

### Psalm 64, Luke 16-21 (#47) Revised 2022

Psalm 64— This psalm is a prayer of deliverance from David's foes. *While Psalm 63 concentrates on God, what is the focus of Psalm 64?*

**Luke 16**— This chapter challenges us about our attitude toward and use of material possessions, as He tells us the parable of the Dishonest Manager and the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus. The incompetent manager is found out and is about to be fired. In order to prepare for his future after losing his job, he dishonestly cut deals with his master's creditors and is commended by his master for his astuteness. Jesus warns us to be faithful stewards of our material possessions and not to make them a god. Jesus touches on marriage and divorce (vv. 1-18). Our Lord ends the chapter with a story about a selfish rich man and a beggar named Lazarus who was sitting at his gate. Both of them died, and Lazarus went to Abraham's side, and the rich man was in torment in Hades (vv. 19-31). *What does the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus teach us about the afterlife? #7 p. 1506 Why would a loving God send people to hell?*

**Luke 17**— For the third time in the book of Luke, it says that Jesus and those with Him are "traveling to Jerusalem" on His last journey (v. 11). The topics covered in His teaching are varied. We are not to cause others, including little ones, to sin. If someone sins against us, we are to forgive them even up to seven times a day. We will do great things for God if we even have the faith the size of a mustard seed. We are to obey our master with a servant's heart and not expect extra praise (vv. 1-10). Ten lepers are healed but only one, a Samaritan, returns with a heart of gratitude (vv. 11-19). In answer to the question by the Pharisees, Jesus talks about the coming of the kingdom of God, His present kingdom, and His second coming to earth (vv. 20-37). *What attitudes should His followers have when they serve Christ (vv. 7-10)?*

**Luke 18**— Jesus tells a parable of the Persistent Widow in order to encourage His flock to always be praying, knowing that God the Father, unlike the evil judge, will swiftly grant justice to His elect (vv 1-8). He then gives a parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, showing that not pride and self-righteousness, but humility and repentance, lead to salvation (vv. 9-14). Jesus encourages the little children to come to Him, and He teaches that we must approach Him like a little child. The rich young ruler comes to Jesus to find out how to inherit eternal life, and Jesus tells him that the one thing he lacks is to sell everything he has, give it to the poor, and follow Him (vv. 15-29). Preparing His disciples for His impending death, Jesus privately tells them He will soon suffer, die, and be raised again the third day, but they don't understand it. Drawing near to Jericho, a blind beggar cries out to Jesus to have mercy on him and he receives his sight (30-42). *1. What does the parable of the Persistent Widow teach us about prayer and God the Father? Do we really believe this? 2. In the meeting of Jesus and the rich young ruler, answer the following questions; (1) what did Jesus mean by, "Why do you call me good? No one is good—except God alone," (2) What commandments were the rich young ruler continually breaking? and (3) Do we have to sell all in order to have eternal life?*

**Luke 19**— While Jesus and His team pass through Jericho, He finds a short tax collector by the name of Zacchaeus in a sycamore tree trying to see Him. Upon seeing him in the tree, Jesus invites Himself to lodge at his home, and Zacchaeus joyfully accepts and is drastically changed because of His visit (vv. 1-10). As the whole group was nearing Jerusalem, they all thought this was the time for Jesus to take charge as Messiah and free Israel from Rome's tyranny. Jesus tells them a parable about a nobleman who would not immediately take over the kingdom, but would go away and leave his 10 servants each with a mina (3 month's wage). Upon his return after receiving the kingdom, the servants had to give account of their investment to the king (vv. 11-27). This last week before His death, Jesus enters into great conflict with the religious leaders who do everything possible to find a way to kill Him. Jesus mounts a young donkey, crosses the Mount of Olives, and comes into Jerusalem with the shouts and praises of the people. Jesus weeps over the city knowing what would happen to it because of their rejection of Him. Arriving at the temple complex, He throws out those selling animals (vv. 28-48). *1. What can we learn from Jesus on how to evangelize from the story of Zacchaeus? 2. As a King's servant, you have been given resources to use in Christ's kingdom. What resources do you have, and how should you invest them for the kingdom?*

**Luke 20**— Jesus is in His last few days before the cross, and so the chief priests, scribes, and elders join in with the Pharisees to do everything possible to kill Him. Jesus refuses to respond to them when asked what His source of authority was. He gives them the parable of the Evil Farmers, and they understand He is talking about them, and they are extremely angry (vv. 1-19). Now, even more offended and anxious to arrest Him, they try to trap Him in His own words by asking Him if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not. Jesus amazed them with His answer (vv. 20-26). Then the Sadducees who reject the resurrection give Him a hypothetical case of a woman whose seven husbands died one right after the other. “In the resurrection, whose wife will the woman be?” Jesus made it clear that there would be no marriage in resurrection and then cited Moses to prove there was a resurrection. Then Jesus turns on the religious leaders asking them a difficult question about the relationship of David and the Messiah from Psalm 110:1 (vv. 27-47). *In verses 41 to 44, what was Jesus teaching them about the Messiah? #7 p.1511 Extra Question: What kind of authority did the priests and teachers respect and think Jesus should have had (verse 2)?*

