

Items for Prayer

- Mike and Marie Brunk- South Africa—Pray for one of our sister churches as they were vandalized. Their meeting tent and equipment was all burned. Pray for Pastor Bheki and his congregation
- Sunday Services- Heartfelt worship
- We would minister to one another for the unity, maturity, protection, and growth of our church (Eph 4:12-16)
- We would exalt the Lord Jesus Christ as we gather in public worship, Acts 2:42–47; 1 Cor 14:24–25; Col. 3:1

Orwell Bible Church

Daily Devotional

Aug 21- Aug 27, 2017

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***DISCIPLING ALL SO THAT ALL ARE DISCIPLING.
CHRIST IS COMING!***

Memory Verse for the week

Faithfully preach the Word

2 Timothy 4:1

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and His kingdom (note vv. 1-5)

Learning Christian Truth

34. What is repentance that leads to life?

When a sinner turns from his sin with grief for and hatred of it, and turns to God with humble love and obedience.
Acts 11:18; 1 Thess 1:9;
2 Cor 7:9–10; Heb 6:1

Pray for These Disciple-Making Opportunities

- Young People's Ministry Meetings, Sept 2
- Prayer Meeting Aug 23
- Ladies' Retreat at Peniel Bible Camp Sept 15-16
- Men's Retreat at Penile Bible Camp Sept 22-23
- Regular Sunday and Wednesday services
- Spread of the Word to English and Amish

Nehemiah: Purpose and Theme

God used Nehemiah to help Judah rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and reorder/reform their lives.

Purpose—This book was written to describe God’s restoration of His people and encourage obedience to the covenant.

The theme of Nehemiah is Rebuilding the Wall and Reforming the People

Outline of Nehemiah

☞ *God provides for and protects those who keep His covenant.*

1. Reforms Among the People, 8–13

- 1) Reading of the Law, 8
- 2) Repentance from sin, 9
- 3) Renewal of the covenant, 10
- 4) Inhabitants of Jerusalem, 11
- 5) Dedication of the Wall, 12–13:3
- 6) Nehemiah’s reforms, 13:4–31

Monday, Aug 21

Read— **Nehemiah 9**

➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?

☞ In this prayer (vv. 5ff) what themes are repeated?

☞ Compare verses 8 and 32. What covenant did God make? With whom? For what? Did He keep it? How?

Nehemiah 10

➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?

☞ What do you think “a curse and an oath to walk in God’s law” (v. 29) refers to?

☞ The renewed commitment (v. 36) was to the Lord.

Items for Prayer

- Tom, Stephanie, Daniela, Nino, & Angelo Boehm- Italy—Pray for the spiritual growth of the teens, especially the 3 “regulars”
- Believers will grow more like Christ and less like the world through the Spirit’s help and personal discipline
- Wisdom and provision for a permanent meeting house
- We would establish churches of like faith and practice at home and abroad, Matt 28:19–20; Acts 14:21–23

Saturday, Aug 26

Read— **Esther 6**

➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?

☞ “Providence” refers to God’s sustaining and guiding all things. What examples of this do you see in this chapter?

☞ How does Genesis 12:1–3 establish the assessment of the pagans in verse 13?

Items for Prayer

- Brian, Erin, Isabel, Emmett, Arthur, and Owen Bollon- Taiwan—Pray that we will continue to have opportunities to witness at our language school and in the children’s school
- God would bless His Word, answer our prayers, and use our lives and public services for the salvation of souls and the increase and strengthening of His church
- OBC men and women would grow in grace, fulfill their roles and responsibilities in their homes, and minister to our church body by word and example
- We would earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints, Phil 1:27; 1 Tim 6:12; Jude 3

Sunday, Aug 27

Read— **Esther 7**

➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?

☞ How does verse 9 illustrate Psalm 7:14–16; 9:15–16; and Proverbs 26:27?

Esther 3

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Read verse 4. Did Haman follow up and inquire about whether Mordecai’s reason was legitimate?
- ☞ What is the significance of verse 13 in light of Scripture? Who ultimately is behind this?

Items for Prayer

- Dan, Amy, Joshua, Emma, and Genevieve Baker- Australia—Pray for wisdom and open doors in our ministry to the migrant workers
- Financial Stability
- Prayer and financial support of missionaries
- We would equip believers to do the work of the ministry for the maturity, protection, and growth of the body, Eph 4:11–16; Heb 5:12–1

Friday, Aug 25

Read— Esther 4

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Note verse 14. Whatever Mordecai’s spiritual status was, he did have some expectation of deliverance.
- ☞ Read and meditate on verse 15. God has *you* where you’re at right now for a reason. What is it?
- ☞ How much prayer do you read about in verse 16? Get a concordance and look up how many times “prayer” is mentioned in Esther.

