

2021 PRAYER & VISION BOOKLET

2021 SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE YEAR

***I press toward the mark for the prize of
the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14***

In this Scripture the word "press" implies an intentional pursuit; to ensue or follow after; to press toward; to aggressively reach for.

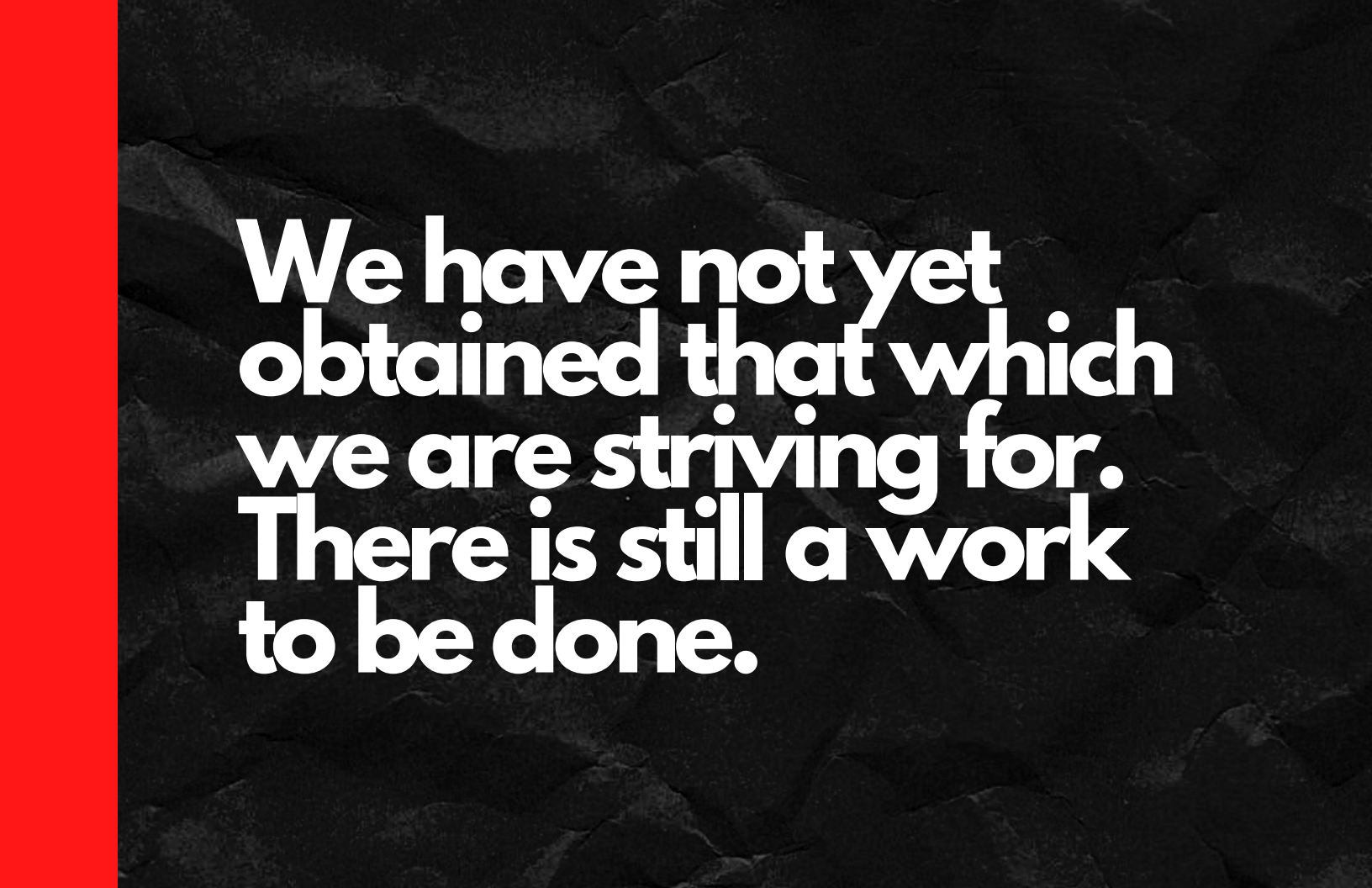
The word signifies that we must fight to obtain the prize. We must stretch our faith and push ahead despite the resistance we may feel or face. We must press through our difficulties, anxieties, and fears in order to obtain the promises of God.

