25378c)]”

**5**Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, **6**‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ **7**And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ **8**But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25382d)]

**9**“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. **10**For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

**11**“You fathers—if your children ask[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25385e)] for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? **12**Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! **13**So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

**Jesus and the Prince of Demons**

**14**One day Jesus cast out a demon from a man who couldn’t speak, and when the demon was gone, the man began to speak. The crowds were amazed, **15**but some of them said, “No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25389f)] the prince of demons.” **16**Others, trying to test Jesus, demanded that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority.

**17**He knew their thoughts, so he said, “Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A family splintered by feuding will fall apart. **18**You say I am empowered by Satan. But if Satan is divided and fighting against himself, how can his kingdom survive? **19**And if I am empowered by Satan, what about your own exorcists? They cast out demons, too, so they will condemn you for what you have said. **20**But if I am casting out demons by the power of God,[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25394g)] then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. **21**For when a strong man is fully armed and guards his palace, his possessions are safe— **22**until someone even stronger attacks and overpowers him, strips him of his weapons, and carries off his belongings.

**23**“Anyone who isn’t with me opposes me, and anyone who isn’t working with me is actually working against me.

**24**“When an evil[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25398h)] spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, searching for rest. But when it finds none, it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ **25**So it returns and finds that its former home is all swept and in order. **26**Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before.”

**27**As he was speaking, a woman in the crowd called out, “God bless your mother—the womb from which you came, and the breasts that nursed you!”

**28**Jesus replied, “But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.”

**The Sign of Jonah**

**29**As the crowd pressed in on Jesus, he said, “This evil generation keeps asking me to show them a miraculous sign. But the only sign I will give them is the sign of Jonah. **30**What happened to him was a sign to the people of Nineveh that God had sent him. What happens to the Son of Man[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-25404i" \o "See footnote i)] will be a sign to these people that he was sent by God.

**31**“The queen of Sheba[[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25405j)] will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for she came from a distant land to hear the wisdom of Solomon. Now someone greater than Solomon is here—but you refuse to listen. **32**The people of Nineveh will also stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent.

**Receiving the Light**

**33**“No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a basket.[[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25407k)] Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house.

**34**“Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness. **35**Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness. **36**If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light.”

**Jesus Criticizes the Religious Leaders**

**37**As Jesus was speaking, one of the Pharisees invited him home for a meal. So he went in and took his place at the table.[[l](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25411l)] **38**His host was amazed to see that he sat down to eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony required by Jewish custom. **39**Then the Lord said to him, “You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and wickedness! **40**Fools! Didn’t God make the inside as well as the outside? **41**So clean the inside by giving gifts to the poor, and you will be clean all over.

**42**“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens,[[m](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25416m)] but you ignore justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

**43**“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you love to sit in the seats of honor in the synagogues and receive respectful greetings as you walk in the marketplaces. **44**Yes, what sorrow awaits you! For you are like hidden graves in a field. People walk over them without knowing the corruption they are stepping on.”

**45**“Teacher,” said an expert in religious law, “you have insulted us, too, in what you just said.”

**46**“Yes,” said Jesus, “what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden. **47**What sorrow awaits you! For you build monuments for the prophets your own ancestors killed long ago. **48**But in fact, you stand as witnesses who agree with what your ancestors did. They killed the prophets, and you join in their crime by building the monuments! **49**This is what God in his wisdom said about you:[[n](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2011&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25423n)] ‘I will send prophets and apostles to them, but they will kill some and persecute the others.’

**50**“As a result, this generation will be held responsible for the murder of all God’s prophets from the creation of the world— **51**from the murder of Abel to the murder of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, it will certainly be charged against this generation.

**52**“What sorrow awaits you experts in religious law! For you remove the key to knowledge from the people. You don’t enter the Kingdom yourselves, and you prevent others from entering.”

**53**As Jesus was leaving, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees became hostile and tried to provoke him with many questions. **54**They wanted to trap him into saying something they could use against him

Psalm 116-117

**1**I love the Lord because he hears my voice  
    and my prayer for mercy.  
**2**Because he bends down to listen,  
    I will pray as long as I have breath!  
**3**Death wrapped its ropes around me;  
    the terrors of the grave[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms%20116-117&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15828a)] overtook me.  
    I saw only trouble and sorrow.  
**4**Then I called on the name of the Lord:  
    “Please, Lord, save me!”  
**5**How kind the Lord is! How good he is!  
    So merciful, this God of ours!  
**6**The Lord protects those of childlike faith;  
    I was facing death, and he saved me.  
**7**Let my soul be at rest again,  
    for the Lord has been good to me.  
**8**He has saved me from death,  
    my eyes from tears,  
    my feet from stumbling.  
**9**And so I walk in the Lord’s presence  
    as I live here on earth!  
**10**I believed in you, so I said,  
    “I am deeply troubled, Lord.”  
**11**In my anxiety I cried out to you,  
    “These people are all liars!”  
**12**What can I offer the Lord  
    for all he has done for me?  
**13**I will lift up the cup of salvation  
    and praise the Lord’s name for saving me.  
**14**I will keep my promises to the Lord  
    in the presence of all his people.

**15**The Lord cares deeply  
    when his loved ones die.  
**16**O Lord, I am your servant;  
    yes, I am your servant, born into your household;  
    you have freed me from my chains.  
**17**I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
    and call on the name of the Lord.  
**18**I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
    in the presence of all his people—  
**19**in the house of the Lord  
    in the heart of Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

**Psalm 117**

**1**Praise the Lord, all you nations.  
    Praise him, all you people of the earth.  
**2**For his unfailing love for us is powerful;  
    the Lord’s faithfulness endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

Proverbs 8

**Wisdom Calls for a Hearing**

**8**Listen as Wisdom calls out!  
    Hear as understanding raises her voice!  
**2**On the hilltop along the road,  
    she takes her stand at the crossroads.  
**3**By the gates at the entrance to the town,  
    on the road leading in, she cries aloud,  
**4**“I call to you, to all of you!  
    I raise my voice to all people.  
**5**You simple people, use good judgment.  
    You foolish people, show some understanding.  
**6**Listen to me! For I have important things to tell you.  
    Everything I say is right,  
**7**for I speak the truth  
    and detest every kind of deception.  
**8**My advice is wholesome.  
    There is nothing devious or crooked in it.  
**9**My words are plain to anyone with understanding,  
    clear to those with knowledge.  
**10**Choose my instruction rather than silver,  
    and knowledge rather than pure gold.  
**11**For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies.  
    Nothing you desire can compare with it.

