

# August



2022 Monthly Bible Reading

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
31 Psalm 50-51	1 Psalm 52-53	2 Psalm 54-55	3 Psalm 56-57	4 Psalm 58-59	5 Psalm 60-61	6 Psalm 62-63
7 Psalm 64-65	8 Psalm 66-67	9 Psalm 68-69	10 Psalm 70-71	11 Psalm 72-73	12 Psalm 74-75	13 Psalm 76-77
14 Psalm 78-79	15 Psalm 80-81	16 Psalm 82-83	17 Psalm 85-85	18 Psalm 86-87	19 Psalm 88-89	20 Psalm 90-91
21 Psalm 92-93	22 Psalm 94-95	23 Psalm 96-97	24 Psalm 98-99	25 Psalm 100-101	26 Psalm 102-103	27 Psalm 104-105
28 Psalm 106-107	29 Psalm 108-109	30 Psalm 110-111	31 Psalm 112-113			

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## 2022 Monthly Bible Reading

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### Pastoral Reflection

Psalm 50 – 63

Pastor Pat

I agree with Pastor John, there is so much richness in these Psalms that it is difficult to know where to start to make a one-page reflection. I, too, am going to highlight just one, Psalm 51.

This Psalm is about repentance and forgiveness. David has committed a huge sin against God, with his lust, adultery, and murder. When it is finally brought to his attention and he recognized his sin, he goes to God and earnestly repents and asks for God's forgiveness.

When talking to folks about sin and forgiveness, I almost go to David. David was God's beloved and that is made clear over and over again in scripture. However, David who already had several wives, lusted after Bathsheba, used his power over her as a king to seduce her and when he got her pregnant, he ultimately killed her husband to hide the sin.

We know that once he earnestly repented and asked God to forgive him, God did just that. David was always God's beloved.

Years ago, when I was in youth ministry, I counseled a teenager that was so distraught about choices she had made that she now knew grieved God, that she was sure she was unforgivable in God's eyes. I related David's story and this Psalm to her and she was able to repent and believe that she was God's precious child and was forgiven.

We are all sinners and fall short of what God expects of us, but this Psalm reminds us that there is no sin we can commit that can separate us from the love of God if we are truly repentant and ask God for forgiveness.

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## 2022 Monthly Bible Reading

7 Psalm 64-65	8 Psalm 66-67	9 Psalm 68-69	10 Psalm 70-71	11 Psalm 72-73	12 Psalm 74-75	13 Psalm 76-77
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### Pastoral Reflection

Psalm 64-77

Pastor Keith

Trouble... Hope... Deliverance....

When I was a little boy, somewhere between toddler and preteen, living on the farm with my parents, big brother, and baby sister, we lived just a quarter mile down the road from my twin cousins who were a year older than my brother. I followed them one day, as a kid follows his two or three year older idols, into the loft above their corncrib. The last rung of the ladder was a big step, but the determination to be "big" secured the prize. By the time I had cleared the ladder, they were ready to climb down and on to the next adventure. That is when I realized, to my horror, how BIG that last step really was. I was terrified, and hopeless, no matter how much my idols, encouraged, coaxed, or taunted, I would surely die; there was no way, in my mind, that I would survive the inevitable fall. My cousins went to get their older brother, Tom. Tom was my hero and defender who always took my side against the other three... he always evened the odds... but still, for this crisis, he was just a kid, a big kid maybe, but a kid... NO WAY! It wasn't until they all went to get my Uncle Melv, that my deliverance finally arrived. I literally threw myself into his strong arms.

As we contemplate that giant step, that chasm, that separates us in our loft, from the safety and security of a full life, we long for the strong arms of a deliverer. Whether we are stranded on the loft of health issues, financial crises, the despair of grief, or pain for a world that seems broken beyond all human rectitude, we cry out, like the terrified little boy, eyes stained with tears and throat parched with screams, for someone to save us. And, as the little guy threw himself into the arms of his deliverer, so we throw ourselves into the waiting, strong arms of our Savior.

