

## JOSHUA

The book of Joshua is a continuation of the history which was recorded by Moses. It details how Canaan was occupied and divided. We hear not only of Joshua's faithfulness to the Lord but are reminded again of the faithfulness of God to all of his promises. The first twelve chapters recount the conquest of Canaan. Chapters 13 through 24 detail the distribution of the land and give additional detail about the cities of refuge and the Levites.

Feb 2: Jos 1:1-18: Note the special commands and promises that the Lord gives to Joshua. We would do well to take to heart what he says in verses 7-9.

Feb 3: Jos 2:1-24: The Lord's reputation preceded the entrance of the people into the promised land. We will hear about Rahab again in the New Testament. As a result of these events, she became, by God's grace, an ancestress of the Savior.

Feb 4: Jos 3:1-4:24: At the most difficult time of the year, when the Jordan River was at its highest, the Lord led the children of Israel across on dry ground. Note how this miracle was different from the parting of the Red Sea. When the Red Sea was parted, there was a wall of water on each side as they walked through on dry ground.

Feb 5: Jos 5:1-12: God's people had already forgotten about circumcision. It took place now before they began the conquest of the land.

### Luther's Morning Prayer

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### Luther's Evening Prayer

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen

## **Suggested Daily Bible Readings January 9—February 5, 2012**

### 1 PETER

Peter's training, experiences, and personal failings served to prepare him to be a strengthener of his fellow Christians. In his first letter he strengthens those who are being persecuted. It was probably written from Rome to believers in five provinces of Asia Minor. The letter shows that they have a Gentile background. Their persecution is probably not "official," but it is still a time of severe trial.

The letter reflects our confident dependence on God which is based on the unshakable certainty of the resurrection of the dead (Jesus' and ours).

Luther included 1 Peter in his list of the prime and capital books of the New Testament because it unlocks the meaning of the whole New Testament.

Jan 9: 1 Pe 1:1-2:3: We have a living hope that equips us for our ministry of the gospel in deed as well as word.

Jan 10: 1 Pe 2:4-3:7: The Lord Jesus builds us up. He has made us his chosen people and provides us opportunities to show that in the various stations of life we may pass through.

Jan 11: 1 Pe 3:8-4:19: Our baptism gives us special hope, preparing us to live for God, even during suffering and persecution.

Jan 12: 1 Pe 5:1-14: As we approach the end of all things, it is with self-control, alertness, and no anxiety. God is caring for us.

### 2 PETER

This letter serves the special purpose of strengthening our Christian hope and defending it against the attack of error and the corrosion of doubt. It provides us with important knowledge.

Jan 13: 2 Pe 1:1-21: As we use God's holy word, we will become more firm in our calling as Christians. Note especially the last two verses.

Jan 14: 2 Pe 2:1-22: False teachers will never go out of style, but they will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. The wheels of justice grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine!

Jan 15: 2 Pe 3:1-18: We can confidently look forward to the last day, strengthened by the Holy Scriptures.

## JUDE

The Jude who is the author of this book is one of the brothers of the Lord Jesus (a half brother). Like James (verse 1), he did not believe in Jesus during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry. After the resurrection, he was won for the faith. Jude writes against those terrible people who teach that since Jesus has forgiven us, we have the freedom to sin. Such men had even become teachers in the church. Note especially, Jude's closing doxology. It provides us with a great comfort.

Jan 16: Jude: Jude not only warns against these false teachers, he also reminds the church of her duty - to preserve herself in a pure faith and to save those entangled in falsehood.

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK

Mark says that his gospel is "The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (1:1) He tells the history of the strong Son of God who loved and gave himself for all people. Mark is referred to in the Bible also as John and John Mark (Ac 13:5.13 + 12:12). Paul's and Peter's letters also refer to Mark. Mark was apparently written mainly for Gentiles to prove that Jesus is the strong Savior from all evil. He records mostly the miracles of Jesus and demonstrates the help that Jesus wants to and is able to give. Together with Matthew and Luke, Mark is called one of the Synoptic Gospels - their records share a common view of the life of Christ. (synoptic comes from a Greek word that means seeing together) Mark reports on three stages of Jesus' ministry: Mk 1:14-6:6a - Jesus' Galilean Ministry.

Mk 6:6b-10:45 - The period of wandering, including the last journey to Jerusalem.

Mk 10:45 - 16:20 - The last days in Jerusalem.

The outline we will follow for reading the gospel will serve to teach the:

## GOOD NEWS OF JESUS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD

### The coming of the Christ ushers in the promised reign of God

Jan 17: Mk 1:1-45 - John prepares God's people and the Father prepares his Son to come in power and mercy. Jesus demonstrated both as he begins his ministry.

## The Scribes & Pharisees oppose Jesus

Jan 18: Mk 2:1-3:6 - These people resist the free grace of God because they want their own righteousness to count before God. Note the plot to kill Jesus.

## Jesus responds to his opposition

Jan 19: Mk 3:7-4:20 - Jesus continues to show mercy to those who trust in him and teaches those who will still listen.

Jan 20: Mk 4:21-5:20 - Demonstrations of his power go hand in glove with his teaching.

Jan 21: Mk 5:21-6:13 - As people are offended at his teachings, Jesus sends out the 12 to help in his work.

Jan 22: Mk 6:14-56 - Hatred for the Christ and what he stands for can be seen in the death of John.

Jan 23: Mk 7:1-37 - The split between Jesus and his opposition deepens. He reaches out to the Gentiles.

Jan 24: Mk 8:1-30 - The disciples are convinced and confess that Jesus is the Christ - the Promised Savior.

## The Disciples learn of the Cross

Jan 25: Mk 8:31-9:50 - Jesus predicts his death and gives the disciples a glimpse of his glory as God.

Jan 26: Mk 10:1-31 - God has established the way in which people will be saved. He does the saving!

## Jesus goes to Jerusalem

Jan 27: Mk 10:32-11:33 - Jesus announces and makes his last journey to Jerusalem.

Jan 28: Mk 12:1-44 - Jesus continues to instruct his enemies, but even his warnings fall on deaf ears. Again, he claims to be the Christ.

Jan 29: Mk 13:1-37 - Jesus speaks to his disciples to prepare them for the second time he will come to earth--the Last Day.

## The Christ, the Son of God, Suffers, Dies, AND Rises Again

Jan 30: Mk 14:1-72 - Jesus is rejected by his people and disowned by his disciples.

Jan 31: Mk 15:1-47 - The innocent Son of God gives up his life to give us life. He suffers on the cross the punishment of hell that we deserve to suffer.

Feb 1: Mk 16:1-20 - We have a LIVING Savior who did conquer death. His victory is ours to possess and to share with others.