

Morning Watch Readings

2018

OCTOBER



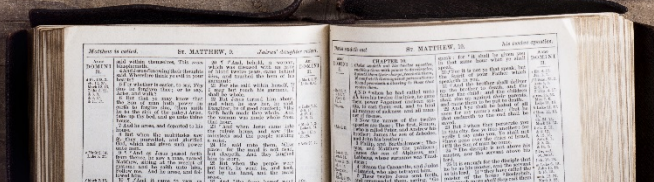
This Morning Watch Calendar follows the
Believe
His Prophets

Daily Bible Reading Guide.

Each chapter has a study verse to be used as the Youth
Morning Watch verse of the day.

Daily chapter summary statements are provided.

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October 1

Chapter: Revelation 11
Theme: Closing Battles
Study Verse: Revelation 11:15

Statement: As we enter this chapter, we are seeing the forces of evil ever more desperate to vanquish God's light and love on the earth. Verse 15 shines like a beacon of light in the midst of this darkness. Can you find other verses that give you hope? What do they remind you about Jesus?

Response:

Prayer: *Our Lord and our Christ, we know that You have taken Your great power and begun to reign, but not fully yet. We long for that day!*



October 2

Chapter: Revelation 12

Theme: The Woman and Her Child

Study Verse: Revelation 12:14

Statement: This chapter reads like a fantasy novel. There is a “great dragon,” and a true and righteous woman, and her innocent child. Forces of evil fight against the woman, but truth and God prevail. This is the history of God’s Word in the earth, among those who accept it and live by it, and those who condemn and try to kill them—and even try to kill the heavenly Child, Jesus. You can learn a lot about Jesus in this chapter!

Response:

Prayer: *Holy Christ, who came as a child for me, I am so glad I know that it is Your strong arm that holds me against the dragon, and I don’t have to do that by myself!*



October 3

Chapter: Revelation 13

Theme: The Beasts

Study Verse: Revelation 13:8

Statement: The story heats up—more beasts, pale copies of the great dragon, Satan, rise up and try to make everyone follow them and turn against God. You have to read carefully to find anything about Jesus and about God winning, but there it is, in verse 8. What is the light of hope in that verse? Can you find more in this chapter?

Response:

Prayer: *O Lamb of God, I worship only You! Only You! Please put Your seal on me, and hold me with Your might, so I will not fall or be marked or sealed by the unholy alliance of Satan's helpers!*



October 4

Chapter: Revelation 14

Theme: The Three Angels

Study Verse: Revelation 14:6, 7

Statement: Here, just when Revelation was looking all dark, is another moment of relief—a glimpse of heaven. No matter what is going on down here, in heaven all is praise, because they *know* who is really in control. Make a list of the things you learn about Jesus in this chapter.

Response:

Prayer: *Lord, I want to follow You wherever You go. I want to stick by Your side every day of my life, and someday follow You into heaven and sing Your praises for eternity!*



October 5

Chapter: Revelation 15

Theme: The Song of Moses and the Lamb

Study Verse: Revelation 15:3

Statement: The worst moment of all, the seven last plagues, are about to fall on unrepentant humanity, but even now, there is praise in heaven. Just think—Moses is alive there! He can sing this song with the angels. As you read, especially verses 3 and 4, what do you think Moses has learned about Jesus (who didn't come to earth until hundreds of years after Moses' earthly life)?

Response:

Prayer: *God of Moses and of my ancestors, I choose to follow and serve You as faithfully as Your servant, Moses. I want to stand on the sea of glass and sing Your praises with him.*



October 6

Chapter: Revelation 16

Theme: The Seven Last Plagues

Study Verse: Revelation 16:7

Statement: This chapter is full of horrors. We know that our God of love, who yearned to save *all* His children, is weeping as so many insist on going their own way, and taking the consequences about which He has warned us for millennia. As is often the case in our earthly lives, we have to search with keen eyes for the light of God's truth and love. Where do you find it in this chapter? What is being revealed about Jesus here?