What do you desire to "press through" in 2021? What is the prize or the promise that you seek?

**Write-out your thoughts below*

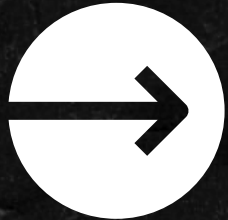
**At Victory Chapel, 2021
will be the year of the...**

PRESS



**We have not yet
obtained that which
we are striving for.
There is still a work
to be done.**

**The calling of God is
like a mountain. It
requires forward and
upward movement to
reach the summit.**



In 2021, we endeavor to move forward and upward in the following areas:

- **Spiritual Devotion & Prayer**
- **Ministry Teams**
- **Disciple-Making**
- **Groups**

We also endeavor to help each new person move through a "discipleship pipeline."

- 1. Every guest a connection**
 - 2. Every connection a Bible Study.**
 - 3. Every Bible Study a conversion**
 - 4. Every conversion into a track of discipleship**
-

My personal goals for:

**SPIRITUAL
DEVOTION
& PRAYER**

What would a spiritual breakthrough look like for you in 2021?

**Write-out your thoughts below*

Pressing for breakthrough in Prayer

In every situation, whether good or bad, let us pray before we act. Many times, we act first and then want God to bail us out of our precarious situations, but prayer should be our first response, not our last resort.

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men... 1 Timothy 2:1

Understanding the necessity of prayer is not enough. For prayer to become a part of our life, it needs to become something we look forward to doing. Prayer is a spiritual discipline. It is how we build and maintain a relationship with the Lord. And like any other discipline we must train ourselves, and in so doing we find the joy that fuels us further down the road.

That's where this booklet can help. It offers several prayer models out of the Bible to guide your personal time with the Lord. When you discover the beauty of daily conversation with Him, you'll experience the presence of God that will change your life. Once you learn how to pray, prayer can become a part of everyday life. Prayer changes everything!

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. Mark 1:35.

Prayer is most effective when it isn't something we do every now and then, but when it's a lifestyle we cultivate. To understand how to have a lifestyle of prayer, we can look at the example Jesus gave during His life on earth.

HAVE A CERTAIN TIME

Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time in prayer. Make a daily appointment with God — whether it's first thing in the morning, at lunch, or in the evening — and faithfully keep it.

HAVE A CERTAIN PLACE

Jesus had a specific place He went to pray. Having a designated place to pray helps us remove distractions and frees us to worship and pray out loud.

HAVE A CERTAIN PLAN

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave them a prayer outline (Matthew 6:9-13). We call it "The Lord's Prayer." This outline, along with other tools, is available in this guide. As we pray every day, our plans for our prayer time can vary, maybe including worship music, Bible reading, and quiet time to listen to God. It doesn't always have to look the same; it just helps when we have a plan for connecting regularly with God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER is often recited in churches or at religious events, but there's so much more to this prayer. Jesus provided this model as an outline to teach us how to pray in a way that connects us to God and empowers us to accomplish great things through Him.

In this manner, therefore, pray, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." Matthew 6:9-13

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN /// God desires a relationship with us. God has adopted us as His children and loves for us to call Him our Father. Starting our prayer time acknowledging our relationship with God is powerful for us and delights Him as well.

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:15

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME /// There is power in the Name of Jesus! Worship Him and thank Him for who He is. Throughout the Bible, God identifies Himself through His name. He is our righteousness, our sanctifier, our healer, our banner of victory, our shepherd, our peace, and our provider.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE /// Pray God's agenda first. We acknowledge His wisdom and sovereignty by first seeking His will for our daily lives and circumstances. Pray that you would know and do His will.

