

MON) September 30**Ch. 5 - The Vision of the Flying Scroll and the Woman in the Ephah**

In this chapter, the sixth vision of the flying scroll and the seventh vision of the woman sitting in the ephah are recorded. In the vision, the prophet Zechariah saw two winged women. Where did they carry the ephah, a container for measuring grain, which contained evil?

* This woman represents the harlot spoken of in Proverbs and ultimately refers to the mother of harlots, Babylon, as described in Revelation 17-18. The place of sin is not Judah, God's people, or God's house, but the sinful city of Babylon. Since the place of sin is not Judah, God's people, or God's house, God shows that He removes the evil that remains among His people at once to a distant place.

Ch. 6 - The Vision of the Four Chariots and Horses

In this chapter, the eighth vision, concerning the four chariots and horses, is recorded. What do the four horses coming out of the four chariots signify?

* When compared to Revelation 6, red signifies slaughter, war, and mass killing, black signifies mourning and death, white signifies victory, and speckles signifies various plagues. North symbolizes Babylon, and south symbolizes Egypt. This vision reveals the complete fulfillment of God's judgment on Babylon, the enemy of God's people.

Ch. 7 - Showing Kindness and Mercy to One Another

This chapter addresses the people's question about whether they should continue the fifth-month fast, a custom observed since their return from exile. The prophet rebukes them, emphasizing that outward acts of fasting are insufficient. Instead, he exhorts them to live out God's justice and compassion in their daily lives. "Render true judgments, show (.....) and (.....) to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart."

Ch. 8 - For I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem

This chapter records the promise of Jerusalem's restoration.

- 1) Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth. (v.)
- 2) Jerusalem's streets will be filled with people of all ages, both men and women. (v.)
- 3) The vines will yield their fruit, and the heavens will give their dew, which the remnant will enjoy. (v.)

TUE) October 1**Ch. 9 - Behold, your king is coming to you**

In this chapter, Zechariah prophesies the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, as a king. However, unlike earthly kings who conquer through power, this king will triumph through suffering and humility. This passage foreshadows the establishment of God's Kingdom, characterized not by force and violence, but by humility and love.

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; (.....) and having (.....) is he, (.....) and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Ch. 10 - They shall be strengthened with the Lord

Following the events in chapter 9, this chapter continues to describe the blessings and grace that will come upon Israel under the Messiah's righteous reign. The people are warned against seeking help from idols or false prophets and are encouraged to rely solely on God (v. 2). Specifically, even though God will deliberately lead His people through a tempestuous sea, causing them to endure great suffering (v. 11), it says "I will make them (.....) in the LORD, and they shall walk in his name," declares the LORD."

Ch. 11 - A Good Shepherd and A Foolish Shepherd

In this chapter, God commands the prophet to serve as a symbolic good shepherd, foreshadowing the role of the Messiah (verse 4). Subsequently, the prophet is instructed to act as a foolish shepherd (verses 15-17). Verses 12-13 prophesy about Jesus, the good shepherd. Please read Matthew 27:3-10 together with this chapter.

For how much was Jesus betrayed by Judas Iscariot? What did the chief priests and elders do with the 30 pieces of silver that Judas brought back?

Ch. 12 - He will pour out His grace and a praying spirit

The statement in verse 10 is a prophecy of Christ's crucifixion. Those who look to Christ understand that this event occurred because of their sins. What does God provide for the house of David and the people of Jerusalem to enable them to repent?

WED) October 2**Ch. 13 - I will refine them as silver and test them as gold**

Continuing from chapter 12, the prophet foretells the death of the good shepherd (verses 7-9). 'My shepherd, against the man who stands next to me' mentioned by God refers to Jesus Christ. When the shepherd is struck, the sheep will scatter. Jesus quoted, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" (Matthew 26:31). After Christ's death and the destruction of two-thirds, what happens to the remaining one-third? "And I will put this third into the fire, and (.....) them as one (.....) silver, and (.....) them as gold is (.....). They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, (.....); and they will say, (.....)."