**Luke 21**— The poor widow is credited by Jesus for her generosity because although she has only two small coins, she gave them to the temple offering. Jesus predicted the time when the temple would be destroyed. A person asked about what would be the sign when these things are about to take place. Jesus then talks about future events that will happen before His second coming. He talks about future wars, horrible acts of nature, and also great persecution for His followers as they valiantly testify for Him. Jesus then says He will come when we see signs in the sun, moon, and stars and anguish on earth among the nations. Jesus then tells the parable of the fig tree and the other trees. He then gives a warning to be alert for the great judgment that comes to all who live on the earth. *What is the “times of the Gentiles” mentioned in verse 24?*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups- c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible, c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible, c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion, c. 2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc., Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible, c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Halley’s Bible Handbook, c. 2000, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Understanding the Bible c. 2000 Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Homan Bible Handbook, c. 1992 Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 13. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014 Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL.

## Psalm 65-66, Luke 22-24, Judges 1-3 (#48) Revised 2022

**Psalm 65**— This is a song of David about God’s sovereignty, majesty, and goodness. *What would you consider to be the greatest attribute or work of God mentioned in this Psalm?*

**Psalm 66**— The psalmist rehearses the Lord’s great miracles for Israel in this song of praise and adoration to God. *How does the tone of this psalm shift in the final stanzas (vv 16-20)?*

**Luke 22**— The Jewish leaders had determined that they must get rid of Jesus because He was becoming more and more confrontational about their evil practices. They are overjoyed that Judas was breaking rank and willing to betray the Lord. Jesus sends Peter and John to go and prepare for the Passover in a large upper room (vv. 1-13). Jesus inaugurates the Lord’s Supper with His disciples and points out that one of them will betray Him. Our Lord corrects the disciples on their dispute about who is the greatest among them, but assures them they will eat and drink at His table in the kingdom (vv. 14-30). Jesus tells Peter of his denial of Him, but Peter can’t believe he would do such a thing. Leaving the upper room, Jesus brings His disciples to the Mount of Olives where He prays that, if the Father wills, He will take away this cup of suffering from Him. Awaking His disciples, Judas and the mob come to arrest Jesus and take Him away to the high priest’s house where Peter denies that he knows Jesus, and the temple guards mock and beat Him. Upon hearing from Jesus that He is the Son of God, the Jewish leaders have the evidence they need to accuse Him of blasphemy, and then bring Him to Pilate (vv. 31-71). *What ungodly or worldly attitudes do you see in the disciples in this chapter? See verses 23-46. Extra Question: What are the three interpretations of the meaning of the commemoration of the Lord’s Supper in the Christian church? What do you believe, and why do you believe it? #3 p. 1743*

**Luke 23**— The assembly of Jewish leaders take Jesus to Pilate accusing Him of subverting the nation, but neither Pilate nor Herod Antipas can find any grounds to charge Him (vv. 1-16). Pilate tried to liberate Jesus, offering to release Him instead of the evil Barabbas, but religious leaders would have none of it. Because of the continual cries of the mob to crucify Jesus, Pilate gave Him over to their will and delivered Him up to be crucified (17-25). As Jesus was led away towards the place called “The Skull”

(Golgotha/Calvary), He speaks to the women who are mourning His crucifixion. Jesus is hanged between two criminals and forgives those who participated in His crucifixion. Some were taunting Him to come off the cross and save Himself if He truly was the Messiah. Jesus promised one criminal that he would be with Him in paradise that very day after giving his request to remember him when Jesus comes into His kingdom (vv. 26-43). At three in the afternoon, after three hours of darkness, Jesus cries with a loud voice and dies. Joseph of Arimathea asks Pilate for the body of Jesus and hurries to wrap Him in fine linen, and place Him in the tomb before the Sabbath begins at sundown (vv. 44-56). *As we meditate on the story of the criminal (thief) that believed on Jesus, what lessons are we taught about salvation and forgiveness? Extra Question: What did Jesus mean by the words (verse 31), "For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when the wood is dry?"*