**12**“I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment.  
    I know where to discover knowledge and discernment.  
**13**All who fear the Lord will hate evil.  
    Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance,  
    corruption and perverse speech.  
**14**Common sense and success belong to me.  
    Insight and strength are mine.  
**15**Because of me, kings reign,  
    and rulers make just decrees.  
**16**Rulers lead with my help,  
    and nobles make righteous judgments.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%208&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16595a)]

**17**“I love all who love me.  
    Those who search will surely find me.  
**18**I have riches and honor,  
    as well as enduring wealth and justice.  
**19**My gifts are better than gold, even the purest gold,  
    my wages better than sterling silver!  
**20**I walk in righteousness,  
    in paths of justice.  
**21**Those who love me inherit wealth.  
    I will fill their treasuries.

**22**“The Lord formed me from the beginning,  
    before he created anything else.  
**23**I was appointed in ages past,  
    at the very first, before the earth began.  
**24**I was born before the oceans were created,  
    before the springs bubbled forth their waters.  
**25**Before the mountains were formed,  
    before the hills, I was born—  
**26**before he had made the earth and fields  
    and the first handfuls of soil.  
**27**I was there when he established the heavens,  
    when he drew the horizon on the oceans.  
**28**I was there when he set the clouds above,  
    when he established springs deep in the earth.  
**29**I was there when he set the limits of the seas,  
    so they would not spread beyond their boundaries.  
And when he marked off the earth’s foundations,  
**30**    I was the architect at his side.  
I was his constant delight,  
    rejoicing always in his presence.  
**31**And how happy I was with the world he created;  
    how I rejoiced with the human family!

**32**“And so, my children,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%208&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16611b)] listen to me,  
    for all who follow my ways are joyful.  
**33**Listen to my instruction and be wise.  
    Don’t ignore it.  
**34**Joyful are those who listen to me,  
    watching for me daily at my gates,  
    waiting for me outside my home!  
**35**For whoever finds me finds life  
    and receives favor from the Lord.  
**36**But those who miss me injure themselves.  
    All who hate me love death.

Wednesday

**Joshua 19-20**

**The Land Given to Simeon**

**19**The second allotment of land went to the clans of the tribe of Simeon. Their homeland was surrounded by Judah’s territory.

**2**Simeon’s homeland included Beersheba, Sheba, Moladah, **3**Hazar-shual, Balah, Ezem, **4**Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah, **5**Ziklag, Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susah, **6**Beth-lebaoth, and Sharuhen—thirteen towns with their surrounding villages. **7**It also included Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan—four towns with their villages, **8**including all the surrounding villages as far south as Baalath-beer (also known as Ramah of the Negev).

This was the homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Simeon. **9**Their allocation of land came from part of what had been given to Judah because Judah’s territory was too large for them. So the tribe of Simeon received an allocation within the territory of Judah.

**The Land Given to Zebulun**

**10**The third allotment of land went to the clans of the tribe of Zebulun.

The boundary of Zebulun’s homeland started at Sarid. **11**From there it went west, going past Maralah, touching Dabbesheth, and proceeding to the brook east of Jokneam. **12**In the other direction, the boundary went east from Sarid to the border of Kisloth-tabor, and from there to Daberath and up to Japhia. **13**Then it continued east to Gath-hepher, Eth-kazin, and Rimmon and turned toward Neah. **14**The northern boundary of Zebulun passed Hannathon and ended at the valley of Iphtah-el. **15**The towns in these areas included Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem—twelve towns with their surrounding villages.

**16**The homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Zebulun included these towns and their surrounding villages.

**The Land Given to Issachar**

**17**The fourth allotment of land went to the clans of the tribe of Issachar.

**18**Its boundaries included the following towns: Jezreel, Kesulloth, Shunem, **19**Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath, **20**Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez, **21**Remeth, En-gannim, En-haddah, and Beth-pazzez. **22**The boundary also touched Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth-shemesh, ending at the Jordan River—sixteen towns with their surrounding villages.

**23**The homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Issachar included these towns and their surrounding villages.

**The Land Given to Asher**

**24**The fifth allotment of land went to the clans of the tribe of Asher.

**25**Its boundaries included these towns: Helkath, Hali, Beten, Acshaph, **26**Allammelech, Amad, and Mishal. The boundary on the west touched Carmel and Shihor-libnath, **27**then it turned east toward Beth-dagon, and ran as far as Zebulun in the valley of Iphtah-el, going north to Beth-emek and Neiel. It then continued north to Cabul, **28**Abdon,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2019-20&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6326a)] Rehob, Hammon, Kanah, and as far as Greater Sidon. **29**Then the boundary turned toward Ramah and the fortress of Tyre, where it turned toward Hosah and came to the Mediterranean Sea.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2019-20&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6327b)] The territory also included Mehebel, Aczib, **30**Ummah, Aphek, and Rehob—twenty-two towns with their surrounding villages.

**31**The homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Asher included these towns and their surrounding villages.

**The Land Given to Naphtali**

**32**The sixth allotment of land went to the clans of the tribe of Naphtali.

**33**Its boundary ran from Heleph, from the oak at Zaanannim, and extended across to Adami-nekeb, Jabneel, and as far as Lakkum, ending at the Jordan River. **34**The western boundary ran past Aznoth-tabor, then to Hukkok, and touched the border of Zebulun in the south, the border of Asher on the west, and the Jordan River[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2019-20&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6332c)] on the east. **35**The fortified towns included in this territory were Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Kinnereth, **36**Adamah, Ramah, Hazor, **37**Kedesh, Edrei, En-hazor, **38**Yiron, Migdal-el, Horem, Beth-anath, and Beth-shemesh—nineteen towns with their surrounding villages.

**39**The homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Naphtali included these towns and their surrounding villages.

**The Land Given to Dan**

**40**The seventh allotment of land went to the clans of the tribe of Dan.

**41**The land allocated as their homeland included the following towns: Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir-shemesh, **42**Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah, **43**Elon, Timnah, Ekron, **44**Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath, **45**Jehud, Bene-berak, Gath-rimmon, **46**Me-jarkon, Rakkon, and the territory across from Joppa.

**47**But the tribe of Dan had trouble taking possession of their land,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2019-20&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6345d)] so they attacked the town of Laish.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2019-20&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6345e)] They captured it, slaughtered its people, and settled there. They renamed the town Dan after their ancestor.

**48**The homeland allocated to the clans of the tribe of Dan included these towns and their surrounding villages.

**The Land Given to Joshua**

**49**After all the land was divided among the tribes, the Israelites gave a piece of land to Joshua as his allocation. **50**For the Lord had said he could have any town he wanted. He chose Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim. He rebuilt the town and lived there.

**51**These are the territories that Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the tribal leaders allocated as grants of land to the tribes of Israel by casting sacred lots in the presence of the Lord at the entrance of the Tabernacle[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2019-20&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6349f)] at Shiloh. So the division of the land was completed.