Response:

Prayer: *Lord God Almighty, it is true, as the angels say, that Your judgments are just and true. Please help me lead my friends to understand that Your judgments include complete acquittal for all who choose to cling to You.*



October 7

Chapter: Revelation 17

Theme: Judgment of Babylon

Study Verse: Revelation 17:1

Statement: This chapter is one of the ones that matches most closely with the prophecies of Daniel. Throughout the Bible, Babylon has been used as a symbol for self-will, greed, rebellion, and all who simply want what they want no matter how many it hurts. Do you see that mindset at work in our world now? Here is its logical end. What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Response:

Prayer: *Master, You have been so endlessly patient, allowing all humankind more than enough chances to change their ways and choose love. Show me how to help just a few more come to You.*



October 8

Chapter: Revelation 18

Theme: Babylon is Fallen!

Study Verse: Revelation 18:4

Statement: This chapter is a sorrowful one. It lists so many great blessings, all of which were given by God to all humanity, but which were obtained by greed, and hoarded up until the humans who do such things are not really human anymore. They care about nothing but their own desires, and power. “Woe, woe!” is the cry, and it is, indeed a sorry time for the Creator of us all. And still, the voice of hope is heard, urging, “Come out!” What does this tell you about Jesus?

Response:

Prayer: *My God and my King, in any way that you bless me with material things, don't EVER let me get selfish and greedy with them! Help me to share as You would if You were in my place.*



October 9

Chapter: Revelation 19

Theme: Hallelujah!

Study Verse: Revelation 19:6, 7

Statement: Almost over! Almost...the Lord, Faithful and True, still must ride forth in final judgment, but after that, all will be light and joy. The hallelujahs sung in this chapter are for the righteousness of the judgment, and for the end of what we might call the System of Sin—no one is rejoicing at the end of the people who chose to follow that path, even though it was of their own choosing. What do you think Jesus is doing during these scenes? What can you learn about Him and His love?

Response:

Prayer: *Mighty King, You ride forth in glory, and I want to be one of those who welcomes You and shouts for joy, not one of those who tries to hide. Please show me how to influence my friends to make that choice, too.*



October 10

Chapter: Revelation 20

Theme: The Millennium

Study Verse: Revelation 20:6

Statement: There is really only one who is to blame for every evil thing that has happened on this planet. Lucifer knew. He *knew!* He knew the truth, he knew God, he knew Jesus, and he rebelled anyway. Once it was clear that he had lost, his only goal has been to take as many humans with him as possible. In this chapter, Satan gets a little time-out. And when he is set free, what does he do? Goes right back to the same old attempt to destroy all light. In contrast, what do you see about Jesus here?

Response:

Prayer: *O Holy One, who sits on the great white throne, we know well we do not deserve Your positive judgment. We accept it only as the gift of Your Son. Eternity will not be long enough to praise You.*



October 11

Chapter: Revelation 21

Theme: All Things New!

Study Verse: Revelation 21:3, 4

Statement: At long, long, *long* last, it is over! And it's just begun! All sin is ended, and never again will any created being in the universe question whether God's reign is just and God's way of love is the best way to live. Those rescued from the fallen planet have a hard-won understanding no unfallen being could ever understand, and believe it or not, will help rule! Amazing, isn't it? What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Response:

Prayer: *Dearest Lord, You walk with me now, but I can still not imagine what it will be like to be fully **with** you as we will be then. Hurry!*



October 12

Chapter: Revelation 22

Theme: The Holy City

Study Verse: Revelation 22:3, 4

Statement: As you read this chapter, do your best to really make it real in your mind's eye. What will it be like, to safely walk the streets of that city, where God is in complete control and no selfishness or sin ever enters? What will it be like to be able to devote your time to strengthening and using the gifts God has given you (and who knows how many more He will bestow?) Write a letter of praise to Jesus for all you've learned about Him from this book.