But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Luke 12:31

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD /// God promises to supply all of our needs when we seek Him first. A key element though is asking for what we need today and not all that we will want tomorrow. This is both a prayer for provision as well as a prayer for trust and confidence in his sufficiency.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2

FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS /// Ask God to check your heart and life and show you areas where you might need to ask for forgiveness from Him. Then, it is your turn to forgive those who have offended you. We can even choose to forgive people in advance. Ask God to forgive you and to help you forgive others.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9*

DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE /// We are in a spiritual battle. There is an enemy of our soul that seeks to steal from us, kill us, and destroy us. But we are promised that every spiritual battle we fight with the Lord will result in victory. Pray that God will help you to see the attacks of the enemy and stand strong in the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray specific prayers for victory and God's power at work in your life as well as those you lift up in prayer.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THR GLORY FOREVER /// End your prayer focusing on who He is and worshipping Him as sovereign in your life.

Yours is the Kingdom – all authority belongs to God.
Yours is the Power – all our strength flows from the Spirit
Yours is the Glory – our victory is complete in Him.

'Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. Jeremiah 32:17

Pressing for breakthrough in Fasting

Spiritually focused fasting is voluntarily going without food — or something you regularly enjoy with a desire to grow closer to God or see great things come to pass. We choose to not partake in parts of everyday life for the sake of spiritual growth and sensitivity. Fasting may seem countercultural in our self-indulgent society, but if we are to achieve spiritual breakthrough, it will come by following the Word of God - not by following the practices of the World.

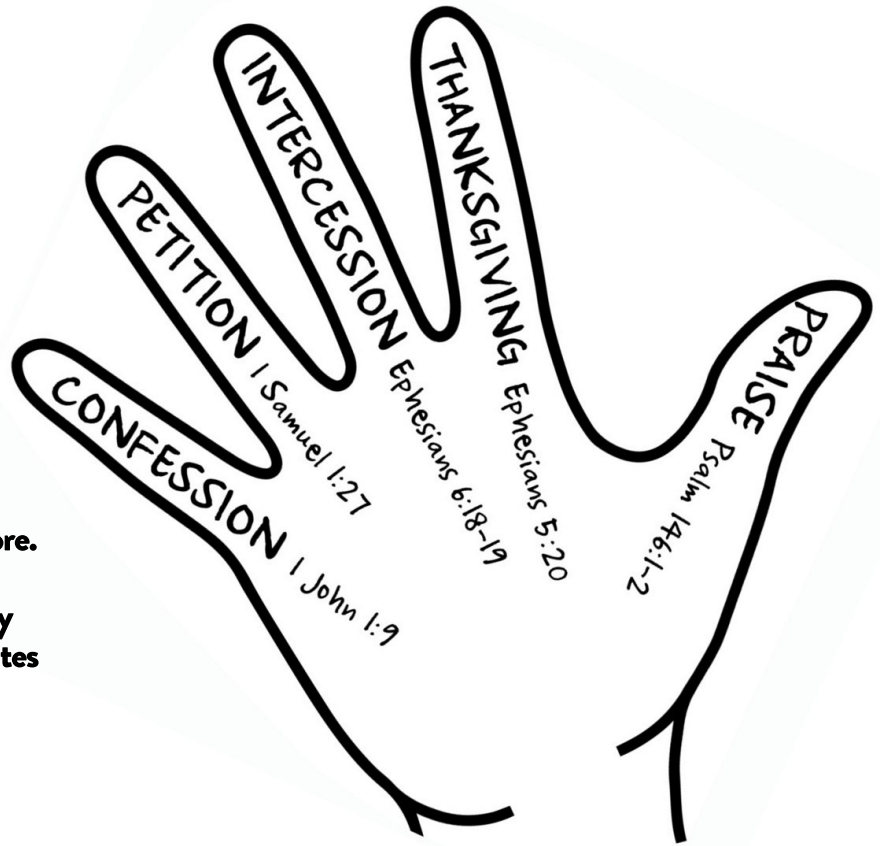
Jesus assumed his followers would fast, and even promised they would. He didn't say "if," but "when you fast" (Matthew 6:16). And He didn't say we might fast, but "they will" (Matthew 9:15). We fast from what we can see and taste because we have tasted and seen the goodness of our invisible and infinite God — and we are desperately hungry for more of Him.

