

Bible Reading Plan

November - December 2024

November					
			December		
Fri	1	Jeremiah 5:1-17			
Sat	2	Jeremiah 5:18-31			
Sun	3				
Mon	4	Jeremiah 25:1-14	Sun	1	
Tues	5	Jeremiah 27:1-22	Mon	2	Nehemiah 6:15 - 7:5
Weds	6	Jeremiah 29:1-23	Tues	3	Nehemiah 7:6-73
Thurs	7	Jeremiah 30:1-24	Weds		Nehemiah 8:1-18
Fri	8	2 Chronicles 36:1-21	Thurs	5	Nehemiah 9:1-21
Sat	9	{Isaiah 44:24-45:6 }	Fri	6	Nehemiah 9:22-38
		{2 Chronicles 36:22-23}	Sat	7	Nehemiah 10:1-39
Sun	10				
Mon	11	Ezra 1:1-11	Sun	8	
Tues	12	Ezra 2:1-54	Mon	9	Nehemiah 11:1-19
Weds	13	Ezra 2:55-70	Tues	10	Nehemiah 11:20-36
Thurs	14	Ezra 3:1-13	Weds	11	Nehemiah 12:1-26
Fri	15	Ezra 4:1-24	Thurs	12	Nehemiah 12:27-43
Sat	16	Ezra 5:1-17	Fri	13	Nehemiah 12:44 - 13:13
Sun	17		Sat	14	Nehemiah 13:14-31
Mon	18	Ezra 6:1-22	Sun	15	
Tues	19	Ezra 7:1-28	Mon	16	Haggai 1:1-15
Weds	20	Ezra 8:1-36	Tues	17	Haggai 2:1-23
Thurs	21	Ezra 9:1-15	Weds	18	Zechariah 1:1-21
Fri	22	Ezra 10:1-17	Thurs	19	Zechariah 2:1 - 3:10
Sat	23	Ezra 10:18-44	Fri	20	Zechariah 4:1 – 5:4
Sun	24		Sat	21	Zechariah 5:5 – 6:15
Mon	25	Nehemiah 1:1-11	Sun	22	
Tues	26	Nehemiah 2:1-20	Mon	23	Zechariah 7:1-14
Weds	27	Nehemiah 3:1-32	Tues	24	Zechariah 8:1-23
Thurs	28	Nehemiah 4:1-23	Weds	25	Zechariah 9:1-17
Fri	29	Nehemiah 5:1-19	Thurs	26	Zechariah 10:1-12
Sat	30	Nehemiah 6:1-14	Fri	27	Zechariah 11:1-17
			Sat	28	Zechariah 12:1-14
			Sun	29	
			Mon	30	Zechariah 13:1-9
			Tues	31	Zechariah 14:1-21

Some very brief notes on Ezra & Nehemiah

In the original Hebrew Old Testament, Ezra and Nehemiah were considered one book. They were still one book in the **Septuagint** - the Greek translation of the OT by approximately 70 Jewish scholars around the $3^{rd} - 2^{nd}$ Century BC. However, in around AD 400 Jerome completed the **Vulgate** which is the Latin translation of the whole Bible. In this they were they were divided into two separate books and remain so in most Bibles today. These two books cover three different waves of returning exiles, from 538 to 432 BC. They tell one story: the restoration of God's covenant people according to His Word - which they are now called to obey once again.

This restoration required:

- 1. The rebuilding of the temple and the restoring of ceremonial worship. Zerubbabel was the leader of the first group of returning exiles Jerusalem to accomplish this goal Ezra 1–6.
- 2. A second group returning more than half a century later, led by Ezra, who restored the people, teaching and calling them to repentance and to obey the law of Moses Ezra 7–10
- 3. Twelve to thirteen years after Ezra's reforms, Nehemiah came to Jerusalem. He led the people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Despite opposition this was completed in the remarkably quick time of 52 days Nehemiah 1–6. Then along with Ezra, he sought to restore the people as God's holy nation, to be true obedient followers of His Word. Nehemiah 7–13

In these books we see a beleaguered group of God's people continuing to struggle. They still are not free but remain poor serfs of a foreign king; their city is devastated; enemies oppose and intimidate them; their own sin and disobedience continues to threaten them. But the faithful hand of God is seen throughout both Ezra & Nehemiah mercifully preserving his people according to his promises.

Ezra: A short summary - The Book of Ezra recounts the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon to Jerusalem, after the decree of King Cyrus of Persia. Led by Zerubbabel and later by Ezra, it details the rebuilding of the Temple, opposition faced, and the revival of the Jewish faith and laws. Ezra, a priest and scribe, restores religious practices, reforms the community, and emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's law.

Nehemiah: A short summary - The Book of Nehemiah tells the story of Nehemiah, a cupbearer to Artaxerxes the King of Persia, who then leads the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls after the Babylonian exile. Facing opposition, Nehemiah organizes the work and reinforces community defence. Alongside Ezra, he helps restore Jewish religious practices, renews the covenant with God, and reforms social injustices. The book highlight's themes of leadership, perseverance, and spiritual renewal, emphasizing faith in God's protection and guidance.