Response:

Prayer: *O my Lord, come quickly! Come quickly! And in the meantime, help me bring as many of my friends as I can.*



October 13

Chapter: Genesis 1

Theme: The Beginning

Study Verse: Genesis 1:26

Statement: It's a little mind-boggling to drop back to the very beginning, right after reading and rejoicing about the very end. But the most important thing is, God is at both ends. In this chapter, Elohim (a plural name for God) creates the world and the first people. God makes clear that both male and female are created "in our image." Nowadays, we use "they" for one person if we don't know if it's male or female. Since God is a Trinity, we could use They that way for God, while still being clear that God is *one*. What do you think?

Response:

Prayer: *Great Creator, You have made even me in Your own image. Show me how to grow into that, in my own way.*



October 14

Chapter: Genesis 2

Theme: Adam and Eve and Oneness

Study Verse: Genesis 2:24

Statement: In the original Hebrew, *Adam* simply means “earthling.” In this chapter, God separates that earthling into two—male and female, as mentioned in the first chapter. God makes clear that the goal is that those two be one in the same way that God is one. We’ve wandered far from that ideal, but it is still possible to see hints of that original oneness in godly marriages. Do you know of one or more marriages like that?

Response:

Prayer: *Three-in-One, we don’t really understand how You can be three and also one. We admit we tend to see You as separate beings—a Creator or Father, a Son, Jesus, and a Holy Spirit. Yet, somehow, You are only One. I’m glad I don’t have to understand in order to accept and worship You.*



October 15

Chapter: Genesis 3

Theme: The End of the Beginning

Study Verse: Genesis 3:9

Statement: We don't know how long Adam and Eve lived in the garden before they gave in to the serpent's temptations. It almost seems immediate. If Eve could have seen what you see today, she might have made a different choice! The most important part of this story, though, comes in verse 9. God still came calling! And He still comes calling you and me, too. Do you know where you are in relation to God?

Response:

Prayer: *Redeemer, You promised Yourself, though Adam and Eve didn't understand what that meant. The world got worse and worse, then You came, and now it still gets worse and worse. But You are here. And You are coming again. Amen!*



October 16

Chapter: Genesis 4

Theme: The Beginning of the End

Study Verse: Genesis 4:26

Statement: It didn't take long, once people were under Satan's influence, before things started to get very ugly. How shocking, for the first murder of all time to be a brother killing his brother! And still, God came calling. Astonishing! God cared, and even put protection on Cain—perhaps so he had a chance to change. We don't know if he did, but by the end of this chapter, people were beginning to have prayer lives, understanding that even though they could no longer see God, God was still there.

Response:

Prayer: *Merciful God, You are so endlessly patient! Help me to remember that even anger allowed to burn toward a brother or sister is murderous. Save me from temptation.*



October 17

Chapter: Genesis 5

Theme: Generations

Study Verse: Genesis 5:1

Statement: This sort of chapter can seem boring, and it's tempting to skip it, but don't. If you pay attention, you might learn some interesting details about the early, pre-Flood world. First of all, note the ages. What do you see happening? Then take a look at verses 24 and 29. What do you learn? It's even more interesting if you want to take time to look up the meanings of the various names. If you do, share with a friend the things you find out.

Response:

Prayer: *Father of us all, You made us in Your image, and then had to stand back and let us go our own way when we insisted. We are sorry! I want to walk as Your child.*



October 18

Chapter: Genesis 6

Theme: All Downhill

Study Verse: Genesis 6:8, 9

Statement: As time passed, people who lived hundreds of years had plenty of time...either to study how to honor God and live gently on the earth, or to study how to do evil and mess everything up. Which did most people choose? God must have been so unhappy! What do you think when you read verse 6? Yet *still*, how did God set up a chance at hope?

Response:

Prayer: *My God, You are always seeking the ones who want to follow, the ones who “find favor with You.” Teach me to be one of those.*



October 19

Chapter: Genesis 7

Theme: The Flood

Study Verse: Genesis 7:1

Statement: We can barely imagine what this was like for those people of the early ages of earth. Try to put yourself in the place of Noah or one of his family members. Then try to imagine being one of their hearers. How can you possibly believe this guy who says water is going to fall from the sky? What would make you listen? Then, imagine what it was like inside that ark—for a long time! We'll find out how long in the next chapter.

