Friday, April 19: Read Psalms 89-90, Matthew 28

Psalm 89 reviews God's covenant agreement with David that from his lineage would come the ultimate King Messiah. The Final Kingdom is established through Jesus Christ.

Psalm 90 is a song of Moses. It colorfully contrasts the transitory life of mankind with the eternality of God. Moses' conclusion is a request to grasp the brevity of life (the number of our days) in order to be wise (skilled) at heart. As such, the work of our hands will be established (what we do will matter beyond this life).

Matthew 28 briefly records the events of that first Easter, including the witnesses who saw his resurrection, the soldiers' dilemma and the fable they fabricate, and Jesus final commission to his disciples in Galilee -- to go into all the earth and make disciples of all nations. That's where we enter into the equation today!

Notes:

Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), David & Miriam Trott (Cochabamba, Bolivia), Mario Bloise (Argentina), Dan & DeAnn Gerard (San Antonio, TX), , Craig & Shelly Shafer (Sentani, Indonesia), Sue Saunders (Bosnia), Matt and Becky Kooi (Tijuana), Daniel Jezowski (Wycliffe), Andrew & Sara Williams (Ethnos360), Brad and Christa Babjack (University of West Virginia), Salomon and Megan Guzman (Tijuana), Alvaro and Rachel Garriga (Central Asia), William and Salma Garcia (Tijuana church plant)



Spiritual Disciplines Guide:

- Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.
- Read the chapters and underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advise 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.

Monday, April 15 Read <u>Psalm 81-82, Ecclesiastes 11</u>

Both Psalms today are composed by Asaph, one of David's chief musicians. Psalm 81 is a call to worship with reference to Israel's stubbornness in the past. Psalm 82 is a call for judgment. God is chief among the "gods". He ultimately will judge the earth. Asaph implores him to step forward and judge wickedness.

Ecclesiastes 11 ponders the mysteries of God and the fleeting pleasures of life, especially youth. He continues to conclude that, in the end, there is no meaning to life.

Notes:

- *Pray for:* —My relationship with God
 - -My life roles
 - -My personal needs/weak areas
 - -My goals and objectives.

Tuesday, April 16: Read Psalms 83-84, Ecclesiastes 12

Psalm 83 portrays the ancient enemies of Israel forming an unholy alliance in order to destroy the nation. This Psalm carries significant prophetic implications for our day and age -- especially as the league of Arab nations have rallied with the intent of eradicating Israel as a nation. Verse 18 is God's ultimate objective for a future day in the Middle East.

Psalm 84 is a Psalm of Pilgrimage. Three times a year, all Israel traveled to Jerusalem for religious festivals. This Psalm reflects the sentiment of all who sought God there.

Ecclesiastes 12 is a classic description of old age, using various metaphors to describe the decline of the body. Verses 9-14 summarize Solomon's conclusions in his discourse on life -- fear God and keep his commandments.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday April 17: Read Psalms 85-86, Matthew 26

Psalm 85, written by the sons of Korah, is a Psalm of restoration. It is a prayer Psalm that God would revive his people and bring them back to a fruitful and productive land. Psalm 86 is a call for mercy. Verses 9 - 10 are reiterated in a scene from heaven where the redeemed saints sing a "song of Moses" in Revelation 15:3-4.

This being Holy Week, we will read the passion of Christ as recorded in Matthew. Matthew 26 records the passover celebration, where Jesus will institute the "last supper" with his disciples. From the upper room, the disciples follow Jesus to the garden and then to his arrest and trial before the high priest.

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

- 1. <u>Leadership</u>: 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. <u>Worship</u>: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
- 3. <u>Fellowship</u>: Pray that God would deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship.
- 4. <u>Discipleship</u>: 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. <u>Outreach</u>: 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, especially through the Kingdom Initiative.

6. <u>Future Faith Goals</u>: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our 2020 plan 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, April 18: Read <u>Psalms 87-88, Matthew 27</u>

Psalm 87 is a short psalm extolling the virtues of Zion, which is Jerusalem, the city of David. Psalm 88 is a typical lament Psalm. The author is desperate to survive and appeals to God's mercy for his life. Unlike many of the lament psalms of David, the psalm concludes on a dire and desperate note.

Matthew 27 records the events of that first Good Friday, beginning with Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate and concluding with his crucifiction, death at Calvary and burial nearby. Jesus' call of agony in verse 46 is actually the first verse of the prophetic Psalm of David -- 22, the Psalm predicting the suffering of a coming Messiah.

Notes:

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 this Easter Sunday?
- 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.