



# SEPTEMBER 27

GCC 2021 READING PLAN

II Samuel 23  
Galatians 3  
Ezekiel 30

**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.*

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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?**



## II SAMUEL 23

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### The Last Words of David

**23** Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, the son of Jesse,  
the oracle of the man who was raised on high,  
the anointed of the God of Jacob,  
the sweet psalmist of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me;  
his word is on my tongue.

<sup>3</sup> The God of Israel has spoken;  
the Rock of Israel has said to me:

When one rules justly over men,  
ruling in the fear of God,

<sup>4</sup> he dawns on them like the morning light,  
like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning,  
like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.

<sup>5</sup> "For does not my house stand so with God?  
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,  
ordered in all things and secure.

For will he not cause to prosper  
all my help and my desire?

<sup>6</sup> But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away,  
for they cannot be taken with the hand;

<sup>7</sup> but the man who touches them

arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear,

and they are utterly consumed with fire.”

### **David's Mighty Men**

<sup>8</sup>These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-basshebeth a Tahchemonite; he was chief of the three. He wielded his spear against eight hundred whom he killed at one time.

<sup>9</sup>And next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar the son of Dodo, son of Ahohi. He was with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel withdrew. <sup>10</sup>He rose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword. And the LORD brought about a great victory that day, and the men returned after him only to strip the slain.

<sup>11</sup>And next to him was Shammah, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines. <sup>12</sup>But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the LORD worked a great victory.

<sup>13</sup>And three of the thirty chief men went down and came about harvest time to David at the cave of Adullam, when a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. <sup>14</sup>David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. <sup>15</sup>And David said longingly, “Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!” <sup>16</sup>Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought it to David. But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the LORD <sup>17</sup>and said, “Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?” Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.

<sup>18</sup>Now Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief of the thirty. And he wielded his spear against three hundred men and killed them and won a name beside the three. <sup>19</sup>He was the most renowned of the thirty and became their commander, but he did not attain to the three.

<sup>20</sup>And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was a valiant man of Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds. He struck down two ariels of Moab. He also went down and struck down a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen. <sup>21</sup>And he struck down an Egyptian, a handsome man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand, but Benaiah went down to him with a staff and snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear. <sup>22</sup>These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and won a name beside the three mighty men. <sup>23</sup>He was renowned among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. And David set him over his bodyguard.

<sup>24</sup>Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, <sup>25</sup>Shammah of Harod, Elikah of Harod, <sup>26</sup>Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh of Tekoa, <sup>27</sup>Abiezer of Anathoth, Mebunnai the Hushathite, <sup>28</sup>Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai of Netophah, <sup>29</sup>Heleb the son of Baanah of Netophah, Ittai the son of Ribai of Gibeath of the

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people of Benjamin, <sup>30</sup> Benaiah of Pirathon, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash, <sup>31</sup> Abi-albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth of Bahurim, <sup>32</sup> Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen, Jonathan, <sup>33</sup> Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite, <sup>34</sup> Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai of Maacah, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, <sup>35</sup> Hezro of Carmel, Paarai the Arbite, <sup>36</sup> Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, <sup>37</sup> Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai of Beeroth, the armor-bearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah, <sup>38</sup> Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, <sup>39</sup> Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all.

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## GALATIANS 3

### By Faith, or by Works of the Law?

<sup>3</sup> O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup> Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? <sup>4</sup> Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? <sup>5</sup> Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— <sup>6</sup> just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

<sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” <sup>9</sup> So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

### The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

<sup>10</sup> For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

<sup>11</sup> Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” <sup>12</sup> But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”

<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— <sup>14</sup> so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

### The Law and the Promise

<sup>15</sup> To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. <sup>16</sup> Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to

your offspring," who is Christ. <sup>17</sup> This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. <sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

<sup>19</sup> Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. <sup>20</sup> Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

<sup>21</sup> Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. <sup>22</sup> But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.



## EZEKIEL 30

### A Lament for Egypt

**30** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> "Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD:

"Wail, 'Alas for the day!'

<sup>3</sup> For the day is near,

the day of the LORD is near;

it will be a day of clouds,

a time of doom for the nations.

<sup>4</sup> A sword shall come upon Egypt,

and anguish shall be in Cush,

when the slain fall in Egypt,

and her wealth is carried away,

and her foundations are torn down.

<sup>5</sup> Cush, and Put, and Lud, and all Arabia, and Libya, and the people of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword.

<sup>6</sup> "Thus says the LORD:

Those who support Egypt shall fall,

and her proud might shall come down;

from Migdol to Syene

they shall fall within her by the sword,

declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>7</sup> And they shall be desolated in the midst of desolated countries,

and their cities shall be in the midst of cities that are laid waste.

<sup>8</sup> Then they will know that I am the LORD,

when I have set fire to Egypt,

and all her helpers are broken.

<sup>9</sup> "On that day messengers shall go out from me in ships to terrify the unsuspecting people of Cush, and anguish shall come upon them on the day of Egypt's doom; for, behold, it comes!

<sup>10</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD:

"I will put an end to the wealth of Egypt,

by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

<sup>11</sup> He and his people with him, the most ruthless of nations,

shall be brought in to destroy the land,

and they shall draw their swords against Egypt

and fill the land with the slain.

<sup>12</sup> And I will dry up the Nile

and will sell the land into the hand of evildoers;

I will bring desolation upon the land and everything in it,

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by the hand of foreigners;

I am the LORD; I have spoken.

<sup>13</sup> "Thus says the Lord GOD:

"I will destroy the idols

and put an end to the images in Memphis;

there shall no longer be a prince from the land of Egypt;

so I will put fear in the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> I will make Pathros a desolation

and will set fire to Zoan

and will execute judgments on Thebes.

<sup>15</sup> And I will pour out my wrath on Pelusium,

the stronghold of Egypt,

and cut off the multitude of Thebes.

<sup>16</sup> And I will set fire to Egypt;

Pelusium shall be in great agony;

Thebes shall be breached,

and Memphis shall face enemies by day.

<sup>17</sup> The young men of On and of Pi-beseth shall fall by the sword,

and the women shall go into captivity.

<sup>18</sup> At Tehaphnehes the day shall be dark,

when I break there the yoke bars of Egypt,

and her proud might shall come to an end in her;

she shall be covered by a cloud,

and her daughters shall go into captivity.

<sup>19</sup> Thus I will execute judgments on Egypt.

Then they will know that I am the LORD."

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## Egypt Shall Fall to Babylon

<sup>20</sup>In the eleventh year, in the first month, on the seventh day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>21</sup>“Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and behold, it has not been bound up, to heal it by binding it with a bandage, so that it may become strong to wield the sword. <sup>22</sup>Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt and will break his arms, both the strong arm and the one that was broken, and I will make the sword fall from his hand. <sup>23</sup>I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them through the countries. <sup>24</sup>And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon and put my sword in his hand, but I will break the arms of Pharaoh, and he will groan before him like a man mortally wounded. <sup>25</sup>I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of Pharaoh shall fall. Then they shall know that I am the LORD, when I put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he stretches it out against the land of Egypt. <sup>26</sup>And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”

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