

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law. – Psalm 119:18

Through the Bible in a year reading guide – Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church

November – Week 47

Completed

19 - Ezekiel	29-32	☐
20 - Ezekiel	33-36	☐
21 - Ezekiel	37-39	☐
22 - Ezekiel	40-42	☐
23 - Ezekiel	43-45	☐
24 - Ezekiel	46-48	☐
25 - Titus 1-3, Phile. 1		☐

We read God's Word:

To know Him better

To love Him more

To walk in His ways

To be conformed to the image of His Son

This week's reading: continues prophetic judgments on specific nations, then turns to Israel's future with promises of blessing. **Regarding** the prophecies against the nations, Josh McDowell's "Evidence That Demands a Verdict", (in chap. 11) lists prophecies against 11 nations, including Ezekiel 26-35 (Tyre, Sidon, Egypt, Ammon, Edom). He lists the details of their history, and the exact fulfillment of these prophecies. He documents the probability (humanly speaking) of these 11 prophecies coming true as, 1 in 5.76×10^{59} . He illustrates the size of this number; but the point is, only God could be so accurate! **God** promised Ezekiel he would receive his ability to speak (24:27) when an escapee arrives to tell him of the destruction of Jerusalem. This was fulfilled in 33:22. **In** 32:17-32, we see that the people of the nations go down to Sheol (see Week 31 "Insights"). In verses 21 and 31 we see there is no "soul-sleep" (a false teaching that says, after our body dies, we sleep with no consciousness until the resurrection - but 2 Cor. 5:6-8 says, to be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord). **Some** like to listen to the proclamation of God's Word for entertainment; we need to be doers of the Word (33:30-32). **Chapter 34** contrasts the bad shepherds and the Good Shepherd, has a promise of restoration of Israel, and a promise that David will shepherd them. I counted 15 references to "My flock/sheep". **In** chapter 36, what a contrast from the ones who profaned His name, compared to the faithful ones in Heb. 11:16, of whom it was said, God was not ashamed to be called their God. But then, God promises the restoration of Israel and their salvation - that God will put a new heart and His Spirit in them. **Chapter 37** continues the theme of the restoration of Israel, that David will be king over them, and make a new covenant with them (v.26). **After** Israel is restored, chapters 38 and 39 tell of a great battle. **In** chapters 40 through 48 we have information about the Millennial Kingdom. (John tells us in Rev. 21:22 that there is no temple in the New Jerusalem in the New Heavens and New Earth, but much is said regarding the description of the temple Ezekiel saw.) **Then** to the "Pastoral Letter" written to Titus, whom Paul left in Crete (1:5), to give guidance about the ministry: to set things in order, appoint elders / overseers (1:5, 7), deal with false teaching, and other pastoral advice and encouragement. He is probably the same Titus mentioned in Gal. 2:1,3, and who helped Paul with the church in Corinth (2 Cor. 2:13; 7:6-16; 8:6,16,23; 12:18). He was later sent to Dalmatia (2 Tim. 4:10). **The** quote in 1:12 is from Epimenides of Crete (6th century BC). Paul quotes him, but it does not mean all of the writings of Epimenides should be included as Scripture. **Philemon** is unique/distinct in that it is not a "pastoral letter", but a letter to an individual, Philemon, and not a church, regarding a run-away slave. It is closely related to Colossians (Col. 4:10-17 and Philemon 2, 23-24).

Insights from the Original Biblical Languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic):

The "Granville Sharp Rule" (a Koine Greek grammatical rule) is used when two words refer to the same person. In Titus 2:13, "...the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ", the Greek grammar is clear that Jesus Christ is God and Savior. Granville Sharp (1735-1813) discovered this rule. The KJV translators were not aware of the rule, and translated it as two persons, "the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ". (Corrected in new versions.) "**Onesimus**" (Ονήσιμος "ah-nay'-sim-us") in Philemon 10 means "useful"; compare this to v. 11 (formerly "useless").

How has God revealed Himself in this week's reading? What has He shown me this week?

In the prophecy regarding Egypt, we see in Ezekiel 29:18-20 that Nebuchadnezzar was working for God who reigns over the nations to accomplish His purposes! **In** 33:10 the people were fully aware of their sin, but in the next verse, God states again that He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, and that it is His will that the wicked turn from their way and live. He calls them to return, and says if the wicked repent, he will live (33:14-16). **In** v.18-19 - our righteous walk needs to be "present tense". **He** feeds His flock, seeks the lost (34:15-16). **God** cannot lie (Titus 1:2).