

One Year through the Old Testament

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One Year through the Old Testament

Ezekiel

November 1: Ezekiel 1:1 – 3:15

- 1) He mentions that this is the 30th year. What happened in the thirtieth year of a priest's life?
- 2) Where was Ezekiel?
- 3) What did Ezekiel see?
- 4) Who did Ezekiel see? How do you know?
- 5) What was Ezekiel's job to be?
- 6) What does the eating of the scroll represent?
- 7) What was hard about the task that Ezekiel was called to do? What was not so hard about the task?
- 8) What does it mean that he went "in bitterness and in anger of my spirit" (3:14)?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Gracious Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of children. Let our manner with our children reflect the love you have toward us. Grant us the patience and ability to meet their needs. Give us the wisdom to use your Word effectively as the guide for our personal lives and in the instruction of our children. Grant all parents a measure of love that will not diminish under the burdens of this life. As you are always ready to forgive and to restore us, let us learn to exercise discipline in love, with a readiness to forgive. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 2: Ezekiel 3:16 – 6:14

- 1) What is the warning that goes with not saying anything to the sinner about his sin?
- 2) Why does God say he will hold you accountable for the sin when you were not the one to commit it?
- 3) What is the bottom line when reading 3:16-21?
- 4) What was God teaching Ezekiel when he was supposed to tie himself up?
- 5) People must have thought of Ezekiel as a real joke. Why did God make him do some of the things he was to do like lie on his side for over a year?
- 6) What was the meaning of the third/third/third?
- 7) It does appear that Ezekiel was to do something and then follow it with some strong preaching. What was going to happen in the land?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus Christ, you instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion to seal to me the personal guarantee that all my sins are forgiven. Lead me to true sorrow and repentance for all my sins. Give me faith to believe your body and blood, once given and shed on the cross, are present with the bread and wine that I receive in this sacrament. Fill my heart and mind with comfort, peace, and joy, knowing that all my sins are pardoned. Give me renewed zeal each day and lead me to live a godly life in loving obedience to your commandments. I ask this in your precious name, O Savior. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 3: Ezekiel 7:1 – 9:11

- 1) Chapter 7 begins ominously. The certainty of destruction is without doubt. How will the city of Jerusalem be destroyed? (7:15)
- 2) How would the nation of Judah see that gold would not do them any good?
- 3) What would even be lost from the land? (7:26)
- 4) On chapter 8 what happens to Ezekiel?
- 5) While he is taken into the temple in Jerusalem, what was really going on there?
- 6) An army goes through the city. What do they do?
- 7) Who is spared?
- 8) Where else in the Bible do we hear of this sort of thing?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord and Maker of all people, impress on people of every nation that they are the children of your creation. Lord and Ruler of nations, bless all efforts to promote peace and understanding among the nations of the world. Lord and Savior of the world, remove hatred and enmity from the hearts of people. Enable people everywhere to live at peace with one another. Direct all leaders of government to strive for peace and to conduct international relations so that more people may live in quietness and peace. We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 4: Ezekiel 10:1 – 11:25

- 1) These words need to take into consideration the context. What had Ezekiel seen in the previous chapters taking place in the temple?
- 2) What happens here in chapter 10 that ought to have saddened every Israelite?
- 3) Who are the two men mentioned in this chapter?
- 4) What is their position?
- 5) What was their position?
- 6) How did they anger the Lord?
- 7) What is the lesson for us?
- 8) How does the Lord give Ezekiel hope in this chapter?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Jesus, my risen Lord, you commanded your Church to preach the gospel to all nations. Prosper the work of missionaries sent out in your name. Protect them and their families from illness and danger. Give them joy in proclaiming the good news of salvation to people everywhere. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 5: Ezekiel 12:1 – 14:11

