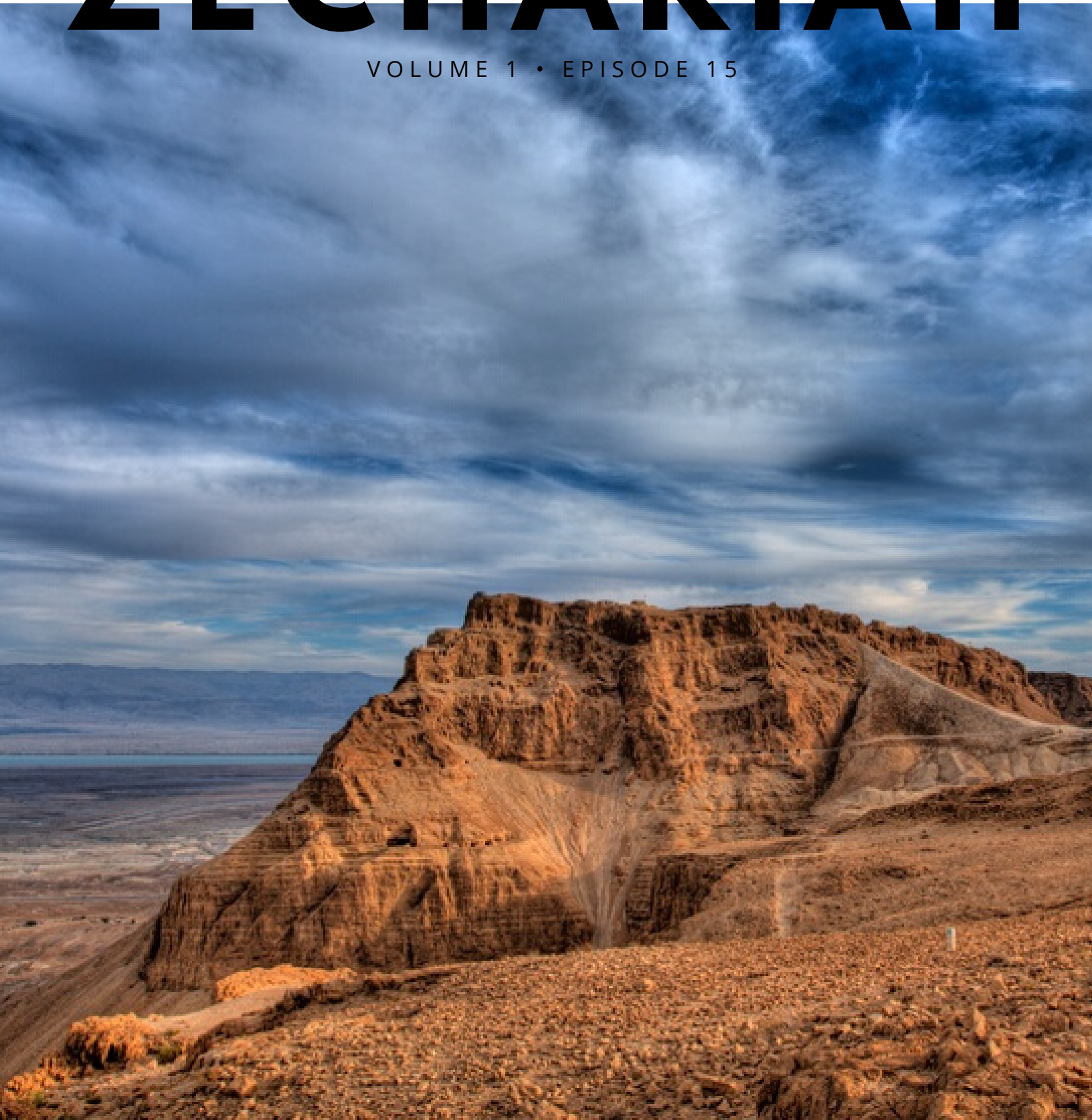


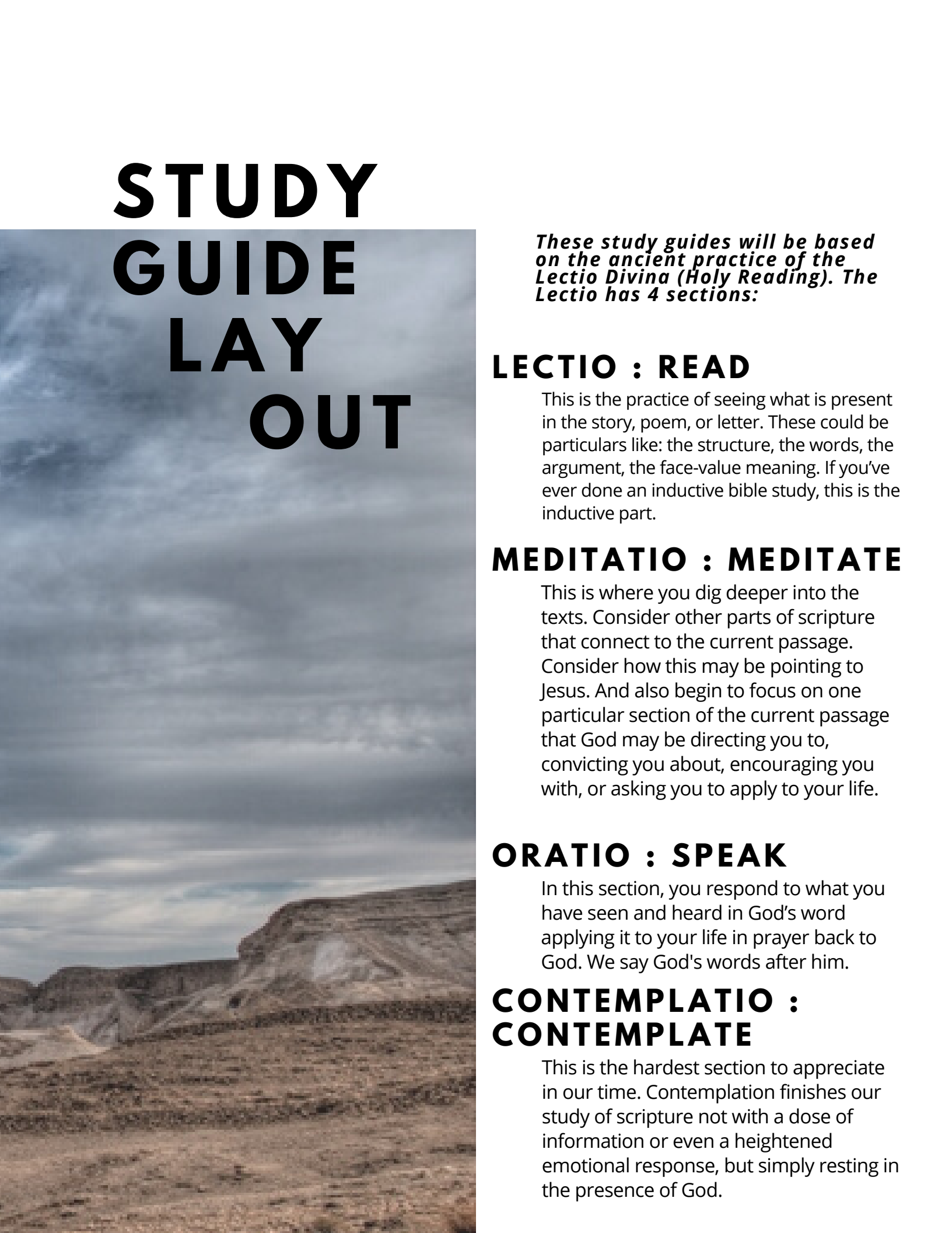


ALL SAINTS
PRESBYTERIAN

ZECHARIAH

VOLUME 1 • EPISODE 15





STUDY GUIDE LAY OUT

These study guides will be based on the ancient practice of the Lectio Divina (Holy Reading). The Lectio has 4 sections:

LECTIO : READ

This is the practice of seeing what is present in the story, poem, or letter. These could be particulars like: the structure, the words, the argument, the face-value meaning. If you've ever done an inductive bible study, this is the inductive part.

MEDITATIO : MEDITATE

This is where you dig deeper into the texts. Consider other parts of scripture that connect to the current passage. Consider how this may be pointing to Jesus. And also begin to focus on one particular section of the current passage that God may be directing you to, convicting you about, encouraging you with, or asking you to apply to your life.

