



Bible Reading 2021

## *Chart the Course*

Old Testament

Week of June 20, 2021

Having just finished 1-2 Kings, I'd like to detour around reading 1-2 Chronicles for the moment. Chronicles are exactly that, a chronological account of the kingly line of David. 1 Chronicles begins with an extensive survey of lineages of Israel. Then it correlates with 2 Samuel, telling much of the same story of David's rule. 2 Chronicles picks up with Solomon and then follows his lineage (only the kings of the Southern Kingdom, Judah) up to the Babylonian exile. You might do well to take 20-30 minutes simply to survey the contents of 1-2 Chronicles. It adds some new information to 1-2 Kings though it covers much of the same history.

This week, however, let's look at the historic books of Ezra and Nehemiah. These two books tell the story of the rebirth of Israel after the Babylonian exile. The Southern Kingdom was exiled by King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. and the people were taken into Babylon for 70 years, as was predicted by Jeremiah ([2 Chronicles 36:22-23](#)). Ezra and Nehemiah record the gradual return of the Jews from Babylon to Israel along with the rebuilding of the city, the temple and the wall.

**Monday**, June 21: Read [Ezra 1-5](#)

\*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 2021

**Tuesday**, June 22: Read [Ezra 6-10](#)

\*Chapter highlights:

\*A key passage for me:

\*One point of application from today's reading:

***Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.***

**Wednesday**, June 23: Read [Nehemiah 1-3](#)

\*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.

1. 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*”.
2. 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, June 24: Read [Nehemiah 4-6](#)

\*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 the Coronavirus crisis.
- Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation, especially as churches reunite after the quarantine.
- 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 Coronavirus outbreak to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for God’s guidance and protection for our nation in the coming weeks and months.

Friday, June 25: Read [Nehemiah 7-9](#)

\*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), ***Sue Saunders*** (Bosnia), ***Matt and Becky Kooi*** (Tijuana), ***Daniel Jezowski*** (Wycliffe), ***Brad and Christa Babjack*** (University of West Virginia), ***Salomon and Megan Guzman*** (Tijuana), ***Alvaro and Raquel Garriga*** (Central Asia), ***Brendan and Ashley Camp*** (Columbia)