- 1) What are eyes that don't see and ears that don't hear?
- 2) What object lesson was Ezekiel to perform?
- 3) How was that object lesson prophetic?
- 4) What would the spirit of the land as the Captivity came closer?
- 5) What interesting things does God say about prophecy?
- 6) What does he mean by "whitewash?"
- 7) How do the words of Ezekiel apply to today?
- 8) Ultimately, what was Ezekiel to do for Israel?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God, you watch over all things and are truly merciful and gracious. In your wise providence, you have allowed our friend, along with many others of us, to experience difficult times. We know, dear God, that you will work all things out for good. Meanwhile, give us strength, patience, wisdom, and faith to carry on. Give strength so we can endure. Give patience so we will be content to wait on you as your will is fulfilled. Give wisdom to see what is important and what is not in our days. Give faith to trust your good will. In all of this, O Lord, anchor our eternal hope in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

November 6: Ezekiel 14:12 –16:42

- 1) What did the people of Israel apparently feel about Noah, Daniel and Job?
- 2) In 14:21ff what promise did God make?
- 3) Israel was often compared to vine (chapter 15). If they weren't going to produce fruit, what did God say was going to happen to them?
- 4) In chapter 16 to what does God compare Israel?
- 5) What did God do for her?
- 6) How was Israel mistaken about herself as the finished product?
- 7) What did Israel do to spoil everything?
- 8) To what kind of person is Israel compared?
- 9) Why is that a good comparison?
- 10) What is the judgment that would be imposed against her?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 7: Ezekiel 16:43 – 17:24

- 1) What were the days of Israel's youth? Cf. 16:43
- 2) What does God mean by all the family relations he is referring to in 16:45ff?
- 3) How was Israel worse than Sodom?
- 4) What is the covenant that God established with Israel that Israel broke?
- 5) What is the everlasting covenant that God established with Israel?
- 6) Chapter 17 speaks of two great eagles. What two nations do they represent?
- 7) The king that is referred to in 17:12 is King Zedekiah. What would happen to him remembering the history we already studied?
- 8) 17:22ff speaks of still another shoot that would be planted. What is the reference?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, everything that we are and have comes from You without any merit or worthiness on our part. The air which we breathe and the sun which warms us and makes our plants grow, they come from Your creative hand. The "good land" in which you have placed us and the bounty which it provides is your blessing. In this season of thanksgiving we acknowledge all Your gifts and ask You to bless our nation. Bless also our families and friends who brighten our lives. We so often take all of this for granted as though it had resulted from our ingenuity. For Jesus' sake forgive our ingratitude and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for all that we have and for the greatest gift which You have still waiting for us, everlasting life in heaven. In His name we pray. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

November 8: Ezekiel 18:1 – 19:14

- 1) There are some real powerful passages in this section of Scripture. Which ones do you view as that?
- 2) Why do you think Ezekiel was setting up all those scenarios. Of what were the children of Israel accusing God?
- 3) How does this passage square with the passage that God will punish the children to the third and fourth generation?
- 4) Ultimately what is God's answer for all of us in 18:32?
- 5) In chapter 19 we need to remember the last kings of Judah and what eventually happen to them. The lion is Judah. The cubs are the kings. The first cub is Jehoahaz (verse 3). What happened to him?
- 6) In verse 5 this is a reference to Jehoiachin, what would happen to him?
- 7) Zedekiah is referred to in verses 10-14.

Important thoughts from the reading:

O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have accomplished our salvation, creating us, redeeming us, and sanctifying us. Now we ask you to keep us in the fellowship of the saints and to bless your church everywhere. Grant that your Word may be taught in all its clarity and purity. Open hearts to receive it, and raise up more men, women, and children who know their Savior and worship you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 9: Ezekiel 20:1 – 20:49