**The Cities of Refuge**

**20**The Lord said to Joshua, **2**“Now tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed Moses. **3**Anyone who kills another person accidentally and unintentionally can run to one of these cities; they will be places of refuge from relatives seeking revenge for the person who was killed.

**4**“Upon reaching one of these cities, the one who caused the death will appear before the elders at the city gate and present his case. They must allow him to enter the city and give him a place to live among them. **5**If the relatives of the victim come to avenge the killing, the leaders must not release the slayer to them, for he killed the other person unintentionally and without previous hostility. **6**But the slayer must stay in that city and be tried by the local assembly, which will render a judgment. And he must continue to live in that city until the death of the high priest who was in office at the time of the accident. After that, he is free to return to his own home in the town from which he fled.”

**7**The following cities were designated as cities of refuge: Kedesh of Galilee, in the hill country of Naphtali; Shechem, in the hill country of Ephraim; and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), in the hill country of Judah. **8**On the east side of the Jordan River, across from Jericho, the following cities were designated: Bezer, in the wilderness plain of the tribe of Reuben; Ramoth in Gilead, in the territory of the tribe of Gad; and Golan in Bashan, in the land of the tribe of Manasseh. **9**These cities were set apart for all the Israelites as well as the foreigners living among them. Anyone who accidentally killed another person could take refuge in one of these cities. In this way, they could escape being killed in revenge prior to standing trial before the local assembly

**Luke 12**

**A Warning against Hypocrisy**

**12**Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other. Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them, “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy. **2**The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. **3**Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!

**4**“Dear friends, don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. **5**But I’ll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2012&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25433a)] Yes, he’s the one to fear.

**6**“What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2012&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25434b)]? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. **7**And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

**8**“I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2012&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25436c)] will also acknowledge in the presence of God’s angels. **9**But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God’s angels. **10**Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

**11**“And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don’t worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, **12**for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said.”

**Parable of the Rich Fool**

**13**Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.”

**14**Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” **15**Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

**16**Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. **17**He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ **18**Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. **19**And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’

**20**“But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’

**21**“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

**Teaching about Money and Possessions**

**22**Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. **23**For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. **24**Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! **25**Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? **26**And if worry can’t accomplish a little thing like that, what’s the use of worrying over bigger things?

**27**“Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. **28**And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

**29**“And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things. **30**These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. **31**Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.

**32**“So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.

**33**“Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. **34**Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

**Be Ready for the Lord’s Coming**

**35**“Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, **36**as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. **37**The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! **38**He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2012&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25466d)] But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.

**39**“Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into. **40**You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.”

**41**Peter asked, “Lord, is that illustration just for us or for everyone?”

**42**And the Lord replied, “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. **43**If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. **44**I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. **45**But what if the servant thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? **46**The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful.

**47**“And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn’t prepared and doesn’t carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. **48**But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

**Jesus Causes Division**

**49**“I have come to set the world on fire, and I wish it were already burning! **50**I have a terrible baptism of suffering ahead of me, and I am under a heavy burden until it is accomplished. **51**Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other! **52**From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against—or two in favor and three against.

**53**‘Father will be divided against son  
    and son against father;  
mother against daughter  
    and daughter against mother;  
and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law  
    and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2012&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25481e)]”

**54**Then Jesus turned to the crowd and said, “When you see clouds beginning to form in the west, you say, ‘Here comes a shower.’ And you are right. **55**When the south wind blows, you say, ‘Today will be a scorcher.’ And it is. **56**You fools! You know how to interpret the weather signs of the earth and sky, but you don’t know how to interpret the present times.

**57**“Why can’t you decide for yourselves what is right? **58**When you are on the way to court with your accuser, try to settle the matter before you get there. Otherwise, your accuser may drag you before the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, who will throw you into prison. **59**And if that happens, you won’t be free again until you have paid the very last penny.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2012&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25487f)]

**Psalm 118**

**1**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
    His faithful love endures forever.

**2**Let all Israel repeat:  
    “His faithful love endures forever.”  
**3**Let Aaron’s descendants, the priests, repeat:  
    “His faithful love endures forever.”  
**4**Let all who fear the Lord repeat:  
    “His faithful love endures forever.”

**5**In my distress I prayed to the Lord,  
    and the Lord answered me and set me free.  
**6**The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear.  
    What can mere people do to me?  
**7**Yes, the Lord is for me; he will help me.  
    I will look in triumph at those who hate me.  
**8**It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
    than to trust in people.  
**9**It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
    than to trust in princes.

**10**Though hostile nations surrounded me,  
    I destroyed them all with the authority of the Lord.  
**11**Yes, they surrounded and attacked me,  
    but I destroyed them all with the authority of the Lord.  
**12**They swarmed around me like bees;  
    they blazed against me like a crackling fire.  
    But I destroyed them all with the authority of the Lord.  
**13**My enemies did their best to kill me,  
    but the Lord rescued me.  
**14**The Lord is my strength and my song;  
    he has given me victory.  
**15**Songs of joy and victory are sung in the camp of the godly.  
    The strong right arm of the Lord has done glorious things!  
**16**The strong right arm of the Lord is raised in triumph.  
    The strong right arm of the Lord has done glorious things!  
**17**I will not die; instead, I will live  
    to tell what the Lord has done.  
**18**The Lord has punished me severely,  
    but he did not let me die.

**19**Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,  
    and I will go in and thank the Lord.  
**20**These gates lead to the presence of the Lord,  
    and the godly enter there.  
**21**I thank you for answering my prayer  
    and giving me victory!

**22**The stone that the builders rejected  
    has now become the cornerstone.  
**23**This is the Lord’s doing,  
    and it is wonderful to see.  
**24**This is the day the Lord has made.  
    We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
**25**Please, Lord, please save us.  
    Please, Lord, please give us success.  
**26**Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
    We bless you from the house of the Lord.  
**27**The Lord is God, shining upon us.  
    Take the sacrifice and bind it with cords on the altar.  
**28**You are my God, and I will praise you!  
    You are my God, and I will exalt you!

**29**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
    His faithful love endures forever

**Proverbs 9**

Wisdom has built her house;  
    she has carved its seven columns.  
**2**She has prepared a great banquet,  
    mixed the wines, and set the table.  
**3**She has sent her servants to invite everyone to come.  
    She calls out from the heights overlooking the city.  
**4**“Come in with me,” she urges the simple.  
    To those who lack good judgment, she says,  
**5**“Come, eat my food,  
    and drink the wine I have mixed.  
**6**Leave your simple ways behind, and begin to live;  
    learn to use good judgment.”

