

*“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
Eph 5 :16*

Equipping the church, **Evangelizing** the lost,
and **Entering** our building, Acts 19:10

Monday, December 14

2 Chronicles 3—*Construction of the temple begins.*

- ☞ Where was the temple built? Do you remember what happened there?
- ☞ How big were some of the rooms and pieces of furniture in the temple? Imagine the magnificence of this, and yet the book of Hebrews describes it as a shadow, symbol, and copy of the heavenly temple! (8:5; 9:9; 10:1)

Revelation 4—*The greatness and glory of God the Creator.*

- ☞ This chapter shows God’s greatness as Creator of the world. Most of the book describes Jesus’ judgment on the whole world; this chapter establishes his right to do so as he is the world’s Creator.
- ☞ John tries to describe what he sees in heaven in human terms (“like,” vv. 3, 6–7). What is clear and indisputable is God’s position on the throne (vv. 2–3) and the response of all created beings (vv. 8–11).

Items for Prayer

- Jeremy, Caroline, Isobel, William, Priscilla, and Hudson Dion- Papua New Guinea—Praise the Lord that we got Hudson’s paperwork!
- Satan and wicked spiritual forces, Mark 4:15; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2; 6:12, 18
- Sinful hearts of the lost, Rom 3:10–18; 2 Cor 4:3–4; Eph 4:18–19
- Our own struggles with sin, Matt 26:41; Rom 7:13–25

Tuesday, December 15

2 Chronicles 4—*The furniture and utensils of the temple are made.*

2 Chronicles 5—*The ark is brought into the temple; as the Lord is worshiped His glory fills the temple in the form of a cloud.*

- ☞ Note what characterized the worship of the Lord in verse 13—there was orderliness, unity, and a focus on who the Lord is and what He has done.
- ☞ Why did the Lord appear in a cloud? Think in terms of the 10 commandments and Israel's history.

Revelation 5—*Jesus alone is worthy to open the scroll.*

- ☞ The scroll is the full amount of God's judgment (written on front and back, v. 1). To "open" and "break" the seals is to bring about what is written on it.
- ☞ Why is Jesus worthy to bring about the judgments written on the scroll (vv. 9–10)?

Items for Prayer

- Charlie and Bo Frink- New Zealand—Pray that Daniel will want to have Bible studies again.
- Boldness in the face of opposition and resistance, Acts 4:29; Eph 6:19
- Fear of and love for Christ, 2 Cor 5:11, 14
- Selflessness, Luke 9:23–26

Sunday, December 20

2 Chronicles 10—*Rehoboam rules Israel, foolishly following the youth rather than his elders. The nation divides as a result.*

- ☞ What lessons can you learn from verses 1–11 about leading and serving?
- ☞ Note and think upon the effects of Rehoboam's pride upon the unity of the nation.

Revelation 10—*A second interlude (10:1-11:14) giving additional information about the Tribulation judgments.*

- ☞ During the Tribulation an angel will descend to earth, swearing by God that His judgments will be fully executed (vv. 1-7).
- ☞ This angel will be entrusted with declaring God's Word, and will do so with greatest reverence and boldness, not because of his appearance, but because the message was from God. We have been entrusted with declaring God's Word—what are we doing with it? How are we declaring it?
- ☞ *In his vision* John eats the scroll (vv. 9-10). It was "sweet" for the scroll was God's will and answered the saints' prayers. The "bitterness" relates to the great destruction that will occur.

Items for Prayer

- Andy, Sharon, Jeff, Katie, and Trent Rupert- Calvary Baptist of Willard—Pray for Trent's salvation and for wisdom for Andy and Sharon in interacting with him.
- Christ-likeness at home and "work," Col 3:18–4:1
- Not judge by externals, Jas 2:1; 2 Cor 5:16
- Persevering faithfulness in perilous times, Revelation 2–3; 21:7

Saturday, December 19

2 Chronicles 9—*Solomon's greatness is set forth, from the Queen of Sheba's visit to his wealth, wisdom, and power.*

- ☞ What does the Queen of Sheba say was the reason God made Solomon king?
- ☞ Where did Solomon get his wisdom (v. 23)? What effect should remembering that have on anyone?
- ☞ What is not included in the concluding summary of Solomon's reign (2 Kings 11:1–13)?