- 1) The year July of 591 BC. In the previous chapter Ezekiel severely admonished the rulers of Judah. Why do you think they even wanted to listen to Ezekiel?
- 2) The people of Israel practiced the religion of false gods. Why was that particularly a slap in the face for God?
- 3) Many times God refers to the fact that Israel broke the Sabbaths. How was that done? When were they already doing that?
- 4) What was the sacrifice of the firstborn that they also defiled? (verse 26)
- 5) What was the point that God was making when he referred to the past history of the Children of Israel?
- 6) What would happen after the Lord would discipline his people and purge them? (verse 39ff)
- 7) How is that true of your personal life?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Lord, as we pause to remember the goodness of your blessings, may we include our "thank-yous" for the total and complete expressions of love that you have given us. Not only do we thank you for the material blessings we enjoy, not only do we thank you for the freedoms we have, not only do we thank you for the peace that prevails among us, but above all, we thank you for giving us the peace that comes from knowing Jesus Christ as our Savior. May our Thanksgiving be demonstrated by our "thanksgiving." Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 10: Ezekiel 21:1 – 22:31

- 1) Who was going to be part of the judgment that Jerusalem was going to endure?
- 2) In 21: 18ff Ezekiel was to draw a map. What would it consist of?
- 3) What would the king of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar) do?
- 4) He lists the sins that were prevalent in the Judah. Do you see anything different from today?
- 5) Who does he specifically point to as a cause of Judah's downfall?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Lord, as we pause to remember the goodness of your blessings, may we include our "thank-yous" for the total and complete expressions of love that you have given us. Not only do we thank you for the material blessings we enjoy, not only do we thank you for the freedoms we have, not only do we thank you for the peace that prevails among us, but above all, we thank you for giving us the peace that comes from knowing Jesus Christ as our Savior. May our Thanksgiving be demonstrated by our "thanksgiving." Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 11: Ezekiel 23:1 – 23:49

- 1) What is the parable about that God told Ezekiel to preach?
- 2) Who did Oholah represent?
- 3) Who did Oholibah represent?
- 4) How does spiritual unfaithfulness parallel that of being a whore?
- 5) What nations did the nations of Israel and Judah love instead of the Lord?
- 6) Why is God totally offended by that?
- 7) How does this parallel our nation?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for the blessings you have showered upon our land. Thank you for your gift of prosperity in days of peace and protection in days of war. Thank you for our natural resources, our talents, and our abilities. Thank you for giving us freedom of worship and all other freedoms we possess. We confess that we are sinners and deserve nothing. Nevertheless, for Jesus' sake, we ask you to accompany us with your forgiving grace. Bless our government, prosper the work of our hands, and especially enable us to fulfill our responsibilities as citizens of your kingdom of grace and to be conscientious citizens of this good land. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 12: Ezekiel 24:1 - 26:21

- 1) What day was it when Ezekiel heard the Lord's voice?
- 2) What would happen that day?
- 3) What was Judah compared to?
- 4) Why?
- 5) What double dose of bad news did Ezekiel receive that day?
- 6) How was that to be an illustration for Israel?
- 7) In chapter 25 what does the Lord also promise?
- 8) Why would these nations fall?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, everything that we are and have comes from You without any merit or worthiness on our part. The air which we breathe and the sun which warms us and makes our plants grow, they come from Your creative hand. The "good land" in which you have placed us and the bounty which it provides is your blessing. In this season of thanksgiving we acknowledge all Your gifts and ask You to bless our nation. Bless also our families and friends who brighten our lives. We so often take all of this for granted as though it had resulted from our ingenuity. For Jesus' sake forgive our ingratitude and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for all that we have and for the greatest gift which You have still waiting for us, everlasting life in heaven. In His name we pray. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

November 13: Ezekiel 27:1 – 28:26

- 1) Chapter 27 is all about the fall of Tyre. Tyre was located on the sea. It had one of the great natural harbors of the ancient world. What kinds of things led them to be totally taken in by themselves?
- 2) 27:26b really brings their pride to a grinding halt. Why?
- 3) To whom is chapter twenty-eight addressed?
- 4) What did he think about himself?
- 5) How did God gift the king of Tyre?
- 6) What will eventually happen to Tyre?
- 7) What are the lessons we can learn from the king of Tyre?
- 8) What lessons can we learn as a nation?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Christ, my Lord and King, I eagerly look forward to the day when I will see you face to face. Until that time comes, help me to get ready by daily reading your Word and regularly partaking of your Holy Supper. Through these gracious means, forgive my sins, strengthen my faith, and empower my resolve to live a godly life. I wait for you to call me to eternal life. I ask this because you died so that I might live for you now and with you forever. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 14: Ezekiel 29:1 – 30:26