**7**Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get an insult in return.  
    Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt.  
**8**So don’t bother correcting mockers;  
    they will only hate you.  
But correct the wise,  
    and they will love you.  
**9**Instruct the wise,  
    and they will be even wiser.  
Teach the righteous,  
    and they will learn even more.

**10**Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom.  
    Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

**11**Wisdom will multiply your days  
    and add years to your life.  
**12**If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit.  
    If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer.

**Folly Calls for a Hearing**

**13**The woman named Folly is brash.  
    She is ignorant and doesn’t know it.  
**14**She sits in her doorway  
    on the heights overlooking the city.  
**15**She calls out to men going by  
    who are minding their own business.  
**16**“Come in with me,” she urges the simple.  
    To those who lack good judgment, she says,  
**17**“Stolen water is refreshing;  
    food eaten in secret tastes the best!”  
**18**But little do they know that the dead are there.  
    Her guests are in the depths of the grave.

Thursday

**Joshua 21-22**

**The Towns Given to the Levites**

**21**Then the leaders of the tribe of Levi came to consult with Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the leaders of the other tribes of Israel. **2**They came to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan and said, “The Lord commanded Moses to give us towns to live in and pasturelands for our livestock.” **3**So by the command of the Lord the people of Israel gave the Levites the following towns and pasturelands out of their own grants of land.

**4**The descendants of Aaron, who were members of the Kohathite clan within the tribe of Levi, were allotted thirteen towns that were originally assigned to the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin. **5**The other families of the Kohathite clan were allotted ten towns from the tribes of Ephraim, Dan, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

**6**The clan of Gershon was allotted thirteen towns from the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

**7**The clan of Merari was allotted twelve towns from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.

**8**So the Israelites obeyed the Lord’s command to Moses and assigned these towns and pasturelands to the Levites by casting sacred lots.

**9**The Israelites gave the following towns from the tribes of Judah and Simeon **10**to the descendants of Aaron, who were members of the Kohathite clan within the tribe of Levi, since the sacred lot fell to them first: **11**Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), in the hill country of Judah, along with its surrounding pasturelands. (Arba was an ancestor of Anak.) **12**But the open fields beyond the town and the surrounding villages were given to Caleb son of Jephunneh as his possession.

**13**The following towns with their pasturelands were given to the descendants of Aaron the priest: Hebron (a city of refuge for those who accidentally killed someone), Libnah, **14**Jattir, Eshtemoa, **15**Holon, Debir, **16**Ain, Juttah, and Beth-shemesh—nine towns from these two tribes.

**17**From the tribe of Benjamin the priests were given the following towns with their pasturelands: Gibeon, Geba, **18**Anathoth, and Almon—four towns. **19**So in all, thirteen towns with their pasturelands were given to the priests, the descendants of Aaron.

**20**The rest of the Kohathite clan from the tribe of Levi was allotted the following towns and pasturelands from the tribe of Ephraim: **21**Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim (a city of refuge for those who accidentally killed someone), Gezer, **22**Kibzaim, and Beth-horon—four towns.

**23**The following towns and pasturelands were allotted to the priests from the tribe of Dan: Eltekeh, Gibbethon, **24**Aijalon, and Gath-rimmon—four towns.

**25**The half-tribe of Manasseh allotted the following towns with their pasturelands to the priests: Taanach and Gath-rimmon—two towns. **26**So in all, ten towns with their pasturelands were given to the rest of the Kohathite clan.

**27**The descendants of Gershon, another clan within the tribe of Levi, received the following towns with their pasturelands from the half-tribe of Manasseh: Golan in Bashan (a city of refuge for those who accidentally killed someone) and Be-eshterah—two towns.

**28**From the tribe of Issachar they received the following towns with their pasturelands: Kishion, Daberath, **29**Jarmuth, and En-gannim—four towns.

**30**From the tribe of Asher they received the following towns with their pasturelands: Mishal, Abdon, **31**Helkath, and Rehob—four towns.

**32**From the tribe of Naphtali they received the following towns with their pasturelands: Kedesh in Galilee (a city of refuge for those who accidentally killed someone), Hammoth-dor, and Kartan—three towns. **33**So in all, thirteen towns with their pasturelands were allotted to the clan of Gershon.

**34**The rest of the Levites—the Merari clan—were given the following towns with their pasturelands from the tribe of Zebulun: Jokneam, Kartah, **35**Dimnah, and Nahalal—four towns.

**36**From the tribe of Reuben they received the following towns with their pasturelands: Bezer, Jahaz,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2021-22&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6394a)] **37**Kedemoth, and Mephaath—four towns.

**38**From the tribe of Gad they received the following towns with their pasturelands: Ramoth in Gilead (a city of refuge for those who accidentally killed someone), Mahanaim, **39**Heshbon, and Jazer—four towns. **40**So in all, twelve towns were allotted to the clan of Merari.

**41**The total number of towns and pasturelands within Israelite territory given to the Levites came to forty-eight. **42**Every one of these towns had pasturelands surrounding it.

**43**So the Lord gave to Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. **44**And the Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had solemnly promised their ancestors. None of their enemies could stand against them, for the Lord helped them conquer all their enemies. **45**Not a single one of all the good promises the Lord had given to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; everything he had spoken came true.

**The Eastern Tribes Return Home**

**22**Then Joshua called together the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. **2**He told them, “You have done as Moses, the servant of the Lord, commanded you, and you have obeyed every order I have given you. **3**During all this time you have not deserted the other tribes. You have been careful to obey the commands of the Lord your God right up to the present day. **4**And now the Lord your God has given the other tribes rest, as he promised them. So go back home to the land that Moses, the servant of the Lord, gave you as your possession on the east side of the Jordan River. **5**But be very careful to obey all the commands and the instructions that Moses gave to you. Love the Lord your God, walk in all his ways, obey his commands, hold firmly to him, and serve him with all your heart and all your soul.” **6**So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went home.

**7**Moses had given the land of Bashan, east of the Jordan River, to the half-tribe of Manasseh. (The other half of the tribe was given land west of the Jordan.) As Joshua sent them away and blessed them, **8**he said to them, “Go back to your homes with the great wealth you have taken from your enemies—the vast herds of livestock, the silver, gold, bronze, and iron, and the large supply of clothing. Share the plunder with your relatives.”

**9**So the men of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the rest of Israel at Shiloh in the land of Canaan. They started the journey back to their own land of Gilead, the territory that belonged to them according to the Lord’s command through Moses.

**The Eastern Tribes Build an Altar**

**10**But while they were still in Canaan, and when they came to a place called Geliloth[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2021-22&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6413b)] near the Jordan River, the men of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh stopped to build a large and imposing altar.

