



SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 20

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

2 Chronicles 25
2 Chronicles 26
2 Chronicles 27
Psalms 77

If you like full cisterns brimming with fresh water, sleek herds grazing on your foothills, and soldiers who triumph even when outnumbered six to one, then Hannah has some advice for you (1 Sam. 2).

In today's reading, we see the theological heart of Hannah's song play out yet again in the lives of Judah's kings. Hannah's song celebrated humble trust in Yahweh based on his unstoppable power to overcome evil and rescue human life.

When David's descendants prioritize humility and faithfulness, they learn that Yahweh "watches over the feet of his godly ones" (1 Sam. 2:9).

Amaziah trusts Yahweh instead of mercenaries from the north and experiences a decisive victory. Uzziah (also called Azariah) seeks Yahweh and follows the priests' advice, leading to safety and Eden-like abundance.

When these kings start puffing themselves up with pride, which Hannah's song also talks about, they encounter a God who breaks the bows of the mighty (1 Sam. 2:4). Amaziah gets cocky and picks a fight with the north, ending in humiliating defeat. Uzziah struts into the temple and tries to do the priests' job, ending in permanent skin disease.

These case studies from the chronicler offer both encouragement and warning. The returned exiles may be a destitute people, oppressed by the Persians, but Yahweh "raises the poor from the dust ... and has them inherit a throne of honor" (1 Sam. 2:8).

Remember: Yahweh is a God who knows, and he will one day judge the ends of the earth. He will ultimately destroy all evil. And Yahweh is a God who raises the oppressed, restoring them to life and honor.

SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 21

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

2 Chronicles 28
2 Chronicles 29
2 Chronicles 30
2 Chronicles 31
Psalms 78

A new king takes the throne and sends the nation into a moral nosedive. To put it mildly, Ahaz creates a hellscape.

He fills the land of Judah with statues of Ba'al. He boards up Yahweh's temple and tears its furniture to pieces. He burns incense to foreign gods. He even sets up altars in the Valley of Ben Hinnom (on the southeast side of Jerusalem) and there sacrifices his own children as burnt offerings to idols!

Idolatry? Child sacrifice? This valley is hell on earth—literally. Today's video explains how the Valley of Ben Hinnom became known as the valley of gehenna, often translated as "hell."

After this atrocity, this valley is rendered cursed land. By the time of Jesus, it's worthless space used for throwing trash. It's always on fire to keep the trash pile controlled. An ever-burning trash heap just outside Jerusalem's city walls.

The monstrous disobedience of Ahaz contrasts starkly against the wholehearted faithfulness of his son, Hezekiah. We already had a positive impression of Hezekiah from the books of Kings and Isaiah. They highlighted Hezekiah's trust in Yahweh. Chronicles celebrates Hezekiah's care for the temple.

As soon as Hezekiah takes the throne, he reopens the temple doors and sends in a team of Levites to clean up the spiritual mess. It takes two weeks to scrub the stench of Ahaz's idolatry off the walls and furniture. Once Yahweh's sacred space sparkles again, Hezekiah throws a massive worship party to celebrate—sacrifices, music, the whole bit.



SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 21 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

2 Chronicles 28
2 Chronicles 29
2 Chronicles 30
2 Chronicles 31
Psalms 78

Things keep going uphill from there. A Passover celebration where both northern and southern kingdoms unite for a nationwide idol-smashing campaign. A tithe so generous that the leftovers pile up in heaps beside the temple. Extravagant blessings leap off the page. Is Hezekiah poised to turn this nation around?



SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 22

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

2 Chronicles 32
2 Chronicles 33
2 Chronicles 34
Psalms 79

The chronicler does not sugarcoat Judah's kings. He records the good, the bad, and the ugly. Today's reading covers four turbulent generations in David's line, with both successes and failures offering valuable lessons for future generations of God's people.