This is the message that is at the center of Psalms sixty-four through seventy-seven, that we read this week in our Bible Challenge: Our Trouble, Our Hope, God's Deliverance. As you read each couplet of Psalm for each day this week, the Psalmist IS you... it is YOUR voice crying out in pain and despair... it is YOUR hope that the One who has been there for you in the past is there with strong, loving arms to deliver... and it is the LORD God who yet again is our salvation and sets our feet on the path of life. Whether the Psalm's author is King David, Solomon, Asaph, an aged man, or an anonymous songwriter, they speak words of truth to which our own lives continue to testify.

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## 2022 Monthly Bible Reading

14 Psalm 78-79	15 Psalm 80-81	16 Psalm 82-83	17 Psalm 85-85	18 Psalm 86-87	19 Psalm 88-89	20 Psalm 90-91
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### Pastoral Reflection

#### Psalm 78-91

#### Pastor John

This week our Psalms conclude another major break in the ordering of Psalms. We leave Book 3 and enter Book 4. As we make this transition, I would like to talk with you specifically about Psalm 91, our transition Psalm.

The heading reads: “A prayer of Moses the man of God.” If this heading is correct, this is the only Psalm that is attributed to Moses in the book of Psalms. As such, it is sometimes regarded as the heart or center of the whole collection, suggesting thoughts appropriate to the entire content of the book of Psalms.

The main subject of the psalm is the brevity - the transitory nature - of human life; the reflections on which seem designed to lead the soul up to God, who does not die. The races of people are cut down like grass, but God remains the same from age to age. One generation finds him the same as the previous generation had found him - unchanged, and as worthy of confidence as ever. None of these changes can affect him, and there is in each age the comforting assurance that he will be found to be the refuge, the support, the “dwelling-place” of his people.

The psalm consists of the following parts:

- I. The fact that God is unchanging; that he is the refuge of his people, and always has been; that from the eternity past to the eternity to come, he is the same - he alone is God,
- II. The frailty of man - the brevity of human life - as contrasted with this unchanging nature - this eternity - of God,
- III. A prayer that the living might be able so to number their days - to take such an account of life as to apply the heart to wisdom; - to make the most of life, or to be truly wise,
- IV. A prayer for those who were to follow - for the coming generation - that God would continue his favors; that though the present generation must die, yet that God, who is unchanging and eternal, would meet the next generation, and all the generations to come, with the same mercies and blessings, enjoyed by those who went before them - prolonging these to all future time,

The psalm, therefore, has a universal applicability. Its sentiments and its petitions are as appropriate now as they were in the time of Moses. The generations of people pass away as certainly and as rapidly now as they did then; but it is as true now as it was then, that God is unchanging, and that he is the “dwelling-place” - the home - of his people.

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### Pastoral Reflection

#### Psalms 92 – 105

#### Pastor Rani

“Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me bless his Holy Name” Psalm 103

What an awesome God we serve! What an amazing God we worship! No wonder why Psalm 103 calls us to bless the Lord our God with all of our beings, all of our mind and strength, and all that is within us. “Shout for joy to the Lord...all the earth” we hear in Psalm 98. And “enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise” a call of Psalm 100. I love the Psalms for they are truly a wonderful way for us to use as a prayer. Let the shouts of praise of the Psalmist be our shouts of praise, his cries for help and mercy be our cries, his assurance of God’s presence and salvations be our assurance that God is with us. What a source of comfort and joy we can have in the book of Psalms!

But why should we be filled of gratitude and why should we shout out with joy and gladness?

Psalm 103 continues to give an account of the deeds of our amazing God reminding us not to forget “all his benefits.” He forgives our sins, heals our diseases, redeems our life from the pit, crowns us with love and compassion, satisfies our desires with good things, so that now we can be renewed and energized.

How can we not rejoice or give thanks to our Lord? God continues to be good and faithful to us, even when at times we may not have been faithful to Him.

Psalm 100 affirms that God’s faithfulness is the same even when everything around us might change “For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Today, I invite you to rejoice in the Lord and be filled with gladness! There is so much to be thankful for and there are so many blessings in our lives that we can give God the praise and the glory for. I invite today to open up your Bible and just read a Psalm of praise, shout it out loud, sing it, rejoice in the words that continue to remind us that our God is an awesome God!