**11**The rest of Israel heard that the people of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had built an altar at Geliloth at the edge of the land of Canaan, on the west side of the Jordan River. **12**So the whole community of Israel gathered at Shiloh and prepared to go to war against them. **13**First, however, they sent a delegation led by Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, to talk with the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. **14**In this delegation were ten leaders of Israel, one from each of the ten tribes, and each the head of his family within the clans of Israel.

**15**When they arrived in the land of Gilead, they said to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, **16**“The whole community of the Lord demands to know why you are betraying the God of Israel. How could you turn away from the Lord and build an altar for yourselves in rebellion against him? **17**Was our sin at Peor not enough? To this day we are not fully cleansed of it, even after the plague that struck the entire community of the Lord. **18**And yet today you are turning away from following the Lord. If you rebel against the Lord today, he will be angry with all of us tomorrow.

**19**“If you need the altar because the land you possess is defiled, then join us in the Lord’s land, where the Tabernacle of the Lord is situated, and share our land with us. But do not rebel against the Lord or against us by building an altar other than the one true altar of the Lord our God. **20**Didn’t divine anger fall on the entire community of Israel when Achan, a member of the clan of Zerah, sinned by stealing the things set apart for the Lord[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2021-22&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6423c)]? He was not the only one who died because of his sin.”

**21**Then the people of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh answered the heads of the clans of Israel: **22**“The Lord, the Mighty One, is God! The Lord, the Mighty One, is God! He knows the truth, and may Israel know it, too! We have not built the altar in treacherous rebellion against the Lord. If we have done so, do not spare our lives this day. **23**If we have built an altar for ourselves to turn away from the Lord or to offer burnt offerings or grain offerings or peace offerings, may the Lord himself punish us.

**24**“The truth is, we have built this altar because we fear that in the future your descendants will say to ours, ‘What right do you have to worship the Lord, the God of Israel? **25**The Lord has placed the Jordan River as a barrier between our people and you people of Reuben and Gad. You have no claim to the Lord.’ So your descendants may prevent our descendants from worshiping the Lord.

**26**“So we decided to build the altar, not for burnt offerings or sacrifices, **27**but as a memorial. It will remind our descendants and your descendants that we, too, have the right to worship the Lord at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices, and peace offerings. Then your descendants will not be able to say to ours, ‘You have no claim to the Lord.’

**28**“If they say this, our descendants can reply, ‘Look at this copy of the Lord’s altar that our ancestors made. It is not for burnt offerings or sacrifices; it is a reminder of the relationship both of us have with the Lord.’ **29**Far be it from us to rebel against the Lord or turn away from him by building our own altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings, or sacrifices. Only the altar of the Lord our God that stands in front of the Tabernacle may be used for that purpose.”

**30**When Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the community—the heads of the clans of Israel—heard this from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, they were satisfied. **31**Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, replied to them, “Today we know the Lord is among us because you have not committed this treachery against the Lord as we thought. Instead, you have rescued Israel from being destroyed by the hand of the Lord.”

**32**Then Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, and the other leaders left the tribes of Reuben and Gad in Gilead and returned to the land of Canaan to tell the Israelites what had happened. **33**And all the Israelites were satisfied and praised God and spoke no more of war against Reuben and Gad.

**34**The people of Reuben and Gad named the altar “Witness,”[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2021-22&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6437d)] for they said, “It is a witness between us and them that the Lord is our God, too.”

**Luke 13**

**A Call to Repentance**

**13**About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. **2**“Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?” Jesus asked. “Is that why they suffered? **3**Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. **4**And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? **5**No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too.”

**Parable of the Barren Fig Tree**

**6**Then Jesus told this story: “A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. **7**Finally, he said to his gardener, ‘I’ve waited three years, and there hasn’t been a single fig! Cut it down. It’s just taking up space in the garden.’

**8**“The gardener answered, ‘Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I’ll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. **9**If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.’”

**Jesus Heals on the Sabbath**

**10**One Sabbath day as Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, **11**he saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. **12**When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!” **13**Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God!

**14**But the leader in charge of the synagogue was indignant that Jesus had healed her on the Sabbath day. “There are six days of the week for working,” he said to the crowd. “Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath.”

**15**But the Lord replied, “You hypocrites! Each of you works on the Sabbath day! Don’t you untie your ox or your donkey from its stall on the Sabbath and lead it out for water? **16**This dear woman, a daughter of Abraham, has been held in bondage by Satan for eighteen years. Isn’t it right that she be released, even on the Sabbath?”

**17**This shamed his enemies, but all the people rejoiced at the wonderful things he did.

**Parable of the Mustard Seed**

**18**Then Jesus said, “What is the Kingdom of God like? How can I illustrate it? **19**It is like a tiny mustard seed that a man planted in a garden; it grows and becomes a tree, and the birds make nests in its branches.”

**Parable of the Yeast**

**20**He also asked, “What else is the Kingdom of God like? **21**It is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.”

**The Narrow Door**

**22**Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. **23**Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?”

He replied, **24**“Work hard to enter the narrow door to God’s Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. **25**When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ **26**Then you will say, ‘But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ **27**And he will reply, ‘I tell you, I don’t know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.’

**28**“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out. **29**And people will come from all over the world—from east and west, north and south—to take their places in the Kingdom of God. **30**And note this: Some who seem least important now will be the greatest then, and some who are the greatest now will be least important then.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2013&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25517a)]”

**Jesus Grieves over Jerusalem**

**31**At that time some Pharisees said to him, “Get away from here if you want to live! Herod Antipas wants to kill you!”

**32**Jesus replied, “Go tell that fox that I will keep on casting out demons and healing people today and tomorrow; and the third day I will accomplish my purpose. **33**Yes, today, tomorrow, and the next day I must proceed on my way. For it wouldn’t do for a prophet of God to be killed except in Jerusalem!

**34**“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. **35**And now, look, your house is abandoned. And you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2013&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25522b)]”

**Psalm 119:1-48**

**Psalm 119**[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20119%3A1-48&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15876a)]

**Aleph**

**1**Joyful are people of integrity,  
    who follow the instructions of the Lord.  
**2**Joyful are those who obey his laws  
    and search for him with all their hearts.  
**3**They do not compromise with evil,  
    and they walk only in his paths.  
**4**You have charged us  
    to keep your commandments carefully.  
**5**Oh, that my actions would consistently  
    reflect your decrees!  
**6**Then I will not be ashamed  
    when I compare my life with your commands.  
**7**As I learn your righteous regulations,  
    I will thank you by living as I should!  
**8**I will obey your decrees.  
    Please don’t give up on me!

**Beth**

**9**How can a young person stay pure?  
    By obeying your word.  
**10**I have tried hard to find you—  
    don’t let me wander from your commands.  
**11**I have hidden your word in my heart,  
    that I might not sin against you.  
**12**I praise you, O Lord;  
    teach me your decrees.  
**13**I have recited aloud  
    all the regulations you have given us.  
**14**I have rejoiced in your laws  
    as much as in riches.  
**15**I will study your commandments  
    and reflect on your ways.  
**16**I will delight in your decrees  
    and not forget your word.

