



# AUGUST 21

GCC 2021 READING PLAN

I Samuel 13  
Romans 11  
Jeremiah 50  
Reading Break

**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:

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**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?**



# I SAMUEL 13

Notes

Thoughts

Questions:

## Saul Fights the Philistines

**13** Saul lived for one year and then became king, and when he had reigned for two years over Israel, <sup>2</sup> Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent. <sup>3</sup> Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear." <sup>4</sup> And all Israel heard it said that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines. And the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.

<sup>5</sup> And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. They came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven. <sup>6</sup> When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns, <sup>7</sup> and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

## Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice

<sup>8</sup> He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. <sup>9</sup> So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. <sup>10</sup> As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. <sup>11</sup> Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, <sup>12</sup> I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the LORD.' So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering." <sup>13</sup> And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. <sup>14</sup> But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you." <sup>15</sup> And Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal. The rest of the people went up after Saul to meet the army; they went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin.

And Saul numbered the people who were present with him, about six hundred men. <sup>16</sup> And Saul and Jonathan his son and the people who were present with them stayed in Geba of Benjamin, but the Philistines encamped in Michmash. <sup>17</sup> And raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual;

<sup>18</sup> another company turned toward Beth-horon; and another company turned toward the border that looks down on the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

<sup>19</sup> Now there was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make themselves swords or spears." <sup>20</sup> But every one of the Israelites went down to the Philistines to sharpen his plowshare, his mattock, his axe, or his sickle, <sup>21</sup> and the charge was two-thirds of a shekel for the plowshares and for the mattocks, and a third of a shekel for sharpening the axes and for setting the goads. <sup>22</sup> So on the day of the battle there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people with Saul and Jonathan, but Saul and Jonathan his son had them. <sup>23</sup> And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.



## ROMANS 11

### The Remnant of Israel

**11** I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? <sup>3</sup> "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." <sup>4</sup> But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." <sup>5</sup> So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup> But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

<sup>7</sup> What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, <sup>8</sup> as it is written,

"God gave them a spirit of stupor,  
eyes that would not see  
and ears that would not hear,  
down to this very day."

<sup>9</sup> And David says,

"Let their table become a snare and a trap,  
a stumbling block and a retribution for them;

<sup>10</sup> let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see,  
and bend their backs forever."

## Gentiles Grafted In

<sup>11</sup> So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. <sup>12</sup> Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

<sup>13</sup> Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry <sup>14</sup> in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. <sup>15</sup> For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? <sup>16</sup> If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

<sup>17</sup> But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup> do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. <sup>19</sup> Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." <sup>20</sup> That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. <sup>21</sup> For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. <sup>22</sup> Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. <sup>23</sup> And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup> For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

## The Mystery of Israel's Salvation

<sup>25</sup> Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

"The Deliverer will come from Zion,  
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";

<sup>27</sup> "and this will be my covenant with them  
when I take away their sins."

<sup>28</sup> As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. <sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom <sup>33</sup> and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Notes

Thoughts

Questions:

<sup>34</sup> “For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?”

<sup>35</sup> “Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?”

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.



## JEREMIAH 50

### Judgment on Babylon

**50** The word that the LORD spoke concerning Babylon, concerning the land of the Chaldeans, by Jeremiah the prophet:

<sup>2</sup> “Declare among the nations and proclaim,

set up a banner and proclaim,

conceal it not, and say:

‘Babylon is taken,

Bel is put to shame,

Merodach is dismayed.

Her images are put to shame,

her idols are dismayed.’

<sup>3</sup> “For out of the north a nation has come up against her, which shall make her land a desolation, and none shall dwell in it; both man and beast shall flee away.

<sup>4</sup> “In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, the people of Israel and the people of Judah shall come together, weeping as they come, and they shall seek the LORD their God.

<sup>5</sup> They shall ask the way to Zion, with faces turned toward it, saying, ‘Come, let us join ourselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten.’

<sup>6</sup> “My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them away on the mountains. From mountain to hill they have gone. They have forgotten their fold.

<sup>7</sup> All who found them have devoured them, and their enemies have said, ‘We are not guilty, for they have sinned against the LORD, their habitation of righteousness, the LORD, the hope of their fathers.’

<sup>8</sup> "Flee from the midst of Babylon, and go out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as male goats before the flock. <sup>9</sup> For behold, I am stirring up and bringing against Babylon a gathering of great nations, from the north country. And they shall array themselves against her. From there she shall be taken. Their arrows are like a skilled warrior who does not return empty-handed. <sup>10</sup> Chaldea shall be plundered; all who plunder her shall be sated, declares the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> "Though you rejoice, though you exult,

O plunderers of my heritage,

though you frolic like a heifer in the pasture,

and neigh like stallions,

<sup>12</sup> your mother shall be utterly shamed,

and she who bore you shall be disgraced.

Behold, she shall be the last of the nations,

a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert.