ORATIO : SPEAK

In this section, you respond to what you have seen and heard in God's word applying it to your life in prayer back to God. We say God's words after him.

CONTEMPLATIO : CONTEMPLATE

This is the hardest section to appreciate in our time. Contemplation finishes our study of scripture not with a dose of information or even a heightened emotional response, but simply resting in the presence of God.

A JOURNEY OF PRAYER

As Christians, we truly believe that God speaks through His Word. It's alive because Jesus is alive. We also believe that God is present in and through the scriptures. Furthermore, as God's present Spirit breathes in us--the church--the near presence of Jesus is known in reading and hearing scripture. Listen to the story of Jesus.

The final section of the Lectio Divina (Contemplatio), consequently practices stillness in the presence of the Lord, resting in the knowledge of His attention and care of you. Trust God speaking his word. Let your soul wait in stillness on the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May God bless you as you study His word.



**READ | MEDITATE | PRAY |
CONTEMPLATE**

“Contemplative prayer is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us.’ Contemplative prayer seeks him ‘whom my soul loves’. It is Jesus, and in him, the Father. We seek him, because to desire him is always the beginning of love, and we seek him in that pure faith which causes us to be born of him and to live in him. In this inner prayer our attention is fixed on the Lord himself.” – Teresa of Avila



LECTIO: READ

- What names does God use to address the people? What names does he use to talk about the city? Why does he use these different names?
- What name is used for God? How do these names evoke the sense that God is personal?
- Since God is a personal person, shouldn't it follow that he has emotion? Why is the LORD of Hosts described as being jealous three times over?
- Remember that "LORD" is printed in CAPS because the translators want us to read-in the personal name of the God of the Bible: "I am" or transliterated, "Yahweh." How is this personal name related to v8's words, "They shall be my people and I will be there God."?
- What do you learn about God's character from hearing three times that he is "jealous" in conjunction with when he says, "I have returned..." in v3?
- Is it important that the city be faithful, upon God's return? Why or why not?
- How else is the city characterized? What is significant about the elder men & women and the younger boys & girls.
- In seeing a vision of how God will save (v13), what is implied in the reciprocal duty that Israel "...will be a blessing."?
- Why do you think Zechariah quotes the words of Hagaii, "Let your hands be strong."?

MEDITATIO : MEDITATE

- Where else in scripture is God jealous for his people? How does God rescue Israel out of slavery in Egypt? What is the first thing that Moses brings to the people to announce the coming freedom from slavery? What does he want Moses ask to know about God?
- Think on what you know about covenants in scripture. Remember God's covenant with Adam in Gen 2:16, Noah in Gen 8:20, Abraham in Gen 15, Israel in Exod 24. What are stipulation general and specific to ANE covenants?
- What does the image that there "will be a sowing of peace" help us understand about Jesus' words that "A seed must fall to the ground and die in order to bear fruit."?
- What about Zechariah's vision has already been fulfilled: after Israel came back from exile, after Jesus being born and returning to the Father, and after pentecost? What has not yet been fulfilled?

ORATIO : SPEAK



- How does this vision of people & agriculture prospering help shape AND/OR cause you to view your experience of Covid-19 quarantine differently? Does it remind you of the increased human interaction in neighborhoods? Or does it make you anxious that, in order to prosper in God's kingdom, means to be in the populated presence of others? How do we do that during quarantine?
- How does Israel's experience of return from exile, into a new normal, help you to consider what new life, after quarantine, will be like?
- Who has been a blessing to you during isolation and loneliness prompted by shelter-in-place? How have you shown your gratitude to them and to God: Father, Son, Spirit? To whom have you been a blessing?

CONTEMPLATIO : CONTEMPLATE

Set your clock for 5-10mins. And simply rest in the presence of God, attentive to His presence to you and with you IN Jesus, his Word made flesh, and by the Holy Spirit.

Use this prayer from Psalm 62 to focus your attention upon Christ:

“For you alone O Lord, my soul waits in silence.”

Spend the time in silence.

You may conclude with The Lord's Prayer or:

“Lord Jesus, Son of God have mercy on me a sinner.”