**Gimel**

**17**Be good to your servant,  
    that I may live and obey your word.  
**18**Open my eyes to see  
    the wonderful truths in your instructions.  
**19**I am only a foreigner in the land.  
    Don’t hide your commands from me!  
**20**I am always overwhelmed  
    with a desire for your regulations.  
**21**You rebuke the arrogant;  
    those who wander from your commands are cursed.  
**22**Don’t let them scorn and insult me,  
    for I have obeyed your laws.  
**23**Even princes sit and speak against me,  
    but I will meditate on your decrees.  
**24**Your laws please me;  
    they give me wise advice.

**Daleth**

**25**I lie in the dust;  
    revive me by your word.  
**26**I told you my plans, and you answered.  
    Now teach me your decrees.  
**27**Help me understand the meaning of your commandments,  
    and I will meditate on your wonderful deeds.  
**28**I weep with sorrow;  
    encourage me by your word.  
**29**Keep me from lying to myself;  
    give me the privilege of knowing your instructions.  
**30**I have chosen to be faithful;  
    I have determined to live by your regulations.  
**31**I cling to your laws.  
    Lord, don’t let me be put to shame!  
**32**I will pursue your commands,  
    for you expand my understanding.

**He**

**33**Teach me your decrees, O Lord;  
    I will keep them to the end.  
**34**Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions;  
    I will put them into practice with all my heart.  
**35**Make me walk along the path of your commands,  
    for that is where my happiness is found.  
**36**Give me an eagerness for your laws  
    rather than a love for money!  
**37**Turn my eyes from worthless things,  
    and give me life through your word.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20119%3A1-48&version=NLT#fen-NLT-15912b)]  
**38**Reassure me of your promise,  
    made to those who fear you.  
**39**Help me abandon my shameful ways;  
    for your regulations are good.  
**40**I long to obey your commandments!  
    Renew my life with your goodness.

**Waw**

**41**Lord, give me your unfailing love,  
    the salvation that you promised me.  
**42**Then I can answer those who taunt me,  
    for I trust in your word.  
**43**Do not snatch your word of truth from me,  
    for your regulations are my only hope.  
**44**I will keep on obeying your instructions  
    forever and ever.  
**45**I will walk in freedom,  
    for I have devoted myself to your commandments.  
**46**I will speak to kings about your laws,  
    and I will not be ashamed.  
**47**How I delight in your commands!  
    How I love them!  
**48**I honor and love your commands.  
    I meditate on your decrees

**Proverbs 10**

**The Proverbs of Solomon**

**10**The proverbs of Solomon:

A wise child[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2010&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16634a)] brings joy to a father;  
    a foolish child brings grief to a mother.

**2**Tainted wealth has no lasting value,  
    but right living can save your life.

**3**The Lord will not let the godly go hungry,  
    but he refuses to satisfy the craving of the wicked.

**4**Lazy people are soon poor;  
    hard workers get rich.

**5**A wise youth harvests in the summer,  
    but one who sleeps during harvest is a disgrace.

**6**The godly are showered with blessings;  
    the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions.

**7**We have happy memories of the godly,  
    but the name of a wicked person rots away.

**8**The wise are glad to be instructed,  
    but babbling fools fall flat on their faces.

**9**People with integrity walk safely,  
    but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed.

**10**People who wink at wrong cause trouble,  
    but a bold reproof promotes peace.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2010&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16643b)]

**11**The words of the godly are a life-giving fountain;  
    the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions.

**12**Hatred stirs up quarrels,  
    but love makes up for all offenses.

**13**Wise words come from the lips of people with understanding,  
    but those lacking sense will be beaten with a rod.

**14**Wise people treasure knowledge,  
    but the babbling of a fool invites disaster.

**15**The wealth of the rich is their fortress;  
    the poverty of the poor is their destruction.

**16**The earnings of the godly enhance their lives,  
    but evil people squander their money on sin.

**17**People who accept discipline are on the pathway to life,  
    but those who ignore correction will go astray.

**18**Hiding hatred makes you a liar;  
    slandering others makes you a fool.

**19**Too much talk leads to sin.  
    Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.

**20**The words of the godly are like sterling silver;  
    the heart of a fool is worthless.

**21**The words of the godly encourage many,  
    but fools are destroyed by their lack of common sense.

**22**The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich,  
    and he adds no sorrow with it.

**23**Doing wrong is fun for a fool,  
    but living wisely brings pleasure to the sensible.

**24**The fears of the wicked will be fulfilled;  
    the hopes of the godly will be granted.

**25**When the storms of life come, the wicked are whirled away,  
    but the godly have a lasting foundation.

**26**Lazy people irritate their employers,  
    like vinegar to the teeth or smoke in the eyes.

**27**Fear of the Lord lengthens one’s life,  
    but the years of the wicked are cut short.

**28**The hopes of the godly result in happiness,  
    but the expectations of the wicked come to nothing.

**29**The way of the Lord is a stronghold to those with integrity,  
    but it destroys the wicked.

**30**The godly will never be disturbed,  
    but the wicked will be removed from the land.

**31**The mouth of the godly person gives wise advice,  
    but the tongue that deceives will be cut off.

**32**The lips of the godly speak helpful words,  
    but the mouth of the wicked speaks perverse words

Friday

**Joshua 23-24**

**Joshua’s Final Words to Israel**

**23**The years passed, and the Lord had given the people of Israel rest from all their enemies. Joshua, who was now very old, **2**called together all the elders, leaders, judges, and officers of Israel. He said to them, “I am now a very old man. **3**You have seen everything the Lord your God has done for you during my lifetime. The Lord your God has fought for you against your enemies. **4**I have allotted to you as your homeland all the land of the nations yet unconquered, as well as the land of those we have already conquered—from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2023-24&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6441a)] in the west. **5**This land will be yours, for the Lord your God will himself drive out all the people living there now. You will take possession of their land, just as the Lord your God promised you.

**6**“So be very careful to follow everything Moses wrote in the Book of Instruction. Do not deviate from it, turning either to the right or to the left. **7**Make sure you do not associate with the other people still remaining in the land. Do not even mention the names of their gods, much less swear by them or serve them or worship them. **8**Rather, cling tightly to the Lord your God as you have done until now.

**9**“For the Lord has driven out great and powerful nations for you, and no one has yet been able to defeat you. **10**Each one of you will put to flight a thousand of the enemy, for the Lord your God fights for you, just as he has promised. **11**So be very careful to love the Lord your God.

