

Through The Bible In One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, David W. Shockey.

Daily Scripture Selection

Week 45

Day 309. Ezekiel 12.1-14.11; Hebrews 7.1-17;
Psalm 105.37-45; and Proverbs 27.3.

Day 310. Ezekiel 14.12-16.42; Hebrews 7.18-28;
Psalm 106.1-12; and Proverbs 27.4-6.

Day 311. Ezekiel 16.43-17.24; Hebrews 8.1-13;
Psalm 106.13-31; and Proverbs 27.7-9.

Day 312. Ezekiel 18.1-19.14; Hebrews 9.1-10;
Psalm 106.32-48; and Proverbs 27.10.

Day 313. Ezekiel 20.1-49; Hebrews 9.11-28;
Psalm 107.1-43; and Proverbs 27.11.

Day 314. Ezekiel 21.1-22.31; Hebrews 10.1-17;
Psalm 108.1-13; and Proverbs 27.12.

Day 315. Ezekiel 23.1-49; Hebrews 10.18-39;
Psalm 109.1-31; and Proverbs 27.13.

Through The Bible In One Year: Week 45 Sunday Worship Lessons

First Lesson (Old Testament): Ezekiel 16.32-42

Psalm: 107.1-9

Second (New Testament) Lesson: Hebrews 7.18-19, 23–8.2

Theme: Our Jealous, Loving God

Sunday Scripture Selection and Theme Explanation, Week 45:

Whenever we go our own self-centered way, we break our relationship with God who is the very source of our life. God loves us too much to let us go the way of death easily, without putting up a fight to win us back to him and back to life. Israel followed false gods, borrowing ways from the nations surrounding them. The bond between God and his people is even closer and more intimate than the most intimate of human relationships, marriage. God, in seeking to win his people back to him and back to the path that leads to life, speaks to them through his prophet, Ezekiel, using the words a heartbroken husband might use toward his adulterous wife. The terrible consequences that come upon Israel for their unfaithfulness to God are like the broken life and sufferings of a spouse who committed adultery and broke the marriage bond. Yet the end result is, God promises his jealous anger will subside and pass away. In love he will embrace his people-his bride-again. In the New Testament Bible passage from Hebrews we see the very way in which God makes it possible to remove the sin that separates God and people, so they can be reconciled with God: his Son Jesus Christ. The external rules, rituals, and commandments could not remove the guilt or reestablish the broken relationship. They only worsened the breach. They could only show how far short we all fall. The Son of God offers himself as the perfect sacrifice that frees everyone who believes in him from sin. Because of the sacrifice of Christ, the righteous anger of the God who was wronged has passed away forever. We are freed for life with God again, life the way it was meant to be, as God's beloved.

Alternate Readings & Themes:

1. **“New Life Now”** All people are precious to God. All people are eternal beings, because after we die, God will resurrect us for an eternal life, either together with or separated from God for eternity. God doesn't desire anyone to die. Anyone! In the Ezekiel passage, he pleads for people to turn to him and live. Turn And Live! To show how serious he is, God repeats his plea twice (repetition is how the Bible emphasizes the importance a saying)! The writer of Hebrews tells how Christ Jesus came by a new and living way opened up new life with God. We can approach God—and life—with confidence and courage. Through faith in him, we are made part of a new community. We can encourage others, spurring one another on to love and good deeds until the Day of Christ's coming. **Ezekiel 19.20-32; Psalm 106.1-12; Hebrews 10.19-27.**
2. **‘Stand In The Gap’** God looked long and longingly for someone to intervene to save people from destruction. Through his prophet Ezekiel he reveals how he looked for someone righteous to rise among the leaders of his people, but not one did. Hebrews describes how finally

that person came—the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who intervened himself—his very life—in the gap between sinful people and the righteous God, and reconciled all who believe to God again. In Christ, we are called to ‘stand in the gap’ and work to reconcile people to God as Christ did, sharing both his nature and mission. **Ezekiel 22.23-31; Psalm 108.1-13; Hebrews 9.11-15, 24-28**