

## FAITH BIBLE READING

Jul 31 – Aug 6, 2017

At Faith Baptist Fellowship, we *Love God's Word and Prayer* (Ephesians 6:17-18)! Take the 'sword of the Spirit' (God's Word) and persevere in prayer!

*Our plan for 2017 will take you through the **key stories** of the Bible in one year. The plan calls for reading one chapter of Scripture a day for six days. There will also be additional readings from two other passages that are key cross references to the main chapter. This plan shows how the many individual accounts of the Bible make up one interconnected story-God's Story. This reading plan is also online at [www.ownit365.com](http://www.ownit365.com). On Sunday, we will have a passage from the upcoming Sunday sermon along with questions for Faith Group discussion.*

*We suggest having a notebook and pen for answering questions and recording your thoughts/insights. Bring this notebook with you to Faith Group for discussions and prayer times. Select a quiet place and consistent time to read and pray.*

Abbreviations: **TAI** – Think About It | **PP** – Prayer Points

### MONDAY, JULY 31

#### Read Daniel 4

**TAI:** Note that chapter 4 begins and ends with Nebuchadnezzar praising God. What happens in between covers at least eight years. The King has a second dream. What is it? Again, Daniel interprets. What does it mean? Hubris is a term that could be used to describe Nebuchadnezzar. List all the words and phrases used to describe God in this chapter. What is God able to do to those who walk in pride? What would keep us from walking in pride?

**PP:** Hubris is defined as 'exaggerated pride or dangerous overconfidence'. The king was self-centered rather than God-centered. James 4:6 says "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourself before the Lord. Praising and exalting God keeps us humble. Praise Him for His great signs, mighty wonders, everlasting kingdom, enduring dominion, His will that He accomplishes, His righteous works and His just ways!

**Additional readings:** Daniel 5:18-21; Romans 13:1-4

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

#### Read Daniel 5

**TAI:** A generation has passed since chapter 4 and Nebuchadnezzar's descendant is king. What god does Belshazzar worship? Instead of dreams, how does God choose to reveal His will to this king? What is his reaction? Who does he call on for help? When all else fails, Daniel is called again. What does Daniel remind the king of? What is the interpretation of the writing? How soon does it come true? What do we learn about God in this chapter?

**PP:** One of the key themes of Daniel is that God is sovereign over the course of history, even over those who rebel against Him. God is not limited in the ways He chooses to reveal Himself, whether in a fiery furnace, dreams, handwriting on a wall or through His Holy Word. How has He revealed Himself to you? Praise God for His sovereign control over the events of your life. Pray for God to reveal His will concerning our Three Directives.

**Additional readings:** Psalm 62:9-12; 1 Peter 5:5-6

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

#### Read Daniel 6

**TAI:** The lions' den, an episode similar to the fiery furnace in chapter 3. According to ESV Study Bible, Daniel has faithfully served the empire for almost 70 years. How long did Jeremiah prophecy that Israel would be in captivity in Babylon? (See Jeremiah 29:10). What had Daniel been doing that resulted in being thrown to the lions? What were the results—for Daniel, the King, and Daniel's accusers? Do you see how Daniel's experience here points to Jesus Christ?

**PP:** Many of Daniel's life experiences point to Jesus. Jesus left His home in heaven to live with a people in captivity (to sin and lies of Satan). Jesus lived a perfect life yet was accused of wrongdoing and crucified. He arose from the grave (similar to Daniel coming out of the lion's den). The Bible is a book about God and every part of it points to Jesus. Praise God for His Word, for Jesus's life, death and resurrection. Ask God to help you be faithful in prayer. Pray for those you are aware of who are facing persecution for their faith.

**Additional Readings:** Psalm 55:16-19; 1 Peter 3:13-17

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

### Read Daniel 7

**TAI:** Chapters 1-6 record the events of Daniel's life while chapters 7-12 records the visions he had during his exile in Babylon. Note that Daniel's vision in chapter 7 would have occurred sometime between chapters 4 and 5. Do you know what kings and kingdoms are represented by the four beasts described here? Don't worry if you can't. It's been debated by scholars for generations. Do you know who the "Ancient of Days" is? (See Psalm 90:2) Who ultimately reigns and who possesses the kingdom?

**PP:** While it is noted that war is waged against the saints and they were being defeated, it is only temporary. God (The Ancient of Days) ultimately comes and establishes His kingdom which will never be defeated, and the saints will possess the kingdom. Do you feel overwhelmed and defeated? Don't give up, the battle isn't over. Praise God that He has already won the victory. It was at the cross and at the resurrection!

**Additional Readings:** Mark 13:21-27; Mark 14:60-65

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

### Read Daniel 9

**TAI:** What discovery did Daniel make in verse 2? What was he reading? (See Jeremiah 25:8-14) Why were the Jewish people exiled in Babylon? How did Daniel respond to this discovery? What was Daniel praying about and whose sins was he confessing? Note how specific he was in his prayer. What sins had the people committed and what was Daniel asking God to do? How did God respond and who did He send to deliver the message?

**PP:** While there are many different interpretations concerning the meaning of the Seventy Weeks, there is little debate as to what Daniel was praying about. He was confessing his own sins as well as the sins of his countrymen. Have you ever prayed confessing the sins of others? Pray through Daniel's prayer with our own country in mind. Confess the many sins of our own people and plead for God's mercy and forgiveness.

**Additional Readings:** Jeremiah 25:8-14; Matthew 24:3-27

## SATURDAY AUGUST 5

### Read Daniel 10

**TAI:** Many volumes have been written considering the details of the visions presented in chapters 9 & 10. Views are many and diverse. Included in these visions are words of comfort and affirmation. Daniel is assured that he is "greatly loved" several times. The assurances that Daniel's prayers were immediately heard, even though the answers weren't received until days/weeks later. Cosmic spiritual battles are being fought, but God is in control, so we, along with Daniel, should *fear not, be at peace, be strong and of good courage. Do not doubt: our God will be victorious!*

**PP:** Some will want to read additional material and seek to understand the details here, while others will not. But all of us can agree: *in Christ we are greatly loved, and He hears our prayers!* The resurrected Christ assures that Satan is a defeated foe. So pray a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for the victory of King Jesus. Express your hope in Christ, your love for God, and call upon the Lord to vindicate his people according to his divine timetable.

**Additional Readings:** Revelation 12:7-9; Daniel 12

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

### Read John 11:45-57

**TAI:** Jesus had just done one of His greatest miracles, raising Lazarus from the dead. What was the reaction from the Jews? Some, the Pharisees in particular, did not approve. Why, what were they afraid of? What did Caiaphas the high priest prophesy?

**PP:** This Sunday we will have communion where we remember Jesus greatest miracle. His death that was sufficient to pay the penalty for all our sins, His burial that proved He had really died, and His resurrection that proved He was really God and could deliver on His promises of eternal life to all who believed. In spite of the fact that no one else has done these things in the history of the world, many still do not believe. Do you? Why? Pray as God leads.