

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

LIGHT *FROM THE* WORD

.....
December 2025–February 2026
.....



**WESLEY
BIBLE RESOURCES**
.....

*Relevant
Inspired
Practical
Life-Changing*

LIGHT FROM THE WORD

DECEMBER 2025–FEBRUARY 2026

volume 75 • number 2

inside

Light from God's Word

Daily Devotionals

Daily Bible Readings

Meet the Writers

© 2025 Wesleyan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Published by Wesleyan Publishing House

13300 Olivo Road, Suite 100

Fishers, Indiana 46037 USA.

editor@wesleyan.org

ISBN: 978-1-63257-634-7

This quarter's Scriptures follow the Scope and Sequence found in *Wesley Bible Student* or Daily Bible Readings in *Wesley Bible Lesson Commentary*, Volume 4, Unit 2.

All Scripture, unless marked otherwise, is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com.

Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version. Public domain.

Light from God's Word

A flock of birds had snuffed out the Airbus A320's twin engines. However, Captain Chesley Sullenberger safely landed his plane on the Hudson River, saving the crew and all 155 passengers. The incident became known as the "Miracle on the Hudson," and Captain "Sully" was hailed as a hero. Yet God was in control of the airline mishap. Without his help, the miracle on the Hudson might have been a disaster on the Hudson.

We cannot read the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther without recognizing that God rules over history. He allowed the Babylonians to uproot his people from their homeland and transplant them to Babylon because they had bowed down to false gods and violated the Sabbath. Yet God protected them in Babylon. God intervened in history to restore them to their homeland.

God was in control of his people's return from captivity, the rebuilding of the temple, and the reconstruction of Jerusalem's walls. He was in control during Esther's desperate situation—and God is in control of our lives as well.

By studying the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, we gain strong faith and confidence in God. We see that he cares for his people and is in control of their lives. Nothing surprises him. Nothing topples him from his throne. Nothing wrests control from him.

Sincerely,

Wesleyan Publishing House Editorial Staff

**Is *Light from the Word* making
a difference in your life?**

Let us know at editor@wesleyan.org.

*The LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia
to make a proclamation throughout his realm
and also to put it in writing. (Ezra 1:1)*

It is God's job, not ours, to move hearts. While our particular choices are our own, oftentimes, others determine our circumstances. As a college professor, I spend a great deal of time encouraging young adults to learn to navigate this tension between choice and circumstance. The middle point is a place of conscientious waiting. While we actively serve him, we must also know that God can and does move hearts according to his will.

The book of Ezra begins in this place of waiting. The Israelites, exiles in Babylon, had acclimated to captivity in spite of the fact that their circumstances had been chosen for them. But God fulfilled his promise to give them hope and a future (Jer. 29:11). At the appointed time, God moved the heart of King Cyrus, just as the prophet Isaiah had predicted (Isa. 44:28; 45:1). The Israelites were not only invited to return to Jerusalem, but they were also accommodated in their going by King Cyrus.

There are times in our lives that we simply must accept our circumstance as exiles. Perhaps a family member has rejected us. Maybe we have struggled to find favor with an employer despite our best efforts. Whatever has suspended us between choice and circumstance, we must continue to live godly lives in the waiting. At the appointed time, God will move hearts.

—Dalene Fisher

Ezra 1:1

BE WILLING TO WAIT; GOD HAS A PLAN.

"The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple." (Ezra 1:2)

As a young wife and mother, I struggled with the rules of domesticity. I remember attending several Bible studies looking for answers. At the time, I was drowning in my new roles, and I knew I needed to dig deeper into God's Word. To my dismay, several studies focused on the importance of making the beds every morning or having a hot meal on the table every night. I was learning to build my home, and this was good, but I wasn't learning to change my heart—and in all actuality, while it certainly was important to care for my husband and children, it was my heart that needed reconstruction.

In today's passage, a very well-intentioned leader—a leader appointed by God—similarly undergirded the people of Israel to return to Jerusalem and to build the temple of the Lord. This was a welcome and needed step in the construction of God's kingdom. But, of course, we know that what the people of Israel needed more than anything was to have their hearts wholly reconstructed, devoted, and transformed.

It's very easy to be distracted by good things and consequently miss the best things. We tend to construct our lives externally, forgetting that the most important work we must do is on the inside. We must first invite God to do his work *within* us.

—Dalene Fisher

Ezra 1:2-3

Everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem. (Ezra 1:5)

Large families are often depicted in the media as sources of stress and chaos. Mothers-in-law are overbearing and meddling; children are rebellious and ungrateful; fathers are unreliable and dull; aunts and uncles are poor role models. The list is endless. But God did not design families to be dysfunctional. Recently, my daughter married a lovely young man. His family, like ours, is large and unwieldy, which inevitably meant a beautifully chaotic wedding. Without prompting, the bride's family, led by her uncles, stepped into the middle of the chaos any time they saw something unraveling. They took charge and accomplished much. It's what good families do.