Ch. 14 - The Day of the LORD will come

This chapter does not depict a historical event, but rather a vision of the future when the LORD returns on the Day of the LORD. For God's people, it will be a day of peace (verses 9-11), but for those who have opposed and mocked God's people, it will be a day of judgment (verses 12-15). Before the Day of the LORD arrives, we must turn our hearts to God. "Our Heavenly Father, do not let us become foolish brides who love the world, are absorbed in it, and fail to wait for the coming Lord. May we not be foolish virgins who fail to prepare the oil of faith. Although our present reality may be full of discouragement, may we live with hope in God's Kingdom that will one day be perfected, and may we hold fast to our faith through that hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

THU) October 3**Malachi Ch. 1 - O priests who despise My name**

Malachi reveals that the Israelites, weary of a long wait and losing hope in the Messiah, began to harbor resentment and bitterness towards God. As a result, their worship became merely formal, devoid of heart and love for God. Since the formalization of worship was primarily the responsibility of the priests, the prophet first questions their responsibility (1:6-2:9). Their sacrificial rituals lacked reverence for God, and they offered sacrifices carelessly without fear of God. Let's reflect on our own worship. Are we worshipping God with reverence and fear?

Ch. 2 - Priests who have strayed from the right path

In this chapter, the prophet continues to warn the priests (1-9). He also declares that the root cause of the people's inability to experience God's presence and love is their practice of lying to their brothers (10-16). What punishment does God inflict on priests who do not keep God's way and who lean towards people when they practice the law?"

Ch. 3 - He will distinguish between those who serve the LORD and those who do not

In this chapter, the prophet exhorts the people to return to the LORD by bringing full tithes and offerings (verses 7-12). In verses 13-15, he compares those who oppose God with harsh words and those who fear God in verses 16-18. Where does the LORD write the names of those who fear him and treat His name with reverence?"

Ch. 4 - A day of burning fire will come

In this chapter, the prophet urges us to remember the Lord's statutes and ordinances, for the day of the LORD, a day of burning fire, will surely come (verse 4). Who does God send before the great and dreadful day of the LORD?"

* The prophet here is referring to John the Baptist, who appeared after a 400-year silence following Malachi.

FRI) October 4**Matthew Ch. 1 - Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit**

The account of Jesus Christ's birth in Matthew 1 emphasizes that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Jesus' virgin birth is a birth by the Holy Spirit. This revelation specifically introduces two names of the Lord. () shows that He is the one who saves His people from their sins (v. 21), and () reveals the nature of God who is with us (verse 23). Connecting the two, Jesus Christ is God who came to save His people and dwell among them.

Ch. 2 - For we have seen His star in the east, and have come to worship Him

When the wise men asked where the one who had been born King of the Jews was, the chief priests and scribes accurately quoted Micah 5:2 in response. "But you, O (), who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall () forth for me one who is to be () in Israel"

* It is ironic that the chief priests and scribes, who studied the Scriptures extensively and taught them, failed to encounter the Lord within the Scriptures. We too read the Scriptures, but what is more important is knowing God and becoming like Him in our lives.

Ch. 3 - This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased

The passage where the Lord is baptized shows the appearance of the Trinity. When the Son, Jesus, was baptized by John, the heavens were opened, and the () descended like a dove, and the Father, (), said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"(16-17).

Ch. 4 - I will make you fishers of men

In this chapter, Jesus calls Peter, his brother Andrew, and John and James, who were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. What were their reactions when they were called to be disciples?
v. 20 () they left their nets and followed him.
v. 22 () they left the boat and their father and followed him.

SAT) October 5**Ch. 5 - Blessed are...**

Chapters 5-7 constitute the Sermon on the Mount, which outlines the characteristics of those who belong to the Kingdom of God. The Beatitudes in particular describe the characteristics of true Christians. Those who are blessed by God and truly happy are not those who have achieved something through their own efforts, but those who know that their own righteousness is nothing and who look only to God. Please read slowly the eight blessings that Jesus spoke (verses 1-12).

Ch. 6 - Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them

In this chapter, we are warned not to do our good deeds to be seen by others or to be praised by them. (verse 1) What are three things we should do honestly and secretly before God in our spiritual lives, rather than boasting?
v. 2-4:
v. 5-15:
v. 16-18:

Ch. 7 - Hear and do

The Sermon on the Mount, which began in chapter 5, concludes in chapter 7. As He concludes His discourse, the Lord urges us not only to hear His word but to do it as well (vv. 24-27). Those who hear and do are like a man who built his house on the rock, but those who hear and do not do will fall in the end. As you read verses 1-23 of this chapter, what is the word that you need to act on?

Ch. 8 - He Himself took our infirmities and bore our diseases

After hearing the Sermon on the Mount, a great multitude followed Jesus (v. 1). This chapter particularly records Jesus' ministry of healing the sick (a leper, a centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law, and two demon-possessed men). Through these ministries, He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah (v. 17). Please write down the verse in Isaiah 53:4 that records this prophecy.