

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 1

Introduction: From the 40 days of rain during the Flood to 40 days wherein Jesus appeared alive following His resurrection, there are a number of "Famous Forty Days" in the Bible.

Here are some of the more well known "famous 40 days" from the Bible:

Genesis 7 - 40 days of rain in the Flood

Exodus 24 - Moses was on the mountain receiving the law.

Number 13 - the spies in Canaan

1 Samuel 17 - Goliath's daily challenges

Jonah 3 - Nineveh's space to repent

Matthew 4 - Jesus in the wilderness and temptation

Acts 1 - Jesus shows himself alive after His resurrection

I didn't include the 40 days that Elijah went in the strength of one meal (1 Kings 19) or the 40 days it took to cure Jacob's body after embalming (Genesis 50).

Today we begin a 40-Day reading schedule through the New Testament. Each day's reading should take about 20 minutes, and you can divide each reading into morning and evening sessions. Unlike the previous 30 day reading schedule, I am trying to keep these readings within a particular context. That is, I am trying not to have a reading that starts with the last three chapters of one book and concludes with the first three of the next.

Today's reading is Matthew 1-7, which includes the abbreviated genealogy of Jesus, His birth and early life, the coming of John the Baptizer, and the Sermon on the Mount. Happy reading!

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Day 1 - Matthew 1-7

Day 2 - Matthew 8-12

Day 3 - Matthew 13-18

Day 4 - Matthew 19-23

Day 5 - Matthew 24-28

Day 6 - Mark 1-6

Day 7 - Mark 7-11

Day 8 - Mark 12-16

Day 9 - Luke 1-4

Day 10 - Luke 5-8

Day 11 - Luke 9-12

Day 12 - Luke 13-19

Day 13 - Luke 20-24

Day 14 - John 1-5

Day 15 - John 6-9
Day 16 - John 10-15
Day 17 - John 16-21
Day 18 - Acts 1-6
Day 19 - Acts 7-11
Day 20 - Acts 12-16
Day 21 - Acts 17-22
Day 22 - Acts 23-28
Day 23 - Romans 1-7
Day 24 - Romans 8-16
Day 25 - 1 Corinthians 1-9
Day 26 - 1 Corinthians 10-16
Day 27 - 2 Corinthians 1-9
Day 28 - 2 Corinthians 10-13, Galatians
Day 29 - Ephesians
Day 30 - Philippians, Colossians
Day 31 - 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy 1-3
Day 32 - 1 Timothy 4 - Philemon
Day 33 - Hebrews 1-8
Day 34 - Hebrews 9-13
Day 35 - James
Day 36 - 1 & 2 Peter
Day 37 - 1, 2, 3 John
Day 38 - Revelation 1-6
Day 39 - Revelation 7-16
Day 40 - Revelation 17-22

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 3

Up early today and read Matthew 13-18. Highlights included the Parable of the Soils (13), two great feedings (14-15), the Good Confession (16), the Transfiguration (17), the Lost Sheep and Church Discipline (18). Please note that Matthew 18:20 has NOTHING to do with a worship assembly.

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 4

Plenty of time this morning to read Matthew 19-23. Highlights included Jesus' teaching on Marriage (19:4-6) and Divorce & Remarriage (19:9); Greatness found in serving others (20); the Triumphal Entry (21); Jesus quieting his detractors (22); Condemnation of the self-righteous (23).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 5

Read Matthew 24-28 this evening. Highlights included Jesus' teaching on the destruction of Jerusalem (24:1-34) and the Great Judgment scene (25); Lord's Supper instituted (26); Jesus' trial and crucifixion (27); Jesus' resurrection - the hope of the world (28).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 6

Forgot to post this morning's reading of Mark 1-6. Highlights included John's baptism for the remission of sins (1:4, some Nelson Publishers numb skull added "or because of" in the margin); Jesus' authority to forgive sins while on earth (2:1-12, e.g. the thief on the cross); Jesus calls the Twelve and the unpardonable sin (which cannot be committed today - 3:30); Jesus' parables and power over nature (4); Jesus' power over demons, death and disease (5); and John the Baptizer's murder for preaching the truth on divorce and remarriage (6).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 7

A chilly morning with Mark 7-11. Highlights included a Gentile woman's great faith (7); th blind man at Bethsaida (8, Jesus spit a lot this morning - cf 7:33, 8:23); Jesus' warning about the horrors of hell (9); the greatness of serving (10); the Triumphal Entry (11).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 8

Forgot to post yesterday's reading of Mark 12-16. Highlights include Jesus' refutation of the Sadducees' misuse of the Levirate Law (12:18ff); Signs of Jerusalem's destruction (13:1-31); the Institution of the Lord's Supper (14); Pilate's use of "dia", which is the "because of" preposition, not "eis" (15:10); and Jesus' plan for man to be saved by grace through faith (16:16).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 9

Spending some time with Luke 1-4 and "the things most surely believed among us" (Luke 1:1). Highlights include the announcement of the coming of John and Jesus (1); Jesus' birth and the announcement to the shepherds (2); the manifestation of John the Baptizer (3); Jesus announces His ministry (4). I have often heard that Matthew's genealogy detailed Joseph's lineage and Luke goes through Mary's. I never really gave it much thought until I started my daily readings. Mary and Elizabeth were relatives, but Elizabeth was a daughter of Aaron, and thus of the tribe of Levi. Luke's genealogy does not include Levi, but Judah just like Matthew (Matt 1:2; Luke 3:33). So how could Luke be tracing Jesus' ancestry through Mary?