- 1) This section is a prophecy against what great world power?
- 2) Remember that Egypt was always vying for control of power in the world. The nations to the north of Judah like Assyria and Babylon would put Judah in between. What was the result?
- 3) What did Egypt take pride in?
- 4) What bittersweet promise did Egypt receive from the Lord in 29: 13ff?
- 5) How many years later did Ezekiel finish the prophecy about Egypt?
- 6) With Egypt done for, what would it be possible for Judah to do? (29:21)
- 7) What would happen to the partners in Egypt's crime?
- 8) The two broken arms are major defeats of Egypt by Babylon. The second one took place in 568 BC when Nebuchadnezzar did Egypt in. The first one is a little harder to pinpoint. There are a couple of options to choose from.
- 9) What does this all mean to us as far as the Lord's rule and how he uses nations?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Gracious God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the hearts of the people for the coming of Christ. Guide our pastor and missionaries to prepare our hearts also for Christ's coming by their proclamation of the law and the gospel. Move us to repent of our sins and to believe in Christ as the Lamb of God, who came to take away our sins. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

November 15: Ezekiel 31:1 – 32:32

- 1) God is still speaking to Egypt. The date makes this prophecy just a few months before the fall of Jerusalem. He uses Assyria as a comparison. What is the point?
- 2) In chapter 32, these words are addressed to Pharaoh after the fall (eighteen months). How had she been described in 32:2?
- 3) Why would other people be disturbed by her fall? (32:9)
- 4) In 32:17-21 God describes the worst of Egypt's fate. What is that?
- 5) In the rest of the chapter there is a review that is going on. What is the object of the review?
- 6) Again what is the lesson for America?

Important thoughts from the reading:

When I am in distress, dear Lord, I ask you to listen to the cry of my heart. I neither can nor will prescribe the time and the way in which my distress might be removed. I will wait for you to determine the when and how of my relief. Strengthen my faith and give me patience to bear my trouble so that at last I may be glad when you visit me with your grace and remove my distress. Dear Father, you have never forsaken your children; do not forsake me now. You cheer the hearts of your despairing children; lift me up at your appointed time. I leave all to your wisdom, love, understanding, and goodness. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 16: Ezekiel 33:1 – 34:31

- 1) What is the warning to the watchmen that is found in these verses?
- 2) What is also the relief that watchmen should feel?
- 3) 33:11 is a huge passage. Why?
- 4) How does grace come through loud and clear here?
- 5) What were the Israelites complaining about?
- 6) How is true godliness described?
- 7) How is a bad shepherd described?
- 8) How does the Lord show he is the Shepherd of shepherds?
- 9) When do these words become Messianic?
- 10) How is he described?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). What a precious gift you have given to us in Your Word. It is a lamp to show us the way and a light to brighten the path that leads to our home in heaven. Awaken in us by Your Spirit a new desire to hear and learn that Word. Bless the efforts of the congregations in Sunday schools and Bible classes for teens and adults to provide opportunities to hear and learn your word. Move parents to take advantage of these agencies of the church as they seek to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Let the light of Your word shine ever more brightly in our homes, in our churches, and in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

November 17: Ezekiel 35:1 – 36:38

- 1) Mount Seir is Edom. Remember the nation was formed as descendants of Esau. Why was there ongoing hostility between them and Israel?
- 2) What in particular was their sin against God and his people?
- 3) What is the prophet referring to in 36:8?
- 4) Why would the Lord even restore his people again? (36:22)
- 5) 36:26 is a great section of the Scripture. What do those verses really describe?
- 6) Why would such heart surgery be necessary?
- 7) How are you comforted?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear God, compassionate Father, you have found us spiritually blind and deaf because of our sin and opened our eyes and ears to the truth of your salvation in Christ. Thank you for your forgiving love. Now in thankfulness and reflecting the hope of our salvation, we desire to show love also to those who who have similar physical weaknesses. Help us in our service so that in our labor of love we glorify your name and build up the saving faith of those we reach. We ask this in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 18: Ezekiel 37:1 – 38:23