**12**“But if you turn away from him and cling to the customs of the survivors of these nations remaining among you, and if you intermarry with them, **13**then know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive them out of your land. Instead, they will be a snare and a trap to you, a whip for your backs and thorny brambles in your eyes, and you will vanish from this good land the Lord your God has given you.

**14**“Soon I will die, going the way of everything on earth. Deep in your hearts you know that every promise of the Lord your God has come true. Not a single one has failed! **15**But as surely as the Lord your God has given you the good things he promised, he will also bring disaster on you if you disobey him. He will completely destroy you from this good land he has given you. **16**If you break the covenant of the Lord your God by worshiping and serving other gods, his anger will burn against you, and you will quickly vanish from the good land he has given you.”

**The Lord’s Covenant Renewed**

**24**Then Joshua summoned all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, including their elders, leaders, judges, and officers. So they came and presented themselves to God.

**2**Joshua said to the people, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2023-24&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6455b)] and they worshiped other gods. **3**But I took your ancestor Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him into the land of Canaan. I gave him many descendants through his son Isaac. **4**To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir, while Jacob and his children went down into Egypt.

**5**“Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I brought terrible plagues on Egypt; and afterward I brought you out as a free people. **6**But when your ancestors arrived at the Red Sea,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2023-24&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6459c)] the Egyptians chased after you with chariots and charioteers. **7**When your ancestors cried out to the Lord, I put darkness between you and the Egyptians. I brought the sea crashing down on the Egyptians, drowning them. With your very own eyes you saw what I did. Then you lived in the wilderness for many years.

**8**“Finally, I brought you into the land of the Amorites on the east side of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I destroyed them before you. I gave you victory over them, and you took possession of their land. **9**Then Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, started a war against Israel. He summoned Balaam son of Beor to curse you, **10**but I would not listen to him. Instead, I made Balaam bless you, and so I rescued you from Balak.

**11**“When you crossed the Jordan River and came to Jericho, the men of Jericho fought against you, as did the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I gave you victory over them. **12**And I sent terror[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2023-24&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6465d)] ahead of you to drive out the two kings of the Amorites. It was not your swords or bows that brought you victory. **13**I gave you land you had not worked on, and I gave you towns you did not build—the towns where you are now living. I gave you vineyards and olive groves for food, though you did not plant them.

**14**“So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. **15**But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

**16**The people replied, “We would never abandon the Lord and serve other gods. **17**For the Lord our God is the one who rescued us and our ancestors from slavery in the land of Egypt. He performed mighty miracles before our very eyes. As we traveled through the wilderness among our enemies, he preserved us. **18**It was the Lord who drove out the Amorites and the other nations living here in the land. So we, too, will serve the Lord, for he alone is our God.”

**19**Then Joshua warned the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy and jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. **20**If you abandon the Lord and serve other gods, he will turn against you and destroy you, even though he has been so good to you.”

**21**But the people answered Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!”

**22**“You are a witness to your own decision,” Joshua said. “You have chosen to serve the Lord.”

“Yes,” they replied, “we are witnesses to what we have said.”

**23**“All right then,” Joshua said, “destroy the idols among you, and turn your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

**24**The people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God. We will obey him alone.”

**25**So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day at Shechem, committing them to follow the decrees and regulations of the Lord. **26**Joshua recorded these things in the Book of God’s Instructions. As a reminder of their agreement, he took a huge stone and rolled it beneath the terebinth tree beside the Tabernacle of the Lord.

**27**Joshua said to all the people, “This stone has heard everything the Lord said to us. It will be a witness to testify against you if you go back on your word to God.”

**28**Then Joshua sent all the people away to their own homelands.

**Leaders Buried in the Promised Land**

**29**After this, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110. **30**They buried him in the land he had been allocated, at Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

**31**The people of Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him—those who had personally experienced all that the Lord had done for Israel.

**32**The bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought along with them when they left Egypt, were buried at Shechem, in the plot of land Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor for 100 pieces of silver.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%2023-24&version=NLT#fen-NLT-6485e)] This land was located in the territory allotted to the descendants of Joseph.

**33**Eleazar son of Aaron also died. He was buried in the hill country of Ephraim, in the town of Gibeah, which had been given to his son Phinehas

**Luke 13**

**A Call to Repentance**

**13**About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. **2**“Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?” Jesus asked. “Is that why they suffered? **3**Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. **4**And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? **5**No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too.”

**Parable of the Barren Fig Tree**

**6**Then Jesus told this story: “A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. **7**Finally, he said to his gardener, ‘I’ve waited three years, and there hasn’t been a single fig! Cut it down. It’s just taking up space in the garden.’

**8**“The gardener answered, ‘Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I’ll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. **9**If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.’”

**Jesus Heals on the Sabbath**

**10**One Sabbath day as Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, **11**he saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. **12**When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!” **13**Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God!

**14**But the leader in charge of the synagogue was indignant that Jesus had healed her on the Sabbath day. “There are six days of the week for working,” he said to the crowd. “Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath.”

**15**But the Lord replied, “You hypocrites! Each of you works on the Sabbath day! Don’t you untie your ox or your donkey from its stall on the Sabbath and lead it out for water? **16**This dear woman, a daughter of Abraham, has been held in bondage by Satan for eighteen years. Isn’t it right that she be released, even on the Sabbath?”

**17**This shamed his enemies, but all the people rejoiced at the wonderful things he did.

**Parable of the Mustard Seed**

**18**Then Jesus said, “What is the Kingdom of God like? How can I illustrate it? **19**It is like a tiny mustard seed that a man planted in a garden; it grows and becomes a tree, and the birds make nests in its branches.”

**Parable of the Yeast**

**20**He also asked, “What else is the Kingdom of God like? **21**It is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.”

**The Narrow Door**

**22**Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. **23**Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?”

He replied, **24**“Work hard to enter the narrow door to God’s Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. **25**When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ **26**Then you will say, ‘But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ **27**And he will reply, ‘I tell you, I don’t know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.’

**28**“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out. **29**And people will come from all over the world—from east and west, north and south—to take their places in the Kingdom of God. **30**And note this: Some who seem least important now will be the greatest then, and some who are the greatest now will be least important then.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2013&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25517a)]”

**Jesus Grieves over Jerusalem**

**31**At that time some Pharisees said to him, “Get away from here if you want to live! Herod Antipas wants to kill you!”

**32**Jesus replied, “Go tell that fox that I will keep on casting out demons and healing people today and tomorrow; and the third day I will accomplish my purpose. **33**Yes, today, tomorrow, and the next day I must proceed on my way. For it wouldn’t do for a prophet of God to be killed except in Jerusalem!

