

- ☞ Note the result of trusting and obeying the Lord in verses 6–12. What if God's people heeded the unbelievers instead of the prophets? What encouragement can you take from this?
- ☞ What characterized the worship of God in verses 19–22?

Items for Prayer

- Mike and Marie Brunk- South Africa—Pray for the weekly meetings on Sunday and Wednesday and for the faithful preaching and teaching of the Word
- Sunday Services- Believers will hear and act on God's Word
- 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 7- Aug 13, 2017*

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

***Memory Verse for the 2nd week***

**Christ will judge those who  
 persecute believers**

2 Thessalonians 1:9-10

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

***Learning Christian Truth***

**32. What is justification?**

Justification is God's declaration that a sinner is free from all of sin's guilt and punishment and stands before Him as perfectly righteous. Rom 5:9, 19

Pray for These Disciple-Making Opportunities

- Young People's Ministry Meetings, Aug 19
- Prayer Meeting Aug 16
- 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

## Introduction to 1–2 Chronicles

The theme of 1–2 Chronicles is *faithfulness to a faithful God*

Key Passages: 2 Chronicles 7:14

### **Monday, Aug 7**

Read—  
**2 Chronicles 31**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Note the effect that biblical worship had on the people in verse 1.
- ☞ What was Hezekiah’s character (vv. 20–21)? Evaluate your life—could this be said of you? What changes do you need to make?

**2 Chronicles 32**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ What reason does Hezekiah give for not fearing the more powerful Assyrians?
- ☞ Note verse 12—how do the unsaved view worship? Apply that to today’s situation when churches, out of a desire to get people to church, orient services by what the unsaved think and like.
- ☞ How would verses 20 and following encourage the returned exiles?

Items for Prayer

- Chris, Heidi, Rachel, Isaac, Susanna, Titus, and Seth Seawright- Thailand—Pray that we will be able to find a house soon
- 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

- ☞ What are some principles/lessons to learn about when we experience opposition while doing God’s work?

Items for Prayer

- Tom, Stephanie, Daniela, Nino, & Angelo Boehm- Italy—Pray that Rina will put God first in her life
- 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 12**

Read—  
**Ezra 5**

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

- ☞ Who *really* was over Israel (v. 1)?
- ☞ What does the figure of speech in verse 5 communicate?
- ☞ Note the testimony of God’s people’s obedience in verse 8 (cf. 1 Pet 2:12, 20; 3:17)

Items for Prayer

- Brian, Erin, Isabel, Emmett, Arthur, and Owen Bollon- Taiwan—Pray that we will have humility (and good humor) to make mistakes and receive help as we try to communicate
- 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 13**

Read—  
**Ezra 6**

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

☞ What ways does this passage show that all this was of the Lord?

## Ezra 2

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

- ☞ Why is there such a focus on the priests and Levites?
- ☞ Through the “Urim and Thummim” (stones on the high priest’s breastplate) the Lord somehow spoke and gave instructions (v. 63).
- ☞ Note the first thing spoken of at the Jews’ return in verse 68. What was the focus of the return?

### Items for Prayer

- Dan, Amy, Joshua, Emma, and Genevieve Baker- Australia—Pray for spiritual growth in the lives of B., H., & B. Pray that their parents will continue to allow them to attend church & Sunday School
- 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 5:12–14

## Friday, Aug 11

Read—

## Ezra 3

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

- ☞ From verses 1–7 what characterized their worship?
- ☞ Note the praise in verse 11—why is their praise of God’s goodness and loving-kindness *upon Israel* specified? How could they say this?
- ☞ Why were there differences of reaction at the laying of the foundation (v. 12)?

## Ezra 4

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

- ☞ What principles can you gain from verse 3 about who believers should and shouldn’t work with in spiritual endeavors?
- ☞ What did Rehum and Shimshai say was their reason for notifying Artaxerxes of the Jews rebuilding of the temple? Do you think that *really* was their motivation? Why?