Revelation 9—*The fifth and sixth trumpet judgments.*

- ☞ How can you see God's sovereignty in this chapter?
- ☞ The "army" of the sixth trumpet is clearly not a human one (vv. 13-19). What specifically helps you see this?
- ☞ Note from vv. 20-21 how hardened sinners are.

Items for Prayer

- Nathaniel, Katie, Emmaline, Gracyn, and Lauren Pringle- Cincinnati OH—Pray for ECBC as we prepare to transition away.
- False teachers spreading error in the name of Christ, 1 Tim 4:1–3; 2 John 7
- Selfless, sacrificial love for all Christians, Acts 6:1
- Tendency to be "now" oriented rather than Christ and eternity, Matt 6:33; 2 Tim 4:1

Wednesday, December 16

2 Chronicles 6—*Solomon prays to the Lord, asking God's blessing upon the prayers and worship offered.*

- ☞ What did Israel, Judah, Jerusalem, and David do to deserve the Lord's choosing them (vv. 5–6)? What application can you make from this?
- ☞ Why are Solomon's statements in verse 18 true?
- ☞ As you read verses 22–39, note the connections between Solomon's prayer and the Mosaic Law. God's Word informed and directed Solomon's prayers.

Revelation 6—*The seal judgments.*

- ☞ The first four seals describe judgment tied to the rise of the Antichrist (the rider on the white horse, vv. 1–2).
- ☞ Many believers during this time will be killed for their faith and will pray for God to judge their persecutors (vv. 9–11).
- ☞ How will unbelievers respond to God's judgment (v. 16)? Who do they look to for deliverance? Who do they *not* look to?

Items for Prayer

- Tim, Cristina, Andres, Ruth, and Patricia Goossen- Argentina—Pray for God's leading in our children's lives.
- We will always be "going," Matt 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47–49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8
- Salvation of souls, 2 Thess 3:1
- Faithfulness, 1 Cor 1:18

Thursday, December 17

2 Chronicles 7—*God's glory fills the temple and Israel worships the Lord. The Lord promises to bless Israel if they obey Him and remove them in judgment if they disobey.*

- ☞ In verse 8, the geographic references refer to the most northern and southern parts of Israel.
- ☞ From verse 14, what does God require for His blessing? Works? Money? What?
- ☞ Think about God's concluding word in verses 19–22. It's not about the building, is it? What is it about? What application should be made?

Revelation 7—*The 144,000 and many martyrs for the faith.*

- ☞ This chapter is like an interlude, a break in the action, giving additional information to things going on during the Tribulation.
- ☞ Who makes up the 144,000 (vv. 4–8)? Who makes up the martyrs described in verses 9–17?

Items for Prayer

- Daniel, Rosamma, Dany, Merlin, and David Kumar- India—Pray for Rosamma's health. She needs to see the doctor, but can't right now because of Covid.
- Open doors, Col 4:3
- Spirit-led, dependent, and empowered (tendency to follow our sin nature), Gal 5:16
- Always content in Christ, Phil 4:11-13

Friday, December 18

2 Chronicles 8—*Solomon's administrative actions for the nation and its worship.*

- ☞ Note the emphasis on Solomon's dedication to the Mosaic Law in verses 12–13.

Revelation 8—*The opening of the seventh seal initiating the trumpet judgments.*

- ☞ The seventh seal encompasses the next series of judgments of seven trumpets (vv. 1-2).
- ☞ What are the trumpet judgments like compared to the previous seal judgments (ch. 6)?

Items for Prayer

- Mark and Bekah Perry- Chile--Pray for God's grace as our church seeks to proclaim the gospel here.
- Always increasing Christ-likeness of Christians Always increasing Christ-likeness of Christians, Col 1:9–11; Heb 5:12–14; 2 Pet 1:5–11
- Governing authorities, Acts 5:29; 1 Tim 2:1–6
- Christians' worship, 1 Cor 14:24–25