



# JULY 6

## GCC 2021 READING PLAN

Joshua 8

Psalms 139

Jeremiah 2

Matthew 16

The Unsaved Christian 3

**PRAY:**

*Father show us who you are. Show us your person, your power, your purposes. Overwhelm us with a knowledge of you that penetrates our minds and imbeds itself in the deepest recesses of our hearts. Let this knowledge so change our hearts that it results in our lives being lived in light of who you are, what you have done and what you say is true about us in Jesus Christ.*

Notes

Thoughts

Questions:



**AS YOU READ THROUGH TODAY'S PASSAGES REFLECT ON THESE QUESTIONS:**

**What are some things revealed in these passages about the person and character of God? Who is he? What is he like?**

**What are some things that God has done to reveal who he is?**

**Who are you in light of God's work? What is it that God is saying about you?**

**How should knowing who God is, what he has done and what he says about you change how you live?**



## JOSHUA 8

Notes

Thoughts

Questions:

### The Fall of Ai

**8** And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land. <sup>2</sup> And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it."

<sup>3</sup> So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night. <sup>4</sup> And he commanded them, "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready. <sup>5</sup> And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them. <sup>6</sup> And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, 'They are fleeing from us, just as before.' So we will flee before them. <sup>7</sup> Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will give it into your hand. <sup>8</sup> And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to the word of the LORD. See, I have commanded you." <sup>9</sup> So Joshua sent them out. And they went to the place of ambush and lay between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai, but Joshua spent that night among the people.

<sup>10</sup> Joshua arose early in the morning and mustered the people and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai. <sup>11</sup> And all the fighting men who were with him went up and drew near before the city and encamped on the north side of Ai, with a ravine between them and Ai. <sup>12</sup> He took about 5,000 men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city. <sup>13</sup> So they stationed the forces, the main encampment that was north of the city and its rear guard west of the city. But Joshua spent that night in the valley. <sup>14</sup> And as soon as the king of Ai saw this, he and all his people, the men of the city, hurried and went out early to the appointed place toward the Arabah to meet Israel in battle. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city. <sup>15</sup> And Joshua and all Israel pretended to be beaten before them and fled in the direction of the wilderness. <sup>16</sup> So all the people who were in the city were called together to pursue them, and as they pursued Joshua they were drawn away from the city. <sup>17</sup> Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. They left the city open and pursued Israel.

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. <sup>19</sup> And the men in the ambush rose quickly out of their place, and as soon as he had stretched out his hand, they ran and entered the city and captured it. And they hurried to set the city on fire. <sup>20</sup> So when the men of Ai looked back, behold, the smoke of the city went up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way or that, for the people who fled to the wilderness turned back against the pursuers. <sup>21</sup> And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the

ambush had captured the city, and that the smoke of the city went up, then they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. <sup>22</sup> And the others came out from the city against them, so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side. And Israel struck them down, until there was left none that survived or escaped. <sup>23</sup> But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him near to Joshua.

<sup>24</sup> When Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the open wilderness where they pursued them, and all of them to the very last had fallen by the edge of the sword, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it down with the edge of the sword. <sup>25</sup> And all who fell that day, both men and women, were 12,000, all the people of Ai. <sup>26</sup> But Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had devoted all the inhabitants of Ai to destruction. <sup>27</sup> Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as their plunder, according to the word of the LORD that he commanded Joshua. <sup>28</sup> So Joshua burned Ai and made it forever a heap of ruins, as it is to this day. <sup>29</sup> And he hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening. And at sunset Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the gate of the city and raised over it a great heap of stones, which stands there to this day.

### **Joshua Renews the Covenant**

<sup>30</sup> At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, <sup>31</sup> just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, "an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings. <sup>32</sup> And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. <sup>33</sup> And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. <sup>34</sup> And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. <sup>35</sup> There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.



## PSALM 139

Notes

Thoughts

Questions:

### Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart

**139** TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

- 1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
- 5 You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is high; I cannot attain it.
  
- 7 Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 10 even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light about me be night,"
- 12 even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.
  
- 13 For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,

when as yet there was none of them.

- 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
I awake, and I am still with you.
- 19 Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!  
O men of blood, depart from me!
- 20 They speak against you with malicious intent;  
your enemies take your name in vain.
- 21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
- 22 I hate them with complete hatred;  
I count them my enemies.
- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!
- 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!

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## JEREMIAH 2

### Israel Forsakes the LORD

2 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem,  
Thus says the LORD,

“I remember the devotion of your youth,

your love as a bride,

how you followed me in the wilderness,

in a land not sown.

<sup>3</sup> Israel was holy to the LORD,

the firstfruits of his harvest.

All who ate of it incurred guilt;  
disaster came upon them,  
declares the LORD."

<sup>4</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

"What wrong did your fathers find in me  
that they went far from me,  
and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?

<sup>6</sup> They did not say, 'Where is the LORD

who brought us up from the land of Egypt,  
who led us in the wilderness,  
in a land of deserts and pits,  
in a land of drought and deep darkness,  
in a land that none passes through,  
where no man dwells?'