The children of Israel similarly worked together. In this case, it was to bring about God's plan. They approached the task of building God's temple organically and selflessly. They gave of their time, their money, and their resources. As a family, God's children, they worked together to accomplish his will. Even their neighbors were inspired to follow their lead and to help them, selflessly following their example.

In our families—individual and church—we must reclaim this type of devotion to one another, setting an example of selfless fidelity that builds the kingdom. When we are willing to follow God's appointed leaders, and when we work together as a good and loving family, God's plans will prevail.

—Dalene Fisher

Ezra 1:4–6

BE WILLING TO WORK TOGETHER TO ACCOMPLISH GOD'S PLAN.

Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away. (Ezra 1:7)

Consistent investments made over time yield results. Several years ago, my husband and I were led to a small group Bible study that explained how this financial principle works in relationships as well. We must invest often, wait for growth, and withdraw rarely. Occasionally, we lose our treasure altogether—it is stolen from us, and all we can do is pray, wait, and hope to see it returned. This is true of financial matters, and it is certainly true of relationships: in marriages, with children, and in the workplace.

After a very long wait, the children of Israel saw their silver and gold returned. This treasure was a stolen investment, “articles” belonging to the Lord that would, in turn, be used to build the temple. In other translations, “articles” of gold and silver are called “vessels” of gold and silver. In the New Testament, Paul spoke of Christ followers as earthen vessels (or “jars of clay”) that proclaim the gospel (2 Cor. 4:7). As vessels of the good news, it is through his Spirit that we become the hands and feet of Christ, children compelled to pour ourselves out to build the kingdom.

We must be aware that our greatest earthly treasures are the relationships that we build here on earth. It is not simply silver and gold that will build the kingdom of God; but rather, it is his people.

—Dalene Fisher

Ezra 1:7–11

According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work. (Ezra 2:69)

Teaching children to work rarely benefits parents, at least not in the moment. The three-year-old who helps with laundry, the five-year-old who helps rake leaves, the ten-year-old who vacuums the house before company arrives: these are not skilled laborers. Nevertheless, their contributions matter. They matter because small sacrifices by the weak lead to large sacrifices by the strong. Families operate best as a unit, and each member must work according to his or her ability and gifts. This does not compromise quality; it is a tangible form of discipleship, and it ensures completion.

Similarly, we see the company of Israelites working together to contribute to the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, each according to their ability. We see this same theme reflected again in the New Testament through the widow's offering, as the community works together, giving as they are able (Mark 12:41–44; Luke 21:1–4). Nothing is left to chance as God moves the hearts of his people to do his will.

It is easy to look for others to build God's kingdom. Certainly, with or without our help, God will complete his plan. However, he is asking us to do our part, and he is moving our hearts to give according to our ability. As part of God's family, we are called to work together.

—Dalene Fisher

Ezra 2:64–70

GIVE ACCORDING TO YOUR ABILITY.

*"Any of his people among you may go . . .
and build the temple of the LORD . . . and may
their God be with them." (Ezra 1:3)*

Quite often, God's intervention is so profound, his blessing so obvious, that we are humbled by his graciousness. Older adults tend to have this perspective when looking back over their lifetimes, seeing all at once the multitude of blessings that they have accumulated. Grandmas and grandpas measure their wealth in terms of the relationships they have built with their children and grandchildren. Along with the inevitable pain and heartache they have endured, God's sovereign, intervening hand is evident in the good.

As the book of Ezra opens, we see the children of Israel given such a profound, humbling blessing. Several times, we read that God moves hearts (Ezra 1:1, 5). The people are commanded to give to the children of God (Ezra 1:4), but they also give freewill offerings (vv. 4, 6). As exiles and captives, not only are they freed, but they are also recompensed and supported in their going.

The extreme and complete turnaround is the result of God's intervention. While the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem was and is important, what he desires both then and now is to transform lives. Ultimately, God acts in order to change hearts and to bring about his kingdom. Like the people of Israel, God is calling us. He is moving our hearts toward action, to contributing to the building of his kingdom.

—Dalene Fisher

Ezra 1:1-11; 2:64-70

REFLECT WITH THANKS ON THE WAYS GOD HAS INTERVENED IN YOUR LIFE.

*Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob. (Ps. 114:7)*

Nothing demonstrates God's sovereign authority quite like our physical world. Scientists are fascinated with the laws of nature, discovering intricacy and order throughout the created world. Poets are captivated by the beauty of the universe, musing on the minutiae of a flower, a starlit sky, or an angelic face. The wise are filled with respect, fearing natural disasters like tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, or volcanoes. But only One controls everything. Throughout history, God's complete and perfect sovereignty has been demonstrated time and time again in the most palpable way—by miraculously transcending the physical to reveal the spiritual.

In the presence of God, seas part, mountains leap, the earth trembles, and impenetrable rocks turn to pools of water (Ps. 114:8). Repeatedly through history, God has used the physical world to remind his people of his complete authority over our lives. He is in control. We can trust him, and his plans always prevail. Not only should we be in awe of the great and mighty power that is our God, but also, his strength and power should reassure us, pointing us toward his ability to move mightily in our lives.

