

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Olivet Discourse and the Themes of God's Presence, Judgment, and Hope

Day 1: The Danger of Judging by Outward Appearance

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Devotional: The disciples marveled at the temple's impressive stones while missing the corruption rotting at its core. God reminded Samuel that man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. This is both a warning and an invitation. A warning because we are all prone to performing righteousness rather than pursuing it. An invitation because God is not fooled by polished exteriors. He sees every hidden corner of the heart. Before him, nothing is concealed. The proper response is not despair but honest repentance. Come before him today with full transparency, and let him do what only he can do -- bring order to what is broken within you.

Day 2: When God Leaves, Chaos Follows

Reading: Ezekiel 10:1-22

Devotional: Ezekiel's vision of God's glory departing from the temple is one of the most sobering passages in all of Scripture. It was not the Babylonian army that ultimately destroyed Jerusalem -- it was the departure of God's presence that left the city exposed. The same pattern appears throughout Scripture. Where God is welcomed, there is order, flourishing, and peace. Where he is rejected, chaos fills the void. This is not merely ancient history. It is a living principle. Examine your own life, your home, your priorities. Have you quietly shown God to the margins? Invite him back to the center, and watch what only his presence can restore.

Day 3: Endurance in a World That Hates the Name of Christ

Reading: Matthew 10:16-28

Devotional: Jesus did not promise his followers comfort or cultural acceptance. He promised that they would be hated for his name's sake, dragged before authorities, and betrayed even by family. Yet woven through that sobering reality is a steady thread of hope -- the one who endures to the end will be saved. Endurance is not gritting your teeth and surviving. It is clinging to Christ through every season of difficulty, trusting that he who called you is faithful to complete what he began. Whatever pressure you are facing today for your faith, do not shrink back. The one who sees in secret will reward openly.

Day 4: The Prince of Peace in the Midst of Chaos

Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Devotional: Isaiah wrote these words in a time of national darkness, foreign threat, and spiritual confusion. Into that darkness, God promised a child -- a son whose government would never end, whose peace would have no limit, and whose names would declare the fullness of who he is: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. This is the Jesus who entered Jerusalem, cleansed the temple, and wept over a city that would not receive him. He is the same Jesus who stands ready to bring order to every corner of chaos in your life. His zeal will accomplish it. Your only task is to stop kicking him out.

Day 5: Stay Awake -- The Return of the King

Reading: Revelation 19:11-16; Mark 13:32-37

Devotional: Jesus closed the Olivet Discourse with a single urgent command -- stay awake. The master is coming, and no one knows the hour. The first time Jesus descended the Mount of Olives, he came on a donkey, as a lamb led to slaughter. The next time, he will come on a white horse, as the conquering Lion of Judah. For the believer, that day is the best day imaginable. For those who have rejected him, it will be the most terrifying. Live today in light of that coming day. Pursue holiness. Share the gospel. Keep your lamp burning. The King is at the very gates.