

Week 32: Aug. 11 (Aug. 4–Aug. 10)

- Chronicles reiterates the invasion by Nebuchadnezzar and the beginning of the Babylonian exile
- Quickly moves past the Exile to the restoration under Cyrus, king of Persia, who authorized the rebuilding of the Temple, and provides money and workers
- Begin the book of Ezra, which recounts the rebuilding of the Temple after the Babylonian Exile
- Rebuilding stops, then resumes under Darius, with Haggai and Zechariah the prophets
- Surprising demand from Ezra: “You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women...Now honor the Lord...and do his will. Separate yourselves from the people around you and from your foreign wives”
- Begin Paul’s next letter, First Corinthians: “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power”
- “We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”
- “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise...”
- “My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.”
- “What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us....We have the mind of Christ.”
- “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
- “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.”
- “The wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight”
- Paul is deeply concerned about the Corinthians’ “sexual immortality: “You must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister, but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard, or a swindler.”

- “The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?”
- “I have the right to do anything, you say - but not everything is beneficial”
- “The body is not meant for sexual immorality...Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?...Honor God with your bodies”
- Psalm 27 - “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life”
- Psalm 31:5 - “Into your hands I commit my spirit...”
- Proverbs 20:24 -- “A person’s steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their own way?”
- Proverbs 20:27 - “The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one’s inmost being.”
- Proverbs 20:29 - “The glory of young men is their strength, gray hair the splendor of the old”
- Proverbs 21:2 - “A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart”