

Read Through the Old Testament

Daily Bible Reading Guide with Devotional Thoughts-and Prayer Starters © Pastor Frank Eckert

GET INTO IT ANYWAY YOU CAN!

FEBRUARY, YEAR B

(Recommended: READ summary BEFORE reading the Bible verses!)

☐ **February 1 Job 21: 1-34**

Reflect: Job attacks the basic criticism of his comforters. Experience proves that the wicked sometimes reach old age and grow mighty in power. The wicked often die unpunished and are eulogised as heroes. Virtue is often not rewarded.

Prayer: Father, though we cannot understand the riddle why some suffer and some don't we know that You will make all things work together for our good. Amen.

☐ **February 2 Job 22: 1-30**

Reflect: Eliphaz confronts Job with a list of "iniquities" for which he must be guilty if he is suffering like he is: Is Job a pitiless creditor; a man untouched by human misery; an unscrupulous land-hungry baron; an exploiter rather than a supporter of the helpless? Eliphaz urges him to confess his sins and make his peace with God.

Prayer: O God, turn us daily to You in faith that we may find peace with You. Amen.

☐ **February 3 Job 23: 1-17**

Reflect: Job resents the accusation about unconfessed crimes. He struggles with a paradox. He is afraid of God, yet longing to see Him; conscious of His presence, yet unable to find Him; assured of His absolute justice, yet sure of his own innocence.

Prayer: O Father, thank You for Your presence to empower our lives. Amen.

☐ **February 4 Job 24: 1-25**

Reflect: Job replies: God is responsible for letting crimes inundate society. God seems to do nothing about poverty, so that crimes are allowed to go unpunished. Zophar says, Though God's justice may be delayed, it finally never fails.

Prayer: Holy God, Your mills of justice grind slowly, but exceedingly sure. Amen.

☐ **February 5 Job 25 and 26**

Reflect: Bildad now says: No man, even "blameless" Job serves God "for nothing". Job is cornered into revealing some selfishness. His problem is that God uses His power indiscriminately for the wicked as well as for the good.

Prayer: O God, help us to believe that you are both just and gracious. Amen.

☐ **February 6 Job 27: 1-23**

Reflect: Job addresses some of the points of his miserable comforters. Under oath he declares his friends were not right when they claimed that His suffering could only be due to unconfessed sins. His misery is not evidence of some terrible guilt.

Prayer: O Lord, when we reel under grief, give us Your grace to trust in You. Amen.

☐ **February 7 Job 28: 1-28**

Reflect: Job's discourse now declares true wisdom means to look to God, not with slavish fear but with awesome respect and to depart from evil. We will not find the gem of priceless wisdom unless we seek it in God.

Prayer: O Jesus, give us wisdom that we may depart from evil and do good. Amen.

☐ **February 8 Job 29: 1-25**

Reflect: Job cannot understand why his God-fearing way of life did not continue to be rewarded by the benefits he once received in abundance. He had every reason to expect a long, peaceful existence on this earth, enjoying a close fellowship with God.

Prayer: Merciful Father, when things are going well, as we live in harmony with You and with people, for such joys make us humbly grateful to You. Amen.

☐ **February 9 Job 30: 1-31**

Reflect: "But now" he has lost everything: honour among men, physical well-being, fellowship with God, peace of mind. Job's agony is made the crueler by being stricken at the height of his powers. Now only cries of grief fill the air.

Prayer: Lord, help us when we had hoped for the best and got the worst. Amen.

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☐ **February 10** **Job 31: 1-40**

Reflect: Job is at a loss to account for the catastrophic changes in his life. He doesn't know the deal that God set up with Satan at the start. He claims there is no hidden sin in his past. So Job arrives at no solution for his problem.

Prayer: O Jesus, help us to know that You can use suffering for our good. . Amen.

☐ **February 11** **Job 32: 1-22**

Reflect: When Job's three friends gave no reply to his discourse, Elihu, a young man stepped forward from the circle of listeners, to improve on his elders. He undertook to prove Job in the wrong for claiming to be innocent. He rejects his elders.

Prayer: O Father, make us brave and respectful when speaking up for You. Amen.

☐ **February 12** **Job 33: 1-33**

Reflect: Elihu's speeches are aimed at correcting the basic flaw in Job's relationship to God. Because Job expected a reward for his piety, he ranted against God's dealing out of justice.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, may Your chastening lead us to daily repentance. Amen.

☐ **February 13** **Job 34: 1-37**

Reflect: Elihu continues to speak on God's behalf. When piety brought Job misery rather than the expected reward, he justified himself. Job's friends presumed to dictate to God how he should deal with evil doers. When fallible man dictates to God how to act in a given case, he must be charged with rebellion.

Prayer: Father God, we praise You for punishing Your Son for our sins. Amen.

☐ **February 14** **Job 35: 1-16**

Reflect: God accepts prayer when it comes from a heart of humble faith. Our plea for help turns into a song of thanks in the night. It was empty ranting for Job to say God did nothing about oppression.

Prayer: O Father, hear our cry for mercy and answer us, for Jesus sake. Amen.

☐ **February 15** **Job 36: 1-33**

Reflect: Elihu observes that God is mighty enough to enforce His will, wise enough to apply discipline. God's ultimate design is to bring men back to Himself. Job should regard his adversity as God's way of keeping him from destruction.

Prayer: O Christ, we praise You that You are just and wise in all your ways. Amen.