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 10

Spending some time with the beloved physician this morning (Luke 5-8). Highlights include Peter leaving the payday of a lifetime to follow Jesus (5:1-11); Jesus heals ALL who will come to him (6:17-19); the greatness of John the Baptizer (7:28); the role of women in Jesus' ministry (8:2-3).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 11

Tried to have my own special sunrise service this morning, but the gobblers wouldn't cooperate, so I came back to the house and rejoined the beloved physician (Luke 9-12). Highlights include daily cross bearing (9:23); being a good neighbor and servant is important (10:30-37), but sitting at Jesus' feet is more important (10:38-42); Jesus entering a Pharisee's house to eat, then "eating his lunch for him" (11:37-44); Fear God above all things (12:4-5).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 12

Some early morning time with Luke before heading off to find tom (Luke 13-19). Highlights include no matter how wicked you think others might be, we all have to deal with our own sin problem requiring repentance (13:1-5); serving those who cannot repay (14:12-14); two lost sons, one living in his father's own house (15:11-32); the enigma of the parable of the unjust steward (16:1-13); obeying the Lord (works) is necessary for salvation, but not in a meritorious sense (17:7-10); with God all things are possible (18:24-30); a man small in stature but great in character (19:1-10).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 13

An afternoon in the Son (Luke 20-24). Highlights include the Jewish leaders recognizing themselves in Jesus' parable of the wicked vinedressers (20:9-19, never fool yourself into thinking they "didn't get it"); the "days of vengeance" against Jerusalem foretold (21:20-24); some refuse to believe after Jesus' heals the high priest's servant (22:47-53); considering that the thief may have received John's baptism and believed on Jesus, just as John taught (23:39-43, cf Acts 19:4); the refusal of the Twelve to believe the women's testimony (24:1-12).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 14

Starting my morning with the apostle of truth (John 1-5). Highlights include Jesus is the Logos (Word), the Life, the Light, and the Lamb (1:1, 4, 29); Jesus knows what is in us (2:24-26); there is one birth in John 3:3 and one birth in 3:5, and they are the same; sometimes others reap the benefits of our labor (4:38); forget the honor of men; seek the honor that comes from God (5:44).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 15

Continuing this morning with the apostle of truth (John 6-9). Highlights include Jesus is the Bread of Life (6:35); Jesus' own brothers did not believe in Him (7:1-5); Mary's reputation was still (wrongly) tarnished after 30 years (8:41); God's grace is appropriated through man's faith and works (9:6-11).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 16

Continuing this afternoon with the apostle of truth (John 10-15). Highlights include Jesus, the Door and Good Shepherd (10:9-11); Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life (11:25); Jesus, the One

I must follow (12:25-26); Jesus, the epitome and standard of love (13:34); Jesus, the One who desires our presence (14:23); Jesus, the True Vine (15:1). How can anyone read John's gospel account and not fall in love with Jesus?

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 17

Starting my day with the apostle of truth and love (John 16-21). Highlights include Jesus, who turns sorrow into joy (16:20); Jesus, who demands unity among all true believers (17:11, 20-21); Pilate, questioning the reality of truth of the One who is the truth (18:38); Jesus, who in the throes of death still thought of others (19:25-27); Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God (20:30-31); Jesus, the world's most important figure then, now and forever (John 21:24-25).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 18

A rework of the reading schedule gave me a late start to the day, but I'm encouraged after reading Acts 1-6. Highlights include Jesus' forty days of infallible proofs before his ascension (1); the establishment of the church (2 - a.k.a. the kingdom); healing a man with no faith in Jesus or the apostles (3); one verse that disproves so-called modern miracles (4:16); the boldness of the church despite persecution (5); keeping internal problems internal (e.g., off of social media) and working together to solve them (6).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 19

My apologies for failing to post my reading yesterday. It was late when I finished, and today's reading was also late due to a prior engagement. Lots of great stuff these last two days. Day 19 (Acts 7-11) highlights include: Stephen's beautiful recitation of Jewish history before becoming the first martyr (7); the gospel preached in Samaria and to the ends of the earth, just like Jesus said in Acts 1:8 (8); Saul's conversion (9 - hint, he wasn't saved on the Damascus road); the gospel preached to the Gentiles, which should have neither surprised nor bothered any Jew (10); the grace of God can be seen (11:23).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 20

Day 20 (Acts 12-16) highlights include: Herod eaten of worms and died, and not the other way around (12); Paul's first miracle which brought Sergius Paulus to faith (13); Paul serves as a living example of suffering tribulation for the kingdom's sake (14:19-23); All men saved the same way - via baptism for remission of sins (15:11); the Macedonian call (16).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 21

