



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

NINILCHIK

OCTOBER 1ST, 2023

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

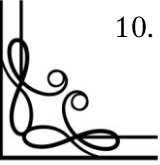
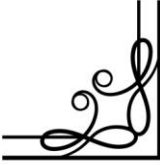
Ezra 8:1-36

In 1989, our dear shepherd at that time, Pastor Ron Blough, initiated our reading through a portion of the 66 books of the Bible as a congregation, typically a chapter each Sunday. Since then, we have been through the entire Bible one full time and are currently in Ezra, the 15th book of the Bible.



TODAY'S SERVICE



1. Hymn #5 - "I Will Praise Him"
 2. Opening Prayer & Announcements
 - a. CBC Marriage Statement Reading
 3. Hymn #353 - "Victory in Jesus"
 4. Hymn #380 - "On Christ I Stand"
 5. Hymn #303 - "Glory to His Name"
 6. Reading: **Pastor Jon Cardwell**
 7. **Message:** "Humbly Fasting *before* Our God"
 8. Hymn #670 - "Be Strong in the Lord"
 9. Benediction
 10. Fellowship Meal
(No Evening Service)
- 
- 

HUMBLY FASTING *before* OUR GOD

²¹Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. ²²For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, “The hand of our God is for good on all who seek Him, and the power of His wrath is against all who forsake Him.” ²³So we fasted and implored our God for this, and He listened to our entreaty. **EZRA 8:21-23**, *ESV*

I. *the* BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- A. Destruction of *the* Temple, 586 BC
- B. Decree of Cyrus to Rebuild, 536 BC
- C. Darius’ 6th Year, Finished, 516 BC
- D. Departure of Ezra from Babylonia,
~458 BC

II. *the* BREAKDOWN of *the* CHAPTER

- A. Sons of Family Heads Numbered, vv1-14
- B. Sending to Iddo for Ministers, vv15-20
- C. Seeking God *in* Humility, vv21-23
- D. Setting up Security for Offerings, vv24-30
- E. Safe Journey & Arrival *in* Jerusalem, vv31-34
- F. Sacrifices to God & Commissions to Governors, vv35-36

III. *the* BLESSINGS EMPHASIZED from OUR TEXT

A. Purpose for Fasting

- 1. seeking God’s glory, v22; “the chief end of man”
 - a. safety by God’s protection, v21
 - b. strength for God’s direction, vv24-31

B. Practice of Fasting

- 1. engaging the activity
- 2. employing the apparatus

C. Power *in* Fasting

- 1. heeding our weakness, vv22a, 23a
- 2. hearing God’s Word, v22b
- 3. honoring God’s will, vv23b, 24, 31b

Book of Ezra

National Restoration
under Zerubbabel

Return to Land, 1-2

Rebuilding *the* Temple, 3

Resisting *the* Enemy, 4-6

Spiritual Reformation
under Ezra

Ezra Comes to *the* Land, 7-8

Ezra Confesses Sins, 9

Ezra Cleanses Nation, 10

QUOTE of the WEEK

You will find in Hebrews xiii.20, that he is called the *great* Shepherd. Does that refer to his life on earth, and to his death? Not at all. Kindly observe the connexion. “Now the God of peace which brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that *great* Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will.” Do you perceive? He is not the great Shepherd when he dies: he is the good Shepherd, but he is the great Shepherd when he is brought again from the dead. In resurrection you perceive his greatness. He lies in the grave slumbering; he is the good Shepherd then, having laid down his life for the sheep; life appears again in him, the stone is rolled away, the watchmen are seized with terror, and he stands out the risen one, no more the dying— now he is the great Shepherd. He manifests himself for forty days among his own disciples, and then at last taking them to the hill of Galilee a cloud receives him out of their sight, and up he mounts as the great Shepherd. When he has told them to go to Jerusalem, they sit waiting till the time of the fullness is come, and suddenly there is heard the sound of a rushing mighty wind, and fiery tongues sit upon all of them. Who has given this boon to each? Who is it? This is the great Shepherd. He has ascended on high, and has received gifts for men; the Shepherd still you see, but now he is the great Shepherd, the Shepherd riding in triumphal state through the midst of New Jerusalem, amidst the acclamations of angels, and sending to his sheep down below the precious gift of apostles and ministers of various orders, according to his own will. He was the good Shepherd before, he is the good Shepherd now; but he is also preeminently the great Shepherd. Let us delight to think of this greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us extol and bless him. Observe, carefully, that while the good Shepherd lays down his life, that you may have life, and have it more abundantly, he is the great Shepherd for another purpose. What does it say? “Make you perfect in every good work to do his will.” Yes, he dies to wash away your sin, but he rises for your justification and your complete sanctification, that as the Lord left his grave-clothes behind him, you may leave your sins behind you; and as he left the tomb behind him, never to enter it, you may leave the old dead world in which you once lived, and live in newness of life. [*emphasis in original*]

“Jesus— the Shepherd” from the text, Isaiah 40:11

a sermon delivered on October 1st, 1865

by **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Volume 11, Sermon No. 652

This Week's Bible Portions from *Robert Murray McCheyne's "Daily Bread"*

OCTOBER 2023

FAMILY READINGS			PRIVATE READINGS	
1 Kings 3	Ephesians 1	1	Ezekiel 34	Psalms 83-84
1 Kings 4-5	Ephesians 2	2	Ezekiel 35	Psalms 85
1 Kings 6	Ephesians 3	3	Ezekiel 36	Psalms 86
1 Kings 7	Ephesians 4	4	Ezekiel 37	Psalm 87-88
1 Kings 8	Ephesians 5	5	Ezekiel 38	Psalms 89
1 Kings 9	Ephesians 6	6	Ezekiel 39	Psalms 90
1 Kings 10	Phil. 1	7	Ezekiel 40	Psalms 91
1 Kings 11	Phil. 2	8	Ezekiel 41	Ps. 92-93

visit our website

www.calvarybaptistninchik.com

listen to this message online

www.sermonaudio.com/cbcninchik

subscribe to free daily email devotionals

www.jonjcardwell.com