

**Friday**, August 26: Read [Judges 16](#)

Chapter 16 tells the sad tale of Samson's demise and his eventual death. What lessons can we glean from Samson's life that apply to us today? God answers Samson's dying prayer and uses his death to pry Israel free from the power of the Philistines. His name eventually surfaces in the New Testament as one of the four Judges of Israel considered to be men of faith. In spite of some glaring flaws, he is used by God twenty years as a Judge of Israel.

### **Pray for Our Missionaries**

**Juan & Adriana Palacios** (Angola Africa), **Ivan & Kim Hoyt** (Argentina), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Nate & MaryBeth Brace** (Kentucky), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert Newkirk** (Jesus Film), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Randy & Kari Ash**, **John Smith** (CEF), **Mike & Fran VanBruggen** (S. Africa), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Danielle Tucker** (YWAM), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes).

### **Specific Concerns:**

- **BOLD Faith** initiative in September
- **Tijuana Mission Trip** that is set for November 20-26

### **Pray this weekend:**

- Review of the week (Thank God for answered prayer)
- Note any ongoing concerns to pray for the week.
- Praise God that He is working in your life. You are growing in your faith.



## Spiritual Disciplines

### Reading Assignments

- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.
- Read the chapters of the Bible according to the date.
- Underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.
- Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.
- Think about what you're reading. Ask:
  1. How does this apply to me?
  2. Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?
  3. What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?
- Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.

## Weekly Readings

**Monday**, August 22: Read [Psalm 73](#)

The author of this Psalm asks the classic "Why" question: Why do the evil succeed and the good struggle? Note carefully the progression of thought in this Psalm and the Psalmist's final conclusions. Can you make [verse 28](#) your own resolution today?

1. *My relationship with God.*
2. *My life roles*
3. *My personal needs/weak areas*
4. *Goals and objectives*

**Tuesday**, August 23: Read [Ecclesiastes 4, 8 and 12](#)

Having looked at crooked judges this past Sunday, King Solomon struggles (as a good king) with injustice and inequities of life and the struggle to discover meaning. What is his final conclusion in [Chapter 12](#)? How can this help you when you wrestle with doubt?

**Pray for family and friends by name.**

**Wednesday** August 24: Read [Judges 13](#)

We now turn to the next Judge of Israel -- Samson. Notice the supernatural intervention related to Samson's birth. What exactly is a Nazarite according to [Numbers 6](#)?

**Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church**

**(Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)**

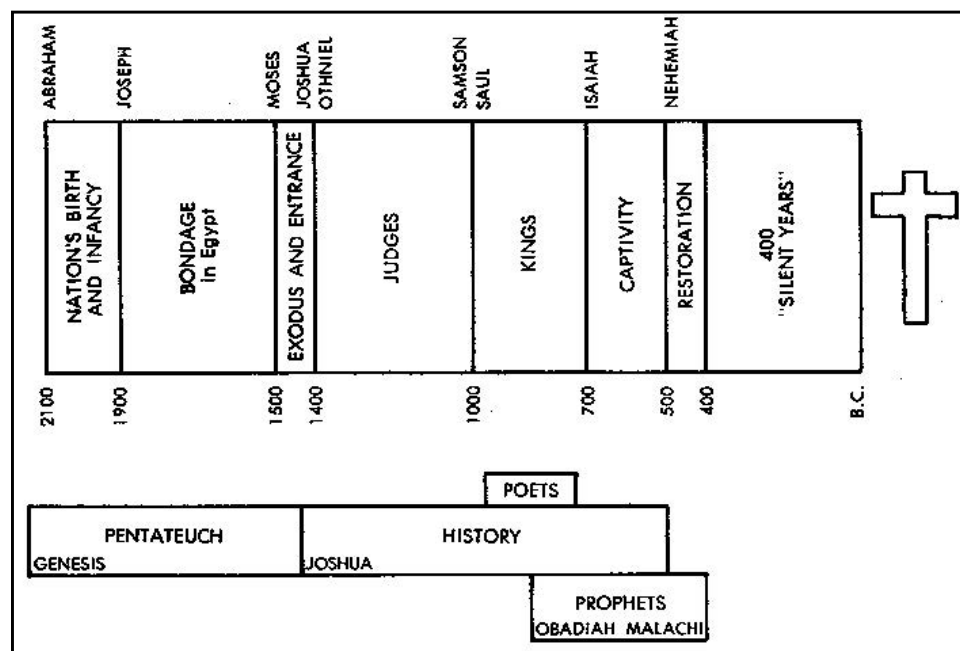
- Pastors: Pray for God's grace & guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for the Youth and children's ministries here at BGCC.
- Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people.
- Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future Pray for God's clear leading in 2016 and beyond.

**Thursday**, August 25: Read [Judges 14 - 15](#)

These chapters give account of Samson's stormy marriage and his battles with the Philistines. Notice the basis of Samson's grief because of his disobedience in marrying a foreign woman. Remember God's warning to Israel in [Deuteronomy 7:3-4](#). In a similar way we are told not to take unbelieving spouses in [2 Corinthians 6:14](#).

**Pray for "My World"**

- Neighbors • People at Work • Others God bring into my life
- Continue to pray for the nation, our county and area churches.
- Thank God for "THE CALL" prayer event and the response of our area churches. Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County.



<http://hkbible.com/OldTestamentSurvey/5.htm>