To our Lord Jesus we give all the praise and the glory now and forever! Amen!

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## 2022 Monthly Bible Reading

28 Psalm 106-107	29 Psalm 108-109	30 Psalm 110-111	31 Psalm 112-113			
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### Pastoral Reflection

#### Psalm 106-113

Pastor Bruce Dillman

As with my previous devotional on the psalms, I will write a brief summary, inspiration, or guided thought on each of the psalms from Psalm 106 to Psalm 119:48. As I stated before, the psalms are beautiful prayers in Scripture that reflect just about every human emotion in a way that we can take these emotions to God in prayer. I am using Eugene H. Peterson's "The Message" translation, which I find to be a wonderful interpretation of Scripture to use in prayer and meditation. Let's begin!

**Psalm 106:** Approach this psalm as somebody who is in a bad place and is looking back over the history of his or her people, reflecting on how God continually acted out of love, but God's people continually turned their backs on God. This psalm is a "Reader's Digest" version of Israel's history beginning with slavery in Egypt, rescue from the Red Sea, and all of the grumbling that took place after that. Feel this verse with the writer: "We've sinned a lot, both we and our parents; We've fallen short, hurt a lot of people." However, God's love wins in the end! The psalm begins and ends with this single word "Hallelujah!" Save us from exile God—"Blessed be God, Israel's God! Bless now, bless always!"

**Psalm 107:** If Psalm 106 focused on what had gone wrong, the tone of Psalm 107 is thankfulness that "all of you set free by God, tell the world!" The psalmist goes on to talk about various situations in which people found themselves, "Some of you wandered for years in the desert....; some of you were locked in a dark cell....etc." But for all, as the ending of the psalm says, God has acted and "If you are really wise, you'll think this over"—it's time you appreciated God's deep love.

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### Pastoral Reflection - Psalm 106-113 cont

Pastor Bruce Dillman

**Psalm 108:** We are told that David wrote this psalm, and that it was a song. It was probably sung in worship, as we still do today. There are a couple of things to note: 1) David says that he is ready “from head to toe” to praise God, and 2) David ends the psalm by asking God for help, noting that “human help is worthless.” Oh, that we could come to truly believe that we must rely on God alone!

**Psalm 109:** How human this psalm, written by King David, sounds. Read it carefully, because the tone of this psalm sounds so familiar in these times: Lord, I’m good and so bless me. Those people are bad, so don’t bless them. In fact, bring curses on them—give them a short life, turn his children into “begging street urchins, evicted from their homes—homeless....” Wow! How honest. Thankfully, Jesus has taught us a better way—to love and pray for our enemies.

**Psalm 110:** In his commentary on this psalm, Eugene Peterson notes that this is the most popular, most quoted psalm in the New Testament. The early church knew they were in a messed-up world and something had to be done about it. They knew they were to be part of the solution. How were they to do it? They prayed Psalm 110. Peterson says “It shaped their understanding of who they were and what their place in the world was by what it declared that world to be—a world where, when God speaks, things happen.”

**Psalm 111:** One interesting thing about this psalm is that it is an “acrostic” poem, the lines of which begin with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This is a psalm of pure praise for a God whose “works are so great, worth A lifetime of study—endless enjoyment!”

**Psalm 112:** Like Psalm 111, this is also an acrostic poem, and is also a psalm of praise and thanksgiving. But this psalm introduces the idea that the good person is known by their actions and “is generous and lends lavishly” while “There’s nothing to the dreams of the wicked. Nothing.”

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**Pastoral Reflection - Psalm 106-113 cont**  
**Pastor Bruce Dillman**

## Psalm 113

This psalm continues the theme of praise and thanksgiving for God that we saw in the last couple of psalms. There are echoes of Mary’s canticle in the New Testament, as the psalmist talks about God’s care for the poor and needy, and as Mary said that God “raises them up,” the psalmist says “he picks up the poor from out of the dirt, rescues the forgotten who’ve been thrown out with the trash...” As with Mary’s prayer, this is a call for us to work to achieve God’s will here on earth, especially for those society tends to discard.