

This week's reading:

April 9: John 1 – 3

April 10: John 4 – 6

April 11: John 7 – 9

April 12: John 10 – 14

April 13: John 15 – 17

April 14: John 18 – 21

April 15: 1 Samuel 1 – 4

April 16: 1 Samuel 5 – 8

Summary:

April 9: John 1 – 3

John 1 provides the seminal understanding of Jesus as God; the Word who is and abides with God, taking on flesh and what that means. The chapter continues with the testimony of John the Baptist and Jesus' beginning His public ministry. **(Note:** John purposely connects to Genesis 1 and the idea of the beginning and the Word of God. There is no mistaking who Jesus is in John's gospel; this identity sets the stage for everything John will demonstrate in his writing.)

John 2 begins the miraculous in John as Jesus turns the water into wine and clears the Temple during Passover. **(Note:** All the miracles of John are shown to prove Jesus' identity.)

John 3 has a lengthy conversation with Nicodemus and the final testimony of John the Baptist. **(Note:** This discourse ranges throughout the doctrine of salvation and judgment. Judgment has already been rendered, Jesus is the deliverance from God's judgment.)

April 10: John 4 – 6

John 4 sees Jesus traveling through Samaria and the woman at the well encounter which leads to believing Samaritans. **(Note:** Jesus' work expands beyond Israel as Jesus teaches the Samaritans. Following: Ruth and Rahab before, the Gospel is for all peoples.)

John 5 sees another miracle, this time healing, before a long teaching section on the witness of Jesus and who He is. **(Note:** The testimonies of this chapter serve the purpose of proof of Jesus' identity in line with His power and works.)

John 6 gives the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus walking on water, and teaching that divides the people. **(Note:** All of the events of this chapter should have eliminated the ending. He makes food, He controls time and space and weather; He is God, therefore you do not walk away. The sinful heart however, desires itself and not God. This chapter is proof of that reality.)

April 11: John 7 – 9

John 7 & 8 give the teaching to the crowds that are following Jesus. **(Note:** This long back and forth at the Feast of Tabernacles shows the hardness of heart, consistency of God, and identity of Jesus.)

John 9 shows the healing of the man born blind and the controversy that is sparked.

(Note: The open fear of the parents and anger of the leadership demonstrate the level to which Jesus has challenged the false systems of Israel. Coming on the heels of the

Feast in 7 & 8, the open animus is clearly on display.)

April 12: John 10 – 14

John 10 is the good shepherd chapter as Jesus again in John claims He is God. **(Note:** Jesus is continuing to make distinctions between Himself and the false system of Israel. He saves, He upholds, He protects; this is in contrast to the “you do” system of the Jewish leadership.)

John 11 demonstrates Jesus’ deity as He raises Lazarus from the dead.

John 12 is the Triumphal Entry and Jesus teaching. **(Note:** John spends the least amount of time on Jesus’ public ministry during the Passion Week of the 4 Gospels. But he spends the most time on Jesus’ work with the Apostles during that time.)

John 13 is the Lord’s Supper and predicted betrayal by Judas. **(Note:** Jesus is not surprised by His betrayer or betrayal.)

John 14 begins the “Upper Room Discourse” in which Jesus comforts, teaches, and prepares His disciples; beginning with the promise of the Holy Spirit. **(Note:** This final teaching begins with Christ’s exclusivity and works through everything the disciples will need after Jesus’ ascension.)

April 13: John 15 – 17

John 15 continues the “Discourse” with the parable of vines and branches and the disciples in the world. **(Note:** Resting in Christ is an assurance of salvation, no matter what the world does, Jesus holds us. That is a great comfort when the world which hates our Savior, hates His people.)

John 16 again promises the Spirit as Jesus prepares the disciples for His death. **(Note:** The comfort for Christians when Christ is heavenly bound is that the Holy Spirit is present and active. The world will come against God’s people, but God’s Spirit is never separated from them.)

John 17 ends the “Discourse” with the “High Priestly Prayer” and the future glory of Christ.

April 14: John 18 – 21

John 18 begins with Judas betraying Jesus during His arrest as Jesus goes about His “trials”.

John 19 is the crucifixion and burial of Jesus.

John 20 goes straight to the empty tomb and Jesus again with the disciples.

John 21 completes the Gospel with the restoration of Peter. **(Note:** Peter’s threefold restoration corresponds to his threefold denial. This commission is based on Jesus’ work in spite of Peter’s previous failings and current weaknesses. This is good news as all are failures and weak, but Jesus is strong and capable.)

April 15: 1 Samuel 1 – 4

1 Samuel 1 starts the story of Samuel with his parents: their faithfulness and God’s provision and blessing. **(Note:** The lack of mythology for Samuel’s birth. Unlike fairy tales; the birth of the leaders of Scripture contain details that while, literarily speaking, border on the unnecessary; theologically speaking, reveal the power of God at work.)

1 Samuel 2 is the praise of Hannah for God and His work. It is also the comparison of Samuel’s parents with Eli and his sons the priests.

1 Samuel 3 is the call of Samuel as a boy to prophetic ministry. **(Note:** God judges the house of Eli; this is consistent with the promise given in Numbers 25 for Eleazar’s line to be the perpetual priesthood for His faithful zeal.)

1 Samuel 4 gives the loss of Israel in battle as the Ark of the Covenant is taken and Eli & his sons are killed. **(Note:** The sin of Judges has not stopped or slowed down. Israel does not move the Ark because of God's command, but rather their desires. The corruption of the nation is nearly total at this point.)