**Luke 24**— The bleakness and blackness of Christ's death on Friday is gradually transformed into extreme joy and celebration upon the discovery that Jesus had risen from the dead. As the women of Galilee go to the tomb early Sunday morning to prepare His body, two angels announce to them the resurrection of Jesus. The women return to the apostles to tell them the good news, but their words seemed like nonsense to them (vv.1-12). As two of the disciples head home to the village of Emmaus for the evening, Jesus began to walk along with them without them recognizing Him. Their hearts burn within them as He unfolds the Old Testament scriptures about the need of the Messiah to suffer and die. After their eyes were opened as to who Jesus was, he disappeared from their sight, and they returned to the apostles in Jerusalem (vv. 13-35). Jesus then appears to the whole group in the upper room showing them the marks of His crucifixion, and opening up to them their understanding of the scriptures concerning His suffering, resurrection, and their mission to proclaim the gospel (vv. 36-53). Part two of this book is to be continued by Luke as the book of Acts. *1. Why is the resurrection of Jesus the key to our faith? 2. How was the resurrected body of Jesus the same as our body, and how was it different?*

**Judges**— The book of Judges is a record of Israel’s failures and God’s faithfulness. After the death of Joshua and the elders, there was no centralized government so that each tribe did what they wanted, and the people quickly fell into sin and apostasy. The Key text is Judges 21:25, “In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” A simple outline for the events in the book of Judges could be given in four words; sin, suffering, sorrow, and salvation. There was a repeated cycle of turning away from the Lord, and so God turned them over to their enemies. When the people cried out to the Lord in repentance for their sin, God would raise up a judge to deliver them from their oppressors. There are twelve different judges God raised up during this period of 325 years beginning after the death of Joshua until the anointing of King Saul. As we read the lives of the Judges, we learn about how God can use imperfect men and women, and then change them into mighty people of God when they trust Him.

**Judges 1**— The beginning of the book of Judges seems very promising with the Israelites inquiring of the Lord about who should be the first to fight against the Canaanites. The Lord says, “Judah is first to go. I have handed the land over to them.” Judah and Simeon record victory after victory that the Lord gave them until we read these words in verse 19, “but they could not drive out the people who lived in the valley because these people had iron chariots.” In verses 12 to 20 Caleb shows himself to be an incredible man of faith and obedience, and so his son-in-law Othniel becomes Israel’s first judge. Because of Israel’s incomplete obedience in not driving out all the Canaanites from the land, there were few victories after that, and the best they could do was to make some of the enemies serve as forced labor. From verse 19 until verse 36 it says often, “they failed to drive out the Canaanites who were living in their land.” Verse 19 says, *The Lord was with Judah.*” Verse 22 says, *the house of Joseph also attacked Bethel, and the Lord was with them.*” Why is it important that the Lord is with us, and what are the prerequisites for Him to be with us?

**Judges 2**— So serious was their sin of disobedience that the Angel of the Lord appeared and declared to them that they He will no longer drive out the Canaanites before them, but that they will be thorns in their sides (vv. 1-5). These sad words are recorded in verse 10b, “Another generation rose up who did not know the Lord or the works He had done for Israel.” The rest of the chapter describes Yahweh burning in anger against Israel for following and worshipping the gods of the Canaanites. When they suffered greatly because of the sin of abandoning the one true God, they cried out to the Lord, and He raised up judges to save them from their enemies. The cycle of disobedience, discipline, despair, and deliverance continues on throughout the book (vv. 6-23). *How was it possible that a whole generation rose up who did not know the Lord? How does this speak to our generation?*

**Judges 3**— God left the other inhabitants in the land to test Israel and to teach them war. However, because of their idolatry and intermarriage with the Canaanites, God judged His people (vv.1-7). The Spirit of the Lord came upon Othniel and through him, the Lord won the battle. Othneil judges Israel for 40 years (vv. 8-11). Again, because of their evil, God sends Eglon, the king of Moab, and Israel serves him for 18 years. After crying out to the Lord, God raises up Ehud, the left-handed Benjaminite to deliver them. After killing Eglon with his sword, Ehud rallies the troops to conquer Moab and gives Israel 80 years of peace. While Israel was opposed by Moab on the east of Jordan, the Philistines menaced Israel on the west so that God sends the third judge, Shamgar, who struck down 600 Philistines with an ox goad (vv. 12-31). *Why did God test Israel and want them to learn warfare? How is God testing you now in your life?*

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### Psalm 67-68, Judges 4-9 (#49) Revised 2022

**Psalm 67**— This psalm begins with a popular benediction and continues with requests for His power and majesty to be made known to the world. *Take some time to consider each “Let” or “May” in the Psalm. Does anything stand out to you?*

**Psalm 68**— This is a song of David anticipating God’s coming judgment and comparing that to the Exodus and conquest of Canaan. *David rejoices in the thought of God’s future judgment of mankind. Why is this significant?*