From Hezekiah, we learn that a life of faithfulness requires trust in Yahweh from start to finish. Hezekiah starts well, but when the fields around Jerusalem teem with cattle instead of Assyrian siege engines, Hezekiah begins to trust his overflowing treasuries instead of Yahweh. When illness tests the king's faith and ominous Babylonian diplomats visit town, Hezekiah stumbles further into the misguided belief that material wealth provides security now and hope for the future.

From King Manasseh, we learn that no matter how far a person strays, it's never too late to course correct. Idolatry, witchcraft, child sacrifice, temple desecration—if the Torah banned it, Manasseh did it. We know from the book of Kings that Manasseh's ruinous evil was the last straw for the Southern Kingdom. He brought it to utter destruction. But Chronicles adds a hopeful epilogue to his tragic story. Near the end of his life, Manasseh humbles himself before Yahweh and does his best to get the nation back on track.

With King Amon, Manasseh's son, we see Yahweh refusing to allow evil a permanent foothold. He exposes and eradicates it. Amon starts his reign with idolatry and injustice. Unlike his father, he refuses to change. Amon follows the road to ruin.



SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 22 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

2 Chronicles 32
2 Chronicles 33
2 Chronicles 34
Psalms 79

Amon's son, King Josiah, brings an unexpected, bright twist. Just a teenager, Josiah finds a Torah scroll during temple renovations. He gathers everyone at the temple to read the entire scroll aloud, then guides the whole Southern Kingdom to repentance.

We learn something in Josiah's story about the restorative power of God's instruction. This good story unfolds against a dark backdrop. Disaster is coming; Josiah knows it, and so do we. But there's still time for one more generation to choose life.



SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 23

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

2 Chronicles 35
2 Chronicles 36
Psalms 80

The point of no return has passed. Josiah led a solid season of nationwide repentance and some intense torah-guided resuscitation exercises. He got the people's hearts beating again, but Judah was too far gone. After Josiah's death, the people slip back into idolatry and injustice. The story of David's line ends in tragedy, exile, and widespread human suffering. As we know from the prophets and the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, exile would not be the end of Israel. The chronicler concludes his retelling of the TaNaK by focusing on Israel's return home from exile. The chronicler puts the book's final words on the lips of a foreign king. King Cyrus decrees, "Whoever there is among you of all his people, may Yahweh his God be with him, and let him go up."

Wait. Up where? Chronicles seems to end with an incomplete sentence, not to mention all kinds of incomplete promises.

Where's our snake crusher promised in Genesis 3:15, the seed of Eve, and later the son of Abraham who restores God's blessing to the world (Gen. 12:3, 18:18, 22:18)? Where's the better David who rules with divine wisdom and love to defeat evil once and for all? Where's the new temple, the dwelling place for Yahweh that overflows with holiness, the glorious space where God's Spirit rests in the world, the house of prayer whose doors open to welcome all nations?

It's the end of the Hebrew Bible, but the big story it has been telling continues. The chronicler reminds us of all these beautiful yet unfulfilled promises.



SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 23 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

2 Chronicles 35
2 Chronicles 36
Psalms 80

This scroll took us on a whirlwind ride through the whole TaNaK, from the radiant garden to the temple's smoking ruins. Humanity's heart-wrenching story makes us long for a way out of this mess—for someone to replace stone hearts with beating hearts of flesh and make God's broken world whole.

Watch today's video to learn about the promised messiah, anticipated by this chronicler and all the authors of the Hebrew Bible.

Hold tight, the long night is almost over. The sun's coming up.



SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 24

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1
Matthew 2
Psalms 81

Today's reading marks a turning point. After centuries of waiting, Jesus of Nazareth enters the scene. The world glimpses the story's climax. Watch the video to see how the New Testament carries forward the story of God's work to restore blessing to the world.