Esther 5

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ The expression “to half of the kingdom” (v. 3) isn’t to be taken literally. What is his point by saying this?
- ☞ In verses 9–14, what was Haman like? What made him happy and satisfied?

Items for Prayer

- Chris, Heidi, Rachel, Isaac, Susanna, Titus, and Seth Seawright- Thailand—Pray for strength and wisdom as we move and continue school
- Persecuted Brothers and Sisters in Christ (Heb 13:3)
- God would provide the men we need for our spiritual growth
- We would glorify God as Christ’s church, Rom 16:27; Eph 3:21; Phil 4:20; 1 Tim 1:17; 2 Tim 4:18; Heb 13:21; 1 Pet 4:11; 5:11; 2 Pet 3:18; Jude 24–25; Rev 1:6

Tuesday, Aug 22

Read— Nehemiah 11

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?

Nehemiah 12

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Twice David is described how in this chapter? What does that mean? What is the point in the context?
- ☞ The people rejoiced at worship that was biblical ordered (vv. 44–47).

Items for Prayer

- Friends in C. A.—Pray for grace, wisdom, and strength in parenting
- Peniel Bible Camp
- Those who have trusted Christ would be baptized and join the church
- We would evangelize the lost through personal witnessing and public preaching of the gospel, Acts 1:8; 1 Pet 3:15; Jude 22–23

Wednesday, Aug 23

Read— Nehemiah 13

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Note verse 3—what is the right response to God’s Word?
- ☞ Note verses 4–5. Though the Ammonites were excluded they still influenced the Jews through compromising marriages. What application can you make from this?

- ☞ In verses 15 and following, how did the people disobey? What were the effects? How was it dealt with?

Esther: Introductory Material

Purpose—Esther was written to encourage Israel that God will preserve them as a nation, no matter how far they fall from Him or how powerful the foes they face.

Theme—God’s providential care

Key verses—4:14; 6:13; 9:1

Summary of Esther

Esther, a Jewess, hides her identity and becomes Queen of Persia. Together with her cousin Mordecai they enable Jews to defend themselves from ethnic cleansing. This book shows God’s faithfulness to His promises to the descendants of Abraham (Gen 12:3). If Haman’s plan succeeded, all Jews would have been wiped out. God made promises to Abraham and David, and Haman’s efforts in the book of Esther threatened their fulfillment. Esther teaches God’s providential care of Israel. No matter how bad things became, God is in control, His people are in His hands.

Outline of Esther

☞ *Esther shows God’s providential care for and protection of Israel.*

1. **Esther Becomes Queen, 1–2**

- 1) Vashti demoted, 1
- 2) Esther’s coronation, 2

2. **Haman’s Feud with Mordecai, 3–8**

- 1) Haman plots to kill Mordecai, 3
 - a. Haman’s anger with Mordecai, 3:1–6
 - b. A day of revenge, 3:7–15
- 2) Mordecai’s plan and Esther’s decision, 4
- 3) Esther’s first banquet, 5:1–8
- 4) Haman’s plot against Mordecai, 5:9–14
- 5) Haman’s humiliation before Mordecai, 6
 - a. The king learns of Mordecai’s unrewarded deed, 6:1–5
 - b. Mordecai honored, 6:6–11
 - c. Haman’s downfall foretold, 6:12–12
- 6) Esther’s second banquet, 7
- 7) Mordecai’s counter-decree, 8

3. **The Jews’ Victory and Feast of Purim, 9–10**

- 1) Jews destroy their enemies, 9:1–19
 - a. Throughout the kingdom, 9:1–10
 - b. In Susa, 9:11–15
 - c. Celebration, 9:16–19
- 2) Feast of Purim, 9:20–32
- 3) Mordecai’s greatness, 10

Esther 1

➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?

- ☞ This book shows God’s providential care for and protection of Israel. Though by this time Jews had been returning to Jerusalem, these apparently did not.
- ☞ Imagine the scene in verses 5–7—decadent revelry for a half a year!
- ☞ So what did the king decide to do to Vashti and why (v. 19)?

Items for Prayer

- Izaac, Kim, Ashlyn, Brenna, and Carson VanderSchel- Camp—Pray that we will be intentional in our ministry to the local church
- Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting
- Wisdom for church leadership
- We would edify believers through the systematic teaching of the Bible, public worship, ministry of believers, observance of the ordinances, and the administration of biblical discipline, Acts 2:42–47; 9:31; 1 Cor 14:26

Thursday, Aug 24

Read— **Esther 2**

➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?

- ☞ In verse 3, “harem” refers to a large group of women available to him. Is that a morally, upright situation? Why?
- ☞ Does Esther’s conduct in verses 8–16 sound like one who feared the Lord? (Compare Proverbs 31; Daniel 1:8)
- ☞ Mordecai “sitting at the king’s gate” (v. 21) shows that he had some type of official position in the government.