The physical manifestations of God's power and authority over the world are indicative of his strength. The God who moves mountains is the God who transforms hearts, minds, and souls.

—Dalene Fisher

Psalm 114

GIVE ANY PROBLEM YOU ARE FACING TO THE GOD WHO MOVES MOUNTAINS.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

By reading for fifteen minutes each day, you can read every chapter of the Bible in one year. Begin anytime!

december

1. Daniel 1–2
2. Daniel 3–4
3. Daniel 5–6
4. Daniel 7–9
5. Daniel 10–12
6. Hosea 1–4
7. Hosea 5–9
8. Hosea 10–14
9. Joel 1–3
10. Amos 1–3
11. Amos 4–6
12. Amos 7–9
13. Obadiah & Jonah
14. 1 John 1–5
15. Micah 1–4
16. Micah 5–7
17. Nahum 1–3
18. Habakkuk 1–3
19. Zephaniah 1–3
20. Haggai 1–2
21. 2, 3 John, Jude
22. Zechariah 1–6
23. Zechariah 7–10
24. Zechariah 11–14
25. Malachi 1–4
26. Revelation 1–3
27. Revelation 4–7
28. Revelation 8–12
29. Revelation 13–16
30. Revelation 17–19
31. Revelation 20–22

january

1. Genesis 1–3
2. Genesis 4–7
3. Genesis 8–11
4. Genesis 12–16
5. Genesis 17–19
6. Genesis 20–23
7. Genesis 24–25
8. Genesis 26–28
9. Genesis 29–30
10. Genesis 31–33
11. Genesis 34–36
12. Genesis 37–39
13. Genesis 40–42
14. Genesis 43–45
15. Genesis 46–47
16. Genesis 48–50
17. Matthew 1–4
18. Matthew 5–7
19. Matthew 8–9
20. Matthew 10–12
21. Matthew 13–14
22. Matthew 15–17
23. Matthew 18–20
24. Matthew 21–22
25. Matthew 23–24
26. Matthew 25–26
27. Matthew 27–28
28. Exodus 1–4
29. Exodus 5–7
30. Exodus 8–10
31. Exodus 11–13

february

1. Exodus 14–16
2. Exodus 17–20
3. Exodus 21–23
4. Exodus 24–27
5. Exodus 28–30
6. Exodus 31–34
7. Exodus 35–37
8. Exodus 38–40
9. Mark 1–3
10. Mark 4–5
11. Mark 6–7
12. Mark 8–9
13. Mark 10–11
14. Mark 12–13
15. Mark 14–16
16. Leviticus 1–4
17. Leviticus 5–7
18. Leviticus 8–11
19. Leviticus 12–14
20. Leviticus 15–17
21. Leviticus 18–20
22. Leviticus 21–23
23. Leviticus 24–25
24. Leviticus 26–27
25. Luke 1
26. Luke 2–3
27. Luke 4–5
28. Luke 6



T. J. Albertson has been pastoring for twenty-one years, the last nineteen in interchurch service. He loves teaching the whole Bible and its relevance to life.



Jay Drury is a second-year MDiv student at Asbury Seminary (KY), pursuing ordination in The Wesleyan Church. He is married to Hannah, whom he met at age sixteen.



Jim Dunn is the president of Oklahoma Wesleyan University. He previously served as the executive director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship for The Wesleyan Church.



Dalene Fisher is a full-time wife, mother, and grandma. She is a former associate professor of English, dean, and assistant provost at Oklahoma Wesleyan University.



Samantha Freds is an ordained pastor in The Wesleyan Church. She enjoys being active outside and spending time with her husband and two little girls.



Michael Jordan is associate professor of theology at Houghton University (NY), and the author of *Worship in an Age of Anxiety* (IVP, 2024).



Tara Klein, a lover of words, shares her imperfect, unconventional Christian journey as a female, mother, and wife to invite others into God's unconditional love.



Ethan Linder is the pastor of discipleship at College Wesleyan Church (IN) and contributing editor for Education and Clergy Development of The Wesleyan Church.



Ron McClung is a retired minister in The Wesleyan Church. He lives in Michigan and has two sons, two outstanding daughters-in-law, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



Mark Moore is an associate professor of theology at Jessup University and an associate pastor at Faith Legacy Church in Sacramento, California.



Elizabeth Rhyno is a Wesleyan worship and discipleship pastor and entrepreneur. She enjoys helping people deepen their intimacy with the Lord and grow in their joyful purpose.



Jarod Osborne is lead pastor of Pathway Church in Warsaw, Indiana. He is the author of *Jaded Faith* (WPH).



James N. Watkins is an author, editor, and ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church.



HC Wilson is General Superintendent Emeritus of The Wesleyan Church. He and his wife, Debby, reside in New Brunswick, Canada.