TIPS ON FASTING

- *If fasting is new to you, begin in small ways. Or, progressively increase your fast throughout the week.*
- *As you fast, spend more quality time with God in prayer and other forms of spiritual enrichment.*
- *Keep a prayer journal and write down what God may be speaking to you.*
- *Be bold and pray in faith.*
- *At first, it may not seem like you are making progress but if you continue to push through your feelings, you will achieve a spiritual breakthrough and become more aware of the Spirit.*

THE PRAYER HAND

It can be difficult to spend an extended time in prayer if you haven't done so before. The Prayer Hand is an easy way to remember five important elements of any prayer life. Even if you spend just 3 minutes on each element you can pray for 15 minutes.



CONFESSION /// I confess my sins to God and ask for His grace to forgive and power to help me overcome.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

PETITION /// I trust the Lord to provide all my needs and necessities.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

INTERCESSION /// I pray for God to provide for the needs of others.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel. Ephesians 6:18-19

THANKSGIVING /// I thank God for what He has done in me, through me, and for me. I thank Him for His answers to my prayers in my life and the lives of those around me.

Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:20

PRAISE /// My enjoyment and adoration of God overflows into words. As the thumb is able to touch all four other fingers, so praise should permeate every part of my prayer life.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Psalm 146:1-2

Pressing for breakthrough in Bible Reading & Study

If you have never done so before, you should consider reading the entire Bible before the end of 2021. It is possible! You can do it! Those with at least a sixth grade reading level who commit 15 minutes a day can read through the Bible from cover to cover in 365 days. Use the charts on the following pages to track your journey! Another great Bible study practice is memorization. Those who memorize scriptures will see an impact in their emotional, mental, and spiritual life.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURES THAT I WANT TO MEMORIZE THIS YEAR:



OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS ○○
EXODUS ○○
LEVITICUS ○○
NUMBERS ○○
DEUTERONOMY ○○

THE LAW

JOSHUA ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ JUDGES ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
RUTH ○○○○ 1 SAMUEL ○○
2 SAMUEL ○○
1 KINGS ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ 2 KINGS ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
1 CHRONICLES ○○
2 CHRONICLES ○○
EZRA ○○○○○○○○○○ NEHEMIAH ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ ESTHER ○○○○○○○○○○

HISTORY

JOB ○○
PSALMS ○○
○○○
○○○
PROVERBS ○○
ECCLESIASTES ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ SONG OF SOLOMON ○○○○○○○○○○

WISDOM

ISAIAH ○○
○○○
JEREMIAH ○○
○○○
EZEKIAL ○○
DANIEL ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ HOSEA ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ JOEL ○○○○ AMOS ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
OBADIAH ○ JONAH ○○○○ MICAH ○○○○○○○○ NAHUM ○○○○ HABBAKUK ○○○○ ZEPHANIAH ○○○○
HAGGAI ○○ ZECHARIAH ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ MALACHI ○○○○

THE PROPHETS

NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

MARK ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

THE
GOSPELS

LUKE ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

JOHN ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

ACTS ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

HISTORY

ROMANS ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

CORINTHIANS ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

EPISTLES
OF PAUL

GALATIANS ○○○○○○ EPHESIANS ○○○○○○

PHILIPPIANS ○○○○ COLOSSIANS ○○○○ THESSALONIANS ○○○○○○○○

TIMOTHY ○○○○○○○○○○○○ TITUS ○○○ PHILEMON ○

HEBREWS ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

GENERAL
EPISTLES

JAMES ○○○○○○ PETER ○○○○○○○○○○ JOHN ○○○○○○○○○ JUDE ○

REVELATION ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

PROPHECY

ANCIENT JEWISH TRADITION:



TaNaK - the Old Testament

A PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY THAT REVEALS GOD'S PURPOSE TO RESCUE THE WORLD

REFERRED TO IN:
 • DEAD SEA SCROLLS (400BC)
 • WISDOM OF SIRACH (175BC)
 • JESUS OF NAZARETH (100CE-30CE)

WHO DID ALL THIS?



