

April 23-29

Week 17

We are now in the fourth week of Act 2, scene 5 in the story of Scripture.

This week we will slow down in our reading of David's story, but the narrative passages in days 3–4 are very important because they illustrate that in David's reign the true worship of the Lord took center stage.

This week we will also read a number of psalms and finish the chronicler's genealogies. Allow the psalms to help you settle into a deeper worship of God. Although genealogies are not the most exciting reading in the Bible, continue to think about how they communicate the idea of identity for God's people.

Day 1

Read Psalms 81; 88; 92-93

Act 2 - Scene 5 - Reading 22

Today we are reading a variety of psalms. Take time to think deeply about these songs.

Read each psalm's main theme as you understand it. Then use them as prayers.

Day 2

Read 1 Chronicles 7-9

Act 2 - Scene 5 - Reading 23

This is the final day when the chronicler shares with us the big picture of Israel's history, which reveals the identity of God's people. Again, notice that David's rule is the point of reference for this history.

Think about your identity in Christ, your role among God's people.

Day 3

Read 2 Samuel 5:1-10; 1 Chronicles 11-12; Psalm 133

Act 2 - Scene 5 - Reading 24

As you read today, notice the unity of Israel under David and the place of covenant, which stands at the heart of the story of the Bible.

Also watch for differences between the ways 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles tell the story. Both accounts emphasize unity, as does Psalm 133, and the taking of Jerusalem, which became the city of David. The chronicler, however, went into great detail in telling about the heroes surrounding David during his reign.

What admirable character qualities are celebrated in the description of David's warriors?

Which of these character qualities do you need as you approach your tasks today?

Day 4**Read 2 Samuel 5:11-6:23; 1 Chronicles 13-16****Act 2 - Scene 5 - Reading 25**

In the reign of David, we see the worship of the Lord finally take center place among the people of Israel. In these chapters David vanquished the Philistines (notice what happened to their idols) and moved the ark to Jerusalem. True worship of God is now at the center of the story.

At first the narrative about Uzzah's death might be disturbing. However, read this story in light of both Numbers 4:15 and 1 Chronicles 15:11-15. Worship of the Lord must be done on the Lord's terms.

One contrast between David and Saul was the care with which they sought the Lord and attempted to follow the Lord's ways.

Michal's bitterness toward David when he danced before the Lord reinforces the stark contrast between David's relationship with God and the shallowness of Saul, which was then embodied by his daughter.

Notice the mention of Asaph at 1 Chronicles 16:7. He wrote many psalms in Scripture.

How central in your life is worship? How much time do you give to daily worship?

Day 5

Read Psalms 15; 23-25; 47

Act 2 - Scene 5 - Reading 26

As you read these wonderful psalms today, use them to reflect deeply on your relationship with the Lord. These rich psalms use a powerful mixture of images, figurative language intended to draw us into important truths about God.

How do the images used in these psalms stretch your limited view of God?

Day 6

Read Psalm 89; 96; 100-101; 107

Act 2 - Scene 5 - Reading 27

We end the week as we started it—with psalms. Today’s psalms are some of the most powerful songs of praise and thanksgiving in the Bible. Allow the images used in these psalms to stimulate your thinking about how good and powerful God is and about all he has done for you.

As you read, turn these psalms into prayers expressing praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.

Day 7

Reading Summary for Week 17

This week's narratives included two central events in Israel's history. First was David's conquest of Jerusalem, making it his political capital city. Second was his relocation of the ark—by this time hundreds of years old—insuring Jerusalem's place as the religious center of the nation. Our continuing focus on biblical poetry has drawn us to two beloved songs: Psalm 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd") and Psalm 100 ("Let the whole earth shout triumphantly to the Lord").

Prayer/Meditation

From David's time, O God, you appointed Jerusalem as a holy city, the city for your temple. Even more, Jerusalem became the place where you secured my salvation through the death of David's descendant, the Lord Jesus. Thank you that Jerusalem endures as a symbol of the place where I will be ever in your presence. I long for the time when I enjoy "the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God" (Revelation 21:2) throughout eternity. Amen.