**Judges 4**— Again, the Israelites did what was evil in the Lord’s sight, so God raised up an enemy called Jabin, who reigned in Hazor, with Sisera being the commander of his forces. This time God uses a woman by the name of Deborah who is a prophetess and a judge. She summons Barak to go lead an army of 10,000 from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun against Jabin. Barak says he won’t go unless Deborah goes with him into battle. Deborah agrees but says that because of his unwillingness to lead the battle without her, the glory of the victory will go to a woman. The Lord threw Sisera and all his charioteers into confusion. Sisera’s army was destroyed by the army of Barak, and the victory is won. Sisera flees the battle scene and ends up at the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. While he is sleeping in her tent, Jael kills Sisera so that Deborah’s prophesy is true that a woman receives the glory in this battle. *Why do you think Barak insisted that Deborah go along with him to the battle?*

**Judges 5**— This is a victory song of Deborah, who praises Yahweh for His mighty intervention in the battle of Israel with Jabin, the king of the Canaanites, and with Sisera, the commander of his forces. As the Lord was faithful to fulfill His covenant by unifying the brave army from Zebulun and Issachar under Barak, He was also faithful to fight for Israel by sending a powerful storm to flood the river Kishon, thus engulfing the chariots and horses and throwing Sisera’s army into great confusion. Reuben, Gilead (Gad or Manasseh), Dan, and Asher refused to help in the battle. As predicted by Deborah, the culmination of this great battle happened when a woman by the name of Jael triumphs over the mighty warrior. *What might have been the reasons or motives why Jael turned against her husband’s friend and killed him?*



**Judges 6**— We come to the story of Gideon which extends over three chapters and gives us great spiritual lessons for our lives. Israel again enters a time of sin and disobedience, and so God hands them over to the Midianites, thus finding out that serving Baal and other gods brings them into bondage and poverty. So finally, the people cry out to Yahweh, and He sends a prophet to reprove them and a mighty warrior to lead them into victory. The angel of the Lord appears to Gideon to show His power and promise His presence. Gideon makes excuses why he thinks God has chosen the wrong person, but little by little becomes convinced of God's calling for him. In his first act of bravery, he tears down the altar of Baal and cuts down the Asherah pole beside it, showing they must only worship Yahweh. Still fearful of going to battle, Gideon asks God for more convincing evidence by putting out the fleece of wool, and so God gives him two visible signs. *In verses 33 to 40, Gideon asks for a sign. Was Gideon right for asking for a sign? Should Christians put out a fleece (ask God for signs) to seek God's will in a matter?*

**Judges 7**— The story of Gideon's 300 men was learned by many of us in church as a child and has been transformational as we meditate on its truths. In order to get the glory for the victory, God reduces the army of Israel from 32,000 to 300 (vv. 1-8). As Gideon contemplates fighting against an army of 135,000 Midianite soldiers with his valiant 300 men, the Lord strengthens his faith by allowing him to overhear a dream of a soldier in the Midianite camp (vv. 9-14). The 300 men surrounded the Midianite camp in groups of 100 men and shouted in unison, "the sword for the Lord and for Gideon." As they blew their trumpets and shattered their pitchers with their torches blazing, the Midianite army turned their swords on each other (vv. 15-23). Ephraim is called out and captures the two princes of Midian, Oreb, and Zeeb (vv. 24-25). *By God reducing his army from 32,000 to 300, what important lesson was God teaching Gideon? How does this apply to today's success-oriented, "bigger is better" culture? #1 p.332.*

**Judges 8**— Gideon is in hot pursuit of the Midianites with his 300 men. Even though Israel was still outnumbered 50 to 1 after the death of 120,000 men of the army of Midian, Gideon and his men attacked

them and captured their two kings, Zebah and Zalmunna. Gideon humbled the cities of Succoth and Peniel which taunted him instead of giving his army bread at a time when they were fatigued. After the victory Gideon refuses to be king, but then lives like one and names his illegitimate son “Abimelech”, which means “my father is king.” Although Gideon made an ephod which was a snare to them, Israel did not worship Baal during the time Gideon was still living. *Why was Gideon such an outstanding leader and national hero?* #10 p.37.

**Judges 9**— As we read this chapter about Abimelech, we are reminded of the key verse of Judges, “every man did that which was right in his own eyes (21:25b).” “This is an extended account of Abimelech’s violent grab for power. The seeds of offense are found in Israel’s continuing apostasy, in its request for a warrior-king and rejection of the Lord, and in his father Gideon’s misdeeds and mistakes.” #5 p. 454. Abimelech makes himself ruler and king, and then kills all but one of his seventy brothers with the help of the people of Shechem. Gideon’s remaining son Jotham, who was able to escape, gives a parable and predicts the doom of Shechem. After three years of ruling the cities of Shechem and Thebez, the Lord caused great conflict between Abimelech and the cities, with the ensuing bloodshed and horrible deaths. Finally, Abimelech is killed by a woman who dropped a millstone on his head from the top of the tower. *After reading the final outcome of the people of Shechem and Abimelech, what does this story teach us about God?*

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