**34**“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. **35**And now, look, your house is abandoned. And you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2013&version=NLT#fen-NLT-25522b)]

Psalm 119:49-96

**Zayin**

**49**Remember your promise to me;  
    it is my only hope.  
**50**Your promise revives me;  
    it comforts me in all my troubles.  
**51**The proud hold me in utter contempt,  
    but I do not turn away from your instructions.  
**52**I meditate on your age-old regulations;  
    O Lord, they comfort me.  
**53**I become furious with the wicked,  
    because they reject your instructions.  
**54**Your decrees have been the theme of my songs  
    wherever I have lived.  
**55**I reflect at night on who you are, O Lord;  
    therefore, I obey your instructions.  
**56**This is how I spend my life:  
    obeying your commandments.

**Heth**

**57**Lord, you are mine!  
    I promise to obey your words!  
**58**With all my heart I want your blessings.  
    Be merciful as you promised.  
**59**I pondered the direction of my life,  
    and I turned to follow your laws.  
**60**I will hurry, without delay,  
    to obey your commands.  
**61**Evil people try to drag me into sin,  
    but I am firmly anchored to your instructions.  
**62**I rise at midnight to thank you  
    for your just regulations.  
**63**I am a friend to anyone who fears you—  
    anyone who obeys your commandments.  
**64**O Lord, your unfailing love fills the earth;  
    teach me your decrees.

**Teth**

**65**You have done many good things for me, Lord,  
    just as you promised.  
**66**I believe in your commands;  
    now teach me good judgment and knowledge.  
**67**I used to wander off until you disciplined me;  
    but now I closely follow your word.  
**68**You are good and do only good;  
    teach me your decrees.  
**69**Arrogant people smear me with lies,  
    but in truth I obey your commandments with all my heart.  
**70**Their hearts are dull and stupid,  
    but I delight in your instructions.  
**71**My suffering was good for me,  
    for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees.  
**72**Your instructions are more valuable to me  
    than millions in gold and silver.

**Yodh**

**73**You made me; you created me.  
    Now give me the sense to follow your commands.  
**74**May all who fear you find in me a cause for joy,  
    for I have put my hope in your word.  
**75**I know, O Lord, that your regulations are fair;  
    you disciplined me because I needed it.  
**76**Now let your unfailing love comfort me,  
    just as you promised me, your servant.  
**77**Surround me with your tender mercies so I may live,  
    for your instructions are my delight.  
**78**Bring disgrace upon the arrogant people who lied about me;  
    meanwhile, I will concentrate on your commandments.  
**79**Let me be united with all who fear you,  
    with those who know your laws.  
**80**May I be blameless in keeping your decrees;  
    then I will never be ashamed.

**Kaph**

**81**I am worn out waiting for your rescue,  
    but I have put my hope in your word.  
**82**My eyes are straining to see your promises come true.  
    When will you comfort me?  
**83**I am shriveled like a wineskin in the smoke,  
    but I have not forgotten to obey your decrees.  
**84**How long must I wait?  
    When will you punish those who persecute me?  
**85**These arrogant people who hate your instructions  
    have dug deep pits to trap me.  
**86**All your commands are trustworthy.  
    Protect me from those who hunt me down without cause.  
**87**They almost finished me off,  
    but I refused to abandon your commandments.  
**88**In your unfailing love, spare my life;  
    then I can continue to obey your laws.

**Lamedh**

**89**Your eternal word, O Lord,  
    stands firm in heaven.  
**90**Your faithfulness extends to every generation,  
    as enduring as the earth you created.  
**91**Your regulations remain true to this day,  
    for everything serves your plans.  
**92**If your instructions hadn’t sustained me with joy,  
    I would have died in my misery.  
**93**I will never forget your commandments,  
    for by them you give me life.  
**94**I am yours; rescue me!  
    For I have worked hard at obeying your commandments.  
**95**Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me,  
    I will quietly keep my mind on your laws.  
**96**Even perfection has its limits,  
    but your commands have no limit.

Proverbs 10

**The Proverbs of Solomon**

**10**The proverbs of Solomon:

A wise child[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2010&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16634a)] brings joy to a father;  
    a foolish child brings grief to a mother.

**2**Tainted wealth has no lasting value,  
    but right living can save your life.

**3**The Lord will not let the godly go hungry,  
    but he refuses to satisfy the craving of the wicked.

**4**Lazy people are soon poor;  
    hard workers get rich.

**5**A wise youth harvests in the summer,  
    but one who sleeps during harvest is a disgrace.

**6**The godly are showered with blessings;  
    the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions.

**7**We have happy memories of the godly,  
    but the name of a wicked person rots away.

**8**The wise are glad to be instructed,  
    but babbling fools fall flat on their faces.

**9**People with integrity walk safely,  
    but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed.

**10**People who wink at wrong cause trouble,  
    but a bold reproof promotes peace.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2010&version=NLT#fen-NLT-16643b)]

**11**The words of the godly are a life-giving fountain;  
    the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions.

**12**Hatred stirs up quarrels,  
    but love makes up for all offenses.

**13**Wise words come from the lips of people with understanding,  
    but those lacking sense will be beaten with a rod.

**14**Wise people treasure knowledge,  
    but the babbling of a fool invites disaster.

**15**The wealth of the rich is their fortress;  
    the poverty of the poor is their destruction.

**16**The earnings of the godly enhance their lives,  
    but evil people squander their money on sin.

**17**People who accept discipline are on the pathway to life,  
    but those who ignore correction will go astray.

**18**Hiding hatred makes you a liar;  
    slandering others makes you a fool.

**19**Too much talk leads to sin.  
    Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.

**20**The words of the godly are like sterling silver;  
    the heart of a fool is worthless.

**21**The words of the godly encourage many,  
    but fools are destroyed by their lack of common sense.

**22**The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich,  
    and he adds no sorrow with it.

**23**Doing wrong is fun for a fool,  
    but living wisely brings pleasure to the sensible.

**24**The fears of the wicked will be fulfilled;  
    the hopes of the godly will be granted.

**25**When the storms of life come, the wicked are whirled away,  
    but the godly have a lasting foundation.

**26**Lazy people irritate their employers,  
    like vinegar to the teeth or smoke in the eyes.

**27**Fear of the Lord lengthens one’s life,  
    but the years of the wicked are cut short.

**28**The hopes of the godly result in happiness,  
    but the expectations of the wicked come to nothing.

**29**The way of the Lord is a stronghold to those with integrity,  
    but it destroys the wicked.

**30**The godly will never be disturbed,  
    but the wicked will be removed from the land.

**31**The mouth of the godly person gives wise advice,  
    but the tongue that deceives will be cut off.

**32**The lips of the godly speak helpful words,  
    but the mouth of the wicked speaks perverse words