

Friday, January 20: Read [*Psalms 148-150*](#)

Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Friday: Pray for Our Missionaries

David & Miriam Trott (Tucuman, Argentina), ***Dan and DeAnn Gerard*** (San Antonio, TX), ***Craig and Shelly Schafer*** (Asia-Pacific Region), ***Joe and Sue Saunders-Robb*** (Reliant), ***Daniel Jezowski*** (Papau, New Guinea), ***Brad and Christa Babjack*** (Michigan State University and Lansing Community College), ***Alvaro and Raquel Garriga*** (Central Asia), ***Pastor Roberto*** (Las Palmas Church, Tijuana)



Spiritual Disciplines Guide

Week of January 15, 2023

We will finish off our reading in the Book of Psalms this week. The tail end of Psalms features mostly praise type songs, several which are attributed to King David. One psalm of special note is Psalm 137. Because of the content of this psalm, it is believed that this sad song was written about 400 years after David's era and then inserted in Israel's collection of hymns later as Psalm 137. Read this Psalm carefully. You'll note it's reference to the rivers of Babylon and captivity. The Southern Kingdom (Judah) fell to its Babylonian captors in the years 605-586 BC. Likely, this short psalm is a cry out to God for deliverance, written by one of the Levites who went into captivity in Babylon. The psalmist does not mince words in calling down God's vengeance upon the nation as he longs to return to Jerusalem and his native land. It almost seems out of place here among so many "Hallelujah Psalms" (*Hallelujah* translates from Hebrew -- *Praise the Lord*). God has willed it to land here at the end of the book, perhaps to temper our thinking as it relates to the reality of both joys and sorrows here on earth. In one sense, we are captives of a fallen world and in the other, we are victors looking forward to the eternal bliss of heaven. The Book of Psalms gives us samples of both realities.

Monday, January 16: Read [*Psalms 136-138*](#)

Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Monday: Pray for yourself:

- My relationship with God
- My life roles and responsibilities
- My personal needs/weak areas
- My goals and objectives for the new year.

Tuesday, January 17: Read [Psalms 139-141](#)

*Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, January 18: Read [Psalms 142-144](#)

Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

1. Leadership: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest ([Matthew 9:38](#))
2. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship, including a pianist. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship. Take some time to pray through this past Sunday's congregational prayer requests.
4. Discipleship: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Ask God to bless our small group ministry, to raise up new groups, new teachers and more leaders.
5. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others through the Kingdom Assignment "*Dare to Care*".

6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our future plans as we call our members to a greater love and commitment to the Lord and his service. Ask God to bless our finances so that we can better accomplish his purposes for our congregation.

Thursday, January 19: Read [Psalms 145-147](#)

*Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Thursday: Pray for "My World"

(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church?
- Community -- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County, even through time of crisis.
- Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation, especially as churches reunite after the pandemic.
- Pray for the community parachurch ministries serving our county, including Beginnings Care for Life Center, Branch County Right to Life, Joppa Recovery/ Celebrate Recovery, Coach Eby Center, Family Promise, Forgotten Man Ministries, Freedom Recovery Center, God's Choice Church, Jacob's Well Ministry, Presbyterian Free Health Clinic, Shelterhouse, Tommy's House, the Gideons and the Bronson Food Pantry.
- America: Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America. Pray that God would use the pandemic, the economy and world events to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for God's guidance and protection for our nation in the coming weeks and months.