- 1) This chapter deals with the feelings of despair that Israel was feeling as they were in the midst of the Babylonian Captivity. Why is despair such an awful emotion?
- 2) Can these bones live? (37:3)
- 3) What is the meaning of the vision of the valley of dry bones?
- 4) Ezekiel was told to hold two sticks as if they were one. One was to be Ephraim (Northern Kingdom); the other was Judah (Southern Kingdom). Two Kingdoms would be one. The northern kingdom was lost in 732 BC and never did return. So what does this teaching tool supposed to mean? What is the one kingdom?
- 5) Who is the Shepherd-King who would rule over the kingdom?
- 6) Because Messiah would rule the kingdom of his church, that does not mean that the church wouldn't be plagued by enemies. Chapter 38-39 speak of those enemies. Lots of people say different things about these people. It seems best to understand that they are all the enemies of God and his people. As you read the chapter 38, what is the bottom line?

Important thoughts from the reading:

One Year through the Old Testament

November 19: Ezekiel 39:1 – 40:27

- 1) The war between God and his people and the unbelievers of the world is seen again as described in chapter 38. What is the Lord's promise in these verses?
- 2) Some would say that verses 7,8 describe Judgment Day. Perhaps that is true. Yet how do those words describe the times we have tried to share the Word only to have the unbeliever only frustrate us?
- 3) How great in number are the enemies of God?
- 4) What is the significance of the number seven?
- 5) How unusual is the slaughter of the enemy described?
- 6) In verses 21-24 God makes it very clear that Israel was in exile not because God was weak. Why were they there?
- 7) Chapter 40 begins the last section of the book. Considering 38, 39 this was to comfort. The year was 572 BC and Judah was still in exile. What was the purpose of this perfect temple in Ezekiel's vision?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sleep. It's a great blessing to clear our minds with you, praise you for the blessings of the day, ask for forgiveness, and bask in the glow of your power and saving grace. Thank you for the time for our bodies and minds to rest, heal, and grow. Thank you for the love you show us in Jesus, who humbled himself to be born as a frail human--someone who needed to sleep just as we do. Jesus, you died a bitter, painful, lonely death for us. Help us remember this limitless love you lavished on us. Help us grow up in our faith and our understanding of your will for us as Christians. Send the Holy Spirit to remind us of everything you have commanded us, and show us how to best apply your principles to our lives as Christians in a hostile, unchristian world. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

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One Year through the Old Testament

November 20: Ezekiel 40:28 – 41:26

- 1) There is perfect symmetry in the temple that is described in these verses. Why?
- 2) In 41:3 they enter the inner sanctuary. What is the equivalent in the Old Testament?
- 3) What is not mentioned?
- 4) Why?
- 5) These are obviously hard words to read. Yet what is the promise that God is holding out?

Important thoughts from the reading:

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 21: Ezekiel 42:1 – 43:27

- 1) In chapter 42 we see the great size of the temple. The rooms were set aside for the priests. What did they do there?
- 2) What do you think was the symbolism behind the changing of the garment/s
- 3) Chapter 43 is a highpoint of 40-48. Why?
- 4) God perfection was very apparent. How would that have affected the people as they were in exile?
- 5) What do you think all of this meant about the temple when the Israel was in exile in Babylon and there was no temple there?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, you know our human weaknesses and frailties. You know our needs and cares. We do not in any way deserve your help, Lord, but we truly need it. Therefore we come to you. Grant us peace of mind, so that we may face the difficulties that now confront us. Strengthen our weak faith, lead us with your strong hand, and work things out so that they serve our eternal good. In Jesus' name. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 22: Ezekiel 44:1 – 45:12

