

Week 27
(7/1/2019 - 7/7/2019)

You have read halfway through the Bible. Take a week to reflect on what you have read. This week, think about what God has taught you through His Word.

3 Lessons I have Learned from My Reading

3 Things I Have Changed in My Life Because of My Reading

3 Questions I Have About My Reading

Week 28 (7/8/2019 - 7/14/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Song of Solomon 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Song 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Song 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Song 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Song 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Song 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Song 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Song 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The “Song of Songs” or “Song of Solomon” is a collection of love poems. The title “Song of Songs” comes from 1:1 and is a Hebrew idiom meaning, “The best of all songs.” The title “Song of Solomon” associates the song with Solomon. He is either the author of the book or the king to whom the book is dedicated. ? Many readers of the Song of Solomon have used the love language of this book to express their love to God. As you read this book, do you feel this kind of intense love for God? Do you believe that God loves you in such a passionate and profound way? How can you grow in your love for Him?
<p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ecclesiastes 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Ecc 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ecclesiastes was probably written by Solomon after he repented of the apostasy recorded in 1 Kings 11. Ecclesiastes tells how Solomon hunted for fulfillment in wealth, success, and hard work. All his search came to nothing; it was “vanity” or “smoke.” However, Ecclesiastes also shows the wonderful truth that the good things in life are “the gift of God” to be enjoyed by those who live in right relationship with the Giver. Just like Proverbs, Ecclesiastes shows two paths for life. In Proverbs, these two paths are called “Wisdom” and “Folly.” In Ecclesiastes, they are called “the gift of God” and “Vanity.” ? Do you see yourself in Solomon’s efforts to find fulfillment in wealth, self-indulgence, earthly “wisdom,” hard work, success, or honor? Which of these is the biggest temptation for you?
<p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ecclesiastes 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Eccl 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ecclesiastes 7-11 is a collection of short proverbs. Like the book of Proverbs, these chapters contain a series of short wisdom sayings. A life lived in the wrong way is “vanity,” but the wise person lives according to God’s pattern. ? As you read these chapters, look for wisdom that applies to your life. Choose and copy one verse that applies to your current stage of life from each of these chapters: Ecclesiastes 7, 10, and 11. ? Ecclesiastes 12:13 summarizes the entire book. A right relationship with God (“fear God”) and obedience to His commands makes life complete. This is “the whole duty of man.” Are you living in right relationship with God?

<p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 13 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In 1 Kings 11:11-13, God warned that He would divide Israel because of Solomon’s apostasy. This judgment was fulfilled after Solomon died. The Northern Kingdom followed Jeroboam into idolatry. Judah followed Rehoboam. The rest of 1 and 2 Kings tells the story of Israel’s decline. ? Proverbs 15:22 teaches the importance of listening to wise counselors. Rehoboam’s foolish decision (1 Kings 12:6-15) illustrates this truth. When you face a decision, do you surround yourselves with wise counselors – or do you look for people who will reinforce your own opinions? ? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 12.
<p>Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Ancient Near East records reveal that Omri (1 Kings 16:21-28) was the best known of Israel’s kings. One hundred years after Omri’s death, the Assyrians continued to call Israel “the land of Omri.” By human standards, Omri was a great success. However, by God’s standards, Omri was a failure. He “made Israel to sin, provoking the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger.” Do you judge by man’s standards or by God’s standards? Will your life meet God’s approval? ? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 13.
<p>Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ahab was one of Israel’s most wicked kings; Elijah was one of Israel’s greatest prophets. These chapters tell the story of the confrontation between these two men. ? Elijah accused the people of Israel of “limping between two opinions” (1 Kings 18:21). Israel wanted to serve both Jehovah and Baal, but God does not accept half-hearted service. He requires full obedience. Are you trying to serve God while serving other “gods?” Your other “god” may not be an idol. It may be money, success, work, pleasure, etc. Are you limping between two gods? ? Immediately after Elijah’s great victory at Mount Carmel, he suffered a time of depression. Many Christians have experienced this pattern; victory followed by struggle. Have you learned to trust God in dark times as well as in times of victory? ? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 14.
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 29 (7/15/2019 - 7/21/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 21 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kings 22 	<p>* These chapters continue the story of Ahab's rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In wars with Syria, God gave Ahab victory over Ben-hadad. God gave victory not through strong military leaders but through the "servants of the governors of the districts" (1 Kings 20:13-14). God, not Ahab's generals, received glory for the victory. - Jezebel was the daughter of the king of Sidon. The rulers of Sidon were absolute monarchs with no respect for the property rights of individuals. Jezebel convinced Ahab to ignore the Mosaic property laws and then to kill Naboth to take his vineyard (1 Kings 21). - Ahab was killed in the battle, the result of God's judgment on the king's apostasy (1 Kings 22). <p>? As you read 1 Kings, notice God's sovereignty over human history. Do you believe that God is in control of history today? Does this give you peace in times of trouble?</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chronicles 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 15 	<p>* The Chronicler gives little attention to the Northern Kingdom. Instead, he focuses on the kings of Judah.</p> <p>? Although Rehoboam was a strong king, he was evil because "he did not set his heart to seek the Lord" (12:14). God's standards are different than man's standards. How does God measure your heart?</p> <p>? Even under Abijah, a king who "was not wholly true to the Lord," Judah won a battle because the people "relied on the Lord, the God of their fathers" (13:18). Think of a time when you have relied on God and His power. What was the result of your faith?</p> <p>? Copy your "verse for the day" from Proverbs 15.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 14 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 16 	<p>* When Judah faced a powerful army, Asa "cried to the Lord his God" for help. God gave Judah a great victory (2 Chron 14:11-12). Years later, Judah again faced an enemy army. This time, Asa relied on the king of Syria for help. God condemned Asa for his lack of faith in God (16:7-9).</p> <p>? The prophet Hanani told Asa that God is looking for those "whose heart is blameless toward him" (16:9). The word "blameless" is also translated "undivided." Do you seek God with an undivided heart? Is your heart blameless toward God?</p> <p>? Copy your "verse for the day" from Proverbs 16.</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 19 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 17 	<p>* Jehoshaphat was a good king who was faithful to Jehovah. However, he married Ahab's daughter and established a political alliance. Even though Jehoshaphat was a good king, his alliance with a wicked king brought trouble to Judah.</p> <p>? Read Jehoshaphat's prayer in 2 Chronicles 20:6-12. Do you have this kind of faith in your loving Father?</p> <p>? Copy your "verse for the day" from Proverbs 17.</p>