Matthew introduces Jesus with a genealogy that positions him as the person to whom Israel's story has been leading. Notice the three gentile women on the list. By naming Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth, Matthew foreshadows Jesus' inclusion of Gentiles. He recalls God's original promise to Abraham that through his family, which now includes Jesus, all the families (or "nations") of the world would be blessed (Gen. 12:2-3).

Also, by situating Jesus in King David's royal line, Matthew portrays Jesus as the long-anticipated divine king. Notice Matthew's subtle detail: Neither King Herod nor Jerusalem's rich and powerful receive gifts from the foreign magi. The magi honor and worship only Jesus as a new king. Pay attention to the hyperlinks between the events surrounding Jesus' birth and Israel's exodus from Egypt. King Herod, like Pharaoh, tries to thwart God's plan for Israel by mass-murdering baby boys (cf. Exod. 1:15-22), which forces a young family to hide their son (cf. Exod. 2:1-3). In an ironic twist, the angel commands Joseph to take Mary and Jesus down to Egypt for refuge!

They sojourn there for a time until Jesus, like Israel, can come out of Egypt and enter the promised land.



SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 25

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3
Matthew 4
Psalms 82

“The kingdom of Heaven is near!” claims the brazen, bug-eating preacher who draws crowds out of Jerusalem, into the wilderness. John’s fashion choices recall the prophet Elijah (2 Kgs. 1:8), and his words hyperlink to a web of Hebrew Bible passages. He’s anchoring a new claim with God’s proven words.

Evoking the garden of Eden story, John calls a group of religious leaders a “brood” or “seed” of snakes—it’s a warning. They are not bearing life-giving fruit but are, instead, producing poison. Then he borrows farming language from the psalms and prophets to essentially call them bad trees and agricultural waste, the worthless chaff. John is intense, but he’s not lying.

Then Jesus arrives. John baptizes Jesus, and the Spirit of God—appearing as something that looks like a dove—rests upon Jesus. A booming voice from the skies declares that Jesus is the Father’s beloved Son.

Jesus travels deeper into the wilderness to face a test. God gave Adam and Eve the same essential choice in Eden, where they rejected his good plan to trust the voice of another. From that point on, every human being made the same choice. Until Jesus.

Jesus breaks humanity’s predictable pattern. Rather than trusting the voice of another (the Satan), tempting him with the allure of immediate satisfaction, he stays faithful to God the Father’s will. Victorious, Jesus begins his ministry.



SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 25 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3
Matthew 4
Psalms 82

Notice how Adam and Eve's choice in the peaceful, life-giving garden resulted in exile, out into the life-taking wildlands where people return to dust. Matthew sees Jesus' feet in that dust, suffering in those wildlands and showing people the way back in. "The kingdom of Heaven is near!" Jesus' good choice to stay true to God's instruction becomes the way into God's peaceful, life-giving Kingdom. It's a victory over the Satan's cruel temptation and the start of Jesus' ministry.

Today's video previews Jesus' first big teaching block: What will Israel's long-awaited Messiah say to his people and the world?



SEPTEMBER 2026 | DAY 26

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5
Matthew 6
Psalms 83

Who is living the good life? According to Jesus, it's not who you'd expect. In the first part of this gospel, Matthew establishes a pattern of flipping things upside down. For instance, a king born in a manger or Jesus fleeing to Egypt, symbolic of slavery and death, for protection and freedom.

In today's reading, Jesus continues this motif. He reveals that the glorious, infinitely valuable Kingdom of God is good news for the poor and "not glorious" people, those society often overlooks or belittles.

In the Beatitudes, "blessed" means happy or flourishing—living the good life. These nine sayings fall into three themes: humility, justice, and peace. Where some might say the good life resides in muscles, microphones, and money, Jesus says it belongs to the mournful, meek, and merciful. Instead of belonging to those at the top of society, the Kingdom of God belongs to those who relate rightly with others and live humble lives in pursuit of justice and peace.

Watch today's video to explore the intricate design of the Sermon on the Mount and how Jesus speaks to every area of life.