

Friday, February 22: Read [*Psalms 9-10*](#)

Psalm 9 represents a psalm of praise to God for victory over enemies where Psalm 10 is a cry to God for help to defeat enemies. David was a warrior. Much of his life revolves around battle. Israel is a small, struggling nation surrounded by crafty and powerful foreign powers, many of which have interest in taking Israel's land. Their political situation in 1000 B.C. is not unlike the nation of Israel today. Modern Israel is surrounded by powerful, populous Arab nations encroaching on their land and resources. They deal daily with missiles, boarder skirmishes and threats to their national security. For the Orthodox (practicing) Jew, David's words of old must be of comfort and support. As then, God is able to rescue and protect his people. That truth applies to you in your life today as well. Look to him, entrust yourself to him daily, and give him his due thanks and praise.

Notes:

Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), ***David & Miriam Trott*** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), ***Mario Bloise*** (Argentina), ***Dan & DeAnn Gerard*** (San Antonio, TX), ***Robert and Kailey Newkirk*** (South Sudan), ***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)



Reading through Psalms and Proverbs

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 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.*

Monday, February 18 Read [*Psalms 1-2*](#)

We will turn to the Old Testament book of Psalms for the next several months. The emphasis of the book, and of our study each day, is worship -- prayer, praise and thanksgiving to God. Psalms is the ancient hymnal of Israel, 150 songs divided into five books. Not all Psalms are directly worshipful. Some are Psalms of instruction, some historic, several are Messianic, some are songs of confession, even complaint. Read each meditatively. Identify the Psalm type and its main message. Underline meaningful verses. Ask God to deepen your love, knowledge and devotion to him through your daily study of the Psalms. Psalm 1 opens the book, extolling the advantages of doing just that -- shunning evil and following God's word.

Notes:

Pray for: ---My relationship with God

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

Tuesday, February 19: Read [Psalms 3-4](#)

About half of the 150 Psalms are attributed to King David. Apparently, he wrote songs in response to the diverse, and sometimes adverse, circumstances of his life. The songs reflect his love for God, his needs, hopes and fears, and typically, his faith that God would sustain him.

Psalms 3 and 4 are cries for deliverance from enemies and danger. Note David's confidence in God's presence and providence, but also his real experiences of turmoil, fear and even the despair of possible death. Learn from David to accurately ascertain your difficulties on one hand, while identifying God's presence and affirming your hope in him, on the other hand.

Tuesday: pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday February 20: Read [Psalms 5-6](#)

Note the details with which these two Psalms are to be musically performed. David writes the song and then passes it to Israel's choir director at the temple to be produced, taught and performed by the Levites in praise to God.

Psalms 5 is a morning prayer. There is a stated advantage to starting out each day seeking God's grace in scriptural study and prayer. Is that your experience? If not, why not take a hint from King David (and Jesus -- [Mark 1:35](#)) and set aside your earliest hour of the day to seek the Lord. A good start early could make all the difference throughout the rest of the day!

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. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. Fellowship: 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. 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, especially through the upcoming Kingdom Initiative.
6. Future Faith Goals: 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, February 21: Read [Psalms 7-8](#)

Occasionally, Psalms not only give musical instructions in the postscript, but also the historic setting in which the Psalm was produced. Notice in this Psalm Cush, a Benjamite, is out to get David. He's described as a lion tearing at its prey. But David declares himself innocent before God and calls upon the Lord to vindicate him and to judge evil. The truth changes in verse 10, where he declares God his shield and righteous judge. Note the Psalm began in despair, but ends with praise and thanksgiving to God.

Psalms 8 is a "creation Psalm", declaring the greatness of God as seen in the world he created. In pondering God's glory, David inquires -- What is man that God would even bother to notice him? And yet, he does! We have been given dominion by God to rule over his created order.

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 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.