## Tuesday, Aug 8

Read—

## 2 Chronicles 33

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

- ☞ How did Manasseh repent?
- ☞ What were the evidences of his repentance?
- ☞ What influence would this have on the returned exiles? What application can you make to your life and others?

## 2 Chronicles 34

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

- ☞ Note the ages of Josiah at the various points through this chapter.
- ☞ What can you learn and be challenged by from Josiah?
- ☞ From this chapter, what did seeking the Lord involve and look like?

### Items for Prayer

- Friends in C. A.—Pray for our spiritual growth and that we will be faithful to the Word
- 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 9

Read—

## 2 Chronicles 35

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

- ☞ Compare verse 13 with Deuteronomy 16:4–7.
- ☞ What was the significance of the Passover (v. 16)? Why did Israel observe it?
- ☞ Perhaps Josiah engaged Pharaoh in battle because he remembered that the Mosaic Law provided for success in battle as people obeyed the Law.

## 2 Chronicles 36

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ As you read verses 5–21, how many times were God’s people taken to Babylon?
- ☞ Note verses 12–13, 15–16. What is always the result of refusing to heed God’s Word? What lessons should you learn from this? Why did Judah spend 70 years in captivity? Was that just a random number the Lord decided on? See Leviticus 26:34–35

### Items for Prayer

- Izaak, Kim, Ashlyn, Brenna, and Carson VanderSchel- Camp—Pray for strength as we have camp this week, Carson is in sports, the girls work and we get ready for school to start
- 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

### Introduction to Ezra

Ezra was a scribe and priest (Ezra 7:11–12). As a “scribe” he did more than just copy things. He was a godly theologian who knew God’s Word (see chapter 9 and Neh 8:1–8). Furthermore, as a scribe he had access to various Persian documents. This book includes seven such documents. Ezra lived at the same time as Nehemiah (Neh 8:1–9; 12:36). The book begins with Judah at the end of her 70 year captivity, and recounts

### Purpose and Theme

*Ezra emphasizes four important points to the reader:*

- 1) God sovereignly brought His people back from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem
- 2) God was worshiped according to the covenant (temple, sacrifices, festivals, priests)
- 3) God’s people had to obey the covenant and be holy (separated) as God was holy
- 4) God sovereignly accomplished His purposes, even when resisted by enemies

Understanding these four points of emphasis in the book of Ezra, we can state the purpose of the book thus: **Israel must be separate to and obediently worship their holy God who sovereignly returned them to the land.**

The theme of Ezra is Return of the Remnant

Key Passages: Ezra 6:21; 7:9–10

### Summary of Ezra

Ezra relates how God sovereignly moved both Cyrus and the exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem. The altar was rebuilt and the temple foundation laid. Israel’s enemies successfully petitioned King Ahasuerus to stop the Jews’ work. Prophets exhorted the Jews to resume building the temple, which they did. Sadly, Jews began intermarrying with pagan neighbors, so Ezra led the people into a covenant to put away their foreign wives.

### Outline of Ezra

☞ *God sovereignly returns His people to the land for right worship and holy living.*

#### 1. **Return and Rebuilding Under Zerubbabel, 1–6**

- 1) Cyrus’s Proclamation Allowing Return of Exiles, 1
- 2) List of Returning Exiles, 2
- 3) Rebuilding the Temple, 3–6
  - Altar is rebuilt and temple foundations laid, 3
  - Opposition causes work to cease for 15 years, 4
  - Work resumes under ministry of Zechariah and Haggai, 5
  - Temple completed, 6

#### 2. **Return and Reform Under Ezra, 7–10**

- 1) Return to Jerusalem, 7–8
  - Second remnant returns under Ezra, 7
  - Journey to Jerusalem, 8
- 2) Reform of the People, 9–10
  - Problem of mixed marriages, 9
  - Abandonment of mixed marriages, 10

**Thursday, Aug 10**

### Read— **Ezra 1**

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

☞ Compare verse 1 with Jeremiah 25:12–13; 29:10; and Proverbs 21:1.

☞ The Persians are in power at this time because they defeated the Babylonians sometime after Judah’s captivity.