

# Through The Bible In One Year

## The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, David W. Shockey.

### Daily Scripture Selection

#### Week 46

- Day 316.** Ezekiel 24.1-26.21; Hebrews 11.1-16;  
Psalm 110.1-7; and Proverbs 27.14.
- Day 317.** Ezekiel 27.1-28.26; Hebrews 11.17-31;  
Psalm 111.1-10; and Proverbs 27.15-16.
- Day 318.** Ezekiel 29.1-30.26; Hebrews 11.32-  
12.13; Psalm 112.1-10; and Proverbs 27.17.
- Day 319.** Ezekiel 31.1-32.32; Hebrews 12.14-29;  
Psalm 113.1-114.8; and Proverbs 27.18-20.
- Day 320.** Ezekiel 33.1-34.31; Hebrews 13.1-25;  
Psalm 115.1-18; and Proverbs 27.21-22.
- Day 321.** Ezekiel 35.1-36.38; James 1.1-18;  
Psalm 116.1-19; and Proverbs 27.23-27.
- Day 322.** Ezekiel 37.1-38.23; James 1.19-2.17;  
Psalm 117.1-2; and Proverbs 28.1.

## Through The Bible In One Year: Week 46 Sunday Worship Lessons

First Lesson (Old Testament): Ezekiel 37.1-14

Psalm: 111.1-10

Second (New Testament) Lesson: Hebrews 11.1-3, 7-16

Theme: Is There Life After Death?! How About Life in This Life?

### **Sunday Scripture Selection and Theme Explanation, Week 46:**

How can people live with courage and confidence knowing that death lies ahead? The real problem is that the fear of death keeps people from living. Can—and will—God really raise the dead and give life eternal to us? God gave Ezekiel a word to the people of Israel who were in exile and in danger of total destruction, promising he would open their graves, give them new life, and gather them together in their own land. He was speaking both about Israel in their current condition, but also opening the door wider on our understanding of life after this life. The writer of Hebrews describes faith being the assurance of things hoped for. Faith in God...and in the resurrection he promises because of Christ's death and resurrection—provides the courage and confidence we need to live right now...and after this life, the true life we long for. The choice is simple: live with fear, which is not living, or live with faith, which is to be fully alive now...and forever.

### **Alternate Readings & Themes:**

- 1. “Leadership 101”** The leaders of Israel sought their own wellbeing, and did not care for the needs of the people. Therefore God promised he himself would come and lead his people. This promise and prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus Christ, God's Son, came into the world. The writer of Hebrews says that, surrounded by a great cloud of faithful people ('witnesses') who led us to know Christ, believers today should run with perseverance the race set before us, following Christ the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. He is the true leader, who cares for his people, so much so that he even endured the cross for them. The way to exercise Christian leadership is to follow him. **Ezekiel 34.1-6, 11-16; Psalm 118.1-9; Hebrews 12.1-13.**
- 2. “Kingdoms That Can Be Shaken, Or One That Can't”** How can we live in this world where, if we search deep within our hearts, we discover we don't belong here? Is there nothing here that will endure, that by involving our lives in we can know that our life matters, that the dangers and difficulties we face are worth the struggle? Life here and now is not life, really. Life in this world is characterized by all manner of problems and troubles, most of which seem pointless. The source of all problems is pride—the self-centeredness that gnaws at all relationships and societies. Everything we do is built on a broken foundation, and destined to fall. Ezekiel is given a word from God to Egypt, one of the greatest human civilizations the world has ever known, and one of the most formidable powers of the world at that time. The message is for Pharaoh to consider Assyria, another great and powerful civilization that was brought to ruin because of its pride in its own power and magnificence. All efforts based only on human wisdom and strength will fail

and fall ultimately. But the writer of Hebrews talks instead the possibility of receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken. The heavens and earth themselves will pass away, but not this kingdom. The way to receive the kingdom is to come to Jesus in faith, for he is the mediator of a new covenant relationship with God sealed with his own blood. The world will end one day, but his kingdom will never end. **Ezekiel 31.1-6, 10-14; Psalm 118.1-9; Hebrews 12.18-29.**