

**Friday**, March 17: Read [Ezra 8-10](#).

Have you noticed how often Ezra refers to the “gracious hand of God” guiding his efforts and guarding him as he serves? Here is a man of great faith, though he is not often recognized along with the more prominent Old Testament saints like Daniel, David, Moses and Abraham. Why such a dramatic response to the intermarriage issue? Note God’s original warning to Israel before they entered the promised land in [Deuteronomy 7:1-6](#).

Notes:

**Pray for Our Missionaries**

**Juan & Adriana Palacios** (Angola, Africa), **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), **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:**

**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? 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**, March 13 Read [Ezra 1-2](#)

Ezra is a contemporary of Daniel during the exile to Babylon. He records the return of the Jews from Babylon to Israel. While you might not be interested in the counting and numbers recorded in Ezra, realize that he was a scribe who kept careful records of geneologies and data pertinent to the times he lived in. The detail he writes with adds to the credibility of his account.

Notes:

**Pray for:**

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

Tuesday, March 14: Read [Ezra 3-4](#).

The first focus of the exiles returning to the land was to rebuild the temple and reinstate the official and Biblical worship of God as a nation. Notice in chapter four that this was not without political opposition. Why would you suppose this was so?

Notes:

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

Wednesday March 15: Read [Haggai 1-2](#).

Let's insert the book of Haggai at this point of our reading of Ezra. [Ezra 5:1](#) mentions his ministry, along with Zechariah's, as being an important help to the cause. As you read his prophecy, can you ascertain why God used him to motivate Israel to rebuild the Temple?

Notes:

**Wednesday Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church  
(Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)**

- a. Pastors: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn as she transitions into her new position at BGCC.
- b. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- c. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- d. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC.
- e. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- f. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in 2017 and beyond.

Thursday, March 16: Read [Ezra 5-7](#).

Amongst political wrangling, the Jews appeal to the king of Babylon, who backs their labors and allows them to finish the temple project. It is at this point that Ezra shows up from Babylon. Notice how he is described in Ezra 7:6-10. Note also the instruction he personally receives from Artaxerxes, king of Babylon.

Notes:

**Pray for "My World"**

- Neighbors • People at Work • Others God brings into my life.
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and the upcoming Bold Faith Initiative during the month of May.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.