SCRIBES & PROPHETS

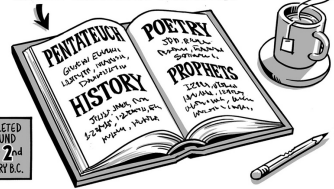
GUIDED BY GOD'S SPIRIT

PSALMS 111:10
(SALM 91:1, DANIEL 4)

THROUGH HUMAN WORDS GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE



LATER CHRISTIAN TRADITION



TORAH

GENESIS 1-11
 GOD'S IMAGE = HUMAN (ADAM)
 WISDOM TO DISCERN GOOD & EVIL
 EXILED TO WILDERNESS
 BLESSING
 OPPRESSION
 THE PLOT:
 • GOD WANTS TO RULI THE WORLD THROUGH HUMANS
 • HUMANS ARE THE PROBLEM!
 • SOLUTION: WE NEED A NEW KIND OF HUMAN

GENESIS 12-50
 ABRAHAM & SARAH
 BLESSINGS
 COVENANT PROMISE
 EXILE IN EGYPT
 JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

EXODUS-DEUTERONOMY
 MOSES
 PROPHET (4000-3500)
 PRIEST (3500-3300)
 KING (3300-3200)
 GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL
 613 LAWS TO BECOME NEW HUMANS

DEUTERONOMY
 • MOSES PREDICTS ISRAEL'S FAILURE & EXILE
 • HOPE IN GOD'S PROMISE TO RESCUE ISRAEL
 • I WISH SOMEONE LIKE MOSES WOULD COME ALONG.

DEUTERONOMY 31:12

NEVI'IM

JOSHUA
 JOSHUA SUCCEEDS BECAUSE HE'S LIKE MOSES
 HE WRITES ON THE TORAH

KINGS
 SOME LEADERS TRUST GOD:
 DAVID & SOLOMON (2 SAMUEL 3)

PRIESTS
 ABIMELECH
 JEROBAM

EXILE IN BABYLON
 POINTERS TO A FUTURE KING

CORNER PROPHETS
 JOSHUA, JUDGES, 1&2 SAMUEL, 1&2 KINGS
 ISRAEL'S STORY TOLD FROM THE LATER PERSPECTIVE OF THE PROPHETS

LATER PROPHETS

THE PROPHET'S JOB
 • TO BE LIKE MOSES
 • ACCUSATION
 • LAMENTING
 • PROMISE
 • FUTURE HOPE

ISRAEL'S FAILURE & EXILE
 ISRAELI PROPHETS
 DEUTERONOMY 17:17
 DEUTERONOMY 31:20

THE DAY OF THE LORD = EXILE IN BABYLON

NEW ISRAEL
 NEW COVENANT
 KING - MOSES
 KING - DAVID

OLD ISRAEL
 THEY READERS! A NEW PROSE-EXILE IS COMING!
 MALACHI 1:11-16

KETUVIM

including:

THE RIGHTEOUS ONE
 A WISEMAN
 • JOSHUA (SALM 118)
 • KING (SALM 119)
 • THE LIFE (SALM 139)

THE PROMISED KING
 SOVS GAB (2 SAMUEL 7)

PSALMS

DANIEL
 ISRAEL'S FAILURE SUFFERING
 A NEW FUTURE FOR THE WORLD

THE WISDOM SCROLLS:
 CONVERSATION ABOUT LIVING EXILE IN GOD'S GOOD & CHANGING WORLD

PROVERBS
 TRUST IN GOD = SUCCESS

ECCLESIASTES
 TALED TRAY
 IT'S NOT THE SIMPLES

JOB

CHRONICLES
 THE WHOLE TANAK, JUST SHORTER
 2 CHRONICLES 36:20-23
 WHO IS THERE AMONG YOU, OF ALL GODS PEOPLE, THAT THE LORD GOD IS WITH HIM, SO HE MAY GO UP?
 JEREMIAN 25, LUTHERAN 25:1, 26:14, 27:18, 28:18

ONE EPIC NARRATIVE WITH MULTIPLE "ACTS"

THE OLD TESTAMENT
16 B.C. TO 500 B.C.
 • 39 BOOKS
 • 1,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING!