Day 21 (Acts 17-22) highlights include: The noble Berean Jews (17:10-11); The obedience of Corinth (18:8); The baptism of Jesus and the great book burning (19); Paul preaching the whole counsel of God (20:26-27); Paul's stubbornness in rejecting the counsel of the Spirit (21:4, 10-11 cf 20:23) and his error in accepting the counsel of James (21:20-24); How to call on the name of the Lord and be saved (22:16, cf Acts 2:21; Rom 10:13).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 22

Day 22 (Acts 23-28) highlights include: Paul's good conscience didn't make him right (23:1); The trembling of Felix (24:24-25); the corruption that seems to inhere in government (25:9, cf 24:26); Agrippa almost persuaded (26:28); "I believe God that it will be just as it was told me" (27:25); Methinks Paul doth protest too much (28:17-22).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 23

Thankful to be spared from last night's storms, praying for those less fortunate. Day 23 (Romans 1-7) highlights include: The Gospel, God's only power to save today (1:16); God will judge all men according to the Gospel (2:16); God's righteous judgment - "Let God be true, and every man a liar" (3:4); Abraham and his spiritual children justified by faith (4); The demonstration of God's love (5:6-11); Only through baptism in water are we buried and raised with and like Christ (6:3-5); All of the Mosaic Law is dead, including the Ten Commandments (7:1-7).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 24

Thankful to be spared from the storms a second night and praying again for those less fortunate. Day 24 (Romans 8-16) highlights include: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (8:31); Paul's burning desire to see his Jewish kinsmen come to faith in Christ (9:1-5; 10:1-4); God's desire for all men to be saved, both Jew and Gentile (11); Overcome evil with good (12:19-21); Submit to government, even those that are corrupt (13); Pursue peaceful resolutions and edify others (14:19); The Old Testament is still invaluable for teaching (15:4); "church(es) of Christ" is not a denominational moniker, it denotes ownership, so don't use it as an adjective (16:16).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 25

Spending the morning with Paul's children at Corinth (4:15). If ever a church brought Paul joy and grief as a child does his parents, it was Corinth. Day 25 (1 Cor 1-9) highlights include: Uniformity of doctrine among all believers (1:10); A great preacher is not necessarily a great orator (2:3-5); Jesus is the only foundation (rock) upon which the church is built (3:11); Confine yourself to the authority of Scripture (4:6); Church discipline is commanded by the authority of Christ and not optional (5); Consider the great price paid for your redemption (6:18-20); Anything sexual relationship outside of a husband and wife constitutes fornication (7:2); Be considerate of the weaknesses of your brethren (8); Do what it takes to win souls (9).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 26

Slacking on my postings... Yesterday spent with 1 Corinthians 10-16. Highlights include: You can't live like hell on earth and expect to find heaven in eternity (10:14-22); Equality as eternal heirs doesn't supersede God-given authority roles (11:1-16); Though our functions may differ, we are all members of one body (12); The Supremacy of Love (13); Proper exercise of spiritual gifts (14); the resurrection (15); The devotion of some is noteworthy (16:15-16).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 27

Highlights of today's reading (2 Corinthians 1-9) include: God is the God of all comfort (1:3-7); Unforgiveness is a device of the Devil (2:1-11); Trying to follow the Ten Commandments is a sure path to damnation (3:7-18); Present troubles are temporary and for our eternal good (4:16-18); We will all be judged (5:10); Don't mess with sin (6:11-18); Repentance is more than sorrow for sin (7:10); The blessing of generosity (8-9).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 28

Highlights of today's reading (2 Corinthians 10-13, Galatians) include: God's approval is the only glory that matters (10:12-18); Some who appear to be serving God are actually instruments of Satan (11:5-15); Paul's thorn in the flesh (12:7-10); Examine yourself, whether you be in the faith (the antithesis of Calvinism, 13:5); the one gospel (Gal 1); Rebuking the "pope" (Gal 2:11-14); Christ is greater than the Law (3); the Great Allegory (4); Stop trying to follow Moses' Law (5:1-6); the church is to do good unto all men, but especially her brethren (6:9-10).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 29

Spent the morning with the city of beasts (1 Cor 15:32). Highlights of today's reading (Ephesians) include: "In Christ," "in Him," (1); Salvation by grace (2:8-10; Acts 19:1-5); the church was not God's "Plan B" (3:9-11); the "ones" on which everyone must agree, without which there can never be unity (4:4-6); Three Worthy Walks (Love, Light, Wisdom (5); The Christian Armor (6 - How does it fit you?).

FORTY DAYS THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT: DAY 30

Philippians and Colossians are such marvelous books! I wish they were reversed in their order of appearance in the New Testament as Colossians is so closely akin to Ephesians. The theme of Ephesians is the church of Christ, whereas the theme of Colossians is the Christ of the church. Highlights from Philippians include: Christ our Life (Phil 1:20-21); Christ our Example (Phil 2:5-8); Christ our Hope (Phil 3:20-21); Christ our Strength (4:13) [Note: these points taken from a 1987 sermon I heard by Guy Woods]. Highlights of Colossians include: Christ is preeminent (1:18); Christ is the fullness of the Godhead (2:9); Christ is now on his throne (3:1).