Response:

Prayer: *Saving God, You watched over Noah and his family, over the representatives of all Your created animals, and even over the planet as a whole. Watch over me today, and keep me faithful.*



October 20

Chapter: Genesis 8

Theme: A New Beginning

Study Verse: Genesis 8:22

Statement: The story in this chapter is a fun one, with more detail than we've seen so far. Take the scenes in your imagination—sending out the birds, opening the window, and eventually getting out—on a drastically changed landscape—a whole *year* after you first got in! (We can know this by adding up all the days and months in these two chapters.) The Flood was one of the major tragedies of this earth's history. Yet, what is the first thing God does? He is still there for His children, isn't He?

Response:

Prayer: *God of seedtime and harvest, from that day we have had the seasons on this planet. They vary from region to region, and they are getting erratic as we near the end of time, but they are still pretty dependable. We have You to thank for that.*



October 21

Chapter: Genesis 9

Theme: A New Covenant

Study Verse: Genesis 9:9, 10

Statement: How strange and frightening it must have been for that small family when they came out of the ark. Before them spread what must have seemed like a whole new planet. Nothing was the same. They were the only living people left. And still...God was there. As you read God's new covenant in verses 8-17, imagine you are one of them. What is the most comforting thing to you? How does it apply to your life now?

Response:

Prayer: *Lord of the Rainbow, You never leave us! Already, in 9 chapters of the Bible, You've had a dozen reasons to give up on us, but You never do. I rest my trust on this sure knowledge.*



October 22

Chapter: Genesis 10

Theme: More Generations

Study Verse: Genesis 10:32

Statement: Here is another chapter of genealogy. Again, if you read carefully, you can learn some interesting bits of fact about the early times on earth. What are some of the things you find? What are some questions you would like to ask when you meet Noah and his family in heaven? Does God know the names of your forefathers and foremothers? What does this mean to you?

Response:

Prayer: *Lord God, no detail of my life is too small for You to know. My life and my times are in Your hand. Keep me safe and secure there.*



October 23

Chapter: Genesis 11

Theme: The Tower of Babel

Study Verse: Genesis 11:5

Statement: Once again, it doesn't take long for people to begin to rebel. This time they decide they can mount up to heaven and be like gods. But God wants them to scatter out and replenish the earth, and to build new cultures and new identities. God likes diversity—have you noticed? In the second part of this chapter is another genealogy. Pay attention to the ages and compare them with chapter 5. What do you see happening?

Response:

Prayer: *Lord of the ages, You are stronger and wiser than we are—by far! I thank You for the richness that we have built from our widely scattered, diverse nations...and I ask forgiveness for the division and bloodshed we have caused by the same thing. Help me to build unity from the diversity around me.*



October 24

Chapter: Genesis 12

Theme: The First Patriarch

Study Verse: Genesis 12:7

Statement: Here, the Bible moves from the general story of the beginning of all humankind to the specific story God will use as an example to all nations. He calls Abram to follow Him and to be the foundation of a people who is destined to be a blessing to the whole earth. As we shall see, that people never fulfills God's plans for it. Yet, the heart of God's promise, that all the earth will be blessed *through* this people, will come true. Do you know how? If not, stay tuned—the rest of the Bible tells the story of this greatest Blessing of all time.

Response:

Prayer: *God of Abram and Sarai, You are greater than I can comprehend, and yet You also call me to give my small life into Your hand. I do. I will follow You wherever You take me.*



October 25

Chapter: Genesis 13

Theme: Taking Versus Trusting

Study Verse: Genesis 13:4, 18

Statement: In this chapter, Lot chooses what he thinks will be best for himself, with no thought to others, let alone to what he owes his elder kinsman. Abram, on the other hand, chooses to trust. In reply, God restates His covenant. What pattern do you see in our study verses? Is this also a pattern in your own life?