- 1) The Lord had returned to his temple. How did that comfort the people of Israel who were off in exile?
- 2) In verses four and following what was the Lord admonishing Israel about?
- 3) In verses ten and following, what had the priests done?
- 4) What were the consequences of their actions?
- 5) The people of Israel had priests that went bad. What is the Lord saying in these verses about people who are in the fulltime work of the Lord?
- 6) In 45: 1-12 the temple in Ezekiel's vision is so much bigger than the one Israel had. What was his point?
- 7) What do these verses say about worship and service in God's kingdom?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Creator and Preserver of life, frailties of body and soul plague each of us. We come to you on behalf of those who are confined to sickbeds. If it is your will, ease their pain, restore their health, and allow them to return to their daily activities. Enable them to see their sickness as an opportunity to give glory to you. Because you sent Jesus to take away the lasting effects of sin and disease, comfort these people with the timeless message of your love. Renew in them the certain hope of eternal life. And grant them all joy in living now and in eternity, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 23: Ezekiel 45:13 – 46:24

- 1) Chapters 40-48 are a little difficult to understand. There are those who think these words should be taken literally and this is the temple that Israel was to build on return to Jerusalem. Millennialists believe that this temple is the one that Christ will be build when he sets up shop here on earth when he reigns a thousand years. We believe that this is symbolism of the perfect worship in heaven.
- 2) How does that perfect worship pertain to offerings that are made?
- 3) Sacrifices that are offered?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God give me strength and willingness to say with your Son, "Not my will but your will be done." Make me cheerful and trusting to bear whatever you let happen to me. From your hand I am willing to take the good and the bad, the joy and the sorrow. Keep me from sin, gracious Father, and comfort me with your kind Word. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 24: Ezekiel 47:1 – 48:35

- 1) The ideal temple in the ideal land brings about many blessings. What does the water symbolize? Cf. Psalm 46:4
- 2) What does the increasing depth of the water mean?
- 3) The blessings of the church are shared equally as in the allotment of the land. How is that practical in the church on earth? How is it different?
- 4) The gates seem to symbolize access to God. How is that done?
- 5) What is the significance of the name of the city?
- 6) So ends the book of Ezekiel. What are highpoints for you?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, thank you for my home and family for love and gentleness, for laughter enjoyed and sorrows shared. For daily bread. For the gift of your Son. Help me to be mindful of all your gifts and to rejoice in your goodness. May your peace be with us and your presence protect us. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

Daniel

November 25: Daniel 1:1 – 2:23

- 1) We can see the timeframe that Daniel lived. What was Babylon's strategy in taking the people of Judah into captivity?
- 2) Why were the four young men's names changed?
- 3) What were the temptations these men faced?
- 4) How long did Daniel live in Babylon? (1:21)
- 5) With what other biblical character does Daniel remind you?
- 6) What was so commendable in the way he went about the interpretation of the dream?
- 7) What can we learn from Daniel's character?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Almighty God, preserver of body and soul, be with us when we hurt and grow tired, when we ache and seek relief, when we suffer and need support. Lead those who are sick to look to you for help. And, according to your gracious will, help by restoring health. Comfort us, furthermore, by making even our bodily ills work together for our good. Strengthen our faith, renew our spirits, and rekindle our yearning for life eternal with Christ, who has told us to call on you for all things. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 26: Daniel 2:24 – 3:30

- 1) King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. Daniel not only told him what the meaning was but what the dream was. Note what Nebuchadnezzar said about the Lord.
- 2) What did the dream mean?
- 3) What is the kingdom the Lord set up in 2:24?
- 4) Chapter 3 is one of the memorable chapters of the Bible. What do you want to emulate about the men?
- 5) Do you think that Nebuchadnezzar was a believer?
- 6) What puts an exclamation mark on the miracle?
- 7) Would you do as the men and stand up for the Lord no matter what?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O Holy Spirit, come to me with your comforting Word, which alone can drive away my doubts. Direct me to my Savior. Jesus, that I may trust in him with my whole heart. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 27: Daniel 4: 1-27

