

Week 11: Mar. 17 (Mar. 10–Mar. 16)

- The Israelites resume their complaints; long to return to Egypt
- God's patience gives out: "I will strike them down with plague"
- Moses intercedes again, and God forgives, but...
- As punishment, God sentences them to 40 years in the wilderness
- "No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see" the promised land
- Another reminder from God to treat the foreigner the same as a neighbor
- Korah leads a rebellion against Moses
- Miriam dies in the wilderness; people again complain
- Moses strikes rock, as God told him to, to let water flow, but God punishes Moses: "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them." Harsh? Fair?
- Aaron dies
- People continue to grumble and complain; God responds with snakes
- The Bronze Snake
- Curious story of Balaam, prophet of God, and his talking donkey
- Balaam asked to curse the Israelites, but is instructed by God to bless them, which he does
- The Israelites disobey God and worship the Baals of Peor
- Jesus asked if he is the Messiah: "I am"
- Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry the cross for Jesus
- The two crucified with Jesus both insult him
- Centurion: "Surely this man was the Son of God"
- Joseph of Arimathea asks for Jesus' body; takes it down from the cross and puts it in a tomb prepared for himself (Joseph)
- Mary Magdalene, Mary the other of James, and Salome come to the tomb in the early morning hours of Sunday
- They see the stone rolled away, and "a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side of the tomb."
- The angel says to them: "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"
- Women flee: "They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid."
- Two additional endings to Mark, each added later, including the notorious snake handling verses

- Begin the third gospel: Luke
- Writer of Luke also wrote Acts
- Addresses “Theophilus”
- Gabriel comes to Zechariah to announce the birth of John the Baptizer: “he will go on in the spirit and power of Elijah...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”
- Gabriel comes to Mary; she responds “I am the Lord’s servant” and with her “Magnificat”
- John born first: “And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him”
- Mary gives birth to her “firstborn son”; Luke gives us the stable, the manger, and the shepherds; Matthew gives us the three Wise Men, but they find the baby Jesus in a “house”.
- Simeon: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”
- Psalm 53: “God looks down from heaven on all mankind...Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt...”
- Proverbs 11:7 - “Hopes placed in mortals die with them; all the promise of their power comes to nothing.”
- Proverbs 11:14 “For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisors.”