

Week 27: July 7 (June 30–July 6) **SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS**

- Assyria invades from the north, deports Israelites to Assyria as punishment for their faithlessness and idolatry
- “They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless”
- Even sacrificed children
- Hezekiah as king (ca. 715-686 BCE) “did what was right in the eyes of the Lord”
- First mention of the prophet Isaiah, who prophesies that the Assyrians will be defeated by God
- One of Hezekiah’s most important achievements was running a tunnel to bring water into the inner part of Jerusalem. The tunnel is still there - you can walk through it
- Hezekiah’s son Manasseh succeeds him and reverts to evil; God not happy: “I will wipe out Jerusalem... and forsake the remnant of my inheritance...”
- Temple is renovated; during the work, the Book of the Law - Moses’ words, overlooked for centuries, is found
- Josiah the king reads the words to the people, who renew the Covenant
- The Passover had not been observed for centuries. Recall God’s words to his people through Moses: “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as...a lasting ordinance.” (Exodus 12:14/Jan. 31/p.99)
- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, begins his invasion; the Exile to Babylon begins **NEED YEAR**
- The Temple is burned to the ground; everything of value is looted
- Whatever happened to the Ark of the Covenant that had been in the Holy of Holies in the Temple? Is it really in a packing crate in a government warehouse in Herndon Virginia??
- We begin First Chronicles - repeats much of what we’ve read, but read carefully for differences in the history
- Paul traveled throughout Macedonia;
- Text switches again to “we”
- Paul talks and talks and talks; Eutychus the worse for it
- For Paul, “my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me— the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace”
- Note that Paul is not concerned with “conversion” or “saving”; he leaves that to God. Paul just testifies
- Urges those he leaves in charge to “be good shepherds” and not “distort the truth”

- Says he is quoting Jesus when he says, “It is more blessed to give than receive”. We do not have evidence of that quote in any other text
- Agabus predicts Paul’s death: “the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will...hand him over to the Gentiles” Paul is willing to die for his faith
- Paul arrives in Jerusalem, greeted by James, the leader of the Jewish Christians, who was Jesus’ brother
- Crowds are stirred up and Paul is beaten and then arrested
- Paul tries to convince the crowds of his sincerity as one trained as a Pharisee, but the high priest Ananias orders him to be hit. Paul erupts, “God will strike you, you white-washed wall...”
- Conspiracy among the Jewish leaders to kill Paul; he’s taken away for trial
- Claim: “He is ringleader of the Nazarene (not Nazarite) sect and even tried to desecrate the Temple. (blatant lies from the religious leaders)
- We begin the Psalms again
- Proverbs 18:13 - “To answer before listening— that is folly and shame”
- Proverbs 18:14 - “The human spirit can endure sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?”