<p>Friday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 18</p>	<p>* In these chapters, attention moves from the prophet Elijah to his successor Elisha. The term “double portion” (2 Kings 2:9) comes from Jewish inheritance law. Elisha is asking to receive the double inheritance of the eldest son.</p> <p>* The “small boys” in 2 Kings 2:23 were probably teenagers, not young children. Calling Elisha a “baldhead” was their way of showing disrespect to God’s prophet. Bethel was the center of the Northern Kingdom’s idol worship. The author of 2 Kings shows God’s judgment on these teenagers who rejected His prophet to worship idols.</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 18.</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 19</p>	<p>* Naaman was a commander in the Syrian army, the enemy of Israel. This story shows God’s mercy on <i>anyone</i> who comes to Him in faith.</p> <p>? Elisha refused Naaman’s gift because accepting the gift might imply that Elisha was responsible for healing Naaman. Only God would receive glory for this miracle. Are you careful to give God glory for the good that He does through you?</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 19.</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 30 (7/22/2019 - 7/28/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Even in a time of apostasy in Israel, God sent Elisha to bring His message to the nation. God was faithful to Judah despite her rebellion. ? Notice in 2 Kings 6:17 that the horses and chariots were there although Elisha’s servant could not see them. Thank God for His protection even when you do not see what He is doing behind the scenes. ? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 20.
<p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 2 Kings 9-10 shows God’s judgment on the house of Ahab. Although God is a merciful God, He is also a holy God who cannot allow sin to go unpunished. While we celebrate His mercy, we must never forget His justice and holiness. ? The life of King Jehu shows the danger of partial obedience (2 Kings 10:31). Jehu followed God in many things, but did not walk with God “with all his heart.” Are there areas of partial obedience in your life? Will you follow God with all your heart? ? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 21.
<p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 13 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Throughout 1 & 2 Kings, Syria was one of the leading enemies of Israel and Judah. These chapters show the weakness of Israel and Judah. They are forced to pay tribute to Hazael, the king of Syria, because they are not strong enough to defeat Syria’s armies. ? Why was Syria stronger than Israel? (The answer is found in 2 Kings 13:3). ? What does 2 Chronicles 21:7 teach about God’s faithfulness to His promises? ? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 22.
<p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 22 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 23 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Obadiah <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Chronicles covers the same material as Kings. But the Chronicler focused on Judah’s religious observance, especially the Temple. Joash was faithful to God as long as he was influenced by Jehoiada, the faithful High Priest (2 Chron 24:1-16). After Jehoiada died, Joash abandoned God and served idols (2 Chron 24:17-27). ? Read 2 Chronicles 24:19. Do you see God’s faithfulness to warn His people of coming judgment? * The message of Obadiah is God’s judgment on sinners (1:15) and His mercy on those who obey Him (1:17). ? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 23.