☐ **February 16** **Job 37: 1-34**

Reflect: God's masterpiece, the storm, vividly illustrates His divine power and wisdom. Thunder is God's voice, giving us an inkling of what it will be like when He comes in judgement. Job is not the plaything of a capricious, unprincipled monster. God is as good and as kind as He is mighty. Clothed with awesome majesty, He is about to speak out of a whirlwind. Because God is great in power and justice, Job is ill advised to rebel against Him.

Prayer: Loving Father, we glorify You that instead of punishing us for our sins, You placed on Your beloved Son Jesus, the burden of all our iniquities. Amen.

☐ **February 17** **Job 38: 1-41**

Reflect: God speaks to Job out of a whirlwind. He tries to convince Job that He who is shaping His life knows what He is doing. How foolish of Job then to instruct God as to what course his life should take. Why! Job cannot even begin to comprehend how the Creator put the universe together, and how He keeps it in running order.

Prayer: Inspire us, Lord, Manager of the Universe, to adore You and trust in You to take care of us even if You don't reveal to us the full meaning of suffering. Amen.

☐ **February 18** **Job 39: 1-30**

Reflect: God not only supplies the animals with food, but also implants in them the capacity to reproduce after their own kind. The magnificent description of the war-horse—its beauty, strength, speed and fearlessness, was to remind Job that this splendid animal was designed, structured and animated by a Creator whom Job did not credit with enough wisdom to direct his own affairs satisfactorily.

Prayer: Thank You, Father Almighty, we stand in awe of Your wondrous creative powers. We adore You for Your wisdom and Your care of all Your creatures. Amen.

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February 19

Job 40: 1-24

Reflect: God reproves Job for his failure to trust his Creator's omnipotence. Job cannot make law and order prevail everywhere. Nor can he make brute animals do his bidding. If he cannot domesticate Behemoth, the epitome of untamed animal life, he had better not criticise God. God rebukes Job's self-righteousness.

Prayer: Lord God, when we consider the great strength of some of Your creatures, we realise our own insignificance and we are moved to trust in You. Amen.



February 20

Job 41: 1-34

Reflect: Likewise, the Leviathan, a huge, crocodile-like animal, symbolising power beyond the control of man, but which like the chaotic sea is completely under the control of God. Job insisted that God repay him for his piety whereas God owes man including Job, nothing.

Prayer: Father, may we lovingly share with others what You entrust to us. Amen.



February 21

Job 42: 1-17

Reflect: Job turns from his overweening pride and repents in dust and ashes. He is content to let God whose purposes cannot be thwarted, carry out His will in His own unfathomable way. Job is reinstated as God's servant. He received again all his children and double the value of his earthly possessions. God accepted Job's prayers for his comforters who had become his tormenters.

Prayer: Lord, we do not know why You let us suffer by sometimes depriving us of what is most precious to us. But we thank You then for removing the test. Amen.



February 22

Ecclesiastes 1: 1-18

Reflect: The word "Ecclesiastes" means Preacher. In this Book, the Preacher boldly states a thesis, the universality of which he is going to demonstrate. All of man's toil is summed up in the words: "All is vanity", emptiness of emptiness. Solomon was in a position to test out everything on this earth in a bid to find satisfaction. But he came to the conclusion that the quest for true happiness in things earthly is fruitless.

Prayer: O God, no matter how we search we cannot find lasting happiness in things of this earth. Only in You, Jesus, can we fit the jigsaw puzzle of life together. Amen.



February 23

Ecclesiastes 2: 1-26

Reflect: Solomon tries earthly pleasure, earthly wisdom, and work. The Preacher advises: enjoy the work itself for this too is a gift from the hand of God. But don't make true contentment dependent upon the outcome of your labour.

Prayer: Lord God, enable us to focus our eyes on Jesus to find lasting joy. Amen.



February 24

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-22

Reflect: Between our first and our last breath, situations often develop over which we have no control. But when we raise our sights above things of earth and look to God who made all things, we see we are no longer victims of time or circumstance.

Prayer: We praise, O God, for choosing the right time and place for our good. Amen.



February 25

Ecclesiastes 4: 1-16

Reflect: A miser's wealth is a poor substitute for human companionship. A simple person working hard for riches and no one to share it with sacrifices companionship for wealth. Misers do not find real satisfaction in a lonely pursuit of things material.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to have the joy of partnership whenever possible. Amen.



February 26

Ecclesiastes 5: 1-20

Reflect: Turning from negative observations on human existence, the Preacher provides positive directives to be followed for man's relationship with God. He then adds advice on how to cope with a bad situation created by his fellowmen. In dealing with God, it's imperative to treat Him with holy awe. In worship, it's a sacrifice of fools to engage only in the outward motions of worship without the heartfelt resolve to conform one's life to God's will

Prayer: Merciful Father, put joy in our hearts as we occupy whatever time You give us, with thoughts and activities pleasing to You. Amen.

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February 27

Ecclesiastes 6: 1-12

Reflect: In the light of the previous advice, the Preacher considers the greatest evil is the inability to enjoy what God has given. In the ancient world, many children and long life were greatly valued. The one who has never experienced life's pain is most fortunate. It's better to be content with what one has than greedily to desire more.

Prayer: Lord God, we feel safe, for You hold our future in Your hands. With confidence, we entrust ourselves each day into Your keeping. Amen.



February 28

Ecclesiastes 7:1-29

Reflect: The Preacher proceeds to advise what one is to think about and do in a world where death terminates all things. Because life comes from the hand of God it makes sense to give serious thought to its brevity, to submit humbly to His providence, to avoid self-righteousness as well as wickedness, and to recognise there are some things beyond human comprehension.

Prayer: Father, we bow before You about the mysteries of human existence, awaiting the time when You will reveal to us what You want us still to know. Amen.