

While It Was Still Standing

By: Dan Jenkins

There are paragraphs in the Bible which as we read we understand, but when we read them more carefully there are profound truths we may have overlooked. This is true of Hebrews chapter nine. In these verses, God talks about the tabernacle/temple with its two rooms. That second room, described in this chapter as “the second part,” was hidden from almost every mortal on the earth. Only one living man on only one day each year could enter it. It was separated in temple by that veil and therefore invisible to all other men.

Having described this, the writer of Hebrews says that this symbolically (the Greek word here is “parable”) described what was happening at the time of the writing of the book of Hebrews. There is no doubt that Jesus, our High Priest, entered into heaven’s most holy place, carrying His own blood, shed for the sins of all mankind. However, such was not readably visible, for nothing had changed at the Jewish temple. When the Day of Atonement came later that year, the high priest entered that second part of the temple with the blood of bulls and goats. This had happened since the tabernacle was built at Mt. Sinai. It happened the year Jesus died and almost throughout the lives of those of that generation. Nothing had visibly changed. It could not be seen, it “...was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing” (**Heb. 9:9**). The writer then talks about the existence of the elements of Judaism which were going to last “...until the time of reformation” (**Heb. 9:10**).

Read again the Divine words. The manifestation of the true entrance into the Most Holy Place was not yet manifested and would not be made known until there was a reformation, a visible (manifested) reforming of God’s plan of atonement. The word “yet” has to do with time and the end of that time was when the temple would no longer be standing.

When did all of this become manifested? What happened that manifested that God’s true plan of atonement had transpired? It happened when the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70. This is why Jesus’ words about the total destruction of the temple in Matthew 24 are so important.

God had established that first way of atoning for sins. It involved the priesthood. It involved the priest bringing blood into the most holy place. It involved the altar where sacrifices were made every day. It involved the temple as the central focus of these events. It had involved the temple. God, who established all of this through Moses, announced the end of this through Christ. It was the end of the altar, the blood of animals and the end of the temple that made it impossible for Judaism to continue. You would be so blessed to mediate and see what happened when the temple no longer stood.

The Best Reading Plan for the Bible

By: Selected

How quickly could you read through the entire Bible? Depending on your reading speed, it would take most people around 65 to 80 hours. So, if you did nothing else for three days straight (without sleeping), you could read it. Or, if you took two 40-hour work weeks, you could read it.

Of course, that is not the way that folks normally read the Bible. For many people, they follow a one-year plan, which schedules them to read about three chapters per day, to finish the Bible in 365 days. The number of different reading plans that have been created is impressive. Some read through the New Testament every month (reading about nine chapters per day). Some take a slower pace and read through the Bible over a period of three years. Again, the variety of options is plenteous.

Here's something to keep in mind: The Bible does not tell us at what pace we need to read the Bible. There is not a verse that says, "This is too slow" or "This is too fast." So, what does the Bible say about a reading schedule?

Consider that the Bible urges us to pray, at the very least, "daily" (**Matt. 6:11**) or "day by day" (**Luke 11:3**), and gives us multiple examples of praying three times a day (**Dan. 6:10**; **Psa. 55:17**). If we talk to God one, two, three (or however many) times in a day, would it not also be appropriate and beneficial to let God talk to us (through the Bible) that often?

The Bible likens itself to "milk" and "solid food" (**Heb. 5:12-13**; **1 Pet. 2:2**). David said that it is like "honey and the honeycomb" (**Psa. 19:10**), and Jeremiah said that when he "found" God's "words" that he "ate them," and found "joy and rejoicing" in them (**Jer. 15:16**). How often do you eat any kind of food during the day? If we are feeding our physical bodies multiple times in a day, how often should we be

feeding our souls? Of course, our physical sustenance varies each day from full meals to light snacks. So, could not our spiritual sustenance do the same—reading a chapter or more at certain times, but maybe only a verse or two at other times of the day?

The Bible does not place as much emphasis on the amount of reading that we do each day as much as it does on the effort that is involved in it. We need to be "diligent" in our study (**2 Tim. 2:15**). We need to "desire" it (**Psa. 19:10**), "delight" in it (**Psa. 119:47**) and "love" it (**Psa. 119:97**). We need to see God's Word as so "sweet" to our "taste" (**Psa. 119:103**) that we cannot get enough of it. We need to write it on our hearts (**Psa. 119:11**) and "meditate" on its wonderfulness (**Psa. 1:2**).

It doesn't matter how quickly you can read the Bible! What matters is how much it transforms you as you read it!



Upcoming Events

Wed. June 4: Summer Series begins. Adults will be in the main auditorium for “It’s Who You Know” and the youth will be in the fellowship hall learning Bible stories about God’s animals.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

The five year old nephew of Casey Schulze, Kai Luera who has Neuroblastoma is now on hospice. Casey Schulze is a client of Nicolette Garcia’s and is asking for prayers for Kai and her family.

Allen Clifton who has been undergoing radiation treatment 5 days a week.

The family of Dale Powers, preacher from Thornton. Dale passed away last week.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of June 8, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Caleb Lehtinen
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer.....Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer.....Bryce Dolan

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Jake Jacobs
Cup..... Benny Horton
Offering.....Mike Atkinson
Assist..... Ferman Rosales
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Willie Fossati

Sunday Evening

Song LeaderJack Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Benny Horton/
Steve Randle

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassRon White
Song LeaderLuke FitzSimmons
Devotional Ron White

Other

Prepare Communion.....

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Draven Garcia.....June 8
Helen Cannady.....June 10

Anniversaries

Ken & Nancy Dorries.....June 14

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Casting all your care upon Him,
for He cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of June 1, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....74
A.M. Worship.....106
P.M. Worship.....76
Wednesday Worship.....77

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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