<p>Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 14 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Jonah 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Jonah 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Jonah 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Jonah 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jonah ministered during the reign of Jeroboam II, a time of great prosperity in Israel. Assyria (Nineveh) was the primary threat to Israel. Jonah did not want to preach to Nineveh because he hoped that God would destroy Israel’s enemy. ? Amaziah obeyed God, but “not with a whole heart” (2 Chron 25:2). The result was apostasy (25:14) and military defeat. Do you serve God with a whole heart? ? Jonah saw the people of Nineveh as enemies; God saw the people of Nineveh as souls to save. Do you see people of a different language, skin color, or religious background as enemies or as people who are loved by God?
<p>Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Amos 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Amos 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Amos 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Amos 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Amos 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Amos was written in a time of prosperity in Israel. The long reigns of Uzziah in Judah and Jeroboam II in Israel show the political stability of this time. Economically, Israel was stronger than at any time since the reign of Solomon. However, it was a time of spiritual apostasy. Although Israel was enjoying a “golden age” of prosperity, Amos warned that God would soon bring judgment. This judgment came through the armies of Assyria. ? As you read Amos, highlight the phrase “Thus says the Lord.” What does this say about the sure fulfillment of each warning? ? Read the list of sins for which God condemned Israel. Which of these sins are common in our society today? ? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 24.
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 31(7/29/2019 - 8/4/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Amos 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Amos 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Amos 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Amos 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 25 	<p>? Amos 6:1-6 describes wealthy Israelites who enjoyed lives of luxury while ignoring the demands of God’s law. They built their wealth by cheating the poor (8:4-6). They obeyed parts of the law (Sabbath) while ignoring other parts (justice and mercy). Does this description match the world of the 21st century?</p> <p>* Amos 7-9 records a series of five prophetic visions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The vision of a locust plague foretold the destructiveness of the coming judgment. After Amos interceded for Israel, God relented. -The vision of a fire consuming the Mediterranean Sea revealed the intensity of the coming judgment. Again, Amos interceded, and God relented. -The vision of a plumb line illustrated Israel’s failure to live according to God’s standard of righteous judgment. This time, Amos no longer appealed for mercy. -The vision of a basket of summer fruit warned that judgment was imminent. Summer fruit was the last of the harvest. Israel was ripe for judgment. There would be no delay. God had waited patiently, but Israel refused to repent. -The vision of God standing beside the altar to announce judgment demonstrated His sovereignty. Israel could not escape judgment. <p>? Notice God’s promise of blessing in Amos 9:11-15. God promised that the judgments prophesied earlier would be reversed “in that day” when God restores His people. Do you see the message of mercy at the end of this book of judgment? Does this change your perception of the book of Amos?</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 25.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chronicles 26 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 26 	<p>* King Uzziah had a long and prosperous reign. But 2 Chronicles notes his unfaithfulness regarding Temple worship. Even a good king was judged when he disobeyed God’s commands.</p> <p>* Hosea prophesied during the years immediately before Israel’s fall to Assyria. Hosea’s marriage to Gomer and the names of his children are part of his prophetic message of judgment on the Northern Kingdom. The term “Ephraim” in Hosea refers to the Northern Kingdom.</p> <p>? Hosea 2-3 shows God’s love for Israel and His sorrow at Israel’s unfaithfulness. When you are tempted to sin, realize that your sin brings pain to the heart of God. Will this truth give you strength in the face of temptation?</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 26.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 27 	<p>* Hosea 5 warns of judgment on Israel. This judgment will take three forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slow decay like a moth or dry rot (5:12) - Sudden destruction like the attack of a lion (5:14) - Abandonment by God (5:15) <p>? After Israel’s apostasy, would you invite her to “return” and “be healed” (6:1 and 7:1)? What does today’s reading teach about God’s judgment on sin? What does today’s reading teach about God’s mercy towards repentant sinners?</p> <p>? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 27.</p>

<p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God planted Israel as a “fruitful vine,” but she turned to other gods (10:1). Because of her sin, Israel will perish like a “twig” swept away in a flood (10:7). Sin turned the fruitful vine to a dead branch. ? Listen to God’s call to revival in Hosea 10:12. If we sow righteousness, we will reap God’s steadfast love. If we seek God, He will answer. Do you daily seek God? ? As you read Hosea 11:1-4, meditate on God’s compassion towards His children. As a new believer, how did God “teach you to walk” in His path? ? As you read Hosea 14, praise God for His promise to restore all who call on Him in repentance. How have you experienced God’s mercy and forgiveness in your life? ? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 28.
<p>Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kings 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 27 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 29 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In the final chapters of 2 Kings, the northern kings have short reigns. This shows the increasing instability of the Northern Kingdom. The warnings of Amos and Hosea are being fulfilled. ? As you read these chapters, do you see the results of Israel’s sin? When have you seen the results of sin in your own life? ? Copy your “verse for the day” from Proverbs 29.
<p>Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chron 28 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Ahaz, the king of Judah, saw the results of the Northern Kingdom’s apostasy, but he did not repent. Why do you think Ahaz refused to turn to God in spite of God’s judgment on Israel? * The “numerical proverbs” (Prov 30:15-31) are riddles for wise people. To “solve” the riddle, ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) What do the items in the list have in common? B) What lesson does the list teach for our life today? ? Solve the riddle in Prov 30:24-28. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) What do these creatures have in common? B) What does this teach for your life? ? Husbands, do not take Proverbs 31 as a “checklist” for your wife. Instead, ask, “What positive characteristics does my wife demonstrate?” ? Wives, can you grow in any areas from Proverbs 31? * Young men, learn that although outer beauty may fade, inner beauty will last for a lifetime. * Young women, seek to be a lady of inner beauty. Read Proverbs 31 as a picture of real beauty.
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>