

Week 17: April 28 (Apr. 21–Apr. 27)

- You have now read 1/3rd of the Bible; more 250,000 words! 👍
- Joshua nears the end of his life: “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”
- The covenant memorialized at Shechem with an “Ebenezer”
- Begin the book of Judges: following the death of Joshua, the people turn away from God, and turn back to their old ways.
- “Another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals.”
- “Then the Lord raised up ‘judges’”
- Among the judges, a woman: Deborah
- The gruesome story - well documented in paintings, though - of Sisera, Jael, and the tent peg
- Finally, an angel appears to Gideon to have him lead the Israelites.
- Gideon hesitates; asks for a sign - the wool fleece
- Sadducees ask Jesus about the resurrection; they don’t believe in resurrection (or angels), but the Pharisees believe in both
- “They are like angels. They are God’s children since they are children of the resurrection.” Jesus trying to goad the Sadducees?
- “Beware of the teachers of the law” - they are hypocrites
- “The widow’s mite”
- “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines, and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.” (21:10)
- “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”
- “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me....This cup is the new covenant of my blood, which is poured out for you.”
- Why does Jesus tell his disciples, “...if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one”?
- “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”
- An angel then “strengthens” Jesus, who is sweating as blood. But look carefully at the footnote
- Pilate: “I find no basis for a charge against this man”
- Simon of Cyrene is pressed to carry Jesus’ cross to Golgotha
- “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”

- To the penitent thief: “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
- Psalm 90:4 - “a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by...”
- Psalm 91:2 - I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”
- Psalm 93:1 “The world is established, firm and secure” - why did this verse cause trouble for Galileo? In the KJV, the verse is translated, “the world also is established, that it cannot be moved.”
- Psalm 95 - “Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. ...Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”
- Psalm 97 - “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.... Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.”
- Proverbs 13:20 - “Walk with the wise and become wise...”
- Proverbs 13:24 - “Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.”
- Proverbs 14:3 - “A fool’s mouth lashes out with pride”
- Proverbs 14:7 - “Stay away from a fool, for you will not find knowledge on their lips. The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways.”