Response:

Prayer: *Most High God, I seek to have each day of my life, each place in which I am, be an altar to You and to Your faithfulness. May my faith invite others to trust You as well.*



October 26

Chapter: Genesis 14

Theme: Battles and Tithes

Study Verse: Genesis 14:

Statement: In this chapter is the very first mention in the Bible of a “priest of God most high.” Abraham, after having won a battle in which he rescues Lot and the rest of his relatives, gives a tenth of everything to Melchizedek, the king of Salem, which means “king of peace.” In Hebrews 5 and 6, this man is named as an example of Christ Himself. When you win a spiritual battle in your life, do you give thank you gifts to God?

Response:

Prayer: *King of peace, You are the source of all power in my life, and the only reason I ever win any battles at all! I gladly give you all I am and have; and a tenth to Your church to use as You will.*



October 27

Chapter: Genesis 15

Theme: The Great Covenant

Study Verse: Genesis 15:1

Statement: So far, God has covenanted with Abram several times, but only in general terms. “I will be with you, this is your land, all peoples will be blessed through you.” Now God becomes more specific. To this aging man and his aging wife, God promises a son of their own bodies, through whom the promise will be kept. God also promises to be a shield. This part of the promise is for all of us. How has God been a shield to you?

Response:

Prayer: *Protective God, You have stood between me and evil many times that I know of, and probably even more times that I know nothing of! I accept Your covenant: I will be Your child, and You will be my God.*



October 28

Chapter: Genesis 16

Theme: God Speaks to a Slave Woman

Study Verse: Genesis 16:13

Statement: If any think God speaks only to important or perfect people, they haven't read their Bibles very well. God spoke to the first murderer, and here God speaks to a woman who has no say over her own life or body. To God, Hagar is just as important as Abram or Sarai. And so are you. How can you remind yourself of this?

Response:

Prayer: *God who sees, You know the details of my life, all my joys and all my secret fears. Help me to trust You, no matter how badly my life may seem to be going.*



October 29

Chapter: Genesis 17

Theme: The Covenant Gets a Sign

Study Verse: Genesis 17:9

Statement: Now God becomes even more specific. Not only does He give Abram the physical sign of circumcision, but He also gives Abram and Sarai new names. From now on, they are Abraham and Sarah, and they will go down in history, to this very day. They are the parents of Jews and Arabs. Is there any way we can help those offspring to get along under one God?

Response:

Prayer: *Lord, I am small and only one. But if there is something I can do or say to share Your love with a Jew or Arab I know personally, and learn more of Your love from them, too, if they love You, then show me how.*



October 30

Chapter: Genesis 18

Theme: The Reward of Hospitality

Study Verse: Genesis 18:3

Statement: What would you do if one day, you saw three strangers, offered them the hospitality of your house, and then learned they were angels? Can you imagine? All God's covenants now come down to one specific promise, given in human words by a being in human form: "You will have a son."

Sarah and Abraham have a hard time believing it, but that doesn't deter God.

Response:

Prayer: *God of heaven, make me hospitable and welcoming to all You send into my path. And help me to believe Your promises, no matter how impossible they may seem.*



October 31

Chapter: Genesis 19

Theme: Saved from Destruction

Study Verse: Genesis 19:29

Statement: This is a terrible story. Abraham has bargained God down to saving Sodom if there are even ten righteous souls in it, but there aren't. The angels can only save Lot, his wife, and their two daughters—and even they are not really righteous. Lot would have given his daughters to cruelty if the angels hadn't stopped him, and his wife couldn't stand to give up her home. Then the daughters chose a dishonorable way to have children. Why do you think God saved these people?

Response:

Prayer: Lord, there are people I love, who have not made their choice for You, at least not that I can tell. I know You love them even more than I do, and I ask that You keep them safe in the hopes that they will make a better choice. As for me, I keep my eyes on You alone.

