

Hebrews 1: As we look at this next book, Hebrews, we are not told who wrote the book or who is the intended audience. The title Hebrews was not found on the earliest transcripts. However, it is still viewed as one of the most important epistles of the new testament. From Chapter 1 we see that Jesus is the culmination of all things. God has chosen to speak through Jesus whereas “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,” verse 1. Just as through Joseph in Genesis, we will now see through Jesus God the unfolding his dream, his great mystery. Read [Ephesians 5:31-32](#). The mystery is Jesus leaving heaven and clinging to the Church, his bride. And the two shall become one.

Thursday Pray for “My World”

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Begin to take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help.
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.

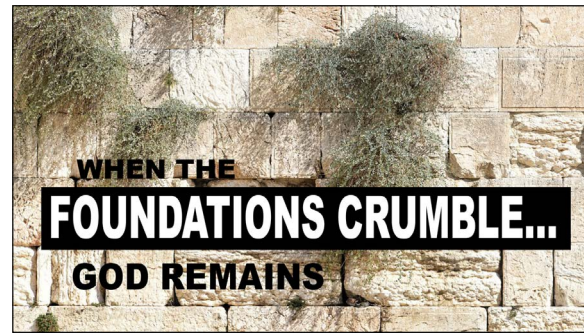
Friday, Nov. 3: Read [Genesis 42](#), [Hebrews 2](#)

Genesis 42: Here lies the great sin of Jacob. He loved his one son, or at least showed love toward Joseph, over his other sons. The division that it caused in the family was great. The love for Joseph should have been multiplied to his brother. How much of a greater reward could he have enjoyed. God does not divide a finite amount of love among certain people. His love is multiplied. Jesus died not only for the sins of a few but of all humanity. Read [1 John 1:2](#); [John 1:11-13](#). This is the message that must be shown and told. Jesus teaches us how we are to love our enemies. There are far more enemies of the gospel than friends of the gospel.

Hebrews 2 reveals that for the sake of humanity in general Jesus showed himself as one of us, fully human. He did so that we might understand Him to be merciful. For the sake of Jewish believers in particular, the writer shows Jesus to be a high priest, an intercessor between God and man. Jesus is to be seen as a merciful high priest.

Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **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** (France), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes), **Salomon Guzman** (Spectrum), **Brad Babjack** (Intervarsity), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Interserve USA)



- 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.

Spiritual Disciplines

- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.
- Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.

Weekly Readings

Monday, Oct. 30: Read [Genesis 38](#), [Acts 26](#)

Genesis 38 records the family's tradition of deception: keeping the appearance of doing what was responsible and honoring but working around it for selfish means. Even though Er was wicked and the Lord took his life, Onan dishonored his father, Judah, and did not raise up an offspring for his brother Er (vs. 8-10). God takes the life of Onan for doing evil. God is keeping short accounts of wickedness and continues to show Jacob the outcome of deception and not trusting.

Acts 26: Paul speaks to those who seek to kill him and to King Agrippa who has authority to judge him. He tells them of how Jesus delivered him from his unbelief and stubbornness to see the truth (v. 14). Paul was resisting the truth and fighting the very one he was seeking to please. He was fighting God. Paul can honestly say that God is both merciful and gracious. Deserving of death, God shows mercy. Unable to see or obtain salvation He gives grace. Read about mercy: [2 Sam. 24:14](#), [Psalm 145:9](#), [Eph. 2:4](#), [Heb. 11:16](#). Read about grace: [John 3:16](#), [James 1:5](#), [John 12:32](#), [Heb. 13:5](#).

Monday Pray for:

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

Tuesday, Oct. 31: Read [Genesis 39, Acts 27](#)

[Genesis 39](#): The Narrative moves from Jacob to Joseph. We were told how Jacob was deceived by his sons that Joseph was dead but actually sold into bondage (Chapter 37). We pick up with Joseph in Egypt. Although sold into bondage, Joseph refused to be in bondage to sin. He refused the seductions of Potiphar's wife (vs. 8-10). The contrast between Jacob leaving his clothing as a ransom for his sin and Joseph leaving his clothing to not sin is striking. Joseph is righteous and suffers for his righteousness. He is sent to prepare the way for his family who are undeserving of salvation. Read [James 1; 1Peter 3:17-19](#).

[Acts 27](#): Like Joseph, Paul also suffers for the sake of others. We are told at the end of Act 26 that Paul could have been set free had he not appealed to Caesar in Rome. Paul sees God's hand upon the affairs of his life and in verse 23 an angel tells Paul he will make it to Rome, to continue what God has planned. Although the shipmen had not listened to God's warning before the journey (vs 8-10), God will save the men upon the ship as well. However, it will be at great loss to both ship and cargo.

In [Mark 10:17-27](#), a rich young ruler asked Jesus what must he do to inherit the Kingdom of God. We know that the man could not do what was asked. Who then, the disciples asked, can be saved? Jesus tells his disciples that with God all things are possible. So it is with Paul's captors in chapter 27. God takes all that these men had, the riches of the ship and their status and throws it overboard for loss. God does this in life. Over and over again, He takes away what we think are riches because we are unable or unwilling to give it away. With emptiness, we are able to receive.

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday Nov. 1: Read [Genesis 40, Acts 28](#)

[Genesis 40](#): Joseph is thrown into prison on false accusations. Where is justice? Why has so much wickedness fallen upon this innocent man? These questions scream for an answer. Joseph says as much when in verse 14 to the cup bearer he said, "when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. ¹⁵I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon."

Joseph was removed from his family at an early age and God uses the circumstances to teach Joseph to trust Him. In spite of his circumstances, God has given Joseph faith that He has not left him. As God can only do, Joseph has the confidence to tell Pharaoh's imprisoned servants, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams." Joseph belonged to God.

At a young age, Joseph is removed from the deceitful home life of his father and brothers to be placed in the deceitful world of Egypt. Sometimes the knowledge of good and evil are better taught in the world than it is experienced in one's own home. Read [John 16:32-33, John 14:26-27, Hebrews 13:3](#).

[Acts 28](#) Paul demonstrates the protection and power of God to heal. Many witness God's hand upon his life. However, as encouraging as it was for Paul to witness for Christ, he still needed encouragement. In verse 15 we read, "The brothers and sisters there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. At the sight of these people **Paul thanked God and was encouraged**. Fellow believers left what they were doing and traveled to welcome and encourage Paul. It wasn't the praise of men, which can leave one more lonely, but the love and fellowship of others that encouraged Paul. Read [Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:29](#). Go out of your way to encourage someone today with a visit, a call or even a text.

**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 in her work 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, Nov. 2: Read [Genesis 41, Hebrews 1](#)

[Genesis 41](#): God cares for Joseph and blesses him in all his circumstances. God cares for others through Joseph as well. After another year of serving fellow prisoners, Joseph is called out to interpret a dream for Pharaoh. In doing so, speaking for God, Joseph saves the lives of millions.

We also see a change in Joseph. Joseph once again says he can do nothing but that God will give an interpretation of dreams. From the young boy who with excitement had dreams of leading his family to now a humble servant, Joseph recognizes God as the author and interpreter of many dreams. How God will play out Joseph's childhood dream is yet to be understood. It is already in the making but has yet to be made clear. Joseph interprets others' dreams and yet waits to see God's dream that includes him play out. It is always God's dream and not ours. Sometimes we allow our dreams to get in the way even when the outcomes are the same. Read [Proverbs 16:9](#)