THE OLD TESTAMENT OFFERS:
 - CORE THEMES
 - PLOT CONFLICT
 - DESIGN PATTERNS

THESE CULMINATE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT STORY OF JESUS.

A COVENANT PARTNERSHIP

GENESIS 1-11 **GOD & HUMANITY**

HUMANS!
 GODS PARTNERS IN RULING THE WORLD

VIOLENCE

OPPRESSION

GOD'S PROMISE:
 A NEW HUMAN WILL DESTROY EVIL

BABYLON!

GENESIS 12-2 KINGS **GOD & ISRAEL**

ABRAHAM, SARAH, & THE ISRAELITES!

IDOLATRY

BLESSING TO THE NATIONS

VIOLENCE

GOD'S PROMISE:
 A NEW KING WILL RESCUE ISRAEL & HUMANITY

EXILE IN BABYLON

THE PROPHETS & POETS

THE DAY OF THE LORD

BARBON HAS FALLEN!

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

THE NEW COVENANT PEOPLE AND

THE OLD TESTAMENT ANTICIPATES A NEW ACT IN THE STORY.

NEW JERUSALEM

NEW CREATION

THE NEW TESTAMENT



THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES THAT SPEAKS A DIVINE WORD OF HOPE

THE STORY OF JESUS & THE SPIRIT POINT TO HISTORY'S GOAL IN A RENEWED CREATION



JESUS: THE GOSPEL... **MATTHEW** **MARK** **LUC** **JOHN** **ISRAEL'S DIVINE KING** **= "THE HUMAN"** **...& ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

ISRAEL'S GOD BECOMES
 - THE NEW HUMAN
 - THE PROMISED SON OF ABRAHAM

GOOD NEWS!

CRUCIFY HIM!

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HERE!

THE SON OF MAN CAME TO BE A SERVANT AND GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY. (MATTHEW 20:28)

THROUGH THE SPIRIT
 THE RISEN JESUS...
 "SENT ONES"
JESUS' REPRESENTATIVES

...INVITES ALL PEOPLE TO JOIN HIS FAMILY

LETTERS FROM THE APOSTLES

FROM PAUL
ARRANGED FROM LONGEST (ROMANS) TO SHORTEST (PHILEMON)

HOW THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT KING JESUS:

A RESHAPES EVERY PART OF OUR LIVES

B INVITES US INTO THE BIBLICAL STORY

EXILE IN BABYLON
SLAVERY IN EGYPT
OLD HUMANITY
THE SEVILLE AGE

A NEW HOME
LIBERATION INTO THE PROMISED LAND
NEW HUMANITY
RENEWED Creation

TO THE HEBREWS

TO JAMES & JUDE
(BROTHERS OF JESUS)

PETER & JOHN
(JESUS' FIRST FOLLOWERS)

THE REVELATION

THE SLAIN LAMB IS THE DIVINE KING OF THE WORLD.

NEW CREATION

NEW HUMANITY RULES THE WORLD
LOVE OF GOD

OUT OF BABYLON...

LEADS HIS PEOPLE TO NEW JERUSALEM.

What are your ministry, family, and financial goals for 2021?

**Write-out your thoughts below*



TIME TRACKER

A helpful exercise in building a life of devotion is tracking the amount of time each week you spend in spiritual enrichment (prayer, Bible reading & study, worship, fasting, meditation, etc). In a given week, how much time do you give to God in devotion? Use the top half of the chart below to track a typical week of time spent in personal spiritual enrichment (outside of church attendance). Then, consider how you can develop a "weekly spiritual rhythm." How can you increase the quantity and quality of time spent with God?

After you have tracked your time, use the bottom half of the chart to map out what an "ideal week" may look like. This ideal week will serve as a goal to aim for. Make your ideal week practical, achievable - and one that will stretch you to a new level of devotion.

TYPICAL WEEK
IDEAL WEEK

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

God is with you - and with His help, you can reach the summit!

"I am with you always, even to the
end of the age!" Matthew 28:20

"You shall be my people, and I will
be your God!" Jeremiah 30:22

"The things which are impossible
with men are possible with God."
Luke 18:27



VICTORY
CHAPEL

