

COVER TO COVER

THE BIBLE IN 10 MINUTES, 5 DAYS PER WEEK



10:5

We created this plan to capture the **highlights** of Scripture over the 22 weeks of the “Cover to Cover” sermon series. While this plan will not cover everything, it will give you a holistic perspective on the story of the Bible and what that means for your life today. Week 17 of the plan is below. We will update this plan each week so please check back weekly.

WEEK 17

Welcome to week seventeen of the “Cover to Cover” Bible reading plan. Last week, we looked at the books of Lamentations and Ezekiel and how God was at work during the season of history his people were in captivity. This week, we will look at the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, and how God returned his people to rebuild Jerusalem.

DAY 1 The book of Ezra is often referred to as the Second Exodus. It tells the story of the Jews returning to the Promised Land, around a thousand years after their first exodus from Egypt. The first chapter of Ezra begins with the decree of Cyrus, king of Persia, issued in the first year of his reign. This decree fulfills Jeremiah’s prophecy that the Jews would return to Jerusalem after 70 years of exile in Babylon. Chapter 10 of Ezra describes how the Israelites collectively repented and took decisive action to rectify their unfaithfulness to God’s Law by divorcing their foreign wives. This chapter emphasizes the seriousness with which the community addressed their sin, as well as the people’s commitment to reform and restore their covenant relationship with God. Today, **read Ezra Chapters 1 and 10.**

DAY 2 The book of Nehemiah continues the account of God’s work to bring his people back to the promised land. About fourteen years after Ezra left Babylon, Nehemiah led the third and final group back to Jerusalem to rebuild the city. Over the next two days, we will read key key events in the book of Nehemiah. We begin today by reading about the start of this journey. Today, **read Nehemiah 1-2.**

DAY 3 Today we conclude the account of Nehemiah. Chapters 4, 9 and 13 contain a picture of what it took to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. Today **read Nehemiah Chapters 4, 9 and 13.**

DAY 4 The book of Esther was written after the Jewish exiles returned to Jerusalem. The book was written to record the beginning of the Feast of Purim, but it contains a powerful story of a courageous young woman whom God used to protect his people. Interestingly God is never mentioned in the book of Esther, yet his work is evident throughout the book. Today, **read Esther 1-5.**

DAY 5 Today, we conclude the account of Esther. Today, read Esther 6-10.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that caught your attention from this week's sermon?
2. Proverbs 21:1 says, "The Kings heart is in the hands of the Lord." How have you seen the Lord change your heart?
3. Reflect on a time when you felt like you were in exile in your own life. How did you see God working during that period?
4. Pastor Brian discussed how the church is a building of living stones — the people — you and me! How does this change your perspective on what it means to be part of the church?
5. What steps can we take to ensure that God remains at the center of our lives today?

READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN 6 MONTHS!

Looking for a challenge? Follow the YouVersion "Read the Bible in Six Months" reading plan. You'll read through the **ENTIRE** Bible over the course of just six months. That works out to six chapters of reading each day a commitment, but certainly manageable, and one that's well worth making. Scan to start.

