

## WEEK 40 — FINAL PSALMS AND THE START OF SOMETHING NEW

**Date:** Psalms: unknown (most likely between 1020 and 400 BC) • Luke & Matthew: about 7-6 BC

**The Story:** God is praised and honored in the final psalms in our chronological reading of the Bible, psalms to which we cannot assign a date. Some reflect on God's sternness and goodness to Israel over the centuries; others wonder at his power reflected in the creation; still others (particularly the lengthy Psalm 119) celebrate God's law as a gift that guides our lives. Finishing these psalms, we move into the New Testament and begin there with the birth of John the Baptist and the prelude to the birth of Jesus. Through both men, God will launch a new project among the Jewish people: a plan to save the world.

\* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

### OCTOBER 2 PSALMS 104-105

**Today's reading** features two psalms that both begin and end with calls to praise the Lord. Psalm 104 praises God for his greatness as the Creator and the Lord of the heavens, who nevertheless graciously provides for all his creatures. Psalm 105 praises him for what he has done "among the nations" (verse 1), specifically through his work on behalf of Israel from the time of Abraham to the time when Israel settled in Canaan.

**Date:** unknown (most likely between 1020 and 400 BC)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Psalms 104-105

**Kids' Reading\*:** Psalm 104 • Psalm 111

### OCTOBER 3 PSALMS 106-107

**Today's reading** again features two psalms with similar opening lines, this time calling Israel to give thanks to the Lord for his goodness. Where Psalm 105 focused on God's faithfulness during the exodus, Psalm 106 remembers Israel's *unfaithfulness* at the same time and afterward, yet finds hope in God's mercy shown during the time of the exile. Psalm 107 celebrates God's kindness to people in difficult circumstances, calling them to "give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind."

**Date:** unknown (most likely between 1020 and 400 BC)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Psalms 106-107

**Kids' Reading\*:** Psalms 112-113 • Psalm 115 • Psalm 117

### OCTOBER 4 PSALMS 111-118

**Today's reading** continues our final readings from the book of Psalms with several shorter psalms. Four of them set a tone of joyful worship with their opening line, "Praise the Lord." Note the range of reasons given to praise and honor the Lord: his grace and compassion (111:3), the excellence of his commands (112:1), his help for the lowly (113:7-9), his rescue of Israel from Egyptian slavery (114:1-2), his superiority to idols (115:2-8, recalling passages like Isaiah 40:18-31), and so on. Don't miss 118:22-23, which Jesus quotes later as a prophecy of the rejection he himself faces (see Matthew 21:42).

**Date:** unknown (most likely between 1020 and 400 BC)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Psalms 111-115 • Psalm 117-118

**Kids' Reading\*:** Psalm 119:9-16 • Psalm 121 • Psalm 128 • Psalm 130 • Psalm 134

### OCTOBER 5 PSALM 119

**Today's reading** is a single long poem in 22 stanzas, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet; each stanza begins with the next letter of their alphabet, and the lines of each stanza all begin with that letter. See if your Bible tells or even shows you which letter goes with each stanza. This psalm celebrates God's goodness in giving his people his law, because it makes our lives better when we obey it. Famous lines from Psalm 119 include verses 9, 11, and 105.

**Date:** unknown (most likely between 1020 and 400 BC)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ**

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Psalm 119:1-48 • Psalm 119:97-120 • Psalm 119:145-176

**Kids' Reading\*:** Psalms 135-136 • Psalm 146

**OCTOBER 6 PSALMS 120-121 • PSALM 123 • PSALM 125 • PSALMS 128-130 • PSALM 132 • PSALMS 134-135**

**Today's reading** races through ten short psalms. All but Psalm 135 are noted as "A song of ascents," songs that Israelites/Jews likely sang together as they journeyed uphill to Jerusalem and Mount Zion for the annual festivals there. Notice (in Psalms 121, 123, 125) the theme of who it is to whom we look for our help. Psalm 129 looks back on terrible times and defiantly proclaims that the Lord saves his people from their tormentors. Psalm 130 finds relief in God's forgiveness. Psalm 132 recalls God's promises to David and asks God to fulfill them. Psalms 134-135 call the priests in the temple (servants of the Lord who minister in the house of the Lord) to praise the Lord.

**Date:** unknown (most likely between 1020 and 400 BC)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Psalms 120-121 • Psalm 123 • Psalm 125 • Psalms 128-130 • Psalm 132 • Psalms 134-135

**Kids' Reading\*:** Psalms 147-148 • Psalm 150

**OCTOBER 7 PSALM 136 • PSALMS 146-150**

**Today's reading** completes our reading of the entire Old Testament. Congratulations! Psalm 136 is unique in its style; it appears to be a responsive psalm, in which one speaker/group speaks the first line, and the congregation responds with the refrain that continues throughout the psalm. The final five psalms all begin with the Hebrew *Hallelu Yah*, from which we get "Hallelujah," meaning "Praise the Lord!" They glorify God for his role as Creator, for his goodness to Israel, and "for his surpassing greatness" (150:2). What a fitting ending to the Hebrew scriptures, giving joyful praise to Israel's God, our God.

**Date:** unknown (most likely between 1020 and 400 BC)

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Psalm 136 • Psalms 146-150

**Kids' Reading\*:** Luke 1:1-38

**OCTOBER 8 LUKE 1 • MATTHEW 1**

**Today's reading** jumps some 400 years from the Old Testament period to the start of the New Testament period. It covers the prelude to the birth of Jesus. Watch for prophecies about the work he and John (the Baptist) will do later. Notice the wonder of these stories as God launches a new project in human history: there are angels, a message given in a dream, prophecies fulfilled, new prophecies given, even miracles!

**Date:** about 7-6 BC

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Luke 1 • Matthew 1:18-25

**Kids' Reading\*:** Luke 1:39-66 • Matthew 1:18-25

**Parents' Guide**

PG preview for young children

**Ps 105:**16-19 (T, V), 25 (T), 28-35 (T), 36 (V)

**Ps 106:**11 (V), 13-36 (T, V), 40-46 (T)

**Ps 107:**4-5 (T), 10-12 (T), 17-18 (T), 26-27 (T), 39-40 (T)

**Ps 116:**3 (T), 11 (T)

**Ps 118:**10-12 (V)

**Ps 120:**2-4 (T, V)

**Ps 129** (T), **129:**3 (V)

**Ps 135:**8-12 (V)

**Ps 136:**10 (V), 15 (V), 17-20 (V)

**Ps 149:**6-9 (V)

**Mt 1:**19 (T), 23 (S), 25 (S)

**Lk 1:**27 (S), 34 (S), 59 (C)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

none

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

**Ps 106:**37-39 (S, V)

C = Circumcision  
N = Nudity  
S = Sexuality  
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes  
V = Violence