

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE SCHEDULE FOR 01/14/13 TO 01/20/13

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013 Read Nehemiah 11 to 13

We leave the last chapters of Nehemiah on a (literal) note of praise. God has preserved a remnant, a small group of true believers, from whose descendants He will bring the world's Savior, just as He had promised Abraham. When Nehemiah returns to Persia, the people fall back into their former sins. So, when Nehemiah comes back again to Jerusalem, he lead yet another spiritual "housecleaning."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013 Read Esther 1 and 2

Before you read today, remember that the account of Esther takes place between the events recorded in Ezra 6 and those recorded in Ezra 7. While some Jews have returned to Jerusalem with the blessing of King Cyrus some years before, most have chosen to remain in voluntary exile. This undoubtedly grieved the Lord, but it did not stop His love toward them.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013 Read Esther 3 and 4

The book of Esther presents, for the most part, a "bare bones" account of this slice of divine history. It spells out no one's motives. As you read, ask yourself what lay behind Haman's rage, Mordecai's request to Esther, and Esther's decision to act on behalf of her people.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2013 Read Esther 5 to 7

Apparently because assassination plots were so common in Persia, no one could approach the throne uninvited. (Xerxes himself later died at an assassin's hand. But Queen Esther, trusting the Lord, dares to appear unsummoned in Xerxes' throne room. Filled with pride and obsessed with rage at Mordecai, Haman falls into Esther's trap just as it snaps shut.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013 Read Esther 8 to 10

"A law of the Medes and Persians," once sealed by the ruler, could not be revoked. Haman's decree of death to all Jews thus could not be recalled. So instead, Xerxes gives Esther authority to issue a counter decree, giving her people the right to protect themselves. God's people are saved, and Mordecai receives still greater honor.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2013 Read Job 1

Why do people, especially God's people, suffer? That's the question the Book of Job addresses. Today's reading sets the stage for all that will follow. As you read, keep in mind the fact that Job never hears the conversation that has gone on in heaven between Satan ("the accuser") and God.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2013 WORSHIP WITH US IN THE MORNING AND THEN TAKE SOME TIME LATER IN THE DAY TO CATCH UP ANY READINGS YOU MISSED DURING THE WEEK