<sup>7</sup> And I brought you into a plentiful land

to enjoy its fruits and its good things.  
But when you came in, you defiled my land  
and made my heritage an abomination.

<sup>8</sup> The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?'

Those who handle the law did not know me;  
the shepherds transgressed against me;  
the prophets prophesied by Baal  
and went after things that do not profit.

<sup>9</sup> "Therefore I still contend with you,

declares the LORD,

and with your children's children I will contend.

10 For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see,

or send to Kedar and examine with care;

see if there has been such a thing.

11 Has a nation changed its gods,

even though they are no gods?

But my people have changed their glory

for that which does not profit.

12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this;

be shocked, be utterly desolate,

declares the LORD,

13 for my people have committed two evils:

they have forsaken me,

the fountain of living waters,

and hewed out cisterns for themselves,

broken cisterns that can hold no water.

14 "Is Israel a slave? Is he a homeborn servant?

Why then has he become a prey?

15 The lions have roared against him;

they have roared loudly.

They have made his land a waste;

his cities are in ruins, without inhabitant.

16 Moreover, the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes

have shaved the crown of your head.

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- 17 Have you not brought this upon yourself  
by forsaking the LORD your God,  
when he led you in the way?
- 18 And now what do you gain by going to Egypt  
to drink the waters of the Nile?  
Or what do you gain by going to Assyria  
to drink the waters of the Euphrates?
- 19 Your evil will chastise you,  
and your apostasy will reprove you.  
Know and see that it is evil and bitter  
for you to forsake the LORD your God;  
the fear of me is not in you,  
declares the Lord GOD of hosts.
- 20 "For long ago I broke your yoke  
and burst your bonds;  
but you said, 'I will not serve.'  
Yes, on every high hill  
and under every green tree  
you bowed down like a whore.
- 21 Yet I planted you a choice vine,  
wholly of pure seed.  
How then have you turned degenerate  
and become a wild vine?
- 22 Though you wash yourself with lye  
and use much soap,



the stain of your guilt is still before me,

declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>23</sup> How can you say, 'I am not unclean,

I have not gone after the Baals'?

Look at your way in the valley;

know what you have done—

a restless young camel running here and there,

<sup>24</sup> a wild donkey used to the wilderness,

in her heat sniffing the wind!

Who can restrain her lust?

None who seek her need weary themselves;

in her month they will find her.

<sup>25</sup> Keep your feet from going unshod

and your throat from thirst.

But you said, 'It is hopeless,

for I have loved foreigners,

and after them I will go.'

<sup>26</sup> "As a thief is shamed when caught,

so the house of Israel shall be shamed:

they, their kings, their officials,

their priests, and their prophets,

<sup>27</sup> who say to a tree, 'You are my father,'

and to a stone, 'You gave me birth.'

For they have turned their back to me,

and not their face.

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But in the time of their trouble they say,

'Arise and save us!'

28 But where are your gods

that you made for yourself?

Let them arise, if they can save you,

in your time of trouble;

for as many as your cities

are your gods, O Judah.

29 "Why do you contend with me?

You have all transgressed against me,

declares the LORD.

30 In vain have I struck your children;

they took no correction;

your own sword devoured your prophets

like a ravening lion.

31 And you, O generation, behold the word of the LORD.

Have I been a wilderness to Israel,

or a land of thick darkness?

Why then do my people say, 'We are free,

we will come no more to you'?

32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments,

or a bride her attire?

Yet my people have forgotten me

days without number.

33 "How well you direct your course

to seek love!

So that even to wicked women

you have taught your ways.

<sup>34</sup> Also on your skirts is found

the lifeblood of the guiltless poor;

you did not find them breaking in.

Yet in spite of all these things

<sup>35</sup> you say, 'I am innocent;

surely his anger has turned from me.'

Behold, I will bring you to judgment

for saying, 'I have not sinned.'

<sup>36</sup> How much you go about,

changing your way!

You shall be put to shame by Egypt

as you were put to shame by Assyria.

<sup>37</sup> From it too you will come away

with your hands on your head,

for the LORD has rejected those in whom you trust,

and you will not prosper by them.

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Questions:



## MATTHEW 16

### The Pharisees and Sadducees Demand Signs

**16** And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup> He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' <sup>3</sup> And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the

times. <sup>4</sup> An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." So he left them and departed.

### **The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees**

<sup>5</sup> When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." <sup>7</sup> And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread." <sup>8</sup> But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? <sup>9</sup> Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? <sup>10</sup> Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? <sup>11</sup> How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." <sup>12</sup> Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

### **Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

### **Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

### **Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is

going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.<sup>28</sup> Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Notes  
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Questions:



## **THE UNSAVED CHRISTIAN** BY DEAN INSERRA

Finish Chapter 3 of *The Unsaved Christian*. Work through the discussion questions at the end of the chapter.



**JOURNAL A PRAYER TO THE LORD FROM YOUR READING TODAY.**