

Week 31: Aug. 4 (July 28–Aug. 3)

- “They abandoned the Temple of the Lord...and worshiped Asherah poles and idols. Although the Lord sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him... they would not listen.”
- Finally, along comes Hezekiah to bring the people back to God
- “The hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the words of the Lord.”
- After Hezekiah, Hilkiyah, the priest, finds the Book of the Law that Israel had forgotten.
- Note who they turn to confirm the Book of the Law, “the prophet Huldah”, a woman.
- The king “read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the temple of the Lord.”
- Then the king “had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to the words of the covenant”
  
- “Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved.”
- “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”
- “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”
- “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”
- “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”
- “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
- “Share with the Lord’s people in need. Practice hospitality”
- “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. ...If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge...for it is written, ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay’”
- “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.” (From Proverbs 25:21/Oct. 18/p.988)
- “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”
- “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” Still true today??
- “Love your neighbor as yourself”
- “Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ”

- “None of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.”
- “Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.”
- “For the kingdom of God is...a matter of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
- “Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.”
- “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- Paul hopes eventually to take the Gospel all the way to Spain
- Paul has an undeserved reputation as a misogynist - note how many women he refers to in his greetings, beginning with Phoebe, “a deacon in the church in Cenchreae”
- “By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naïve people” - a problem that continues in the church
- Psalm 23 - “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...”
- Psalm 24:1 - “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”
- Psalm 25 - “In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. ...Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”