- 1) Why is the format of this chapter a little unusual?
- 2) What was the dream that King Nebuchadnezzar?
- 3) What seems a little peculiar about the chronology of the events?
- 4) What influence did Daniel have in Nebuchadnezzar writing this letter?
- 5) What is good about the end result?
- 6) What can you learn? Personal comment: I feel like I can identify with the King. When the Lord humbles one under his mighty hand, if one listens, one can really confess to the Lord, "I needed that." What a great blessing to know that God does love us enough to discipline us!

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus, you have promised your church that you will soon return in glory to deliver us from all our troubles and sorrows. We long for your appearing and pray "Come, Lord Jesus!" We rejoice that you have shortened these perilous last days for the sake of your elect. For that mercy we thank you! And when you come, grant that we may be found faithful, trusting in the salvation you have given us and making good use of our time of grace. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 28: Daniel 5:1-31

- 1) Who was Belshazzar?
- 2) What kind of man was he?
- 3) How would you compare him to his father?
- 4) When Belshazzar saw the handwriting on the wall, how did he react?
- 5) What kind of reputation did Daniel have?
- 6) Why did Daniel refuse the gifts of Beshazzar?
- 7) What does the godly person have to do once in a while for people?
- 8) What did the handwriting mean that was on the wall?
- 9) What is the lesson learned for us?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for the blessings you have showered upon our land. Thank you for your gift of prosperity in days of peace and protection in days of war. Thank you for our natural resources, our talents, and our abilities. Thank you for giving us freedom of worship and all other freedoms we possess. We confess that we are sinners and deserve nothing. Nevertheless, for Jesus' sake, we ask you to accompany us with your forgiving grace. Bless our government, prosper the work of our hands, and especially enable us to fulfill our responsibilities as citizens of your kingdom of grace and to be conscientious citizens of this good land. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 29: Daniel 6: 1-28

- 1) Who is Darius?
- 2) How far up the ladder had Daniel been blessed to climb?
- 3) In what respect was that a disadvantage?
- 4) What did Darius's decree consist of?
- 5) What was the Law of the Medes and the Persians?
- 6) How did King Darius respect the law of the Medes and the Persians?
- 7) Daniel was thrown into the lion's den. How would you have done?
- 8) How did Darius react to Daniel's testimony and miracle?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus, you have promised your church that you will soon return in glory to deliver us from all our troubles and sorrows. We long for your appearing and pray "Come, Lord Jesus!" We rejoice that you have shortened these perilous last days for the sake of your elect. For that mercy we thank you! And when you come, grant that we may be found faithful, trusting in the salvation you have given us and making good use of our time of grace. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

November 30: Daniel 7: 1-28

- 1) The first six chapters of Daniel are, for the most part, historical. The last chapters are prophetic.
- 2) The first vision found in chapter seven parallels the same subject of 2: 21-33 – the rise and fall of world empires. To what are the four kingdoms compared?
- 3) Which were the four great empires that arose?
- 4) There was an establishment of still another kingdom, a different sort of power. What was that?
- 5) Whose Kingdom is above all?
- 6) The fourth kingdom (Rome) was broken up into smaller states after it fell symbolized by the ten horns. One of the horns spoke very blasphemously against the church. Who would that be who held the church in the bondage of false teaching for hundreds of years teaching salvation by works? That IS real bondage.

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord of the nations, how can we ever thank You for the country which you have given us, the USA? Who can fathom all the blessings which You have showered on us as Americans? But, now we are at war. An enemy has risen who seeks to rob us of our freedom. How thankful we are that young men and women have answered the call to duty and have ventured out into foreign lands to meet the foe. We plead for their safety. Shield them from the weapons of the terrorists. Above all, keep them mindful of their mission. Give them patience and courage. Keep them united, working as a team, ever mindful that You are in charge. We commend them into Your hands, confident that then they are safe for all eternity. We pray this prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen