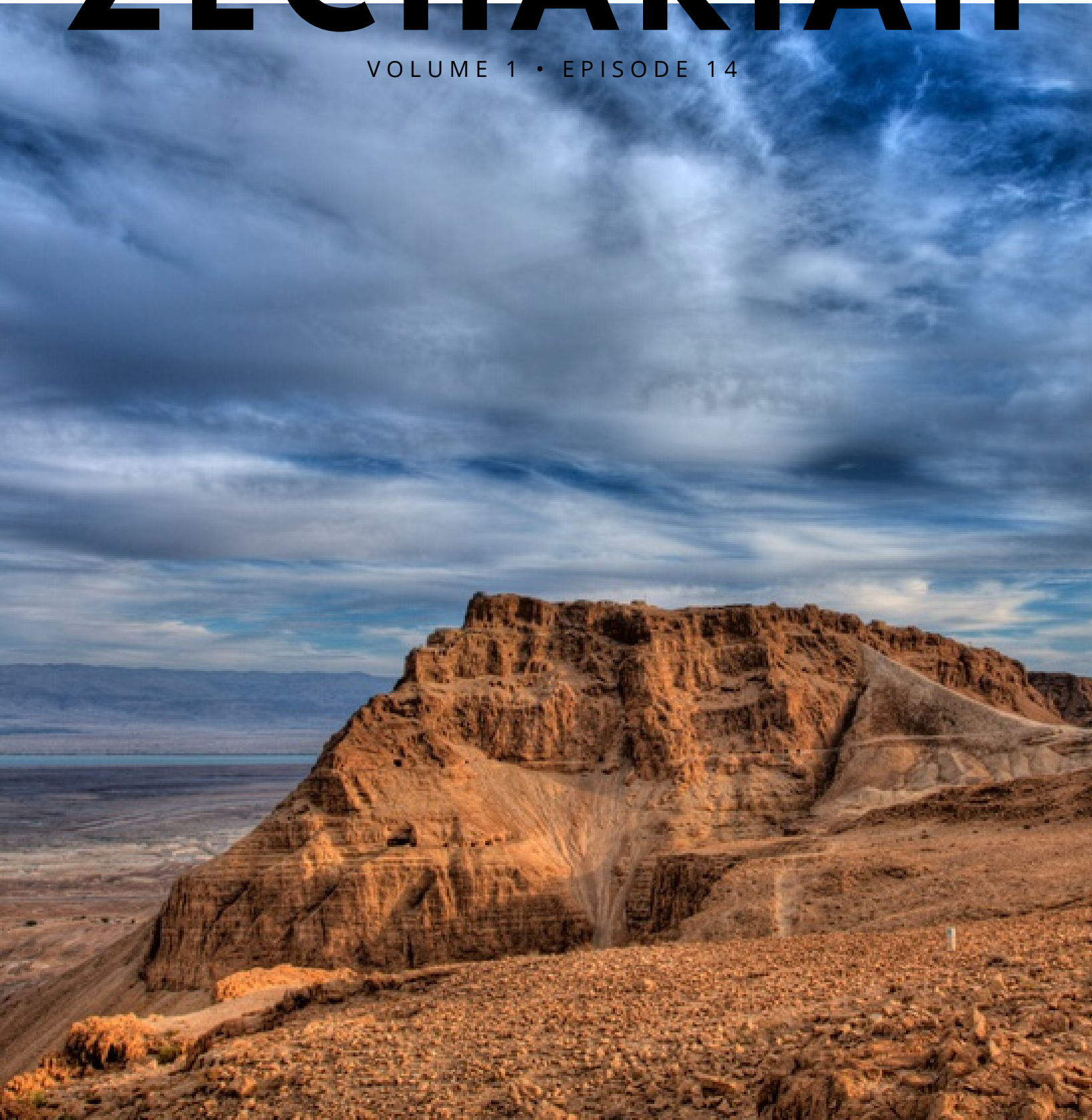





ALL SAINTS  
PRESBYTERIAN

# ZECHARIAH

VOLUME 1 • EPISODE 14





# 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

- vv7 & 12 mention the, "Former prophets." Who are the former prophets? What continuity do they have with Zechariah's prophecy? How does God send his Word and law?
- What does fasting and feasting have to do with v11's "Pay attention..."?
- In the same way we see Jesus question questions, The Lord of Hosts asks the following: "Was it for me that you fasted?" And when you eat, "Do you not eat for yourselves?" What does God want from us? In the end, should the folks who came from Bethel to ask the question about fasting resolve to fast or feast now that the temple is being rebuilt?
- Who are "They" in vv11--12? Pay close attention to who is speaking in those verses.
- What's significant about this cohort coming from Bethel? Which kingdom does the city belong to?
- Why might it be good for the people to fast during the 5th month? What were the people mourning? How does that answer help you understand why the LORD asks about fasting in the 7th month? In other words, what does mourning for the temple have to do with mourning for reform prophesied by Jeremiah?
- What happened to the prophecy, "Return to me and I will return to you," when the LORD says, "They called and I would not hear."?

# MEDITATIO : MEDITATE

- Re-read Zech 1 and 7. Compare these two introductory chapters of what we're calling Section 1 (1--6) and Section 2 (7--14). What's similar and different?
- What questions about fasting does Jesus answer? What about when he eats grain from a field with his disciples and he's accused of breaking Sabbath fast?
- What happens in Gen 27--28 that leads Jacob to stop for the night at the place he later names Bethel? What kingdom did that place belong to?
- Read Matthew 15:21--28. What is this woman hungry for? Why does Jesus allow her to name herself as a dog who might get scraps? Would she have been allowed in temple worship?
- Who is Gedaliah? What's his relationship to the prophet Jeremiah (Jer 41:1--3)?

# ORATIO : SPEAK



- What does Jesus say about those who hunger and thirst for righteousness or life with God? Have you ever purposed to deprive yourself of food, drink, or media and found yourself hungry for God? What did you learn about God from this experience?
- How do you express thankfulness and gratitude for God when you feast on exercise, time with family and friends, shopping, or food & drink?
- How does need and thankfulness help us understand repentance? How do we give thanks not *for* pandemic but *through* it? How should we lament, fast, and hunger while Covid19 attacks people?

# 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.”