<sup>13</sup> Because of the wrath of the LORD she shall not be inhabited

but shall be an utter desolation;

everyone who passes by Babylon shall be appalled,

and hiss because of all her wounds.

<sup>14</sup> Set yourselves in array against Babylon all around,

all you who bend the bow;

shoot at her, spare no arrows,

for she has sinned against the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> Raise a shout against her all around;

she has surrendered;

her bulwarks have fallen;

her walls are thrown down.

For this is the vengeance of the LORD:

take vengeance on her;

do to her as she has done.

- <sup>16</sup> Cut off from Babylon the sower,  
and the one who handles the sickle in time of harvest;  
because of the sword of the oppressor,  
every one shall turn to his own people,  
and every one shall flee to his own land.

<sup>17</sup> "Israel is a hunted sheep driven away by lions. First the king of Assyria devoured him, and now at last Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has gnawed his bones. <sup>18</sup> Therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing punishment on the king of Babylon and his land, as I punished the king of Assyria. <sup>19</sup> I will restore Israel to his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and in Bashan, and his desire shall be satisfied on the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead. <sup>20</sup> In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, iniquity shall be sought in Israel, and there shall be none, and sin in Judah, and none shall be found, for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.

- <sup>21</sup> "Go up against the land of Merathaim,  
and against the inhabitants of Pekod.  
Kill, and devote them to destruction,  
declares the LORD,  
and do all that I have commanded you.

- <sup>22</sup> The noise of battle is in the land,  
and great destruction!

- <sup>23</sup> How the hammer of the whole earth  
is cut down and broken!  
How Babylon has become  
a horror among the nations!

- <sup>24</sup> I set a snare for you and you were taken, O Babylon,  
and you did not know it;  
you were found and caught,

because you opposed the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD has opened his armory  
and brought out the weapons of his wrath,

for the Lord GOD of hosts has a work to do

in the land of the Chaldeans.

<sup>26</sup> Come against her from every quarter;

open her granaries;

pile her up like heaps of grain, and devote her to destruction;

let nothing be left of her.

<sup>27</sup> Kill all her bulls;

let them go down to the slaughter.

Woe to them, for their day has come,

the time of their punishment.

<sup>28</sup> "A voice! They flee and escape from the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, vengeance for his temple.

<sup>29</sup> "Summon archers against Babylon, all those who bend the bow. Encamp around her; let no one escape. Repay her according to her deeds; do to her according to all that she has done. For she has proudly defied the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. <sup>30</sup> Therefore her young men shall fall in her squares, and all her soldiers shall be destroyed on that day, declares the LORD.

<sup>31</sup> "Behold, I am against you, O proud one,

declares the Lord GOD of hosts,

for your day has come,

the time when I will punish you.

<sup>32</sup> The proud one shall stumble and fall,

with none to raise him up,

and I will kindle a fire in his cities,

and it will devour all that is around him.



<sup>33</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah with them. All who took them captive have held them fast; they refuse to let them go.  
<sup>34</sup> Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name. He will surely plead their cause, that he may give rest to the earth, but unrest to the inhabitants of Babylon.

<sup>35</sup> "A sword against the Chaldeans, declares the LORD,  
and against the inhabitants of Babylon,  
and against her officials and her wise men!

<sup>36</sup> A sword against the diviners,  
that they may become fools!  
A sword against her warriors,  
that they may be destroyed!

<sup>37</sup> A sword against her horses and against her chariots,  
and against all the foreign troops in her midst,  
that they may become women!  
A sword against all her treasures,  
that they may be plundered!

<sup>38</sup> A drought against her waters,  
that they may be dried up!  
For it is a land of images,  
and they are mad over idols.

<sup>39</sup> "Therefore wild beasts shall dwell with hyenas in Babylon, and ostriches shall dwell in her. She shall never again have people, nor be inhabited for all generations. <sup>40</sup> As when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring cities, declares the LORD, so no man shall dwell there, and no son of man shall sojourn in her.

<sup>41</sup> "Behold, a people comes from the north;  
a mighty nation and many kings  
are stirring from the farthest parts of the earth.

<sup>42</sup> They lay hold of bow and spear;

they are cruel and have no mercy.

The sound of them is like the roaring of the sea;

they ride on horses,

arrayed as a man for battle

against you, O daughter of Babylon!

<sup>43</sup> "The king of Babylon heard the report of them,

and his hands fell helpless;

anguish seized him,

pain as of a woman in labor.

<sup>44</sup> "Behold, like a lion coming up from the thicket of the Jordan against a perennial pasture, I will suddenly make them run away from her, and I will appoint over her whomever I choose. For who is like me? Who will summon me? What shepherd can stand before me? <sup>45</sup> Therefore hear the plan that the LORD has made against Babylon, and the purposes that he has formed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the little ones of their flock shall be dragged away; surely their fold shall be appalled at their fate. <sup>46</sup> At the sound of the capture of Babylon the earth shall tremble, and her cry shall be heard among the nations."

Notes

Thoughts

Questions:



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